



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News



Child First

Child Safe

Adult Safe

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4! We're really looking forward to welcoming all children back into school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. On a day-to-day basis, school will continue to run in a very similar way as it was running during terms 1 and 2. Further details about arrangements for each year group were in the letter sent out yesterday.

We are aware that the majority of pupils won't have been in school since the end of term 2, so those first few days we will have a focus on re-establishing our school routines and expectations. For the children, little will have changed and the consistency should help them settle back into school successfully. Some children will find the thought of returning daunting, but staff will be available to support any child who needs that extra bit of encouragement.

We will continue to implement the safety measures in place before lockdown, looking to reduce contact between members of the school community and following recommended social distancing guidance. Everyone on site will continue to wash their hands very regularly throughout the day, and we will continue with our enhanced cleaning protocols that have been in place throughout recent months. These measures give us the best chance of minimising any further spread of Covid-19, and we will of course continue to keep all measures under review.

Hopefully we are now on the first steps to seeing aspects of normal school life returning, and in the not too-distant future, a return to normality in society. It's been a challenging twelve months for us all, but as Spring arrives, we are seeing those welcome green-shoots of recovery for everyone. For those of you supporting remote learning at home, I'm sure you are looking forward to that first day back, we really appreciate the efforts you have made.

Please contact the school if there is anything that you would like to discuss. I know many of you have been in touch this week and it's important that we continue to develop those connections.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Murphy



# Thinking Globally

## EYFS

In Nursery we started our new topic “ Are eggs alive?” with a WOW starter. Children have been introduced to this topic if they are both learning remotely or accessing the onsite provision. For more curriculum and enrichment information about this topic please see our SWAY: <https://sway.office.com/vFxMn3W10TP1KGwC?ref=Link> . The children arrived in Nursery to find a giant egg on the carpet. We had lots of discussions about what could be inside the egg. The children drew what they thought was inside the egg. Some of our friends even made marks when attempting to write what they might find inside. We then responded with awe and wonderment when we cracked open the egg to reveal what was inside. We created a circle map as a whole group to write down all the facts we know already about eggs; we will continue to add to this throughout the term as we develop our knowledge and understanding. In Maths this week we have been learning to recognise numbers, we have carried out number hunts to spot the formation both in our inside and outside classroom. We have also welcomed some new children into the Nursery this week and we look forward to them settling in and learning with us.



Welcome to Term 4, we cannot believe we are over half way through the school year already! This week we have launched our new topic – Do cows drink milk? – which is based around farm life. Children have been introduced to this topic if they are both learning remotely or accessing the onsite provision. For more curriculum and enrichment information about this topic please see our SWAY: <https://sway.office.com/C7TSvqXaa0JQUT5B?ref=Link> . In our Literacy lessons we have been learning about the animals on the farm and what their babies are called – feel free to test us at home! In Maths we have been using the farmyard theme to practise our counting and addition skills. We have also completed some craft challenges; we have enjoyed making our own farm models out of junk modelling. Some of us have even enjoyed making some animal mud pies using different colours – which looked really great messy fun!



## Year 1

In Year 1, we have settled back down to home learning really well and have enjoyed beginning our new topic Paws, Claws and Whiskers. We have enjoyed discussing our favourite animals and sharing lots of interesting facts we already know. In English, we have been looking at the time a little girl had a surprise visit from a very polite but hungry tiger in ‘The Tiger Who Came to Tea’! We have been making story maps, flow maps and discussing our favourite parts of the story. We even discussed how we would improve the story and the children had lots of good ideas including the tiger revisiting and coming back for even more food! In Maths, we are looking at numbers to 50. Now that we are working with larger numbers than when we started the year, we have been looking at different strategies for counting quickly, for example, grouping numbers into tens and ones. We have been showing off our Maths skills by representing these numbers in different ways using a range of objects!

We have started a Geography topic this term looking at continents. The children surprised us with how much they already knew about our world and were able to name different continents and explain what a continent is. In Science we are looking closely at animals and started off by comparing ourselves to different animals. We were surprised at how much we actually have in common with some of our favourite animals! In RE, we have continued to learn about Christianity and this term we will be looking at Easter. We thought about whether we celebrate Easter and why/why not? We discussed our own different traditions and the traditions of Easter. We were able to identify whether these traditions were linked to Christianity or not by sorting the different objects using a tree map.

