



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another busy week in school this week, our classes have enjoyed the opportunity to try out our new "Now press play" experiences, which involve them being immersed in a variety of stories while wearing headphones. It's been quite entertaining to walk into the hall at some points this week to see the children dancing around the hall in what appears like silence to those without the headphones. The feedback from the children has been very positive so I'm sure they'll look forward to taking part in further experiences over the coming weeks.

Many of our classes have been taking part in DT this week, with the focus this term on using textiles. The children have developed their sewing skills as the week progressed and we had some amazing creations by the end of the week! Well done for showing your creativity skills!

Due to the number of recent events in school, we decided to have a low-key Red Nose Day this year, the children took part in an activity this morning in class so that we recognised the day, but we decided not to request donations as a school this year.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of staff test positive for Covid this week, which has impacted the number of staff in school once again. We've needed to use some supply staff as additional cover, which thankfully we've been able to source on this occasion, which may be why your child has mentioned some unfamiliar staff names this week. Hopefully it's only a short-term issue and everyone is well enough to return soon.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope the sunshine is here to stay!

Mr Murphy

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## Dates for the Diary

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – EYFS – Farm Visit – £5 (to be paid by 18<sup>th</sup> March)**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Yr 1 – Creepy Claws Workshop – £3.50 (to be paid by 18<sup>th</sup> March)**

**Last Day of Term – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**First day of Term 5 – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Yr 4 & Yr 5 Residential Trip**

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# Thinking Artistically

## EYFS

### Nursery



This week in nursery we have been thinking about what animals eat and how they hunt their food. We learnt different facts about different animals get their food and discussed how some need more help than others, we identified one of the animals that fall into this category is birds. We spoke about where birds live and have looked at pictures of nests. We researched what birds use to make their nests and then picked our own used natural resources to create our own birds' nests. In mathematics this week we have been learning new language in relation to position, each child had a chick and had to put it in different positions to match the correct positional vocabulary, some friends were able to use the language independently and give instructions to a peer.

### Reception

This week the Reception children have been busy learning all about healthy eating and how to keep our bodies healthy and active. We have had lots of fun doing different exercises in PE as well as yoga and dancing in the classrooms. We have also been making some tasty fruit smoothies! The children worked together to peel and chop the fruit and add all the ingredients to the blender. Following this the children have produced some fantastic writing, explaining step by step how they made their fruit smoothies. The best part was definitely getting to drink them! In maths this week, we have looked at the concept of halving using practical objects. We have spoken lots about when we halve a number it gets smaller.



## Year 1

This week, Year 1 has been persistent with their learning especially in Thinking Artistically. We have been using our green hats to draft and create our own hand puppets, which will be coming home with us next week.

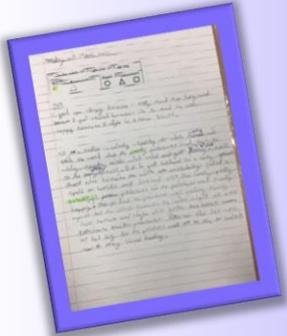
We have learned how to do running stitch and many other skills during our D.T days. When reflecting on our work, we have noticed we were all proud of our work and kept being persistent with our designs. In Dance, we have been looking at different animals in Africa, we have been using different levels and mirroring to show how we can work in pairs/small groups.



We have also enjoyed lots of fun things during our Science week, bubble experiment, minibeast hunting in the Forest School and many more fun activities that we can carry on doing at home. Please send us any photos/experiments you might try at home this week.

## Year 2

This week, we have been busy applying the skills we have learnt this year into new contexts! In Writing, We published our final versions of our own narratives. After weeks of work refining our ideas and drafting our stories, it was really pleasing to see the finished pieces! We might have some authors in the making!



In Maths, we are looking at time this week and recapping how to tell the time on an analogue clock. We have recalled lots of skills from our previous unit and have enjoyed challenging ourselves with a series of reasoning problems using our knowledge.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have marked Science Week with an experiment into plants and the conditions they need to grow! We are looking forward to seeing the outcome of our experiment over the next few days!

## Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have started to look at fractions in Maths. The children have used their knowledge from last year to help them and are confident and recognising equal groups. In English, we have started to look at narratives and their features. For our immersion, the children were given a random character, item and setting and asked to come up with a storyline, making sure they had a beginning, a problem, a solution and an ending.

The children used their green hats really well in this lesson and enjoyed creating the different stories.

This week has been Science Week and the children have enjoyed taking part in different activities. The children have all made a poster for science week showing their knowledge and understanding of a topic of their choosing. They have also taken part in experiments over the week. We looked at our fingerprints and compared different ways to make prints of them, and the children tried to identify if they have an arch, loop or whirl shape. In Dance, we have continued to work on our dances that we had been taught. We have had to think about the style of dance we are focusing on when adding on movements to the sequences. It has been a challenge to remember the long sequences at times but the children persisted with the challenge. Well done Year 3!



