



New Horizons
Children's Academy

News

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a good half-term break and enjoyed some family time. It is great to see all of the children back and engaged in their learning.

Hopefully you will be aware of the latest Government announcements regarding COVID-19 on Monday. There is now no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate should a person test positive for COVID-19. However, as a Trust we would recommend that your child remains off of school whilst they are unwell. Any guidance for school and parents from the DfE is slow in coming but once I have any further information I will inform you with the details. What we are being told at the moment is that families should follow the guidance provided by the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency). You can find this information by following the link here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

This states that if you or your child tests positive for COVID-19, you should still stay at home to avoid affecting others, but it is no longer a legal requirement.

There are a lot of exciting events planned in school for this term. We have World Book Day next Thursday which is our termly Trust wide event. The children are being asked to dress up as their future aspirational self, such as a fictional character or someone that has inspired them. The children will also be completing World Book Day activities throughout the day.

Have a lovely weekend as it looks as though some sunshine is on it's way.

Mr Murphy

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day

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 we started our new topic "Are eggs alive?". For more curriculum and enrichment information about this topic please see our SWAY:

<https://sway.office.com/vFxMn3W10TP1KGwC?ref=Link>

The children arrived at Nursery to find a giant egg on the carpet. We had lots of discussions about what could be inside the egg. The children drew what they thought was inside the egg. Some of our friends even made marks when attempting to write what they might find inside. We then responded with awe and wonderment when we cracked open the egg to reveal what was inside. We created a circle map as a whole group to write down all the facts we know already about eggs, we will continue to add to this throughout the term as we develop our knowledge and understanding. In Maths this week we have been learning to recognise numbers, we have carried out number hunts to spot the formation both in our inside and outside classroom.



Reception

Welcome to Term 4, we cannot believe we are over half way through the school year already! This week we have launched our new topic – Do cows drink milk? –

Which is based around farm life. For more curriculum and enrichment information about this topic please see our SWAY:

<https://sway.office.com/C7TSvqXaa0JQUT5B?ref=Link>

In our Literacy lessons we have been learning about the animals on the farm and what their babies are called – feel free to test us at home! In Maths we have been using the farmyard theme to practise our counting and addition skills. We have also completed some craft challenges; we have enjoyed making our own Farm models out of junk modelling. Some of us have even enjoyed making some animal mud pies using different colours – which looked really great messy fun!



Year 1

We hope you had a lovely half term. Well done to everyone who completed their kind timetable during half term, it was nice to see how many children have been kind.

Year 1 have been persistent with their learning in their first week back. Especially, in their Thinking Artistically lessons!

In Art, we have been looking at new Artist (William Morris), we have been focusing on designing a stencil. In Dance, we have been copying and repeating actions in pairs and small groups while focusing on different animals who live in the Wild.



In Maths, we have been counting in forwards and backwards in 2's within 50. In English, we have been looking at the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We had our own Tea party and wrote a diary about the hungry tiger.

Please remember to write in the yellow reading book, if you have read with your child so the class teachers can update their reading chart.

Year 2



The children have settled really well back into school after half term and we have got to work straight away on our new topic! We have started to explore our new text 'The Hodgeheg' and have been considering how the main character Max might be feeling. This will help us when writing our diary entry from his perspective! This story inspired our Thinking Artistically activities for this week too. We were set the challenge of creating a garden on our classroom doors, just like the one Max and his family live in in the text. You can see the fantastic work we created in the photo!

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have been looking at money in Maths, building on the knowledge we learnt in Term 2. We spent time remembering the different coins and notes in the UK before starting to make different amounts with coins. We can't wait to see all the fantastic learning the children in Year 2 will produce this term!

Year 3

On Monday, we had our exciting hook morning where we were introduced to our new topic, 'Mighty Metals'. Each class used their Green Hats to create something for their door design which the children were very enthusiastic about. This week, we have been looking at newspaper reports and identified many different features. In Maths, we have been successful at dividing and finding remainders and using our skills from our multiplication and division topic.



In Art, we explored a way to make a bridge using Lego! It was fun to see our design sketches come to life with our Lego creations. The children thought of different ways to connect the bricks to help them achieve their design goals. In Music, we learnt a new song called 'The Dragon Song'. We learnt that it is a traditional song that tells a story, and that other traditional and folk music pieces also sometimes tell stories. The children have shown lots of enthusiasm for their first week back and we hope this continues.

Year 4

Welcome back! Now we are over half way through the school year, things are far from slowing down as we have lots of fantastic things coming up such as DT week and Science week. New term means a new text which this time is the one and only... 'The Hobbit' which is focused around our topic for this term 'Misty Mountain Sierra'. The children have been introduced to our big footed Bilbo Baggins and have been immersed into the life and living of our courageous adventurer. English compliments our text nicely for the next couple of weeks as the children will be perfecting their narrative writing skills starting this week with setting descriptions. Help your little legends to embrace their creative side by asking them to describe areas of your home and see what wonderful vocabulary they can come up with.

