



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely 'True Colours' day in school today- where we have been celebrating all our own unique identities and why we should be proud of who we are. This was our Trust wide #Weareone event this term, meaning all of our schools were taking part in this event today. Relationships education is an important part of our 'Thinking Inclusively' curriculum, our children are growing up in an increasingly diverse world, so being aware of and understanding diversity through education helps all children respect differences as part of living in modern Britain.

At a primary school level, we educate children to identify and understand healthy, happy relationships including:

That others' families may look different from their own family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.

The importance of respecting others, even when they're different from us.

We have been focusing on acts of kindness throughout the day- so hopefully your children come home today with lots of ideas about how we are making New Horizons a kind, happy school.

No recent newsletter would be complete without some reference to Covid, and we have seen a pleasing drop in cases in recent weeks. We await further information regarding the government's intentions to ease/remove restrictions and will update you when we know more about how this will impact schools.

I hope you all have an enjoyable, safe weekend and are able to enjoy time with family and friends during the half-term break. I look forward to seeing you all again on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Mr Murphy

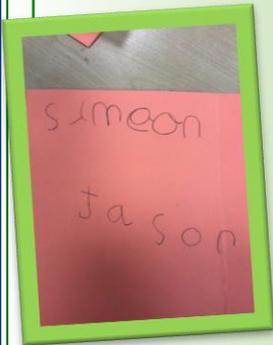


## Thinking Globally

### EYFS

#### Nursery

We are now drawing to the end of our Term 3 topic 'Where does snow go?'. We have spent the Term creating awe and wonderment by looking at changes of state. The children have explored frost, ice, snow, water, and many more natural changes of state. This week we have been carrying out assessments with all children in Reading, Phonics, Writing and Mathematics. This will help us identify the strengths of children whilst also highlighting the areas that we will continue to work on in Term 4. The Nursery children have already completed half their Nursery year - and how quickly it has passed us by. We look forward to welcoming the children back in Term 4 with our topic focus 'Are eggs alive?'.



#### Reception

We are now drawing to the end of our Term 3 topic 'Are we there yet?'. We have spent the Term visiting many different job roles and places of work from people who help us. We have visited the police station, the vets, the doctor's surgery, and the fire station. We have had many visitors both in person and virtually where we have had the opportunity to carry out a 'Questions + Answers' session which we led ourselves. This week we are celebrating the end of our topic by dressing up in the job role that we would like to do when we are all grown up. This week we have been carrying out assessments with all children in Reading, Phonics, Writing and Mathematics. This will help us identify the strengths of children whilst also highlighting the areas that we will continue to work on in Term 4. The Reception children have already completed half their Reception year - and how quickly it has passed us by. We look forward to welcoming the children back in Term 4 with our topic focus 'Do cows drink milk'.



### Year 1

Year 1 have had an exciting last week of Term, using retrieval skills and taking part in quizzes to reflect on this Term's learning. In English the children have continued to use the story 'Eliot Midnight Superhero' to write a diary about Eliot's day. The children have used those skills learnt this Term to include in their diary choosing exciting adjectives and being creative in their writing.

In Maths the children have been comparing numbers between 0-50 using a range of different resources to help them. They have been using their problem-solving skills to find the missing parts of a question.

The children have enjoyed exploring the computing suite and understanding the different icons on an application as well as learning about internet safety for Safer Internet day.



## Year 2

It has been a busy last week of Term while we have been celebrating kindness week and incorporating kindness activities to our daily learning. We have written cards to friends and considered how we can show kindness to others. We enjoyed our Arts Mark assembly where we looked at Art across the school, watching dance and music performances from a range of classes. In our Thinking Academically lessons, we have been writing a recount as

George from 'George's Marvellous Medicine', recapping on his crazy day and writing about everything that happened from beginning to end! In Maths, we have been enjoying recapping using dienes blocks to calculate large numbers by adding tens and ones with exchanging. Some of us have been really challenging ourselves this week with this with some problem solving and reasoning questions.

