



New Horizons
Children's Academy

News



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year. This week has been a fantastic start to the term with many interesting things already happening in our classrooms and outside spaces.

I would like to thank you all for your support with returning to school in these unusual circumstances. The children have come back to school looking very smart, their uniform this year is exemplary with almost all children wearing the correct school uniform, proud to display the New Horizons logo. Thank you also for the way that you consistently work with the school to help us, together, achieve the very best. We strive to do our absolutely best to keep all of our children safe and following feedback from parents and our own reflections, we have made some slight changes to the way the drop off/collection system will work. A separate letter will be sent to you explaining these changes and all children have been given a printed map to bring home today confirming the routes and timings.

Several parents have requested early pick up for their children this week due to extra curricular activities such as swimming, gymnastics etc. Whilst we appreciate how important these activities are, unfortunately we will be unable to accommodate early pick ups due the strict guidelines that we have to follow whilst the children are in school. We need to keep all children across the school safe, which includes minimising contact between different year group bubbles and staff members as well as limiting the amount of movement outside of classrooms of both children and staff. If we were to accommodate these requests then this would create an unsafe environment within school.

This week has seen an introduction to Seesaw within our school. Seesaw is an excellent digital learning platform that will be used across our Trust for both in school and home learning. Many children have already begun to use their Seesaw accounts and we have seen some exciting pieces of work uploaded onto this. We hope that this will develop over this term and will become an effective part of everyday learning.

It is pleasing to see that you and the children have continued to help make our new children and staff members feel welcome into New Horizons and I know that this is something that we are all very proud of. We have our new Reception and Nursery children starting on Monday; we are all very excited to meet them and help them begin their learning journey with us.

Have a good weekend.

Mrs J Murphy, Executive Headteacher



Thinking Academically

Year 1



Year 1 have settled in well this week; they are now familiar with the expectations and routines they have to follow during lesson time. In Thinking Academically, we shared our experiences with one another. We recalled events that took place during the summer holidays and special times we shared with our families.

We all brought in items from home to share. We were very good listeners and made sure that we listened carefully and asked our friends good questions. We also used our red thinking hat to discuss how each event made us feel at different times and we used the outdoor area to role play our memories. In Maths, we have been focusing on sorting objects into groups and identifying how different sets of objects have been classified.

In Thinking Healthily, we have been discussing how to stay safe and who or what makes us feel safe. In Thinking Globally, we have been looking at the story of Creation.

In Science, we have been looking at the different changes during lifetime and our senses. We have also enjoyed our first lesson of P.E. Remember to have a look at your Seesaw account to access your child's homework. If you need to speak to any of your teachers please email the Year 1 Team - year1@newhorizonschildrensacademy.org.uk



Year 2



It has been a fantastic first week back for Year 2. In Maths, we have been introducing the concept of tens and ones with the use of a range of resources. The children have had time to explore numbers and consider different ways of representing them.

In English, we have started looking at descriptive language in relation to James and the Giant Peach. We looked at some real peaches in order to generate descriptive language for our writing. We thought about adjectives using each of our five senses. In our foundation subjects, we have started our new topic 'Wriggle and Crawl'. We will be learning a range of different skills including map reading and mini-beasts. This week, we began with our hook activity in which we visited Forest School for a bug hunt. We considered where in the Forest School the bugs may want to live and why. Then, we worked in teams to find as many different bugs as we could. It turns out ants and beetles love our Forest School but we did not find any bees!

Year 3



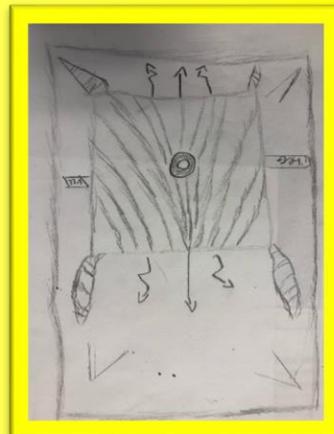
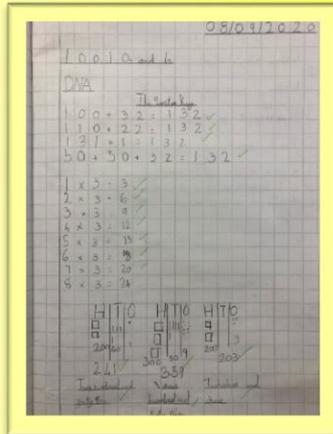
It was amazing to see so many familiar faces and welcome new friends to Year 3 this week - they have done so well settling into the routine of school and are excited for their learning this year - as are we! We made a start with learning about the Stone Age by investigating fossils that a local archaeologist asked us to look at for them. We used our green thinking hats to become archaeologists ourselves and think about what clues each fossil could tell us.

