



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of an eventful week has arrived! We've faced a number of challenges in school this week, as staff absence due to Covid has risen across Medway, we have found ourselves under significant staffing pressure this week in school. We have managed to keep on site learning for all classes, but have had to use unfamiliar adults with some classes to cover the absence. The situation should improve next week with many staff due to return on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you for your understanding- many schools are facing similar challenges since Christmas but we have really wanted to keep on site learning going for all classes if at all possible.

A huge thank you to the school staff who have all been very flexible this week- whether working on site or joining lessons online. We've still been able to provide excellent learning experiences for the children. A big thank you to the children as well, who have coped well with the necessary changes.

Nationally, there has been a spike in infection amongst primary school aged children, which has been mirrored by our own experiences in recent weeks. Although the guidance for schools has suggested the lifting of many in-school measures, I have decided to keep a number of measures in place for at least next week.

As I mentioned last week, the children have been competing against the other Medway TSAT schools this week in a 'Times Tables Rockstar's' competition. Across the school we managed to answer over 180,000 times tables questions correctly- which was the highest total of all the schools! Next week is the TSAT wide competition, so we will also be competing against the Portsmouth schools as well! Please encourage the children to keep practising as every answer adds to our total!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Murphy



## Thinking Globally

### EYFS

#### Nursery



In Nursery this week we have enjoyed investigating ice, we have created our own ice pictures, where we froze paint and then created a picture using the frozen paint. We spoke about what was happening to the ice paint as we used it and what was happening to the colours. We have also made our own ice lollies. First, we created a flow map of how to make an ice lolly and a list of the resources we needed. We then followed our flow map to make our own lolly. We spoke about how it needed to change from water to ice and to do this we put it in the freezer. We then looked at how it had changed to ice before the best bit, EATING IT! We all enjoyed our delicious lollies. In Maths this week we have been learning to identify shapes by their properties and describing shapes.

#### Reception

This week the Reception children have been continuing to learn about the people who help us in our community by discussing what the police do to help us. We have learnt all about the important work they do and have even been lucky enough to have a visit from some real-life police officers. They answered all our questions and we really enjoyed their visit. In our Literacy we have been learning to sequence a story and to write a sentence using capital letters, fingers spaces and full stops. In Maths we have enjoyed adding and taking away one from any given number, we are getting really good at it now! In our outdoor learning someone keeps moving our outdoor equipment and we have been trying to catch the culprit by taking lots of finger prints and following the clues. No arrests were made but the prime suspect was Mrs Kaur!



### Year 1

In Writing this week, we have continued to look at the story "Eliot: Midnight Superhero". Inspired by this, we are working towards writing an explanation text featuring a title, sub-headings, and key facts. We will also be applying our new GPaS knowledge - using "and" to join words.



In Maths, we have been learning to count forwards and backwards within 50. We have also been investigating how many tens and ones there are in a given number. We will be developing this understanding further next week when we learn how to represent a given number using tens and ones.

We are continuing to enjoy using the programme "Paint" in computing, learning how to change the brush colour and effect as well as how to draw shapes and change the background! In RE, we have been drawing upon the story of Zaccheus to help us understand what it means to be kind and why it is important. In PSHE, we have been learning to challenge ourselves and in Science, we have been learning about the five senses.

## Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy week this week, presenting to each other about our magical medicines and what symptoms they may cause. Beware some of them may turn you purple!



In Maths we have been working very hard on telling the time using o'clock and half past.

We have had lots of fun learning all about Florence Nightingale and were very excited to use the computers and google to find out facts. We also used Google to sort out false and true facts and we found out that Cheddar is a real place! Who knew?

In Science we have been learning all about solids and liquids. We had lots of fun proving what is a liquid and what is a solid using water and coins.

## Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been learning about new ways to present data in our statistics topic. We have had a go at drawing bar charts as well as trying to read data from tables. We enjoyed these tricky challenges. In English, we have been writing a narrative based on our text 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We have been using adjectives and similes in our description, and have challenged ourselves to include direct speech with inverted commas. The children really engaged with this Green Hat thinking.