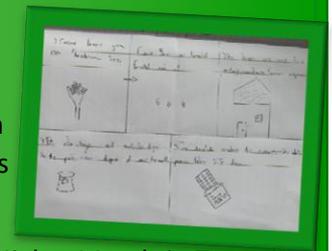


In Thinking Globally, we have finished our unit on Florence Nightingale by looking at modern day hospitals and how they differ from the hospitals Florence Nightingale worked in. We look at how the NHS has developed over the years and practiced bandaging each other's arms to see if we would make good doctors and nurses. In Science, we have continued to look at materials and their properties, using investigations to consider the different properties of a range of materials and consider why certain materials are used for certain objects. In Art, we have been proudly finishing our pots by adding our glaze as the final touch, ready to take home and show off!

## Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been finishing our Scrumdiddlyumptious topic and reaching the end of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. In Writing we have been focussing on letter writing, considering what features need to be in a letter and using these to write a persuasive letter to Willy Wonka, convincing him to give his chocolate factory to us and not Charlie Bucket. We have seen some very convincing arguments indeed! In Guided Reading we have been using our inference skills to answer questions where we need to use clues from elsewhere in the text. In Maths we have been continuing our work on multiplying and dividing, using our multiplication facts to help us.

In Thinking Globally, Humanities has seen us learning more about foods that are grown around the world and what the term 'food miles' means and what the journey of a coffee bean would be. In RE we have finished our learning about miracles by considering modern day miracles. Computing has seen us continuing to work on filming our videos about James Lind. There could well be some budding YouTubers amongst Year 3!



You have worked so hard this term Year 3. Have a lovely break and we will see you for Mighty Metals in Term 4 soon!

## Year 4

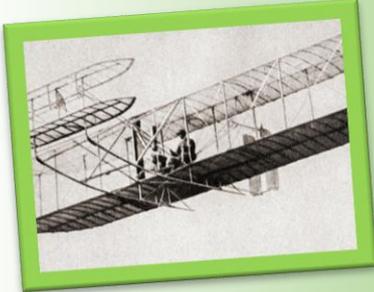
Well that's all folks! Another fantastic Term for Year 4 done and dusted. The children have thoroughly enjoyed our potions topic this Term with Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone as our chosen text so please treat your little legends to a film night so they can see how their learning relates to the adventures of Harry, Hermione and Ron. English this Term has seen new skills of poetry and play script writing being explored which has led to some awesome pieces of work being published in their books. These skills will be revisited next Term as we look at narratives and newspaper reports.



Across our Thinking Globally topics, the children have explored past and present concepts to medicine which has at times been a little hard to swallow, just like some of the historic elixirs used to cure things like the common cold or fever – thank goodness for paracetamol and Calpol! Your future scientists are now equipped with the knowledge of states of matter and know the particle make up of solids, liquids and gases which can be a great half term activity by simply experimenting with water that can fit into all 3 so why not ask your children to take you on a journey of discovery, you may learn something new. R.E this Term has closed on the Judaism faith with the children knowing various important aspects such as the Passover celebration and Kosher meals. Finally, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude again for your continued support and we encourage you to take a moment and celebrate with your truly epic children in all they have achieved this term.

## Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been storming through our core text to try and find out what happened to Tom and the midnight garden. The discussions we've had along the way have been really interesting and many of us had reached different conclusions. In our exploration of the garden, we have often touched upon the concept of a portal or magic door. This week, we took that one step further and considered the history, science and theory of time travel and wrote our own non-chronological reports.



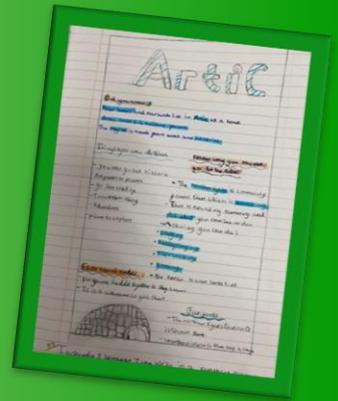
Considering the problems the world still faces has been a key area of enquiry for us this Term in Thinking Globally. This week we have explored the changes that have come as a result of inventions over the last two centuries.