We used these to help us design our own prehistoric animal with the features from the fossil.

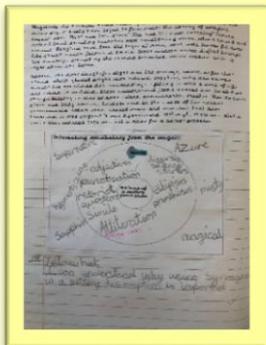
In Maths we have started our learning with pictorial representations of numbers - they can be seen everywhere! It was very exciting to start reading 'Stig of the Dump', and we have been acting out parts of the story and will be writing a diary entry imagining that we are Barney. We had to think carefully about the language we use and the features of a diary entry. In RE we have started learning about Diwali and were very excited to look at Rangoli designs. We have started learning how to play hockey by mastering how to control the ball with our hockey stick - we have some budding hockey players in the year group!

Year 4

It has been so lovely to see the Year 4 children return to school with such enthusiasm and determination this week. They have quickly adapted to the new school routine and relished the chance to catch up with their friends. This week, the children have experienced life as a Roman soldier; they have learnt about Roman legions, decoded Roman numerals and created their own Roman shields. Using their yellow and black hats, they were also able to reflect on their designs, and offer valuable feedback to their partners. In Maths, the children used manipulatives to show their understanding of place value and have applied strategies for rounding numbers up to 100. Year 4 have also started their new book: The Thieves of Ostia. In the opening chapter of the book, Flavia has found herself in a horrible situation: stranded in a treetop surrounded by wild dogs. The children have used thinking maps to draw out the key features of a diary entry and to organise their learning, before writing from Flavia's perspective. It has been so great to have all of the children back again and we very much look forward to the rest of the term.



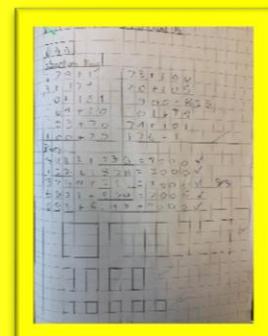
Year 5



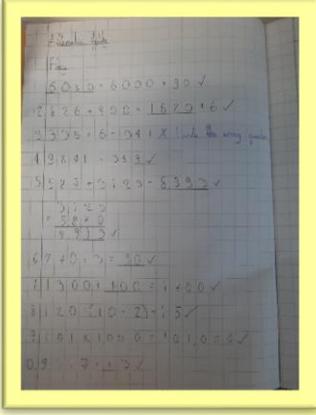
Welcoming back Year 5 has been brilliant and seeing growth mind-set in action is exactly how we remember our lovely year group. Making the move from Lower Key Stage 2 to Upper Key Stage 2 has been a smooth transition and they are perfect role models for younger pupils. This week in Guided Reading, we have started to look at our book for this term 'Cosmic'. We have spent some time exploring the front cover and predicting what the story could be about. In Maths this week, we have been focusing on place value. We have been understanding what each digit represents in digits up to 10,000. We have been applying our knowledge in various different ways such as using models and diagrams to represent numbers. We were also able to apply past knowledge to new situations when working on place value problems.

We also spent some time making sure our presentation in our maths book was of a very high standard so that we can work efficiently to solve problems. This week we have also been working on our core skills of addition and subtraction in our daily arithmetic section of the lesson- It has been brilliant to see the children really pushing themselves and trying a new challenge- the children are really showing persistence in this area. In our English lessons this week, we have been focussing on creating our own setting description based in space. The children were able to identify features of a setting description and use this to then help plan their setting using a flow map.

We have seen some beautiful pieces of writing including many literary devices that help up-level the children's writing. This week the children have also been given their new Seesaw accounts and should be logging in this week! We are looking forward to receiving excellent pieces of work on our new platform.