Across our Thinking Artistically subjects the children will be embarking on a dance adventure with Miss Chawner teaching Conifer Samba, Miss Hopson teaching Poplar Jazz and Mr J-S will be teaching Hawthorn Irish dancing!



Art this term is complementing our topic of Misty Mountain Sierra beautifully as the children are concentrating on improving their sketching skills. This week they have created some stunning water colour washout backgrounds ready to sketch mountain scenes onto. The children over the coming weeks will be working with a variety of sketching materials such as coloured wax and charcoal which they are super excited about.

This term in Music we will be looking at the timeless classic 'Lean On Me' by Bill Withers where the children this week have listened to and appraised the song understanding how the song is constructed. Why not get your epic learner to perform this song in the form of acting like mountains and join in for a little bit of family fun this weekend.

Year 5

It was lovely seeing everyone again after half term. We started the week immersing ourselves in our new topic, Alchemy Island. We have begun designing our own islands in Art and thinking about the features we will have on it. Our imaginations have run wild!



In Maths this week, we are continuing our work on fractions, we are now multiplying them and selecting different challenges that will support us with our learning. In Guided Reading, we have started reading Coraline. Chapter 1 is already interesting and we cannot wait to find out what happens next. In English, we have started our learning on character descriptions as we begin to gather ideas and vocabulary for our own character descriptions.

All in all, it has been a fun-filled week and we look forward to what next week has to offer

Year 6

Year 6 have started this term with a positive attitude towards their learning based on the topic 'Darwin's Delights'. In English, the pupils have studied the language, layout and grammar specific features of writing a non-chronological report about living things in a specific habitat. We are currently finishing our class novel 'Sky Song', before introducing the pupils to a new graphic novel, linked to our science topic of evolution, called 'Peppered Moth'.



In mathematics, the children have been continuing to use their arithmetic and problem-solving skills to solve multi-step algebraic expressions and equations. In starting our PSHE topic of 'Healthy Me', the children have reflected on healthy life choices and how to continue making healthy choices in the future. Finally, with a focus on Thinking Artistically this term, the pupils are looking forward to improving their sketching, scaling and shading techniques, around the medium of living things.



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



Thinking About Their Thinking



In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question if someone says sorry, should we always forgive them? Following his admission that he attended a socially distanced event in the garden of Downing Street during the first lockdown, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has apologised. He has, however, faced weeks of calls from both the public and his colleagues in government to resign. At the time of the event, people were only allowed to meet one other person outside their household, in order to slow the spread of coronavirus.

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!

Finally, why not visit the Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) exhibition

- Date: 8th February 2022 - 28th February 2022 - Every day
- Location: Chatham Community Hub, Riverside Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX
 - Time: 09:00 - 18:00 - Cost: Free

'One day' - a Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) exhibition, also relating to people with disabilities.

