



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News



Child First

Child Safe

Adult Safe

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a lovely week it has been in school - the smiles seen on the faces of our school community each day have given us all a huge lift. It's been an intense week, but the children settled well into learning and re-established friendships quickly. I'm really pleased with how the week has gone - the children have coped well with the return. A huge thank you to the staff and families for all their efforts to support a smooth transition back into on-site learning.

I also wanted to thank parents and carers for their support on World Book Day; we still managed to have a fun-packed day despite most children learning remotely and we had a great response to all the activities planned. Our next whole school event is coming up next week, when we will take part in Comic Relief. Further information is included in this week's newsletter.

While we of course welcome the lifting of this restriction for our community, we must also remain mindful and vigilant of the on-going risks posed by the pandemic. The school continues to operate in a similar fashion to terms 1 and 2, with many additional measures still in place for the foreseeable future. I thank the school community for adhering to our guidance, we had a few issues in the first few days while everyone familiarised themselves once-again with entry/collection points and times but hopefully we can get those routines firmly re-established. Staff will be on duty at the start and end of every day and will be issuing gentle reminders where necessary, please do not be offended by such reminders, staff will be acting to keep everyone safe- which is what we all want for our community.

Finally, I want to wish you all a lovely weekend, I think you will have some tired children after what has been a busy week of learning and catching up with friends.

Stay safe,  
Mr C Murphy



**STAY  
SAFE**



**STAY  
LEARNING**



**STAY  
CONNECTED**



## Thinking Globally

### EYFS



We enjoyed welcoming back all our Nursery children this week, along with welcoming some new pupils who began their first full week; they are looking really smart in their new uniform. All children have settled back into 'Nursery life' well and have enjoyed getting to know their environment. We have continued to learn and follow the school rules and nursery routines. All the children are enjoying building relationships with peers and adults in the class and making lots of new friends. We have carried out baseline assessments for all pupils, where the children have been continuing to show us all they already know and so teachers can assess where they are and identify next steps for each individual child's learning journey. All friends have really enjoyed our story time session at the end of each day. We are looking forward to continuing our new topic next week 'Are eggs alive?'.

All Reception children have now returned to school full time and it has been lovely to welcome them back to face-to-face teaching and learning! The children have been continuing to show us what they already know so teachers can assess where they are and identify next steps for each individual child's learning journey. The children have familiarised themselves with their classroom, their teachers, and their peers. We have been extremely impressed with how quickly the children have adjusted and settled back into the school routine, showing exemplary behaviour and following the school rules.



### Year 1

Year 1 have settled back into their learning really well this week. We were very excited to see each other and have been trying hard with all our leaning, while getting used to school routines all over again!



In English, we have been creating our own alternative stories to the 'Tiger Came to Tea'. We brainstormed different animals that could be in our own versions of the story and acted out different characters using animal masks! We have been showing off our writing by planning our ideas and drafting our stories. In Maths, we have been looking at numbers to 50. We made a class number line and had to work well together to figure out where we should be on the line. We have also been enjoying using our outdoor area to play games, practicing how to count in 2s and 5s.

In Geography this week, we looked at different continents around the world and where different animals come from. We sorted animals onto the continents we would usually find them, and had fun thinking about why animals are best suited to different continents. In Science, we looked at different animal diets and focused particularly on carnivores. We went way back to when dinosaurs roamed the Earth and used our Green hat creative thinking to design a menu for a T-rex if we were to have one over for tea! Some of us even made the food using our playdough and model making materials. We had a very big plate to fill! In Dance this week, we were thinking about animals in Africa, considering how they might move. We crept like lions, marched elephants and charged like rhinos. We even made up our own hippo dance!

Not to forget our amazing Science experiment this week for Science week. We made predictions on how we could get water to move without touching it! We used some food colouring, kitchen towel, plastic cups and water to conduct our very own experiment! We were shocked to come to school the next day and find that our water had moved into an empty cup through the paper towel! The cup we had left empty was half full! On top of that, the colours had mixed to make some lovely new colours!



We are very proud of how well Year 1 have settled in this week and glad to have everyone back together. Keep up the hard work!

## Year 2

It has been an exciting week back as we have welcomed all our lovely Year 2 children back into their classrooms. We have loved seeing each and every one of their faces back at school and they have all shown resilience as they've coped so well with another change. All of the children have engaged enthusiastically and happily with all of their learning this week which has continued from last week's remote learning.

We are still working on our topic 'The Scented Garden' and have continued to look at the story of Jack and the Beanstalk but this time we are writing our own versions. At the beginning of the week we planned out our stories by changing key parts and across the second half of the week we wrote the beginning, middle and end.

In Maths, we have completed our measurement topic after learning how to measure capacity, mass, and temperature this week and will be moving onto the fractions topic for the rest of term! In Science, the children have learnt about the different parts of a plant and the role of each one.

