



New Horizons
Children's Academy

News



Dear parents and carers,

There's been a buzz of excitement in school this week as the return of all pupils draws nearer and it's been lovely to have seen some staff members in person for the first time in months. For those of you who have been juggling home learning with the other demands of life for the last few months, I'm sure you're looking forward to savouring a moment of relative quiet on Monday morning. The engagement in home learning has been impressive, so hopefully together, we've done everything possible to minimise the disruption to learning that our children have faced in recent months.

The children will be excited too about seeing friends and the staff are looking forward to seeing smiles and hearing laughter in classrooms once again. We will be continuing with our planned curriculum, which children will already have started this term, with an extra focus on supporting the children to feel safe and happy upon their return to classrooms.

As a school, we've decided that some of the adaptations we've made as a school in the last year will be worth keeping going forward. The use of Seesaw has enabled a closer link between home and school, both in terms of supporting communication and practical applications like homework and sharing resources used for learning. We wouldn't want to lose those aspects that we feel can continue to have a positive impact for our children and families.

However, we also recognise the continued need for vigilance in our ongoing campaign to ensure that school remains as safe as possible. During this lockdown period, we have not had any positive Covid test results for staff or children, and I want to assure you that we will continue to proceed cautiously and in the best interest of the school community. I have written a letter to you today to outline the measures that will continue to be in place on site each day.

Finally, I just wanted to add how proud I am of our school community. Our parents and carers have stepped up to support the work of the school throughout recent months and overcome many of the challenges that the National lockdown brought. I would like to say a huge thank you for your efforts.

Stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

Mr Murphy



Thinking Globally

EYFS

In Nursery this week we have been continuing our topic "Are eggs alive?". We have created our own egg by using different media. We have begun to identify animals that hatch from an egg and those that don't by playing egg or no egg. We have created a picture of an animal that hatches from an egg by using our IT skills on the interactive white board. In Maths this week we have been learning about shape. We have used different shapes to create a pattern on an egg. We spoke about the shapes and named them - some of us even began to count and describe the properties of each shape. In story time this week we have read the story 'The Ugly Duckling'. We have introduced our red hat and began to think of the different emotions of the characters in the book. Some of our friends discussed their own feelings using some excellent vocabulary. We enjoyed reminding ourselves of our Term 1 topic and celebrated differences between us, just like the characters in the story. Some of our friends enjoyed acting out this narrative in continuous provision time. We used the rhyme '5 little ducks went swimming one day' to support us use one to one correspondence and recite numerals from 0 to 5.



This week the Reception children have been busy using their subtraction number skills. We have been focusing on carefully counting when we are subtracting one number from another. We have used our toys from around our homes to help us count carefully. In our Literacy work we have learnt interesting facts about where our food comes from and this has helped us to understand why farms are so important. We have recorded these newly discovered facts on a circle map and used our sentence knowledge to construct some brilliant factual sentences. We have enjoyed the outside area this week and have used it to explore the animals that live on our imaginary farm. We have made some fantastic farmyard animals out of junk modelling in our craft area and even made some playdough food for them! We are very much looking forward to continuing our learning for this topic next week from the comfort of our Reception classrooms and are very excited to all be together again.



Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have been continuing to look at the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We have been reflecting on times we have had our own tea parties with friends and family, including the time we had special food and a party for Christmas! We have considered all the reasons we might have a tea party, what we would do there and the kinds of things we would like to eat and drink if we could throw our very own! We brainstormed our ideas together and wrote out our own invitations, remembering all the key features and information needed. We have had such a wide range of creative themes. All of the tea parties look very exciting! In Maths, we have been using our knowledge of Place Value from Terms 1 and 2 and applying this to larger numbers (up to 50!) We have been practicing counting forwards and backwards to find one more and one less and continued to look at how we can represent numbers in different ways. We are also getting super speedy with our arithmetic challenge! I think we need to add even more challenge to this as more and more children are beginning to complete this within our 5 minutes and get them all correct! This is because children are applying all the mental maths skills we have been learning and it is great to see that their confidence is growing in this!

In Thinking Globally this week, we have been looking at the equator and how it makes a difference to places that are hot and cold. We have considered the difference between climate and weather and explored the climate of different areas of different continents. Some of us made our own weather reports on different countries! It gave us a good chance to see how different the weather can be depending on where you live! In Science, we have been looking in even more detail at different animals and have started to group them according to their features. We looked at the similarities and differences between mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish and created our own tree maps to categorise a range of animals. We have been using our white hats and sharing more and more animal facts with each other the more we discuss them! It is amazing how much knowledge we have as a year group. We are turning into real animal experts!