## Year 4

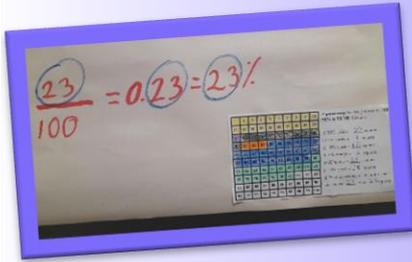
Can you believe we are over halfway through? Easter eggs are just around the corner folks! This week has been a slightly unusual week as we have spent time celebrating Science week as well as taking part in our termly DT project week. This doesn't mean that the children have not been working hard as English this week has seen the children take on the job role of Bridge developers for Medway Council and have designed a new bridge to cross the River Medway and collating this in the form of an advertising poster to go into a holiday brochure. Following their advertisement, they then had to create a set of instructions for a step by step guide to building a mini replica that could be sold in a gift shop on the bridge. Mathematics has also related to our science celebration by using fractions and decimals to work out how big parts of the bridge need to be within the replica set. This then was combined with our Science project where the children worked in groups to build their bridges using nothing other than spaghetti and marshmallows!



This week in Thinking Artistically, the children have been taking part in our DT project - embroidery. Our legendary learners have been creating fantastic pieces of tapestry by sewing their very own mountain landscapes using a variety of stitches and techniques. We have been truly gobsmacked at the maturity the children have shown across these 3 days and we are humbled by the stunning pieces of work produced. The children have also been continuing to work hard on their chosen dance style and are working hard as a team, offering changes and adaptations to make their performance unique in every sense of the word. We literally can not wait for the big day when we go to Victory Academy and showcase the children's commitment and dedication to some very complex and demanding dance styles.

## Year 5

This week, Year 5 have enjoyed Science Week and conducting fun experiments with toothpaste, building bridges and looking at fingerprints. We have really begun to think about the language of scientists!



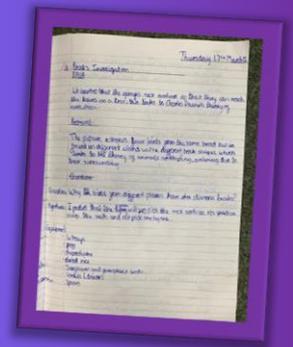
In Maths, we have rounded up our learning on fractions and have moved onto percentages. In English we have been learning about formal language as we will begin to plan our letters this week.

We have continued focussing on different content domains in Guided Reading. We have read Chapter 8 of Coraline and completed comprehension questions linked to our reading. We are really developing our skills in this area.

## Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this week, especially as it has been assessment for them, along with Science week. They have worked with such drive and determination to be the best version on themselves – we are so proud of them!

Within Science week, our cohort created some stunning designs for the poster competition with the focus being on either: life cycles of animals or the human impact on planet earth. Furthermore, year 6 also participated in a virtual science experiment and then applied this learning to their own experiment focusing on Darwin's Theory of Evolution and the finches he discovered on the Galapagos Islands. As a year group, we explored how some beaks were shaped better for certain foods compared to others, naturally. The children loved taking ownership over their investigation proving whether their hypothesis was correct.



THINKING SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR

# TSAT ROCKS

Times Tables Rockstars Battle

MONDAY 21ST MARCH - THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 2022





## Thinking Academically



### TT Rockstars:

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

### Spelling Shed:

The top year groups this week are: Year 4, Year 1 and Year 3. The top spellers are Walter (Year 1) in first place, Hanna (Year 4) in second place and Madelene (Year 3) in third place.



## Thinking About Their Thinking



In P4C this week, we have been looking at the question how important is it to show bravery as a leader? Currently, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is thought to be one of the most famous people in the world. Once an actor and comedian, the 44-year-old Ukrainian president is being called a hero, who has bravely refused to bow down to Russia, as his country of Ukraine endures an attack. Before his election in 2019, Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, acted as a president on the TV programme 'Servants of the People'.

# 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 – Cost: Free
- Location: Gillingham Community Hub, High Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1BG
- Time: 09:00 - 18:00

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 and 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/>