For Thinking Healthily, we have been looking at how to keep ourselves healthy by looking after our bodies and our minds! The children came up with a wide range of ways to keep healthy including going for a nice long walk and doing some colouring to relax the mind. This PSHE lesson fits in nicely with the Friday afternoon PE lessons which we look forward to and enjoy every week!

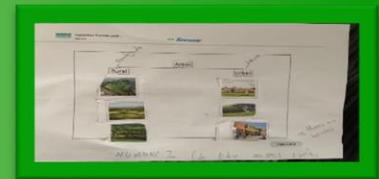
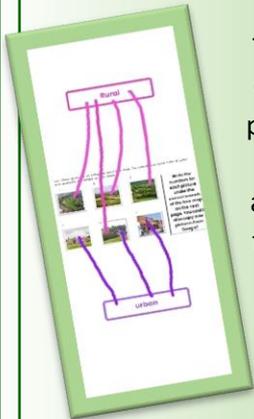
Thank you to everyone in Year 1 for your continued hard work with your home learning! Your persistence and enthusiasm is still going strong!



## Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been off to a fantastic start to Term 4! In English, the children have been using the story Jack and the Beanstalk to inspire their writing. The children have been able to practise using lots of their writing skills with this, including writing in first person, using fronted adverbials of time and describing with adjectives to make their writing interesting. Year 2 have also started reading their new topic text, The Hodgeheg, in their Reading lessons. They have successfully used this text to practise their retrieval skills when answering comprehension questions. In Maths this week, the children have been learning how to measure in centimetres. They have all enjoyed using their virtual rulers, as well as real-life rulers, to measure different objects accurately!

In Thinking Globally, the children have started some exciting learning about plants! They have begun to think about what makes a living thing able to live and learnt about MRS GREN. The children were keen to know about how plants can help humans to live, including providing food for us to eat like fruit and vegetables. Leading on from this, in Geography, the children have started to be able to recognise the difference between rural and urban areas and how to recognise them. Also within Thinking Globally, the children have been recapping the events of the Easter Story and we were all very impressed by how many facts they were able to remember!



## Year 3

As the first week of Term 4 has begun, the Year 3 teaching team are so proud of our pupils' efforts, endeavour and persistence in their remote and provision learning so far this week.. A huge well done to all of our Year 3 pupils for their effort and commitment to their studies!

In English this term we are studying the popular Ted Hughes text 'Iron Man'. They have been planning and creating a newspaper report; they have applied their knowledge to create a report detailing the key events of the first six chapters of Iron Man. Whilst creating their newspaper report, the pupils have learnt how to implement key writing techniques and GPAS such as first person, past tense, time adverbials and adverbs to heighten their writing and have also shown the ability to successful self-evaluate and analyse to enhance their final written piece.

The Year 3 pupils have utilised their 'Thinking Globally' skills by participating on group discussions/activities and have been able to model their successful answers to the other groups in the class as well as their class teacher and teaching assistant.

In our Thinking Globally, our key learning topic is Mighty Metals. We have begun this week in learning the important role various metals have played to civilisation over many centuries and how they have impacted and developed our way of life when being used in innovative designs and inventions. Our Year 3 pupils will look to develop a greater understanding of the various metals available to us in our society and how they can be used in an effective manner to improve and develop our way of life.

In History this week we have begun to learn about the earliest type of metals used throughout the pre-historic period which included the Stone age, the Bronze age and the Iron age. The pupils in this week's history lesson learnt how certain metals impacted each pre-historic era.

We have incorporated group discussion, group written tasks and narrative writing tasks for the pupils to help enhance their subject knowledge on pre-historic metals while promoting their independent learning, writing skills and our school's thinking hats in their independent tasks.

This week in Science we learnt about the push and pull forces and what direction a metal object will travel in when it is pulled and when it pushed. They also watched a video link which involved a push force being applied to a bottle filled with fizzy soda and a Vitamin C tablet. The Year 3 pupils recorded the result so the reaction that occurred inside the bottle and were able to explain what happened to the fizzy soda and Vitamin C tablet when a push force was applied to them. The pupils showed an impressive ability to reflect and evaluate on the experiment and were able to successfully explain in their writing the impact a push and pull force can have on an object.,

As we come to the end of the first week back in Term 4 the Year 3 teaching and support staff are so incredibly proud of all our year 3 pupils for their commitment, focus, resilience and work ethic to their online learning.