Year 6



Wow! What a fantastic start to the new school year. This week we welcomed back our wonderful Year 6 pupils and it has been so lovely to see everyone returning with such amazing yellow hat positivity! Year 6, are already being their very best self every day and are superb role models to the rest of the school. We are already confident that this is going to be a fantastic year for all. This week we have started to look at our book for this term 'Private Peaceful', we have spent some time exploring the front cover and predicting what the story could be about.

We had such fantastic suggestions such as "The butterflies represent peace and harmony which is unusual because the book is about World War 1" and "I think the book is going to be about World War 1 because I know that the poppies symbolise Remembrance Day". We then started to read the first chapter and discovered more about the main character 'Tommo'. In Maths, we are working towards understanding up to 7 digit numbers. For our first place value lesson we recapped on what we already knew about place value, we discussed language associated with place value and how place value is the foundation of all Maths. We are working on ordering, rounding and reading and writing numbers up to 7 digits. We also spent some time making sure our presentation in our Maths book was of a very high standard so that we can work efficiently to solve problems. This week we also focused on arithmetic skills and the children challenged themselves to a range of number based problems, some children challenged themselves to write word problems. This week the children have also been given their new Seesaw accounts and should be logging in this week. The children were very excited! Our seesaw homework this week has been sent out and for reading, the children must record a video of them reading aloud and for maths we have set some place value homework. We look forward to responding to all the homework that we will receive. Have a great weekend everyone!



Thinking Inclusively

Please find below some helpful links that Mrs Studniarz has found that you may find useful!

Starting school is an exciting time for young children and their parents. It can be a daunting time, too. But with a little preparation and encouragement, most children will settle in easily at school, ready to learn and discover. PACEY offers resources and activities that include lots of tips and ideas to help you and your child be ready to start school with a smile.



<https://www.pacey.org.uk/partnerships/starting-school-together/preparation>

Supporting your child's learning at home can help their development and be a really positive addition to their school education. BBC Bitesize offers tips and advice for parents, carers and children.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

BBC
Bitesize



Thinking About Their Thinking

It's been great to have all our children back at school and to see how quickly they've got back into the swing of learning and using their Thinking Tools. As part of Thinking about our Thinking, our pupils have had their new 'Be Your Best Self' journals in which they explore their meta-cognition through learning about themselves, thinking about themselves as learners and learning about the world around them. It's our second year of launching these journals and it's brilliant to see the pupil's enthusiasm for them. As part of Thinking about our Thinking, all our pupils in the school also have a P4C lesson. This is something new we have also introduced to EYFS for this year. This allows pupils to discuss and debate something that is topical and learn more about the world around them in an age appropriate way. It gives pupils the opportunities to formulate and express their opinion and listen respectfully to the opinion of others. This week, we have been exploring the question, 'Should we always stand up for our communities?' by learning about the people from the Kayopa tribe in Brazil and why they are protesting and then considering communities on a larger scale and what their benefits are. What communities are you part of at home? Perhaps you can explore this and discuss our big question this week at home discussing with your child what a community means to you.



Enrichment

We are pleased to share the following opportunities:

As you know, we believe in the importance of enrichment and enrichment activities at New Horizons so it has been lovely to hear from the children all about the different enrichment experiences they have had over the summer holidays, such as: visiting museums and art galleries, watching news round, learning new skills and visiting new places. These are all such valuable learning opportunities!

