



New Horizons
Children's Academy

News

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had yet another busy and exciting week. Year 5 classes have been sewing as part of their textile projects and have created some interesting designs. Year 3/4 children attended a Racquet Skills session as part of our partnership links with local secondary schools, which enabled them to try new sports activities and learn some new skills.

We have also started trial sessions of Now>Press>Play. It is an award winning immersive audio resource for primary school that engages children in the curriculum through sounds, story and movement. In the experience, each child is given a pair of wireless headphones. Immersed in sound, they become the main character in a story, meet people, discover places and solve problems. The audio adventure increases engagement, extends life experiences and inspires children to produce high quality writing. More information can be found here: <https://nowpressplay.co.uk>.

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended parent consultations last week. If you haven't had a chance to speak with your child's class teacher and wish to, please send them a Seesaw message and they will arrange this for you.

Please be mindful about parking safely at pick up time. There have been several occasions where parking has either been unsafe or caused the visitor parking spaces to be blocked. Therefore, please avoid parking next to/behind yellow barrier unless you are in one of the designated visitor parking spaces. This is to ensure safety for all our families when leaving the school site.

Enjoy the sunshine over the weekend.

Mr Murphy

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 24th March – EYFS – Farm Visit – £5 (to be paid by 18th March)

Thursday 24th March – Yr 1 – Creepy Claws Workshop – £3.50 (to be paid by 18th March)



Thinking Artistically

EYFS

Nursery

In Nursery this week we have read the story of the ugly duckling, we have spoken about our feelings and discussed scenarios that may make us feel each of these feelings. We reminded ourselves of our knowledge we learnt in Term 1, when we focused on how we were each unique. We celebrated differences between ourselves and between the ducklings in the narrative. We created a duckling using different media such as paint and tissue paper. We have joined in with the song '5 little ducks went swimming one day' and acted out the ugly duckling story. In Maths this week we have been learning all about numbers, we have recognised numbers by jumping on a given number and have also ordered them.



Reception

In Literacy this week we have continued our focus on different animals that maybe found in a farmyard and began discussions around what produce different animals can create. The children had to select a farmyard animal and make a simple sentence. We have been encouraging the children to use a capital letter formation at the start of a sentence and a full stop at the end. In Maths, we have been busy naming 2D and 3D shapes. We have spotted them in our environment and also discussed their individual properties and names. We have had fun in the craft area using the correct 3D shape name to describe our 3D robots that have been built there. In the outdoor area we have been using chalk to show our shapes all over the concrete floor – see if you can spot them at drop off and pick up time!



Year 1

In English this week, we have continued to enjoy reading "The Tiger Who Came to Tea". Using our green thinking hats, we have started to think about writing our own story. Titles include "The Panda Who Came to Tea" and "The Giraffe Who Came to Tea"!

In Maths, the children have continued to learn about length and height. This time, however, they have been using rulers to measure the length and height of items in centimetres. They have also started to learn about weight and mass, including how to use a balance scale to compare the weight/mass of two items.



In Art, we started to learn about stencils. Inspired by the work of British textile designer William Morris, we designed, cut and used our very own stencils. We are looking forward to learning more about textiles during our DT days next week!

Year 2

In English we have been working on writing our own story we have enjoyed creating our own characters.

In Maths we are really working hard on multiplying and dividing.



In Dance we have been learning how to move and grow as flowers and responding to different weathers moving in different ways. We all had lots of fun and really enjoyed performing in a duet. We then used our mirroring skills to copy each other.

In Art we have been learning how to mix primary colours to make different colours we all had lots of fun making a colour wheel. We then used this skill to paint an object we choose to paint a plant. We mixed the colours to paint. Next time we will work on adding shadow and depth.