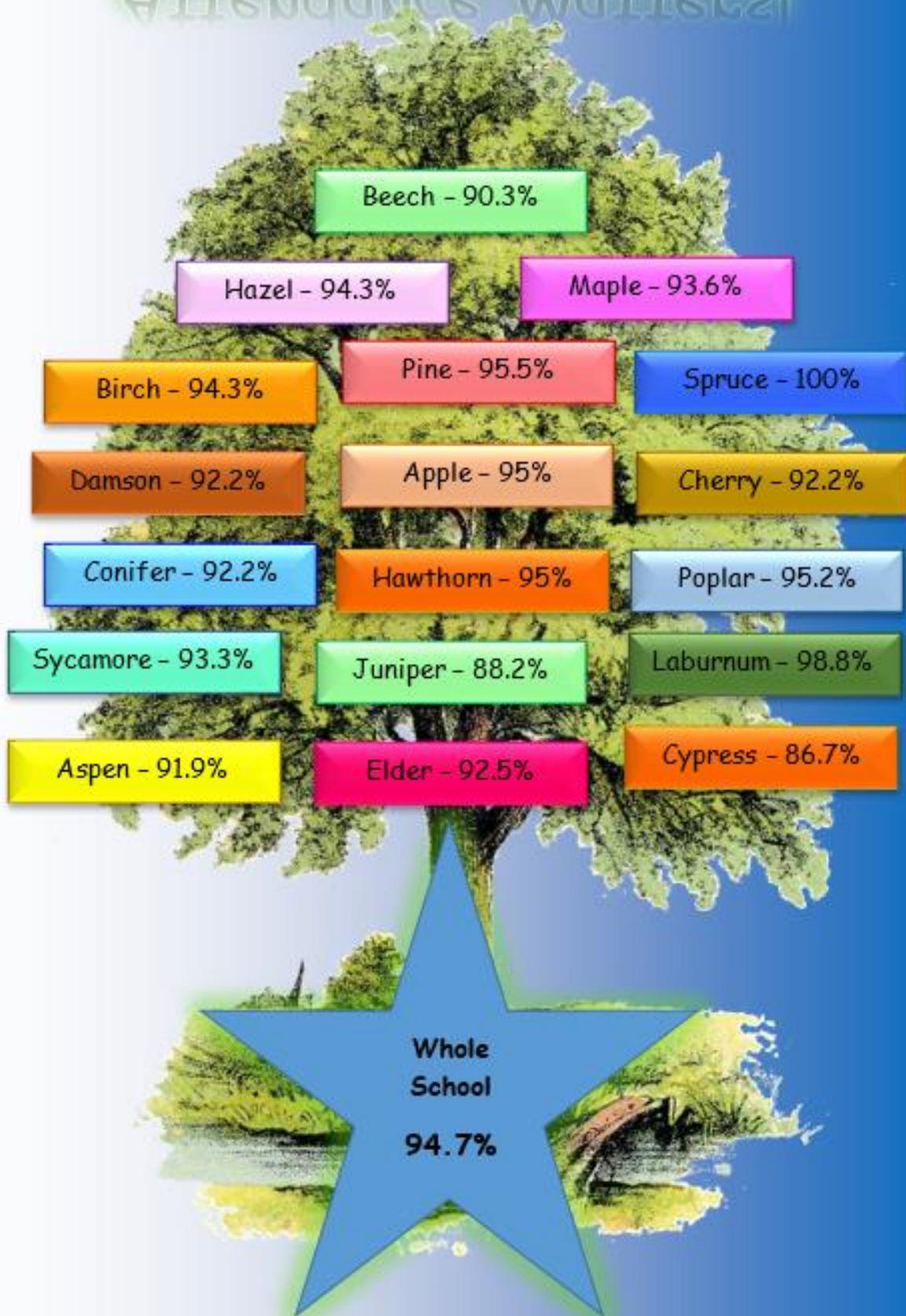


# Thinking Inclusively

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	Spruce, Poplar & Laburnum	
Punctuality Penny	Hazel, Spruce, Cherry, Conifer, Sycamore & Aspen	
<b>Golden Tie</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Angela for being a helpful member of the class</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Kai for trying his best with reading and writing</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Ivy for being a good role model</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – lasiah for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Kamar for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Caelen for taking safe risks in his work</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Uzma for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Kenzie for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Berna for working well with others</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Lola for always working well with others</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – T.I. for a mature attitude to learning</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Finley for being his best self and sharing good ideas in class</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Yaseen for taking safe risks with his sewing</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Jack for his mature attitude to learning</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Jack for taking responsible risks during DT week</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Esson for striving for accuracy and modelling good behaviour around the school.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Victor O for always being his best self</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Simione for working well with others</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – George for persisting in his learning and taking responsible risks</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Riley for always being a great role model</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Kisali for working well with others</p>
<b>Achievement Alley</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Liam for applying phonics knowledge in writing</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Kalilah for applying new knowledge when doubling</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Honey-Ray for striving for accuracy when doubling</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – Kara for being persistent</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Chloe for creating, imagining and innovating</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Sofia for persisting in her learning</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – lonela for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Lilah for persisting in wobble moments</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Aarna for remaining open to continuous learning</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Aiyla for a great tree map in PSHE</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Esme for applying past knowledge when working with fractions</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Harrison for showing an excellent understanding of halves, thirds and quarters</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Zainab for persisting with sewing</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Brayden for persisting with needlework</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Mihail for an excellent demonstration on sewing skills</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Rylan for his scientific enquiry during science week.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Thomas for his striving in accuracy for using model verbs</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Brandon for striving for accuracy when understanding percentages</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Finn for his scientific enquiry and write up</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Zara for her incredible Art work</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Vihaan for his Science investigation write up</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 21st July 2022</b>
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Friday 22nd July 2022</i>