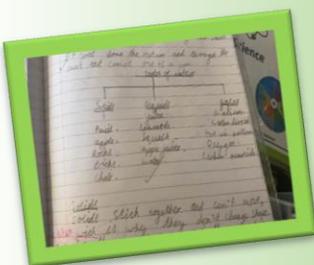


In Thinking Globally this week, we acted out a news report of the story of Jesus healing a blind man. The children included lots of details from the story and used their Red Hats really well to show the thoughts and feelings of the characters. In Humanities, we learnt about what Fairtrade is. We then had a class debate about whether we should or should not have Fairtrade. The children were able to explain their ideas clearly to the class and it was good to see them engage with this. Well done Year 3!

## Year 4

What an interesting week it has been for all! Although we have seen a couple of classes go into bubbles this week including Hawthorn in Year 4, please rest assured that the children have maintained a positive and mature attitude.

In English this week we have now finished with our poetry topic that has seen some fantastic picture poems be created and move onto play scripts where the children are loving the drama. In Maths, we are continuing with our fractions input but this week with specific focus on equivalent fractions. So that does mean folks that your children will know if you are giving them less cake.



During our Thinking Globally topics such as Science, the children have been continuing to look at solids, liquids and gases and by considering the specific properties of each – putting a variety of materials under each category. RE has been focussed around the Kosher meal and what can and cannot be consumed in the Judaism faith.

Humanities continues its studies around past medicinal practices and rituals by discovering the origins of medicine as we know it today. This has been a hot topic this week especially with the ongoing pandemic and the children have been encouraged to reflect about current affairs and how things may be vastly different without modern medicines and the scientific studies to back their national and worldwide usage.

## Year 5

This week we have continued our learning of fractions and how we can convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We know what the following key words mean: proper fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers. Ask and see if we can still remember.



In English, we finished drafting and editing our time travel narrative. We also wrote it up in neat showcasing our best work.

In Guided Reading, we have continued our learning of our text Tom's Midnight Garden working on PEE (Point Evidence Explain) questions.

## Year 6

Year 6 have been working very hard this week, using our habits of mind of creating, imagining and innovating our descriptive writing, linked to characters in our novel 'Sky Song. We have explored the features of descriptive writing, focusing on the figurative language of 'Show don't tell' when describing fictional characters. Some quality Y6 vocabulary has been applied to our writing this week, both from our anchor words and magpie list.

In Maths, we have been striving for accuracy, applying our prior learning of measurements, to convert and calculate a range of length, mass and capacities, using different units of measure. As some of these skills are almost embedded by members of our cohort, we have focused a great deal on applying the mastery of these skills to reasoning problems, giving our learning a real-life context. In Art this week, Year 6 have continued on designing and carving an Inuit print, linking to our topic 'Frozen Kingdom'.

In Humanities, we turned our attention to the impact of climate change and global warming on the polar regions. How will this affect the biome's flora, fauna and future, if we do not act? This linked nicely to our British value of democracy and the importance of inclusivity. Across the school, we have been learning the song 'True Colours', using sign language, which we will share on seesaw for you all to see.



## Thinking Academically



### TT Rockstars:

Well done to Joseph (Year 5) in first place this week, followed by Ali (Year 5) in second and Hasan (Year 6) in third.

### Spelling Shed:

The top year groups this week are: Year 6, Year 4 and Year 3. The top spellers are Ekisha (Year 6) in first place, Dinulya (Year 6) in second place and Hanna (Year 4) in third place.

Don't  
forget!



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR

# TSAT ROCKS

Times Tables Rockstars Battle

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY - THURSDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2022





## Thinking About Their Thinking



In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question should everyone learn sign language? Since Rose Ayling-Ellis became the first deaf contestant to compete in Strictly Come Dancing, the number of people wanting to learn British Sign Language (BSL) has surged. Now, one half of the winning couple, Rose, has called for BSL to be given legal status in the UK. The actor described its present status as a “big problem” for the deaf community. Although BSL was recognised as a language in its own right by the government in 2003, it has no legal protection.

## Enrichment

Each week, the purpose of this section of our newsletter is to provide suggestions and enrichment opportunities to our families, that can be enjoyed in our local community.

