



## INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Pupils of the Week

Meet the Staff - Gemma Byard

What We Are Learning

General Reminders

Introducing Rob Hardcastle

## Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter

With this half term flying by we thought now would be a good time to update you on what the children have been up to since returning from the Christmas break.

We have a Parent Open Morning for all and some Evening Information Sessions for Year 2 and Year 6 parents, please see below for details.

*Kate Cleaver*

Principal

**PARENT OPEN MORNING**

All Classes

7th Feb - 9-10am

**KEY STAGE 2 TESTS INFO SESSION**

YEAR 6 ONLY

8th Feb - 3.40pm

**KEY STAGE 1 TESTS INFO SESSION**

YEAR 2 ONLY

9th Feb - 3.40pm

**TERM DATES**

LAST DAY: 10th Feb

FIRST DAY: 20th Feb

## Pupil of the Week

Each week the class teachers will nominate a:

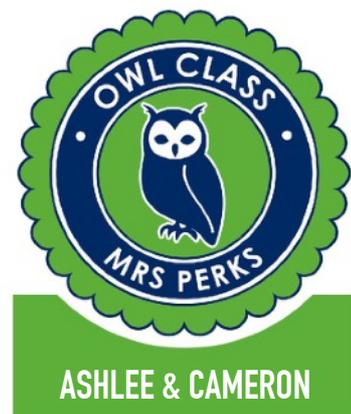
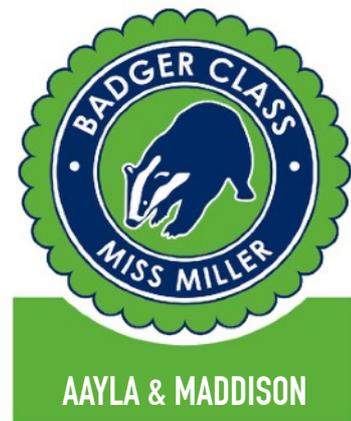
- Super Squirrel
- Happy Hedgehog
- Brilliant Badger
- Outstanding Owl

The children are chosen for consistently demonstrating the Ecton values of Resilience, Kindness, Co-operation and Engagement. They are recognised for their excellent attitude in all areas of school life. As a reward, they have lunch with Mrs Cleaver. We have our own special table and receive waitress service.

We will let you know which children have been truly amazing in our fortnightly news.



"I look forward to my lunches very much each week - it is a lovely opportunity to chat to the children more informally and hear what they have to say." *Kate Cleaver*





## **Meet the Staff**

### **Gemma Byard**

We've all seen Gemma outside when we collect our children, available to talk about our children, offering us support and advice. But what does Gemma do all day? Let's get to know the staff at our school!

#### **What time do you arrive at school?**

I arrive at 8 am. I use the time before the children arrive to prepare the resources I need for the interventions that I have each day.

#### **What is an intervention?**

Some of our students require individual support or benefit from working in a smaller group. Each afternoon I have 4-5 interventions. During these sessions, we cover a variety of subjects depending on the children's needs.

#### **Once the children arrive, how does your day progress?**

During the first hour of the day, I am in the Reception class assisting some of The Squirrels with their Kinetic Letters. Afterwards, I move onto the Badgers. I assist Miss Miller by delivering lessons to small groups, preparing display boards, giving spelling tests or special attention to a child who might need it. Shortly before noon, I leave The Badgers class and work with the dinner staff to support them.

#### **How long have you been working at Ecton Village Primary Academy?**

I began as a volunteer when my son, Austin started Reception. Four years ago, I completed my training as a Level 2 Teachers Assistant.

#### **What other qualifications do you have?**

I'm Kinetic Letter trained, SLCN (Speech and Language Communication Needs), Level 3 First Aider, Safeguarding trained as well as being the SEN TA (Special Education Needs Teaching Assistant).

#### **What is the greatest challenge in your day?**

There are so many possibilities to support the children, but unfortunately not enough time.

**What is most rewarding about your job?**

When you see a child have a breakthrough, it's remarkable. It's a joy to witness this daily (Gemma is smiling ear to ear as she answers this question).

We hope you've enjoyed reading about Gemma and her work. We will continue interviewing the staff which will be published in the next newsletters.

*Gemma was interviewed by Cynthia Bouchaud - Parent*



**A picture of Gemma, drawn by Tise from the Badgers Class**



## What We Are Learning

Each half term in school the children learn about a different language and a different culture. This half term they have been learning about China. As you may know, this weekend sees Chinese New Year and our children were lucky enough to learn all about Chinese New Year celebrations from one of the children in the Hedgehog class and her family. Erica's mum and granddad shared their knowledge with the children and taught us all some Mandarin! It was a lovely morning that we all enjoyed.

The Hedgehog class have been learning all about extreme weather and have had the opportunity to experience some of it for themselves!



The Squirrel class have been learning about people who help us and we were lucky enough to have the fire service bring one of their engines onto our playground. Such was the excitement that we let all the children join in with the fun!

## Parent Open Morning

We will be holding another open class morning on Tuesday 7 February 9.00-10.00. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the classroom and work alongside your child for an hour. We will take the children in as usual at 8.50 to be registered and will invite parents through to the classrooms after 9.00 once they have signed in at reception.

Please be aware that teachers will not be able to discuss your child's progress during this time.

# Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers are back. Please drop your vouchers into the box in the school office.

## School Uniform

Please can we please remind you that children need to come to school each day in the correct school uniform.



**Jade Green Jumper or Cardigan**

**White polo t-shirt or shirt**

**Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore**

**Grey or white socks**

**Grey or black tights**

**Black shoes**

### PARENT SURVEY - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We would like to know what you think about changes to our school uniform, a possible breakfast club and more.

A ParentMail was sent out today with a link or you can [click here](#) to complete the survey now.



## Rob Hardcastle

### Head of Primary Education, Hatton Academies Trust

It is with great pleasure that I write as Head of Primary Education for Hatton Academies Trust. Having qualified and worked across Northamptonshire for the last twenty two years, I am passionate that all children from our locality receive the very best education. Over this period, my roles have included Class Teacher, Year Coordinator, Subject Coordinator, Advanced Skills Teacher, Deputy Headteacher and for the last six years, Headteacher of a large primary school in Northampton. I bring a track record of successfully improving schools that I have worked in. In 2016, I

was shortlisted for the Pearson Teaching Awards in the category of Primary Headteacher of the Year. The previous setting I led before joining Hatton Academies Trust was graded by Ofsted as Outstanding in April 2015. As Head of Primary Education, I look forward to working alongside all of the children, families and staff in each school and my number one priority will always be to ensure that the teaching and learning in each setting is the best it can be.

I am contactable by email by using [HardcastleR@hattonacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:HardcastleR@hattonacademiestrust.org.uk) and on the phone on 01933231286. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help you in any way.

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