We have learnt about the Wright brothers and the early aeroplane, more broadly at the industrial revolution and considered the impact of these things on life as we know it now.

Thinking about how much the world has changed in a relatively short amount of time and seeing this on a timeline has allowed us to reflect on how much more the world may change in the coming years. Ask your children what invention they think might come next!

## Year 6

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Polar regions this Term. Children have been comparing the Arctic with Antarctica, with many conversations occurring over which careers you could have in these remote places of the planet. Lots of White Hat facts have accumulated, which we hope the children will retain for future reference. This topic has linked closely with our story: 'Sky Song', which is set in a frozen part of a fictional world. Within MFL, Year 6 have been focusing on their daily routine, and in Computing, Year 6 have been looking at ethics within questionnaires. As this Term draws to a close, we hope our children have a very restful break, in preparation for Term 4.



## 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 1. The top spellers are Dinulya (Year 6) in first place, Ekisha (Year 6) in second place and Hanna (Year 4) in third place.



## Thinking About Their Thinking



In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question should everyone using our roads learn the Highway Code? An update to the Highway Code has introduced a hierarchy of road users, which creates 'clearer and stronger priorities' for pedestrians. The Department for Transport claims that the changes, which are split into three main rules, have the foremost aim of improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The changes came into force at the end of January and whilst they have been welcomed by cycling campaigners, the government has been accused, by some in the media, of not making the updates clearer and known to road users.

# 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>

Interested in Art? Why not visit the Rainham Art Group exhibition, running from 1-28th February, everyday from 10.00-17.00 at Hempstead Library in Gillingham, ME7 3QG. The cost is free for everyone and no bookings required!

This weekend, 'Medway Light Nights' will take place, which is a free spectacular festival of light transforming Historic Rochester's iconic buildings and spaces into works of art on Friday and Saturday, 11 and 12 February 2022.

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

Booking not necessary, just turn up!

Finally, there are a range of activities happening at Capstone Park, during our midterm break, for which there may be a small charge. Please visit their website for more details.