As well as this, it has been science week this week so all the children have taken part in an exciting experiment to see how we can make different colours move between two cups using some paper towels!



In Geography, we have continued to look at different habitats for plants, the types of plants we find in these places and focused this week on, the seasons that different plants grow in and what the different seasons look like.

This week has been another fantastic week of learning at school and we are looking forward to seeing all of the children again next week, have a lovely restful weekend!

## Year 3

What a great week back to school everybody in Year 3 has had! We have seen so many people showing our Habits of Mind of remaining open to continuous learning, striving for accuracy and responding with wonderment and awe. Many children have been wearing their positive yellow hats as well, clearly enjoying being back in school altogether as classes.

In Reading this week we have continued reading 'The Iron Man', a book which is proving to be a real page turner for so many children. We have been discussing this week how the Iron Man could show emotions and what these might be at various points in the story. In our Writing work, we have been investigating letters, thinking about when we would send a letter and the features. We have been identifying the correct structure of a letter and will be writing our own letters soon.

In Maths, our work this week has been about length, focussing on equivalent lengths and converting between metres and centimetres. We have been thinking about where we would need to measure lengths in our lives and how.

Thinking Globally has really piqued our interest this week, learning about Isambard Brunel in Humanities and finding out about the stupendous structures that he created. We have been celebrating Science Week as well, thinking about innovation, what STEM means and diversity within STEM. We then worked in teams to use our innovation skills to design a new product. We would love you to ask us about our designs!

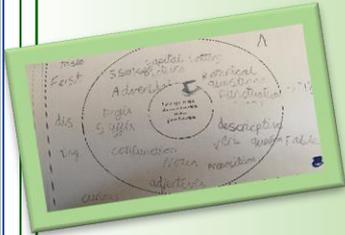
In MFL we have been learning the French translations for animal names and our RE learning about Holy Week has focused on Good Friday.

We are once again so proud of your Year 3, you are adapting to all being back in school amazingly, well done!



#### Year 4

This week we have been so excited to welcome the children back into school and back into our classrooms again. After what seems like forever, we have settled straight back into school life incredibly well. The children have been exceptional and have shown the teachers just how wonderful they all are at adapting to the different situations that face us. This week in Maths we have continued our learning in fractions, with more of a focus on finding fractions of amounts. The children have been great at using a sharing model to explain this and some of them have even been discovering their own ways to solve these questions quicker.



For Guided Reading, we are continuing to explore King of the Cloud Forests and we are discovering even more about Ashley and Uncle Sung's adventures. Alongside this, in our writing lessons we are starting to plan our own mountain adventure themed narrative, this week we have been busy creating our main characters and our settings. We have also started thinking about what might happen to our characters in our narrative.

In the other elements of our learning this week we have had a big focus as it is Science week! We have been investigating and celebrating lots of women within science and to see what they have achieved. We have also been inventing some new really useful objects that will support us in our daily lives. We have even been having fun creating some special science themed artwork with salt, glue and watercolour paint. During our Thinking Inclusively lessons we have started to learn all about the history of Medway, specifically about what it was like during the Victorian times. In RE, as we come closer to Easter, we have been exploring the details all about what happened at the last supper, and how the story may have turned out differently in different situations. In PE, we have continued with our cricket lessons and we have been applying the skills that we have learnt at home and applying them using a cricket ball rather than just our socks! The children have been outstanding this week, they have settled back into school very well and we can't wait to continue the rest of this term in the classroom.

#### Year 5

Welcome back to our wonderful Year 5 children! It has been a pleasure welcoming you all back this week and it brought us so much joy seeing you back in your classrooms enjoying your learning and time with your friends!

It has been a fantastic start to our return this week and we have enjoyed lots of exciting lessons. This week it is British Science week and the theme is Innovating for the Future and we wanted to link our learning to International Women's Day too. In Writing, we spent the week learning about influential women in the science industry throughout the years.

We learned about Rosalind Franklin, an English chemist and X-ray crystallographer and Margaret Egunoluwa Aderin-Pocock MBE who is a British space scientist and science educator. Children then had the opportunity to write a biography about the life of one of the women. In Reading, we continued to read Coraline and further our understanding of the content domain questions. In Maths, we recapped on our fraction learning and spent time revising how to compare and order fractions and how to add and subtract fractions.



In Humanities, we continued our learning about coordinates and maps and learning about Alchemy Island. This week we also got to enjoy some exciting science lessons all about Innovating for the Future. We learnt about what innovation means and how people in our local area have been innovative. We discussed modern day innovation such as the vaccines and products and services such as Gusto food boxes etc. We looked at women working in the STEM industry and how they are smashing stereotypes. We then worked together in groups to use our innovation skills to create a product/service that children our age would need and want. We presented our ideas to the class and we were really impressed by the ideas. During Science week, we also had the opportunity to use our Green Hat and take part in designing a poster about the theme "Innovating for the Future". We ended the week by watching a live science experiment and had fun during this practical lesson. In Religion, we have continued our learning of the Easter story.

