



New Horizons
Children's Academy

News



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the final week of term already - although I'm sure we are all enjoying the early Spring weather that always helps to lift our spirits. With the clocks going forward this weekend too, we can start to look forward to much longer hours of daylight from next week.

The children continue to take things in their stride and you can be very proud of how they have adapted to being back in school every day.

We will hopefully be in a position next term where we will be able to offer a wider range of enrichment opportunities, returning to an offer of more after-school clubs and beginning to welcome visitors back into school to further enrich our curriculum experiences.

It has been pleasing that we have not had any further cases of Covid-19 in school since before Christmas, however we will continue to remain vigilant and take measures to make school as safe as possible. We will continue to offer a 'track and trace' service for the first 6 days of the Easter break, and I will be writing to you next week with further details on this.

Finally, I'd appreciate all of your support in maintaining our relationships with local residents, with whom we have close, working partnerships. We all know that traffic and parking issues occur outside most schools, particularly at pick-off and drop-off times, but as long as we show consideration and respect for each other then we can continue to co-exist in harmony.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing weekend,

Mr C Murphy



Thinking Globally

EYFS



This week in Nursery we have been thinking about what animals eat and how they get their food. We have spoken about the fact that some animals need help to feed and birds are one of these animals. We began to learn about where birds live and have looked at pictures of nests. We looked at what birds use to make their nests and have used natural resources to create our own birds' nests. In Maths this week we have been learning new language in relation to position - each child had a chick and had to put it in different positions. We hope the children will extend this learning and begin to use this high-level vocabulary within their everyday language.

This week the Reception children have been busy learning all about healthy eating and how to keep our bodies healthy and active. We have had lots of fun doing different exercises as well as yoga and dancing in the classrooms. We have also been writing some recipes for some tasty fruit smoothies! The children worked together to create their smoothie using fruit juices. Following this the children have produced some fantastic writing, explaining step by step how they made their fruit smoothies.

The best part was definitely getting to drink them! In Maths this week, we have looked at the concept of halving using practical objects. We have spoken lots about when we halve a number it gets smaller. The children are continuing to learn their phase 3 sounds in phonics and many have secured the skill of blending words to read with diagraphs in them. This week the staff have continued to carry out assessments on the children and will be providing the children with their reading book which correctly matches their phonological knowledge to come home with before the Easter break.



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have been continuing to look at the story of Mary Anning in the book 'Stone Girl, Bone Girl'! We started off our English on Monday as palaeontologists and used different tools to see how many chocolate chips we could carefully remove from a cookie without damaging it too much! We used this to help us begin to plan a newspaper report on the finding of a rare fossil! In Maths, we have been comparing different sets of objects and numbers, using lots of practical examples and games in our outdoor area. Some of us have been trying to trick each other with our own true and false questions!



In Geography this week, we have looked at where big cats live around the world. We looked at the different continents you might find big cats and some of us went on a big cat fact hunt! We found all the facts about different big cat habitats and placed them onto the correct big cat! The rest of us made big cat animal fact files which told us all about where you might find different big cats and why they like to live in this habitat!

In Science, we have been continuing to look at animal diets. Now that we have looked closely at herbivores and carnivores this term, we looked at what makes an omnivore. With all of our prior knowledge on this, we were then able to use the plastic animals to sort into different categories according to what they eat! In RE, we have been continuing our work on Easter with the significance of the cross around Easter. Some of us used natural resources to create our own crosses while we had many conversations around what this means to Christians, particularly on Easter.



For Thinking Healthily this week we have been looking at how to keep ourselves safe on the roads. We made our own mini and large roads to practice what we need to do to safely cross a road. We discussed all of the important things to remember and why it is important to always cross with an adult. In PE, we have continued to practice throwing with accuracy, using a range of games to practice our new skill. We have also been looking at how best to catch a ball. We have become really good at throwing and catching which has helped us to do well as a team in different games!



Once again, this has been a fantastic busy week with everyone working extremely hard!

We are working towards our final products in Thinking Artistically and we look forward to putting together our final animal dance, animal print stencils and recording our song in Music next week to end our term!

Year 2



This week, the children have continued to work hard as they settle back into school life. In Writing, we are continuing to use 'The Hodgehog' by Dick King Smith to inspire our writing. We began the week by focussing on a character description, pulling together our knowledge of adjectives and expanded noun phrases to accurately describe Max the hedgehog, the main character in the story. Later in the week, we had the opportunity to be more creative and we planned our own adventure for Max. This became the basis for a piece of narrative writing.