Year 3

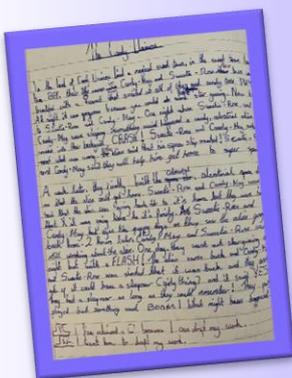
This week in Year 3, we have been continuing to read the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We were most perplexed to find that at the start of Chapter 3, the hill that the Iron Man has been buried under has become a picnic spot! In Writing, we have been writing a letter, imagining that we are a farmer who is replying to Hogarth who feels awful about tricking the Iron Man. In Maths, our focus has been measurement, particularly adding and subtracting lengths and working out perimeters.



In Thinking Artistically this week, we had a fantastic enrichment opportunity with Icon Theatre who came in and completed a storytelling workshop with us. We thought about how to develop our characters and how we can show emotion using our voice and our expression. In Art we have been building our bridges using recyclable materials, ensuring that they are robust and fit for purpose. In Music we have been continuing learning about folk music and considering how we might answer the enquiry question 'Can you sing a story?'. In Dance this term, each class is learning about a particular style of dance which are progressing nicely ready following our workshops with students from the Victory Academy last week.

Year 4

Time flies when you are having a Hobbiting adventure! The children this week have read about Bilbo, Gandulf and the dwarves coming face to face with the dragon who is furiously protecting its plunder! Can these fearless adventurers escape with as little as a toasted bottom, we will find out next week in this terms text – The Hobbit.



This week has seen the end of our BIG write. The children have worked independently this week perfecting their narrative and bringing their scene descriptions, character descriptions and story together in imaginative stories. We are super proud of all the Year 4 children for their commitment to their narrative work and there are definitely some budding authors in the making! During our Mathematics work this week, the children have been focusing on decimals and how these are written and represented as fractions! This has been a tough aspect to grasp, but, the children have risen to the challenge and produced some fantastic work and demonstrated a secure knowledge which they will later apply in future problems.

Following on from last weeks dance workshop provided by the talented guys and gals from the Victory Academy, the children are in full swing in practising their chosen dance style. Conifer's Samba transports you to a street festival in a South American village with bright colours, costumes and traditional street food, lively, fell good and fun! From the districts of Brazil to the West End and Broadway with a real Chicago extravaganza feel and interpretation from Poplar's Jazz theme. Trilby hats, pin striped suits and the tapping of spats gets you moving those hands in a real celebration of the 1920's. Finally, we find ourselves in the heart of Ireland with Hawthorn's Irish dance which is a jaw dropping, eye opening moment of unity and symmetry, this disciplined dance not only offers the audience a flamboyant experience of expression but a truly mesmerising display of the fastest footwork out of all 3 styles.

Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have continued to explore our text 'Coraline'. The realms of the other world have Coraline trapped, and her parents are lost to her behind a mirror unable to speak to ask for help. Though we have many ideas how we would go about escaping the 'Other mother', the twists and turns in the book already have us second guessing our predictions. In Writing, we finished our character description, focusing heavily on how to show rather than tell the reader the character traits of the person we are describing.



The end of our week was a celebration of Design and Technology. We were working on creating an applique map of alchemy island focusing on a variety of stitches including running stitch and back stitch. We were confident in our skills as we planned our designs but were very nearly derailed by the threading of the needles! Whether the islands were complete or not, everyone has become much better at the key stitches we have practiced and have done an incredible job. Well done Year 5!

Year 6

Year 6 are thoroughly enjoying learning about Charles Darwin this term. With its huge animal focus, our pupils compiled a non-chronological report on an artic fox last week and are now focusing on a travel brochure for the Galapagos Islands.

With the creative nature of this topic, children are focusing on using a range of mediums within their art in the style of the French artist - Rousseau. Like the artist, Year 6 have sketched an animal of their choosing and created the animal's colourful habit in the background. The children have really brought this to life! In addition to Rousseau's artwork, Year 6 have also created mood-boards to compile a theme to their future brochure. We really do have some budding artists in our year group!



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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 4, Year 1 and Year 6. The top spellers are Walter (Year 1) in first place, Hanna (Year 4) in second place and Lucy (Year 4) in third place.