## Year 4

The children in Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the term after a well-deserved break. They have thoroughly enjoyed starting their new topic: Misty Mountain Sierra. As part of their topic learning, the children have used their geographical skills to identify the location of various mountains on a map, and were able to find a number of interesting facts about each one. Using their knowledge of mountains, Year 4 have written non-chronological reports. They have analysed a WAGOLL, placing the key features of the genre in a circle map; created a plan, organising their learning using a flow map and they have drafted their reports, applying all of the skills they have learnt. They should be very proud of the effort and care that has gone into their writing. Year 4 have also started a new book this week: Michael Morpurgo's King of the Cloud Forests. In the opening chapter of the story, the children have found out Ashely Anderson's stern and ambitious father (who is a Christian missionary) has embarked on a new adventure to China in the pursuit of spreading the word of Jesus. The children were able to extract a number of interesting word choices from the text and looked at words in context to deduce their meaning.

In PSHE this week, the children have learnt about friendships and how different friendship groups are formed. They were asked to use their yellow and black hats to reflect on how friendships can make us feel and what characteristics they value in a friend.

Year 4 have shown great determination with their Maths this week and have used their Habits of Mind to support them with tricky fraction learning. They have counted in fractions greater than a whole and represented these as improper fractions and mixed numbers on a number line. Using a variety of representations, the children have also demonstrated excellent knowledge of how to add fractions with the same denominator and explained their reasoning with key mathematical vocabulary.

It has been another superb week of remote learning!

Name of mountain	Location	Interesting facts
Ben Nevis	Scotland	Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the British Isles. It is known as the 'Wreath of Snow' because it is usually covered in snow.
K2	China	It is the 2nd highest mountain in the world.
Eiger	Switzerland	It is the 10th highest mountain in the world.
Denali	America	It is the highest mountain in North America.
Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania	5,895 metres high



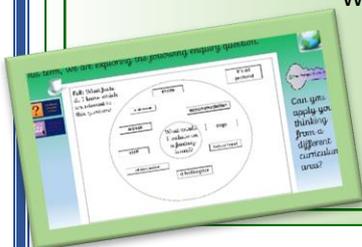
## Year 5

Wow! What a superb start to Term 4 Year 5! We have been absolutely amazed by all of your incredible work this week.

Our topic this term is Alchemy's Island and what an interesting topic! In writing, we have been looking at the features of letter writing, we looked at a WAGOLL example and then magpied some ideas from this letter. We are writing our letters based on the alchemist. From the perspective of his son whom he abandoned to create machine fuelled by memories. In Reading we have been looking at our fantastic book called Coraline. In our lessons we predicted what we thought the book would be about based on the front cover, we then rehearsed reading with fluency and then we looked at content domain questions. We also got to enjoy fantastic Non Fiction Friday and it was amazing to read about all of the children's fantastic non-fiction books that they have been enjoying. In Maths this term, we have continued our work on fractions and now we are looking at how to add fractions with different denominators. We looked at firstly using the bar model to help us and then we used our knowledge of equivalent fractions to add the numerators. We really persevered in all of this maths work as it was tricky at times but we all tried our best.

In Thinking Globally, we have been focused on our topic Alchemy Island. In Humanities, we have been looking at Geography and how to plot coordinates on a map. We spent time learning about maps and the importance of them. We discussed how modern day maps compare to maps many years ago. We then learnt all about why maps have coordinates and how we use these to locate specific areas. Our science learning was all about categorising materials based on their properties. We will be learning all about changes in materials and how some changes are reversible and some are irreversible. In religion, we have been learning about the Christian Easter Story. We sequenced the events of Good Friday using a flow map and then we used this knowledge to write a diary entry about Good Friday. We also used our red hat to discuss How would you feel if you were Jesus? How would you feel if someone betrayed you?

Well done Year 5 on all of your hard work this week. Have a nice weekend!



## Year 6

Our first week of term has been amazing! The children have shown enthusiasm and creativity when learning about our new topic, Darwin's Delights! It is fantastic to see children working at the same high standard as we ended our last term, as well as using their green hats to think imaginatively when submitting work onto Seesaw!