In Maths, we have been continuing with our fractions topic. We have focussed on finding fractions of numbers, specifically finding $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of numbers. From here, we looked at non-unit fractions where the numerator is not one. We spent time deciding how to find fractions of different shapes and looked at the numerator and denominator in the fraction to help us understand this further.

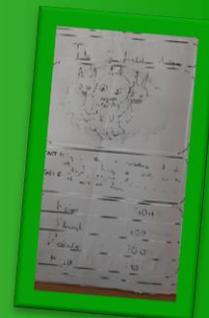


Our afternoon lessons have been themed around The Scented Garden. This week, we have continued to think about the life cycle of a plant and testing the different conditions needed for the plant to stay healthy. We also used this to think further about the rainforest and why the different layers of the rainforest have such different plants living there because of the different conditions.

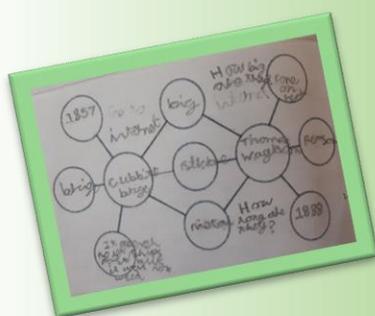
Year 3

What another fantastic week we have had in Year 3! The children have been really enthusiastic about their learning this week and we hope this continues as we approach the end of term.

In English this week, we have started to explore narrative writing based on our text 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We started by thinking about the setting of our story – when and where the story takes place – and writing a description of it. We thought about what we could see, hear, smell and touch when writing. The children chose interesting similes and adjectives when writing about this. They also designed a creature to fight the Iron Man and wrote a description of them. The children have really enjoyed using their green hats for their activities.

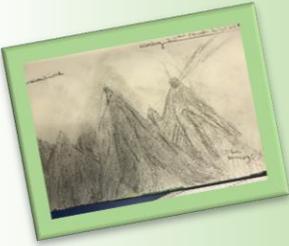


In Maths, we have continued to look at measurements and have been practicing adding and subtracting lengths in metres, centimetres and millimetres. We have looked at the steps and worked together to understand the process and solve problems. This has been tricky at times, but the children have all persisted with their learning which has been fantastic to see.



For our Humanities learning this week, we looked at local metal sculptures. The children were very engaged with this lesson and spoke confidently about the ones they recognised and see regularly, such as the Thomas Waghorn statue in Chatham and Cubitt's Bridge in Rochester, which we had looked at last week in Thinking Inclusively. The children were able to compare the structures and learnt lots of facts about them. We loved seeing the children so engaged with their learning, and we hope this continues. Keep up the hard work Year 3!

Year 4



In Year 4 for this week, the children have continued their learning on mountains. They have been given an insight into life in the Himalayan mountain range, comparing the living conditions, schooling, cooking facilities and everyday life to their own. With precision, and taking inspiration from the artist Ansel Adams, the children drew a landscape picture of a mountain, using their sketching skills to create a 3D effect.

For English this week, the children have created their own newspaper reports; they have analysed an excellent example of a newspaper report, applying the key features, such as past tense, formal language, and quotes to their own writing.

The imagination and effort they have shown for their newspaper reports has been outstanding! During their cricket lesson, Year 4 displayed excellent accuracy with their underarm throws and were able to catch with more consistency. With a greater understanding of overarm and underarm throwing technique, they can throw the ball successfully over a range of distances.

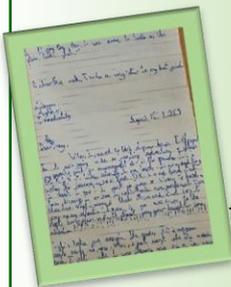
The children learnt about festivals in French. They identified why festivals take place and learnt about important celebrations in France, comparing them to the UK. In Maths, Year 4 explored bar graphs, pictograms, and line graphs. Once they had generated their data, the children plotted the information into a tally chart and then presented this in a pictogram and bar chart. The children also discussed key words: sum, difference and comparison and used their understanding of the key mathematical vocabulary to answer a range of questions about graphs. The Water Cycle is our focus in Science. After identifying the key features of The Water Cycle last week, they children started their own experiment, testing the effect of water left in sunlight over a week period. In RE this week the children the children learnt about the importance of forgiveness. They read the parable of The Unforgiving Servant and related the moral lessons in this story to their own experiences.



It has been another excellent week! The children have once again shown amazing persistence and dedication to their learning and have continued to make us and themselves proud!