Year 2

It has been another busy week for the children in Year 2 who have all continued to engage with home learning enthusiastically this week. We have started our new topic which is called 'The Scented Garden' and the children have loved being introduced to the new learning that this term will hold.

Our Writing this week has been centred around Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have had the opportunity to use their imagination to describe what it might be like at the top of the beanstalk. We have been using our five senses to describe what we can see and feel. We have also thought about the way we might feel at the top of the beanstalk. This has resulted in some fabulous descriptive writing from the children.

In Maths, we have continued our work on measure and have begun to compare different units of length. The children have worked hard on this tricky topic, showing persistence when they found it tough! We have also had the opportunity to tackle some worded problems and study measure in real life contexts which we have really enjoyed.

Our Thinking Globally lessons have centred on our new topic. In Science, we have been looking at what it means to be alive, studying the different life processes that all living things have in common. The children were engaged with this and could come up with lots of examples from their own lives to add to the discussion. In Humanities, we are looking at rural and urban areas and again, children enjoyed bringing their own knowledge to the lesson.



Another fantastic week of home learning Year 2, well done! We can't wait to see you back in school next week!



Year 3

What a fantastic end to our period of online learning! We would firstly like to congratulate Year 3 on their amazing effort during this time and handling the new challenges well. We hope they will maintain some of their new skills and have learnt just how brilliant, hardworking and resilient they can be.

This week in English, we have finished writing and publishing our newspaper reports based on the fall of the Iron Man in our class text. The children have identified and used newspaper features in their writing and have thought about formal and informal styles of language and writing. We have learnt that for a newspaper report, we should use formal language and they have shown this in their work.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of statistics, this week focusing on block diagrams and bar charts. The children have been practicing drawing them using the functions on Seesaw, as well as answering questions about the data. The children have also been able to link these representations to their previous learning about pictograms and tally charts.

For our Humanities lesson this week, we began to think about the Industrial Revolution. We learnt that this was a time when processes for making things changed. We used our red hats this lesson to imagine how it would feel to be a worker during that time, and how we would feel working on a production line.

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day and engaged with different activities around this. We had the chance to listen to stories and use our green hats to complete some creative activities, such as designing front covers of books and story writing. We hope the children enjoyed these activities!

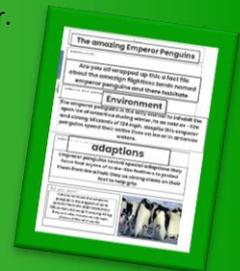
The Year 3 Team are so proud of Year 3's hard work and we cannot wait to welcome you all back on Monday.



Year 4

The Year 4 Team have been amazed by the children's continued efforts with their remote learning this week. Some fantastic pieces of work have been submitted on Seesaw and it has been great listening to all of the children's responses in the live lessons, but we are very excited to see the children again from Monday and begin getting back to our normal classroom routines!

In our remote learning this week, we have been exploring non-chronological reports in greater depth, with the children selecting their own topics to research and write about. Some brilliant facts have been shared and it has been wonderful to hear the children's positive yellow hat reflections around their writing. A special shout out goes to Albie in Conifer, Maci in Poplar and Preston in Hawthorn for their terrific examples! Well done for using all of the features identified in the WAGOLL to present your non-fiction writing in a structured, cohesive manner.



We have also started to explore our topic further in our Humanities sessions, discovering fascinating facts about different mountains. The children have been very enthusiastic about the topic so far and we have enjoyed seeing how tree maps have been used to give information about some of the most well-known mountains such as Ben Nevis and Mount Everest. We have also linked this to our science lessons where we have been learning about how animals have adapted to survive the living conditions of mountainous habitats. The children produced some brilliant top trumps cards for different species that we might find living on a mountain, with lots of interesting facts!

As we all prepare for returning to school on Monday, we would like you to take a moment to look back through your Seesaw journals – you should all be incredibly proud of the work you have produced during lockdown! We look forward to seeing you next week, remember, you are all amazing individuals!

Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent week of online learning. We are so proud of all of their efforts this week. They have brilliant during live lessons and on Seesaw. Well done Year 5.

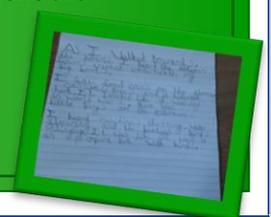
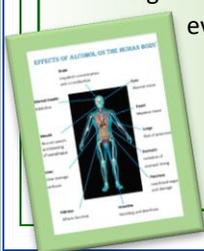
This week in English children have been looking at setting descriptions and how to effectively describe various settings. The children spent time looking at WAGOLLs and then spent time learning about show don't tell description. The children based their writing on The Alchemist's Letter. In Coraline, the children continued to enjoy the book, we worked on our summarising skills, and using our knowledge of content domains we answered comprehension questions about the book.