In Guided Reading this week, we have continued to read Abi Elphinstone's Sky Song. We have enjoyed taking on the role of a character to infer feelings and predict next steps following reading Chapter Six. The children have also continued to develop their understanding of content domain questions by individually identifying and answering them based on key pages of the text. We also enjoyed using our Guided Reading lessons to learn more about the Kazakh Eagle Hunters, inspiration for the character Eska in the book and each child presented their research in their own creative way.

In our English lessons this week, we used the habit of creating, imagining, and innovating to produce our own spoken word poems highlighting the effect of climate change on both animals and the environment. We were extremely impressed with the wide range of poetic features the children managed to learn and use so eloquently in their poems. It was extremely exciting on Friday, when we hosted a Year Six Poetry Slam to enable the children to share their poems with each other. It was very difficult to judge a winning poem due to the standard of all poems being so high.

In Maths this week, we continued to work with percentages, and worked on finding percentages from amounts using the bubble method. We were impressed that the children were able to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages with ease, as this helps us to transition between these to solve SATs style questions.

Our Thinking Globally lessons focused on the adventures of Charles Darwin and using geographical knowledge to describe his journey on the HMS Beagle. The children really enjoyed using lines of latitude and longitude when finding their own destinations they would love to travel to when lockdowns are restricted. We also used the habit of gathering data through all senses to complete independent research on Darwin's voyage. Overall, the children have settled back into their learning routines brilliantly and we are excited to continue to learn more about our topic Darwin's delight as the term continues.



## Thinking Academically



### TT Rockstars:

Well done to Year 3 for being top of the tables for the start of the term. Year 4 are in second place, with Year 5 in third.

### Spelling Shed

### Spelling Shed:



Well done to Year 2 for starting the term in first place. They are followed by Year 3 in second and Year 5 in third.

As we all know, reading skills are vital to children accessing all areas of the curriculum and being successful learners. We appreciate that having access to books may prove difficult during lockdown, therefore, the link below gives free access to texts.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55692137>

Please look out for our exciting announcements for World Book Day. If your child is in the key worker provision they may dress up as a book character if they wish to.



## Thinking Inclusively

Following the latest Government's announcement, all children are expected to come back to school on 8th March. Going back to school can be scary for children whatever their age, and it can also be an anxious time for parents.

Both parents and children might have lots of questions and worries therefore, NSPCC offers advice on how to prepare your child for going back to school.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home/at-school/>

**NSPCC**

Young Minds also offers some tips on how parents can support their children in a successful transition back to school life.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/>



Anna Freud organisation also provides some good advice and guidance to parents and carers to help families work together and support one another.

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/>



## Enrichment

For Enrichment this week, in light of World Book Day next week, we are providing resources around reading.

Firstly, on the school website and in your 'school announcements' tab on Seesaw, you have previously been sent a PDF document with the recommended books for your child's year group. These are a range of exciting and high quality texts. If you'd like any more recommendations based on your child's interests, please ask their class teacher and they'll be more than happy to help!

Oxford Owl have a range of free ebooks online developed for children age 3-11 as well as guidance for how parents can support with reading at home.

Books Trust has interactive books to read online or watch with signing. These include classic children's stories such as Hairy Maclary, Owl Babies and Oh No George! They also have free and fun children's games such as number games, puzzle games and interactive activities.

Royal Shakespeare company has activity toolkits for independent and home learning offering creative and exploratory activities for students, including the Shakespeare Learning Zone where they can learn all about Shakespeare's plays - I know the pupils involved in Shakespeare Rocks will really enjoy this!



## Thinking About Their Thinking

In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question: 'Do Walls divide us or protect us' due to the recent completion of a 36km wall around the tourist resort of Sham El-Sheikh in Egypt. You can discuss this at home by talking about the different types of walls we have and what they are used for as well as researching walls through history and their purpose.



As well as P4C, Thinking about Thinking involves Thinking Reflections and the Thinking Tools. Children have been absolutely fantastic at continuing to use the full range of Thinking Tools, including hats, maps and keys during remote learning. If you'd like to learn more about our Thinking Tools, there is a video on the first page of our website which explains them further:

<https://www.newhorizonschildrensacademy.org.uk/>