Year 5

What a wonderful week we have had Year 5! We are really enjoying all of our learning in school and it has been brilliant spending time with our friends. We are also enjoying the nice weather; daisy chains have become a new trend!



In Guided Reading, we have continued to enjoy reading our book Coraline. We are enjoying the twists and turns. We have been using our red hat to think about how Coraline is feeling in this part of the book and using our inference skills to predict what might happen next. We have continued to work on content domain questions and as we read, we are checking do we understand what we are reading. In English, we have been looking at writing a diary entry. We started off, by recording the features we could spot in a circle map. We also magpie interesting synonyms we could use in our work. We then used a flow map to plan our diary entry, written from the perspective of Coraline. In maths, we have continued to persevere and work on adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and working on our arithmetic skills.

In our Thinking Globally subjects, we have continued to learn about our topic Alchemy Island. In Science, we are continuing to learn about reversible and irreversible changes in matter. In Humanities, we have focused on using our green thinking hat to create our own game involving a fantasy map- with different physical and human elements to it. We then wrote instructions on how to play our game. In RE, we have continued to learn about the Easter. This week we focused on what Lent is and why it is important to Christians. We have also recapped the Easter story to see what we could remember from last week. We have been practising our Easter songs too! In MFL we have been focussed on places in town and working on our pronunciation. We have been also practising a short conversation without partners and class teachers.



A reminder that Year 5 homework is set on Seesaw every Thursday at 3:00pm and due back in the following Tuesday. Have a safe and great weekend Year 5! Well done for an amazing week!

Year 6

Year 6 have had another fantastic week delving deeper into our topic, 'Darwin's Delights.' This has meant that we have continued to learn about adaptation, evolution and Darwin's findings on the HMS Beagle in 'Thinking Globally'.



'Thinking Globally' has inspired our writing too this week and during our writing lessons we have been investigating the Galapagos Islands and their interesting terrains. Previously, we have learnt about how the islands were formed, writing explanation texts on Volcanoes. This week, we have been working on our descriptive writing, as today we are writing a description on the Galapagos Island which were inspired by the mood boards we did for homework. The Habit of Mind: creating, inspiring and innovating has been very clear this week! Our mood boards and the description we did this week are going to support us with our writing next week as will be creating our own holiday brochures about the Galapagos Islands (which will include our excellent descriptions). The writing homework this week is also a task which will support with our writing over the following week. Any extra work children can do at home exploring holiday brochures will really benefit them with the language expected when they created their own brochures next week.

This work all links fantastically with what we have been doing in our other, 'Thinking Globally' subjects of Science and Humanities. In Humanities, we have been learning all about the animals that are at risk of becoming extinct and the threats for animals, particularly in the Galapagos Islands. This week, we are looking at conservation of the Galapagos Islands, writing letters to the president of Ecuador to raise the issue and share their opinions. Some of the work that has been produced has been excellent and it has been amazing to see the children so passionate. We have learnt all about the work that is currently ongoing in the Galapagos Islands and the different conservation projects in action, as well as what could be done in future. In science, we are continuing with our understanding of adaptation by experimenting with the most effective method of bird beak by taking part in an experiment in which we have been using the different items in the classroom to pick up grains of rice (Food) to see which shape would be the most effective for a bird's beak



As well as the hard work in 'Thinking Globally', we have been learning about measurement and revising how to convert between different units of measurement. We have been applying this knowledge to a range of reasoning questions and problem solving using measurement, thinking about mass, capacity and length as well as converting measurement. We are going to be continued with measurement next week and at the start of next term, looking into volume, perimeter and area, including the area of a triangle.



Thinking Academically



TT Rockstars:

Year 3 are top of the leader board this week - well done Year 3. In second place are Year 4 and Year 5 are in third.

Spelling Shed:



Our top spelling year group this week are Year 2, well done to them. In second place are Year 4 and Year 3 are in third.

Spelling Shed



Thinking Inclusively

Gross motor skills are larger movement activities such as sitting, rolling, kneeling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping and more! Many times when children are provided with independent, free play outdoors, they automatically participate in these types of skills. Other times when the weather is not cooperating or children have delayed motor skills they may need some guidance and directions to increase gross motor time.