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/>



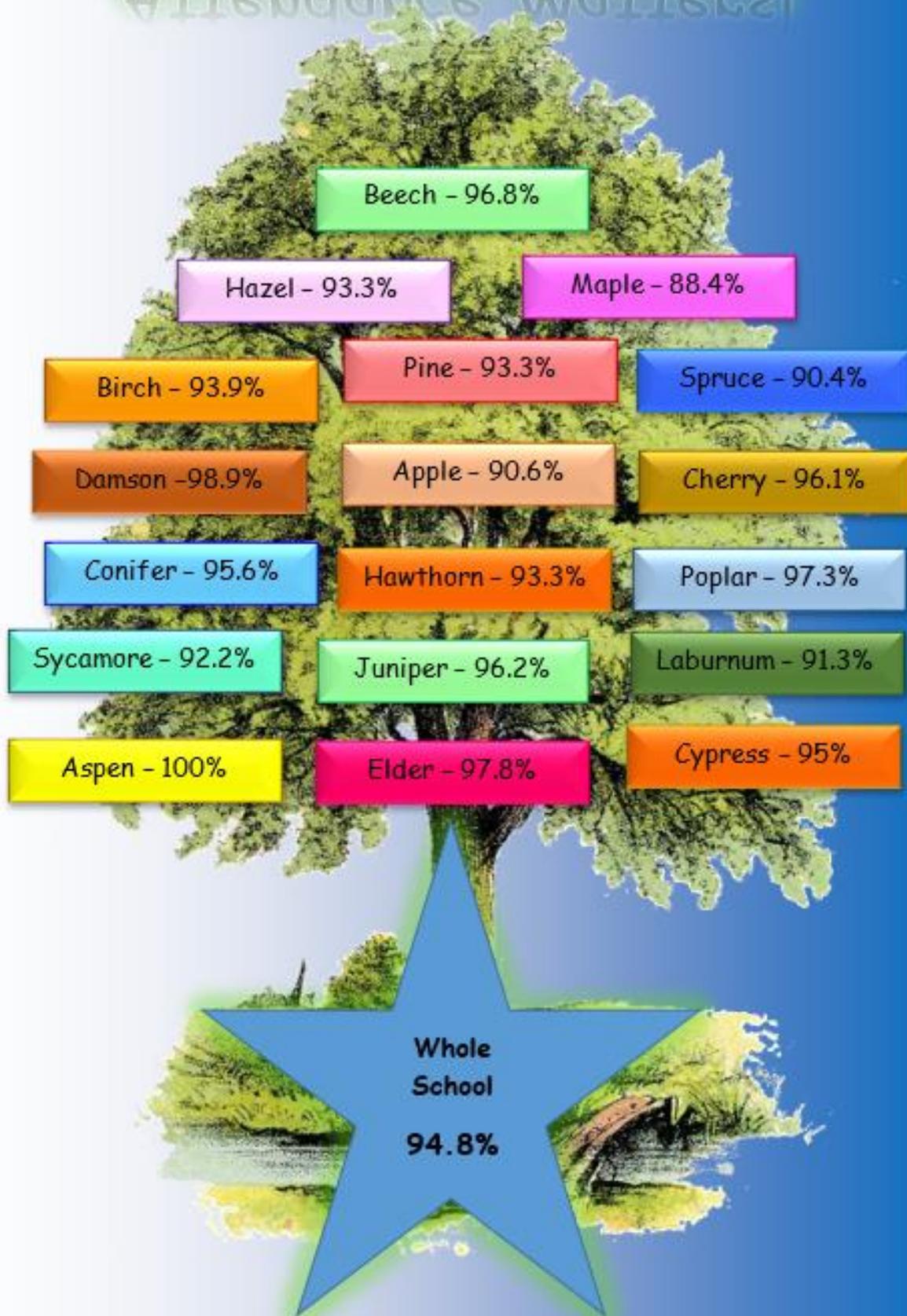


# Thinking Inclusively

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 Castle.		
Attendance Ace	Beech, Damson & Aspen	
Punctuality Penny	Birch, Damson & Aspen	
<b>Golden Tie</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Nylah for showing empathy and being a kind friend</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Chinard for always being his best self</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Ivy for working well with others</p> <p><b>Beech</b> –Virat for being a role model</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Aretha for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Lara for taking safe risks in her learning</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Amelia N for working well with others</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Lehna for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Chase for thinking creatively in Art</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Tymon for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Zach for striving for accuracy in all learning</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Kamoya for setting a good example to others around school</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Karen for persisting in all lessons</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Jack for giving 100% to every lesson</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Shelby for demonstrating an excellent attitude to her learning this term</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Connor for consistently modelling perfect behaviour and manners.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Ollie for striving for accuracy in his work around tenses</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Alayna for persisting with her learning and striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Mason for managing impulsivity and working hard</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – MJ for following our rule of 'we keep trying'</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Ruby K for being persistently creative when contributing towards the whole classed shared writing pieces</p>
	<b>Achievement Alley</b>	<p><b>Beech</b> – Rewan for persisting in Maths</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Maks for taking responsible risks in Maths</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Aston for persisting in his Maths</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Harjun for thinking flexibly</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Darci for persisting in Maths</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Minahil for being your best self</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Charlie for thoughtful Hat reflection in Music</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Madelene for applying past knowledge when learning division methods</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Harry-Lee for identifying lots of positive powers Jesus has in RE</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 17<sup>th</sup> 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>