Thinking About Their Thinking



In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question how might your life be different if you weren't able to go to school? Six months after the Taliban seized power in Kabul, Afghanistan, there have been big changes to the lives of many in the country, particularly for the younger generation. The BBC has reported that more and more Afghan children are having to work to help support themselves and their families. As many people have not been paid for months, some children have had to work and earn money, instead of going to school. The Taliban also declared that girls would no longer be able to attend secondary school. Some schools are campaigning hard to remain open for all pupils.

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>

This month there will be a 'Fight for Rights: Women's Suffrage' exhibition in Medway:

- Date: 7th March 2022 - 31st March 2022 - Every day, Time: 09:00 - 18:00, Cost: Free
- Location: Gillingham Community Hub, High Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1BG

A new exhibition open to the public to raise awareness of the history of the Suffrage movement in Medway.

The Fight for Rights: Women's Suffrage in Medway will open at Gillingham Community Hub Library from Monday 7 March until Thursday 31 March 2022.

The illustrated exhibition covers issues such as: The 1832 Rights of Women Petition, Black Friday, Late Victorian Suffrage.

Other issues will be covered and real newspaper reports available to view.

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

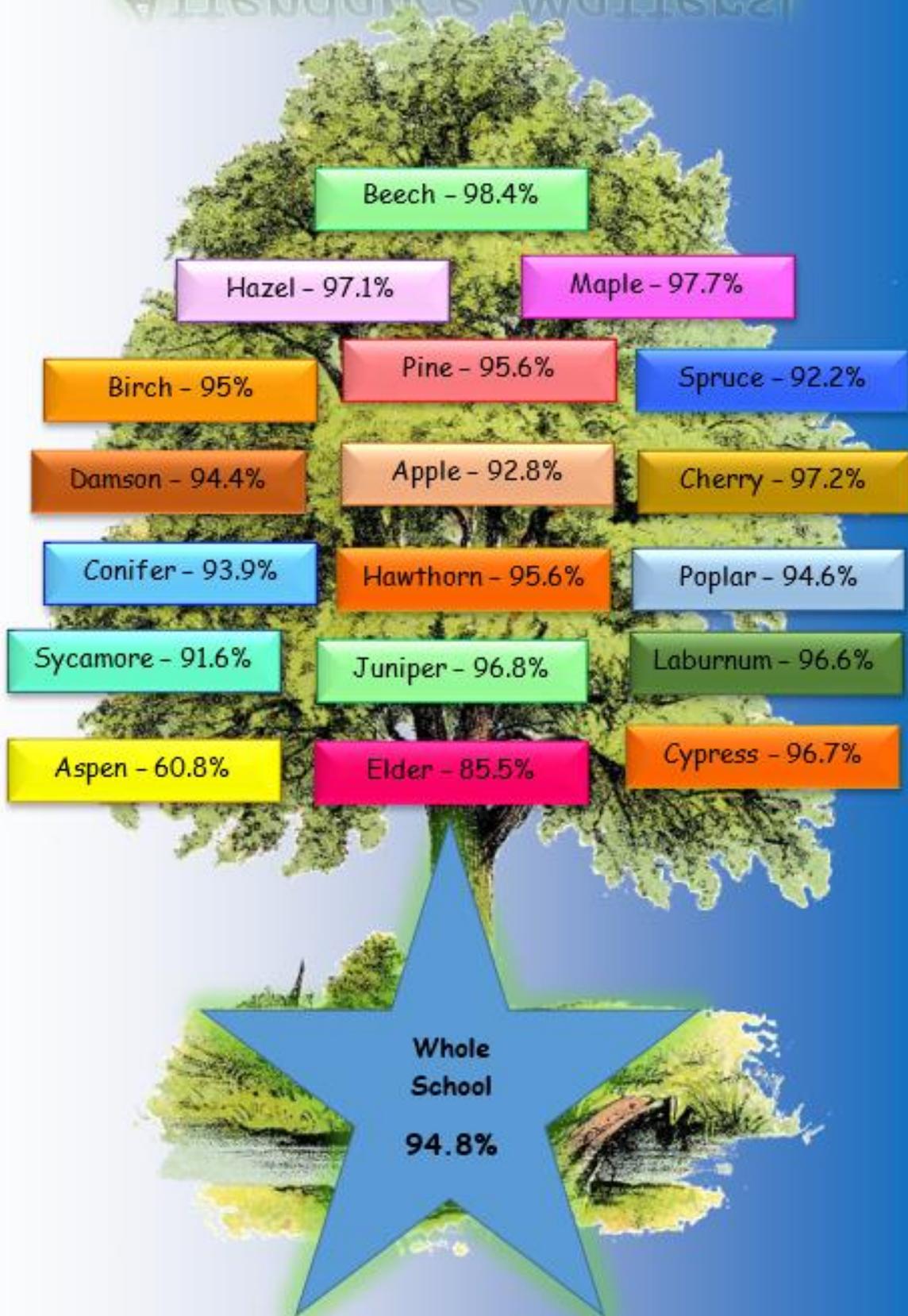


Thinking Inclusively

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 Fort.		
Attendance Ace	Beech, Cherry & Juniper	
Punctuality Penny	Maple, Pine, Damson, Hawthorn, Laburnum & Elder	
Golden Tie	<p>Ash – Eva for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p>Elm – Liam for amazing personal achievements across the week</p> <p>Oak – Ezra for persisting in all areas of learning</p> <p>Beech – Mija for continuing to keep trying</p> <p>Hazel – Eloisa for continuing to keep trying</p> <p>Maple – Robert for taking safe risks</p> <p>Birch – Airah for continuing to keep trying</p> <p>Pine – Swayley for taking safe risks</p> <p>Spruce – Isla for always trying</p> <p>Apple – Bryony for taking safe risks in her writing</p> <p>Cherry – Vlad for positive behaviour for learning in all lessons</p> <p>Damson – Eleanor for trying to be her best self in all her learning</p>	<p>Conifer – Nikolas for working well with others</p> <p>Hawthorn – Aston for persisting in Maths and English</p> <p>Poplar – Jack for being his best self all week!