There are plenty of video or apps to encourage physical activity in children BUT it is also important for children to participate in SCREEN FREE gross motor activities



<https://www.yourtherapysource.com/blog1/2020/03/23/gross-motor-skills-and-activities/>



<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/movement-coordination-issues/8-gross-motor-skills-activities-for-kids>



<https://handsonaswegrow.com/gross-motor-activities-preschoolers/>

Thinking About Their Thinking

In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question, 'Why do we need a census?'. This is because Sunday 21st March is census day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The survey provides a glimpse of life, which can be used for organisations to help make sure they provide the right services for people. The 2021 census will help us understand how coronavirus has affected everything from our health to our finances. Questions you can ask your children at home are: can you find out who has completed the census in your household? What kind of questions did they need to answer? Can you remember the last time or your family completed a form? What questions were you asked? Why can forms be important?



Enrichment

This week for enrichment, we want to tell you about the local experiences and opportunities which are beginning to open up with the easing of lock down. It's a great time to get outside and enjoy the improving weather:



Two popular outdoor activity courses in Kent are reopening: Go Ape plans to open on Monday March 29th in both Leeds Castle and at Bedgebury Pinetum near Goudhurst. In line with 'the rule of six' this means families are permitted to visit Go outdoors and enjoyed the fresh air and enjoyable activities such as high ropes during their pre-booked time slot

Hole Park Gardens in Rolvenden are reopening from April 1st and will be open from 11am to 6pm everyday between April enabling visitors to make the most of the spring display of flowers. There are 16 acres of garden and 10 acres of woodland to encourage us to Think Healthily and enjoy the local scenery. In mid-April, the bluebells arrive and the bluebell barometer is regularly updated.



Click and Collect Craft and story packs for children



Medway libraries are providing more Click and Collect Craft and Story Packs for children aged 4 to 10 years, for the Spring half term. The pack will contain everything you need to make a wonderful 'Zoo Mania' craft.

There will also be two library books in the pack for children to enjoy. The packs, which must be pre-ordered, will be available for collection from any Medway library for £2.50 or delivered to your door for £3.50.

Families will need their library account number to book a pack. To sign up for a free library account, please [click here](#).

The packs are available for booking from Monday 29th March until Saturday 10th April on our Click & Collect page where you will be able to book your pack ready for collection or delivery. A link for the virtual 'Zoo Mania' craft event will also be sent through on Monday, 12th April, to all families who book a pack.



Golden Tie & Achievement Alley

TEAM POINTS

This week the 'Holcombe Cup' has been awarded to Brook.

Attendance Ace

Birch, Cherry & Aspen

Punctuality Penny

Maple, Damson & Laburnum

Golden Tie

Beech – Aleksa for being persistent with her learning
Hazel – Ted for persisting with all learning this week
Maple – Arianna for always striving for accuracy in all her learning
Birch – Jessica for persisting with all her learning
Pine – Ava for responding with wonderment and awe
Spruce – Taila for persisting with all her learning
Apple – Avi-Rose for questioning and posing problems and persisting with her learning
Cherry – Esmee for showing persistence, focus and hard work to all of her work this week. Well done!
Damson – Jack for persisting with your reading eggs work