In Maths, our lessons were slightly different and we recapped our knowledge of fractions by watching videos and then applying our skills to solve different questions. It helped us feel confident on our knowledge.

In our Thinking Globally subjects, we continued to do our learning around our topic. In Religion, we have been looking at the story of Adam and Eve. We have learned how Christians believe this is where the world started and was created. We also spent some time looking at sin and the consequences of choices. We related this to the Adam and Eve story. In Humanities lessons, we have been learning about maps and how to find coordinates. Our PSHE focus this term is Healthy Me and this week we looked at the effects of alcohol.

On Thursday the children enjoyed World Book Day and although it was different enjoying it online the children still had great fun. Some of the children and teachers decided to dress up and we shared our favourite book together. Then we had an exciting Masked Reader Competition and created masks and disguises to read our book. Our next exciting lesson was all about The Badman and the Radioactive Samosas; we listened to the authors podcasts and then spent some time doing creative tasks around the book. DEAR was an exciting whole school announcement where we all had to drop everything and read. It was a lovely day and the work the children did was fantastic. Well done all!

Have a safe and nice weekend Year 5! We are looking forward to seeing all of your lovely faces on Monday.



Thinking Inclusively

All of us want to feel in charge. And now more than ever, children need a sense of power over their worlds. So how can we help them find (and experience) it?

As a parent, you might want to consider these five simple and effective ways to help your child take back control and focus on all they can do!

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/help-children-focus-on-what-they-can-control>

5 Ways to Help Children Focus on What They Can Control



1. Teach Accountability

Children who feel powerless often focus on things they can't change. Create a "Culture of Accountability."

Each family member is responsible for:

- ✓ Their own actions and behaviors.
- ✓ Following the rules and expectations set by the grown-ups.
- ✓ How they respond to stressful or upsetting situations.

2. Create a Circle of Control

Control is a tricky concept to explain to a child. But a visual depiction of what they do and do not have power over makes it much less daunting.

I CAN Control

good sleep screen time
my efforts my goals
who my friends are

3. Practice Mindfulness

Mindfulness is the practice of accepting what is — without automatically trying to change it.

Explain to your child that we can't always control what happens to us, but we do have a say in how we respond to it. We can still choose our attitude.

4. Praise Effectively

One of the simplest ways to help your child gain more confidence is by offering effective praise. Studies show that praise must be both specific and sincere in order to positively impact self-esteem.

"I love how you kept trying and didn't give up!"

5. Understand the Power of Choice

Allowing your child to make important decisions about their lives is crucial for their mental and physical health — it even impacts key brain development. Provide them with options within established routines.

Enrichment

This week, we have two local opportunities to inform you of. Medway Culture Club have a new upcoming event called 'Trailblazers' on 6th March 2021 from 10 to 11am. This is an interactive lesson focused on inspirational Trailblazers who's action have not only paved the way for others but gained both local and international recognition. It is aimed at 5-11 year olds and will be delivered via Zoom. Family participation is welcomed and you can sign up via Medway Culture Club.

Another exciting opportunity is the Medway 2025 UK City of Culture Love Medway drawing competition. The deadline has been extended so children now have until Friday March 12th to enter their work to help Medway become the UK's 2025 City of Culture. Many of our children have already been getting involved and you can see our entries on our school twitter. If you'd like to get involved, visit [Medway2025.co.uk](https://www.medway2025.co.uk) for the colouring template and either post your final piece on your Seesaw with a note for your teacher that it is for twitter or you can post it on twitter yourself with the #BackMedway



Thinking About Their Thinking

This week in P4C, we are discussing the question, 'Should we choose products based on their packaging?' This is because in the news this week, we found out that the Coca-Cola company is testing a new paper bottle as part of a long-term strategy to remove plastic from its packaging. The sample bottle is made by a Danish company from an extra-strong paper shell that still contains a thin plastic liner. In P4C, pupils have been looking at different types of packaging, what the purpose of packaging is and considering their own opinions on eco-friendly packaging. You could continue this at home by exploring the packaging in products you buy at home, considering how you try to reduce waste or plastic through recycling and reusing. We'd love to see anything you do at home surrounding this question so please upload to your child's Seesaw account!

