



New Horizons  
Children's Academy

# News

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another term at New Horizons, I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break and were able to enjoy some of the Spring sunshine that came our way. Term 5 is always a busy term, our Year 2 and Year 6 classes are making their final preparations for their end of Key Stage assessments, Year 4 and 5 are going on residential visits and we have lots of extra activities as always going on across school.

KS2 assessments will take place during the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. We will be sharing a short presentation with Year 6 parents in the next few days- explaining a bit more about the week and some examples of question formats that the children will encounter. We will share this video with Year 6 parents/carers via Seesaw.

The children have started their new topics for the term, I've seen some very exciting lessons across the school this week, with the children showing that they know more and can do more, every day. We look forward to sharing our successes each week in our newsletter and on social media.

Could I request once again that visitors to the school site, particularly at the start and end of the day show consideration for the residents neighbouring the school please? I've had some reports of parents parking across and turning in residents' driveways, which has understandably caused upset to the affected households.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Mr Murphy

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## Dates for the Diary

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

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# Thinking Healthily

## EYFS

### Nursery

In Nursery this week we have introduced our new topic 'Let's explore it!'. More of our Term 5 curriculum information and enrichment opportunities are available on the following link or alternatively you can access this on our school website: <https://sway.office.com/A8EEiCyG4jdrH403?ref=Link> . We introduced our first exploring material this week 'Water'. The children have enjoyed exploring and splashing in puddles, using an assortment of measuring jugs to make patterns with the water on the water wall, and began to explore which materials and objects will float or sink in our water tray. The children have explored different vocabulary and we have been encouraging the children to use these in sentences as part of their everyday language. In Mathematics the children have been learning about 'weight' children have been comparing two objects by their weight.



### Reception

Reception children have settled nicely back into classroom routines and have enjoyed sharing what they did over the Easter break through lots of show and tells. Our Term 5 topic this term is 'Will you read me a story?' More of our Term 5 curriculum information and enrichment opportunities are available on the following link or alternatively you can access this on our school website: <https://sway.office.com/U0vGCrpzPeTwYW5M?ref=Link> . This week, we have thought about different characters and have begun our topic on fairy tales. In Literacy our fairy tale has been Jack and the Beanstalk, we have had lots of fun writing instructions on how to plant a bean sprout. In Maths, we had lots of fun ordering numbers by using magic beans. We have challenged our learning further by creating our own number lines to help with ordering and counting. In Forest Learning, we have begun tending to our flower garden. The children are keeping an eye out for any growth from the beansprouts and sunflowers that were planted. We are all excited to watch these grow!



## Year 1

It has been an exciting first week back into school. This Term the topic is bright lights, big city where the children will be exploring and learning about our capital city London.

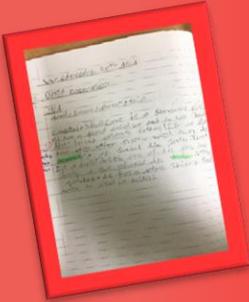


We have started reading the book 'The Queens Hat' where the wind took the Queen's hat all around London. The children have been able to learn the key monuments around London such as Big Ben, Tower Bridge, London Eye and Trafalgar Square. The children made a piece of artwork using chalk to represent The Great Fire of London which we will go on to learn about.

In Maths the children have been counting in 2's and 5's using problem solving skills. The children have also been thinking healthily this week, we have been discussing relationships and families and what they can look like.

## Year 2

It has been great to see Year 2 back in school after their Easter break! They have returned with a great attitude and eager to learn which is fantastic to see! This week, we have been introducing the children to our new text for the term- 'Sam Silver: Undercover Pirate'. This text follows the story of a little boy who discovers a message in a bottle from a pirate who lived hundreds of years ago!



In Writing, we have been thinking about the pirate character and what he or she might look like. We thought about the features of other pirates and used this to write a character description, predicting the appearance of the pirate character in the story. The children have used some fantastic descriptive language to represent their pirate characters.

Well done for making such a great start to the term Year 2! We look forward to all the term brings!

## Year 3

Year 3 have settled back into learning smoothly this term. We enjoyed our hook day where we enjoyed participating in art tasks related to Ancient Greece, such as designing our own Greek vases and shields. In Writing, we have started to investigate and think about our own poem, based on the Greek myth 'Pandora's Box.'