</p> <p>Juniper – Faith for persistence and communication in her learning</p> <p>Laburnum – Ollie for being his best self and pushing to improve</p> <p>Sycamore – Bobby for demonstrating the following school rules: we keep trying and we work well with others</p> <p>Aspen – Nife for working well with others</p> <p>Cypress – Olivia for being an example of our school rules</p> <p>Elder – Alana for taking safe risks with her learning.</p>
Achievement Alley	<p>Ash – Jaxon for applying past knowledge to new situations</p> <p>Elm – Arianna for applying past knowledge to new situations</p> <p>Oak – Sophia for responding with wonder to maths learning</p> <p>Beech – Debra for striving for accuracy</p> <p>Hazel – Hei for persisting in all her learning</p> <p>Maple – Farhana for striving for accuracy</p> <p>Birch – Amelia W for creating and innovating</p> <p>Pine – Basiah for applying past knowledge</p> <p>Spruce – Aiden for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p>Apple – Gabriellus for a great flow map to plan his letter in writing</p> <p>Cherry – Joshua for striving for accuracy in R.E.</p> <p>Damson – Nathan for striving for accuracy when measuring perimeter</p>	<p>Conifer – Alex & Nyah for striving for accuracy at the school games</p> <p>Hawthorn – Logan for an imaginative scene using watercolours</p> <p>Poplar – Darius for excellent application of fractions to our new decimals topic</p> <p>Juniper – Max for his use of precise and technical vocabulary in his Science work</p> <p>Laburnum – Aila for striving for accuracy in her map reading work</p> <p>Sycamore – Kamara for persisting with her DT project</p> <p>Aspen – Sofia for striving for accuracy in her non-chronological report</p> <p>Cypress – Faiz for excellent ratio and proportion learning in maths</p> <p>Elder – Mira for her creative and ambitious mood-board in our immersive English lesson this week</p>

Attendance Matters!



Term Dates

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