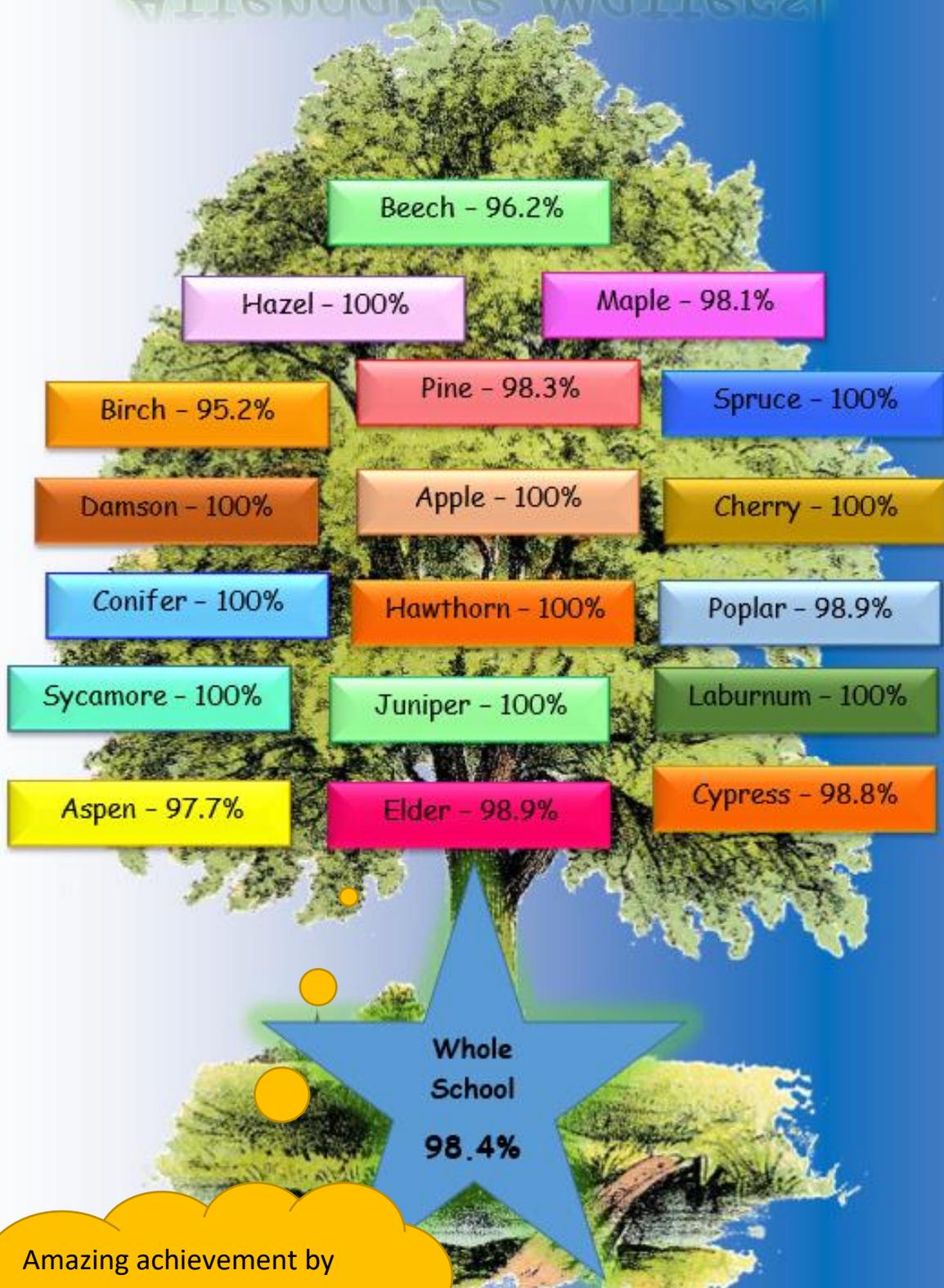
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, after school extra-curricular clubs are not possible for this term. However, there are lots of enrichment activities you can take part in at home and you can share these with us through the new online learning platform: Seesaw. If your child visits a museum, takes part in a club, conducts a science experiment, does some gardening or takes part in any learning opportunity, we'd love for them to add it to their Seesaw journal. They can post pictures and videos on their Seesaw journal. They can add voice notes to talk about their experience, annotate pictures or they could write a summary, recount or diary entry of their experience. Enrichment experiences don't necessarily need to involve going out and visiting somewhere, for example, if your child watches newsround and has an opinion on a news story, they can create a video explaining their perspective, create a poster and take a photo or they could write their opinion straight onto Seesaw and this is a fantastic way to engage with the world around them.

Here are some ideas of fantastic enrichment opportunities you can do at home:

<https://www.hoorayforfamily.com/articles/16-free-online-educational-and-enrichment-resources-for-kids-to-help-you-school-at-home>

<https://www.stem.org.uk/enrichment>

Attendance Matters!



Amazing achievement by all the classes that achieved 100% for the first week back! Let's keep it up!