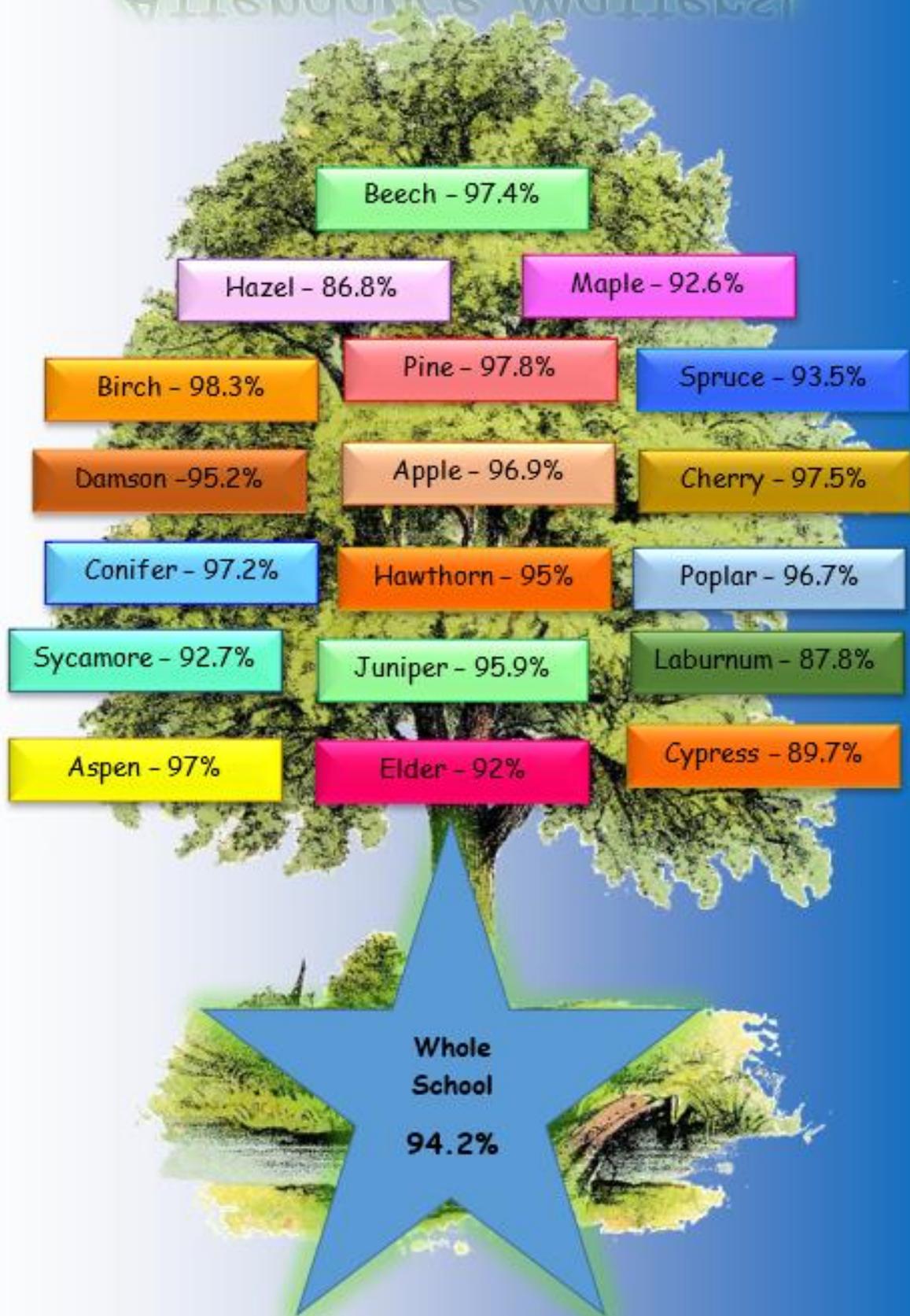
Conifer – Elliott for always persisting with your learning
Hawthorn – Kezia for showing empathy and kindness to others and persisting with her learning
Poplar – Oliver for persisting with your learning this week!
Juniper – Charlie K for showing perseverance in learning fractions
Laburnum – Sophia for striving for accuracy in all subjects and putting her hand up to share ideas
Sycamore – Mia for showing outstanding perseverance in her fraction work this week and posing questions to expand her own learning.
Aspen – Rubin being open to continuous learning and showing curiosity and awe
Cypress – Isabella for positive Role modelling, responding with empathy and listening and understanding with empathy.
Elder – Rosko for striving for accuracy, managing impulsivity and being a great friend!

Achievement Alley

Beech – Amelia W for striving for accuracy in Maths
Hazel – Isla for a great tree map in Science
Maple – Jasmine for challenging herself in Maths and taking safe risks
Birch – Sebastian for remaining open to continuous learning
Pine – Evie-May for creating and imagining in Humanities
Spruce – Shayla for striving for accuracy in Maths
Apple – Dilyana for a fantastic bubble map to describe a setting in Writing
Cherry – Tommy for outstanding use of length and perimeter
Damson – Ruby-Ann for her brilliant French translations

Conifer – Finley for beautiful presentation in Maths
Hawthorn – George for accurately representing data on a line graph
Poplar – Joyce for some amazing mountain artwork
Juniper – Izabel for the phenomenal vocab used in her character description
Laburnum – Vincent for excelling in his maths work. Striving for accuracy all week when solving fraction problems.
Sycamore – Alfie for using his Green Hat creative thinking when drawing a diagram to represent filtering process during Science lesson.
Aspen – Tatiana being open to continuous learning and creating, imagining and innovating
Cypress – Daniel E for a beautifully written letter in this week's writing task
Elder – Nathan for striving for accuracy in Maths

Attendance Matters!





Easter

01/04/21



Main Meal

Fish Fingers & Chips

or

Quorn Nuggets & Chips
with
Peas

Baked Beans

£2.15



Dessert

Easter Bunnies Favourite
Fruit & Carrot Slice



Don't forget, school meals are free for all children in
Reception, Years 1 or Year 2!

To sign up for this tasty theme day menu, please
speak to your school.