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/>



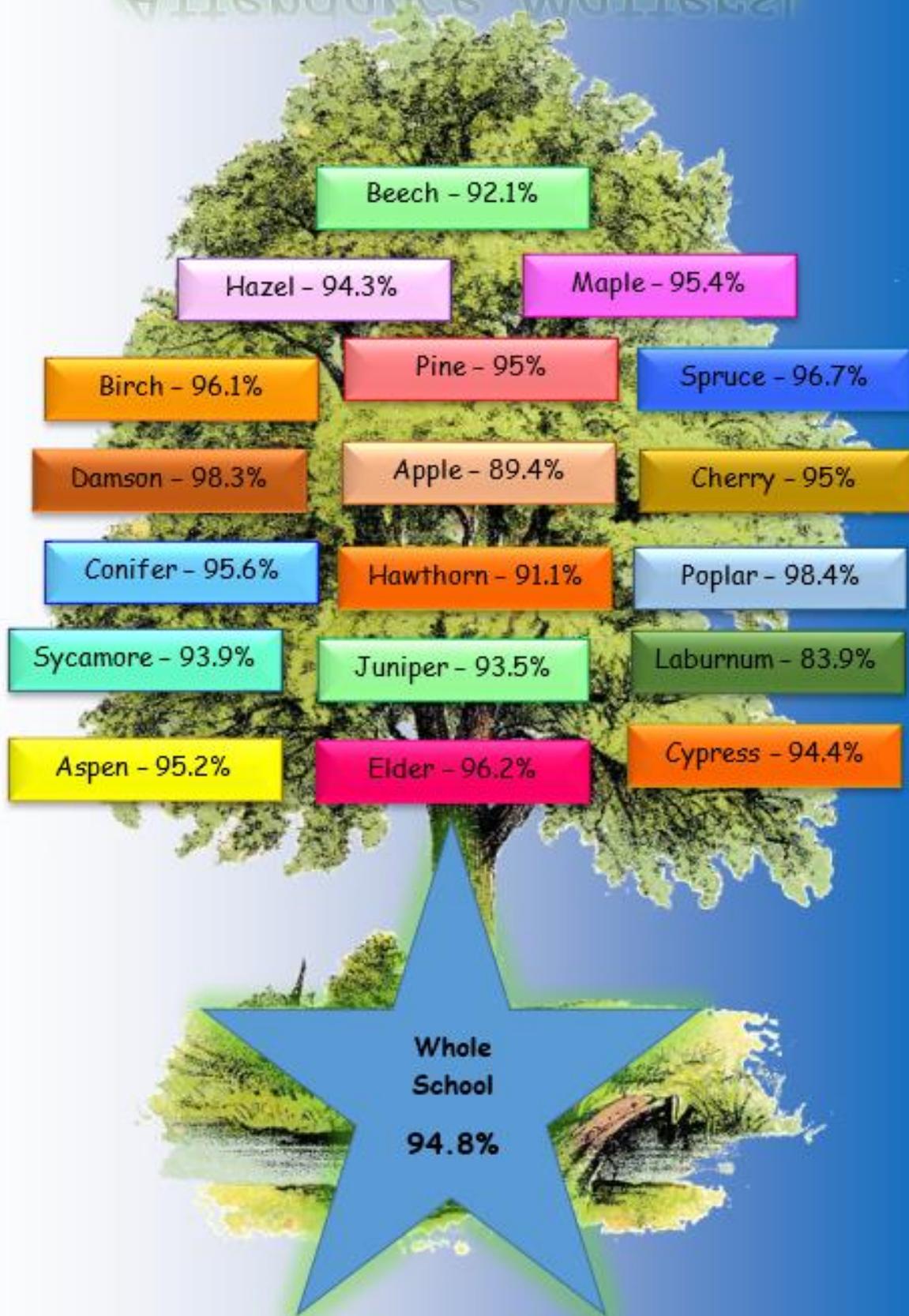


Thinking Inclusively

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 Fort.	
Attendance Ace	Spruce, Poplar & Elder
Punctuality Penny	Beech, Pine, Cherry, Poplar, Laburnum & Aspen
Golden Tie	<p>Ash – Shanaaya for persisting with writing</p> <p>Elm – Joshua for working hard and being helpful</p> <p>Oak – Olivia for being a kind and helpful member of the class</p> <p>Beech – Olubusola for we think before we act</p> <p>Hazel – Gurkaran for working well with others</p> <p>Maple – JJ for taking safe risks</p> <p>Birch – Sam for thinking before we act</p> <p>Pine – Marley for working well with others</p> <p>Spruce – Muaaz for working well with others</p> <p>Apple – Annie as she always keeps trying in school</p> <p>Cherry – Hope for positive learning behaviours at all times</p> <p>Damson – Esmee for persisting in PE with a new skill</p> <p>Conifer – Tristan for thinking before acting</p> <p>Hawthorn – Amelia for persevering and achieving a fantastic setting description and Maths application</p> <p>Poplar – Theo for being his best self. Only being here a few weeks and you have been fab!</p> <p>Juniper – Dillan for thinking and communicating with clarity, as well as lovely manners.</p> <p>Laburnum – Bobby for being a role model of all our school rules</p> <p>Sycamore – Millie for not giving up with her learning. She persevered and she kept trying.</p> <p>Aspen – Evie for being her best self and following school rules at all times</p> <p>Cypress – Zara for following all 5 of our school golden rules</p> <p>Elder – Vincent for persisting with other's impulsivity</p>
Achievement Alley	<p>Ash – Kyran for striving for accuracy within Maths</p> <p>Elm – Victoria for working independently in Maths</p> <p>Oak – Ronin working independently in Maths</p> <p>Beech – Sophia for being persistent</p> <p>Hazel – Kamar for striving for accuracy in writing</p> <p>Maple – Ollie for applying past knowledge</p> <p>Birch – Elijah for responding with wonderment and awe</p> <p>Pine – Ella for applying past knowledge</p> <p>Spruce – Evie for persistence in all her learning</p> <p>Apple – Alara for a thoughtful hat reflection in Humanities</p> <p>Cherry – Willow for striving for accuracy in Maths</p> <p>Damson – Noah for working systematically and striving for accuracy when problem solving in Maths</p> <p>Conifer – Ava for persisting with fractions</p> <p>Hawthorn – Dilyana for excellent use of watercolours in her back wash setting</p> <p>Poplar – Ruby A for demonstrating an excellent understanding of SD features</p> <p>Juniper – Gabriels for collecting a lovely bank of vocabulary</p> <p>Laburnum – Aku for insightful contributions in PSHE</p> <p>Sycamore – Nicoleta for showing good understanding in her French learning this week.</p> <p>Aspen – Blake for perseverance when solving algebraic equations</p> <p>Cypress – Charlie W for his fact file on Charles Darwin</p> <p>Elder – Austeja for using the bar modelling to support her algebra learning in maths</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>

Notices

Just a reminder that the main hall door opens at 8.30-8.40am. This is due to needing time to clear Breakfast club and to ensure staff are ready in their classrooms/positions around the school to greet the children.