Well done Year 5 on a fantastic week back to school. You should be very proud of yourselves. A reminder that your homework is set every Thursday on Seesaw. Have a lovely weekend.

## Year 6

Welcome back Year 6! It has been lovely to see you all back in school this week and we have really enjoyed our learning this week.

This week is British Science Week and as part of this week we also wanted to celebrate International Women's Day by linking our learning to women in the science industry. In Writing we have been looking at biographies. We spent time on Tuesday looking at features of biography and analysing a WAGOLL example. We created circle maps to organise our learning. We then went on to look at two women in the science industry that are making a difference. We learned about Rosalind Franklin, a English chemist and X-ray crystallographer and Margaret Ebunoluwa Aderin-Pocock MBE who is a British space scientist and science educator. The children then carried out some research about both women and we discussed their impact on the science industry. We then planned our biography ensuring that our writing was of high quality. We wrote up our biographies and added some images to them. We were really impressed by the standard. In Maths this week, we worked on percentages and decimals. For percentages, we focused on Friendly percentages on Monday looking at 10 %, 20%, 50 % and the link to fractions. On Tuesday we continued to work on this, and some children moved on to using the bubble method to find percentages of amounts. We then moved onto decimals, learning their link to percentages and how to solve problems using decimals and percentages.

We have enjoyed a lot of science learning as it is British Science Week. The theme this year is Innovating for the Future and we learnt about innovation and the STEM industry. We spent some time looking at stereotypes in the industry and how it is important to "smash those stereotypes" and inclusivity of all genders and cultural backgrounds is vital in all sectors. The children then looked at innovation in our local area and then worked in partners to come up with their own innovative ideas. Each group planned a new invention or service and then presented their ideas to the class. We were so impressed with the ideas and it was fantastic to see how some children linked their innovation project to current affairs such as global warming and gender roles. Fantastic Year 6! In RE we are starting to learn about the Easter Story and learning how and why Easter is celebrated around the world.

Well done Year 6, you have had a fantastic week! A reminder that our homework is set on Thursdays by your teachers on Seesaw. Have a safe and nice weekend!



## Thinking Academically



### TT Rockstars:

This week's top year group are Year 3 with Year 4 in second place and Year 5 in third.

### Spelling Shed:

Our top year groups this week are Year 2 in first place, Year 5 in second place and Year 3 in third.



Spelling Shed



## Thinking Inclusively

EIGHT PROVEN STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS PICKY EATING AMONG KIDS WITH AUTISM	
<b>SEEK MEDICAL HELP</b> Did you know that there might be some medical problems and this is the reason why your child is acting that way? For example, maybe you have seen your child clamping their lips shut whenever you are trying to offer certain foods?	<b>TRY TO STAY CALM</b> This advice goes to all parents regardless of whether their child is on the spectrum or not. If you think about it, children go from only drinking milk throughout the first couple of months of their lives to slowly increasing the intake of new foods.
<b>BE INFORMATIVE</b> Gathering information about what your child eats successfully, and how, when, and where the child eats best, can provide clues for broadening the child's diet.	<b>THERE'S A WORLD OF TEXTURES</b> Many children who are on the spectrum are also hypersensitive to different textures. Their ribs be graded out by soft foods (like mash/purees) or they may find it hard to eat things like corn on the cob or meat.
<b>TRY SOMETHING NEW</b> More often than not your child may be afraid to try new things, especially when it comes to food. You can try something new to eat and you can guide them through by looking at it, touching it, and smelling it.	<b>IT'S TIME TO PLAY!</b> Did you know that one of the greatest things a child can do is precisely that? They know how to play! They learn through their games! If you want, you could let them play with food until they become familiar with it.
<b>GIVE THEM CHOICES</b> Children like to be in control - even if they don't really know what this means. They are only aware of the fact that they "would like to do this but my parents want me to do this" - so which one is going to win? Of course, this, which is the thing they want.	<b>DON'T BRIBE THEM</b> It is important to let your child know that you appreciate their flexibility with new food and their willingness to try something different. However, if you blatantly bribe your child, and you do so consistently, then this can, in the long run, backfire on you.

Most children are picky eaters at some point in their lives. As a parent, you have probably heard the 'I don't like this banana' one day, and then the next day they will eat five bananas in one go. It's a normal part of a child's life, especially when they start discovering their personality. However, some children can persistently deny and refuse food. Here are 8 proven strategies to support picky eaters.