Why not improve your fitness and health at Chatham Football Club. Every Saturday morning the club have ‘Chaturday’ coaching sessions for boys and girls aged 4-12 from 8.30-9.30am. Come along and enjoy the first football session for free! For more information, visit: <http://www.chathamtownfc.com/pages/chaturdays>

Coming soon, ‘Medway Light Nights’ is a free spectacular festival of light which will transform Historic Rochester’s iconic buildings and spaces into works of art on Friday and Saturday, 11 and 12 February 2022.

Medway Council, in partnership with Emergency Exit Arts, has commissioned local, national and internationally-renowned artists, to work alongside our young people and communities, to deliver an incredible event.

- Time and Date: Friday, 11 and Saturday, 12 February 6pm-9pm
- Location: Rochester High Street and surrounding areas

Booking not necessary, just turn up!

As always, to find out about more opportunities within our local area, visit @enjoyMedway on Twitter or <https://www.medway.gov.uk/>

## Logo Lift Off: Rocket Logo Competition

Logo Lift Off is part of LaunchUK, the Government’s Spaceflight programme, which, from 2022, aims to have rockets launching into space from UK spaceports for the very first time. They’re asking 4 to 11-year-olds to design a logo that could go on these rockets. It can be a painting, drawing, collage, design on a computer, or even drawn in chalk in the playground. Everyone who enters will receive a certificate, and there are special prizes for the winners from each region.

The overall winner will see their winning design put on rockets launching from UK spaceports and may even have the chance to go and see a rocket blasting off.

The deadline for entries is 11 March 2022. To find out more, watch the video and visit the Logo Lift Off website:

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



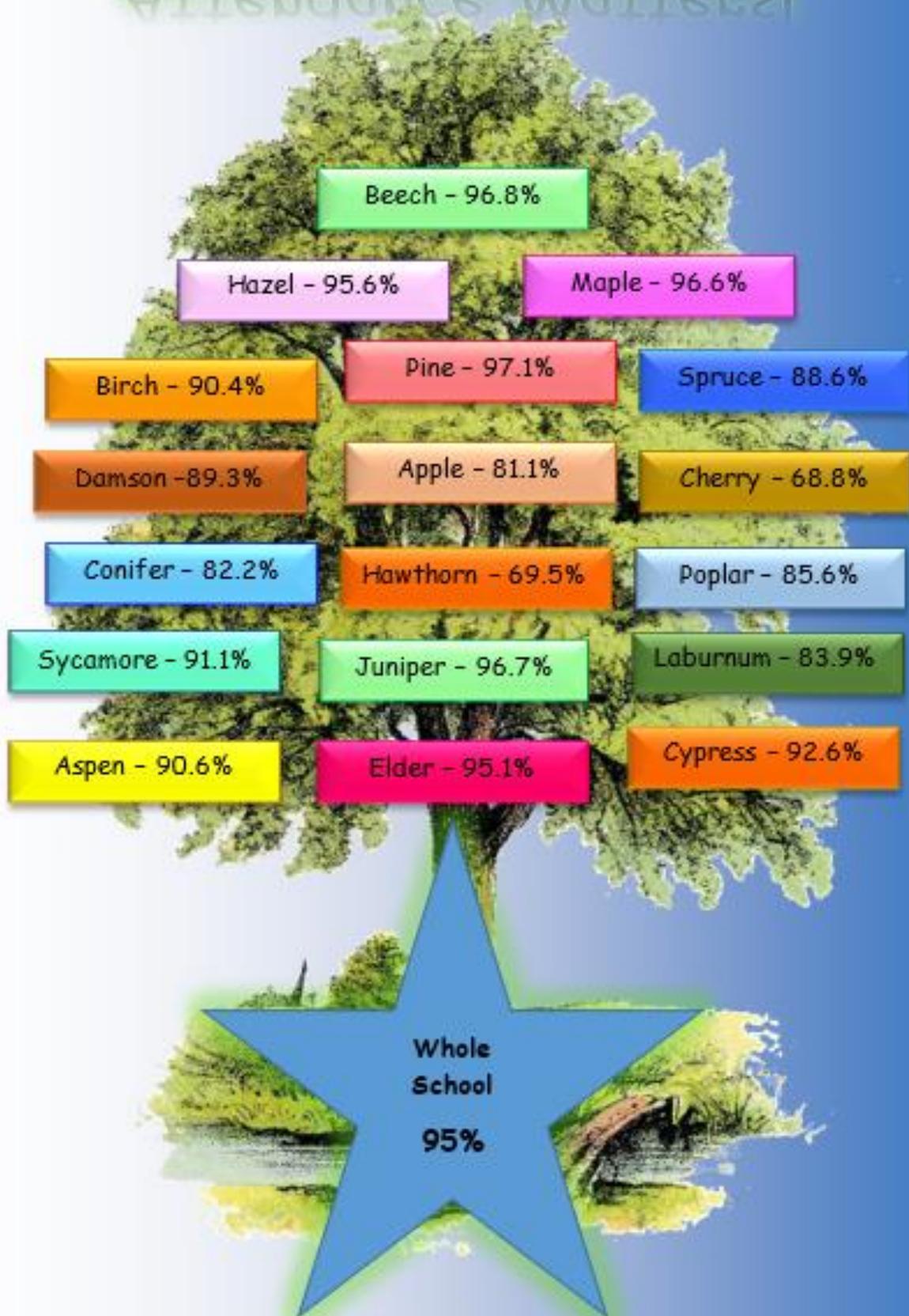


# Thinking Inclusively

We are proud that these children have demonstrated excellent Habits of Mind and as such have been rewarded the Golden Tie or have their work presented in Achievement Alley. These children have used a Growth Mind-set, worked hard and have achieved excellence in effort and achievement – well done!

TEAM POINTS		
This week the 'Holcombe Cup' has been awarded to River.		
Attendance Ace	Pine, Damson & Juniper	
Punctuality Penny	Pine, Spruce, Apple, Poplar & Sycamore	
<b>Golden Tie</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Harry for responding with wonder to knew learning</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Sara for helping her peers</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Nicholas for being a kind and helpful friend</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – Walter for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Chloe for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Lucas for striving for accuracy in Phonics</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Ruby for listening and understanding</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Esme for thinking and communicating with clarity and precision</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Evie for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Arina for striving for accuracy in all learning</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Joshua for thinking about their thinking in all lessons</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Ivy-Gwen for persisting through challenges</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Tommy for striving for accuracy this week</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Cyrus for settling in to New Horizons with an amazing attitude to learning and continuing to improve across all subjects</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Lexie for responding with empathy this week and helping me out lots this week when Mrs Mole has not been here</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Archie for continuing to manage his impulsivities.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Jotham for thinking interdependently and succeeding as part of a group</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Elliott for always remaining open to continuous learning and always striving for accuracy.</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Sophie for being her best self during her remote learning</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Ekisha for constantly striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Henry T for persisting in all areas of his learning this week.</p>
<b>Achievement Alley</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Shanaaya for creating her own number sentences</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Suzan for carefully counting when adding</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Charlotte for responding with wonder when creating number sentences</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – Nancie for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Renata for striving for accuracy in Maths</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Daisy for taking responsible risks in Maths</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Chenny for applying past knowledge</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Juran for striving for accuracy in Maths</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Aiden for persistence in Maths</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Murtaza for a neat tree map in Humanities</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – T.I for applying past knowledge in Maths</p>	<p><b>Damson</b> – Lewis for striving for accuracy when drawing a bar chart</p> <p><b>Conifer</b> – OJ for persisting with fractions</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Logan for a fantastic final potion pot design.</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Mayson, for striving for accuracy with his reasoning in maths this week.</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Max for working on cohesion between paragraphs in his writing.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Preston for fantastic explanations in our adding fractions lesson</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Duru for always persisting with her learning regardless of the subject.</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Adira for applying past knowledge and striving for accuracy in her tests this week</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Zara for an amazing fact file on the Antarctica</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Chloe L for thinking flexibly about her comparing of the artic and Antarctica</p>

# Attendance Matters!



# Term Dates

<b>Term</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021</i>
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021</b>
Autumn Break	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st November 2021</i>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Tuesday 2nd November 2021 – Friday 17th December 2021</b>
Christmas Break	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2022
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022</i>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>
February Break	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022</b>
Spring Break	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>Term 5</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
May Break	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
<b>Term 6</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022</i>