It is with a heavy heart that I write this Hayfield Herald as we, along with the rest of the nation, reflect on the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday evening. The Queen has been an incredible role model, leader and inspiration for our country for over 70 years. She is also the figurehead of our Church and for everyone in our school the only monarch we have ever known. Today the children had a class reflection about the life of the Queen and each class had a minute silence to give our respects. Over the next few days we will have organise more time to reflect and pay our respects as well as celebrate the incredible life of our Queen.

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It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back this year and all of our new children and families. This is a landmark year for us as our school is now complete with all classes in use, an oversubscribed Reception intake, many year groups with a waiting list and only six spaces now left across the whole school. It is a joy to see our whole school full of children doing amazing things every day. We have also been very pleased to welcome new staff to our team; Mr Burns and Miss Ford as Year 5 and 6 Class Teachers, Mrs Holloway as our new School Admin Assistant and Mrs Wyldes and Mrs Pearson (Miss Dams) who have taken on new roles as Teaching Assistants. Mrs Foster has also moved to being our School Administrator.

A huge welcome to all our new Reception families and thank you so much for being so brilliant and understanding with the last minute changes. For those who don't know we had a seemingly small flood in the summer term caused by a faulty heating system. When they came to do the remedial works in the holidays they found that the water had spread below both classroom floors and into the corridor. To rectify this the floors have had to be taken up, the bottom of the walls removed and the rooms closed off and dried for 7 days. The day before the children came back the heaters were removed and thankfully we were able to open the KS1 corridor for children to use (which had also been affected). Unfortunately, the repair works for Reception has taken another week and today they are finally putting the classrooms back together and we hope the children will be back in on Monday. This week Reception have had a very exciting start to school as we set up their provision in the studio.

We really enjoyed being able to host our 'meet the teacher' events again which we haven't done since before the pandemic. It is so lovely to have parents in school again and getting to see where we spend our days as well as get to talk to their new teachers. If you weren't able to attend then all of the information from the sessions is on the lass pages on the website.

This week Year 2 had an amazing start to this terms learning theme as they had an experience day led by History Off The Page. The children and staff were dressed up in character as they studied the Plague and the Great Fire of London. The hall had lots of different activities and learning that they went through during the day. We are very lucky to be able to provide specialist companies to do these events with thanks to TOPs for supporting the funding of these. Also thanks to the volunteers who helped, the staff involved and Miss Vincitore for organising the whole event.

Craig Charteris Head Teacher