<https://www.autismag.org/news/eight-proven-strategies-to-address-picky-eating-among-kids-with-autism/?fbclid=IwAR20R7sAJnsYs6m39axbuAgiBIQ7QaLhm0V7Ag6Jyg7akbXEKceLd1qbOUA>



## Thinking About Their Thinking

For P4C this week, we are looking at the question, 'Can you Imagine Living on another planet?' This is because last month, Nasa's £1.9 billion rover mission successfully landed on Mars after its seven-month, 290-million-mile journey from Earth. The rover, named Perseverance is packed with ground-breaking technology. The mission marks an ambitious first step in the effort to collect samples from Mars and return them to Earth. It is thought that life forms from Earth could temporarily survive a Mars-like atmosphere. P4C is one of our 'Thinking about our Thinking' subjects where children have the opportunity to really reflect and consider their own opinion and why they think this. To further this learning at home, children could research about Mars, create their own planet they would like to live on as well as thinking critically, considering whether it is important to learn about other planets and why?



## Enrichment

Next Friday is Red Nose Day and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. This year the focus of Comic relief is to turn laughs into lasting change. In school, we will be learning about doing this and having a tag day but you can get involved at home too. On [www.comicrelief.co.uk/rednoseday](http://www.comicrelief.co.uk/rednoseday), there is a downloadable poster which you can print, add your favourite joke to and put in your window to 'Share a Smile' for Comic Relief. There are also resources for Radio 1's LOL-A-THON and suggestions to get involved in fundraising!

<https://www.comicrelief.com/>





# Golden Tie & Achievement Alley

TEAM POINTS	
This week the 'Holcombe Cup' has been awarded to River.	
Attendance Ace	Maple, Spruce, Apple and Juniper all with an amazing 100%
Punctuality Penny	Hazel, Conifer & Sycamore all with 0 lates. Well done!
<b>Golden Tie</b>	<p><b>Beech</b> – Illian for striving for accuracy in his learning  <b>Hazel</b> – Halin for remaining open to continuous learning  <b>Maple</b> – Lilah for responding with wonderment and awe  <b>Birch</b> – Jack P for persisting with all his learning  <b>Pine</b> – Finley for responding with wonderment and awe  <b>Spruce</b> – Lily-Rose for remaining open to continuous learning  <b>Apple</b> – Harry for always persisting and striving for accuracy in all of his work  <b>Cherry</b> – Yvie for persistence, hard work and quality in her English work based around Iron Man.  <b>Damson</b> – Elsie-Mae for coming up with creative questions in all subjects!</p> <p><b>Conifer</b> – Isla for persisting with your learning this week!  <b>Hawthorn</b> – Amelia for excellent persistence with her learning and focus!  <b>Poplar</b> – Niko for striving for accuracy in all of your learning and demonstrating a positive attitude!  <b>Juniper</b> – MJ for demonstrating resilience in his work this week  <b>Laburnum</b> – Harrison for managing impulsivity in class and striving for accuracy all week  <b>Sycamore</b> – Nathan for outstanding managing impulsivity when settling back into the school life  <b>Aspen</b> – Aiden for managing impulsivity  <b>Cypress</b> – Kairan for remaining open to continuous learning in the first week back in class  <b>Elder</b> – Leon for striving for accuracy, persisting and finding humour</p>
<b>Achievement Alley</b>	<p><b>Beech</b> – Harry for being persistent in Maths  <b>Hazel</b> – Aiden for responding with wonderment and awe  <b>Maple</b> – Isabella for taking safe risks in her learning  <b>Birch</b> – Florence for striving for accuracy in Reading  <b>Pine</b> – Eleanor for striving for accuracy in Maths  <b>Spruce</b> – Adam for striving for accuracy in writing  <b>Apple</b> – Riley for a fantastic flow map in Writing to plan your letter!  <b>Cherry</b> – Nyah for outstanding use of measurement and length in her Maths this week  <b>Damson</b> – Mikey for your red hat thinking in RE!</p> <p><b>Conifer</b> – Noah for fantastic application of your fractions knowledge!  <b>Hawthorn</b> – Darcey for fantastic application of your maths knowledge!  <b>Poplar</b> – Josh for a very detailed flow map about Medway!  <b>Juniper</b> – Ellie for her informative and well labelled biography of a scientist  <b>Laburnum</b> – Daisy for striving for accuracy in her Maths work  <b>Sycamore</b> – Kiefer for applying past knowledge and linking his learning with other areas of life when using co-ordinates  <b>Aspen</b> – Aaliyan for striving for accuracy and beautiful presentation  <b>Cypress</b> – Zac for using green hat creativity to design his own invention for the future and labelling it in detail  <b>Elder</b> – Ellie for applying past knowledge to new learning with percentages</p>

# Attendance Matters!