In Maths, we are continuing with our previous work on fractions. We have revised how to find fractions of amounts and have also applied our fraction of shapes knowledge to finding tenths. It has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence in Maths lessons throughout the year. Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have enjoyed Science lessons, where we discussed and learnt about the different parts of a plant, and Humanities lessons where we learnt about the Greek Gods as well as the differences between the two cities Athens and Sparta. We are looking forward to learning more about Ancient Greece throughout the term as well as participating in some exciting science experiments with plants.

## Year 4

Ahoy there me hearties! Welcome back to another fun filled term all about the blue abyss. Yep that's right, from the sea creatures that live in the oceans and seas to the impact of plastic waste that is polluting our vast bodies of water, your little legends in Year 4 will be getting involved in lots of sea orientated activities and projects. Reading this term is based around our topic book 'The Song of the Dolphin Boy' which fits nicely with our ocean topic.



English has kicked off with a dive into the world of biographies where the children are learning the different types and the skills needed to write their very own on a person of their choosing. This is the first piece of published work this term and will be finished next week before the residential trip. Mathematics this week has focussed on decimal numbers and identifying which are greater, less than or equal to as well as being able to order in ascending and descending order.

Across Thinking Healthily this term the children will be exploring cricket in PE and looking at various emotions and relationships in PSHE. The first lesson in PE this week has seen the children focus on their fielding skills as they practised throwing and catching balls that were passed from their team mates and hit from a cricket bat. Please take 5 minutes out to play a simple game of catch with your children as this very important skill will mean they will be able to apply themselves confidently in a game that involves this ability heavily. As for PSHE, we focussed on the jealousy emotion and how best to handle this feeling or support others who are having a dose of the green-eyed monster.

## Year 5

Year 5 have had such a lovely first week back. The children have really been enjoying their learning and our new text, Bloom by Nicola Skinner.



In English, we have started learning about balanced arguments and looking at its features. We even had a balanced argument ourselves all about school uniform. We thought about and discussed reasons for and against school uniform. Some valid points were made. We have also looked at the features of a balanced argument and found some of them in an example that we were given to look at. We have enjoyed reading our text in both English and guided reading and learning about the different content domains and how to link them to our learning. Lots of discussions have been had to help us develop our understanding around this.

In Maths, we are continuing our learning on decimals. We can tell you what each decimal number represents. We have looked at sequences to see if we can identify patterns in a group of numbers. For example, the rule is subtract 7 in this sequence: 25, 18, 11, 4. We are still enjoying our arithmetic challenges and are pushing ourselves with the challenges we choose to do to help us with our learning.

We hope you have a fantastic weekend and we look forward to more great learning next week!

## Year 6

Year 6 have started this term with a positive attitude towards their learning based on the topic 'Tomorrow's World, which will open their creative, curious minds of the possibilities in the future.

In English, the pupils have started to study the language, layout and grammar specific features of writing a diary entry from the perspective of Alex Rider (the main character from our new class spy novel). They are also improving their reading comprehension skills, covering all reading domains, to improve their skills in preparation for future SATs reading questions.



In Mathematics, the children have been continuing to use their arithmetic and problem-solving skills to solve a range of problems, using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have specifically revised long multiplication and division, as these were areas for improvement for our year 6 pupils.

In starting their new topic of 'Tomorrow's World, they actually went back in time to the amazing work and achievements of Alan Turing and how his futuristic 'Bombe' machine helped crack the German Enigma code, during World War Two, using scientific and mathematical reasoning. Finally, with a focus on Thinking Healthily this term, the pupils are looking forward to improving their emotional intelligence, by reflecting on their own mental health and wellbeing and looking at strategies to help them cope with stress and grief. We will also use these lessons to share thoughts, feelings, stresses and worries in a safe environment.



## Thinking Academically



### TT Rockstars:

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

### Spelling Shed:

The top year groups this week are: Year 1, Year 4 and Year 3. The top spellers are Walter (Year 1) in first place, Karen (Year 4) 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 are names just a label or can they mean something more? Machu Picchu in Peru, South America, is believed to be one of the world's best-known archaeological sites, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors a year, but according to a new study, it has been called the wrong name for more than 100 years. The research says that the site was actually known by its Inca inhabitants as Picchu, or Huayna Picchu.

# 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>

Why not develop our understanding and appreciation of the amazing history of our local area? Who doesn't love a castle? Especially one with such a dramatic history as Rochester Castle. Experience almost 900 years of history, discover more about the famous brutal siege in 1215, learn how flaming pigs were used to attack the castle's walls, and experience the breath-taking views from the top of the keep. For more information, visit: Rochester Castle | English Heritage ([english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk))

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

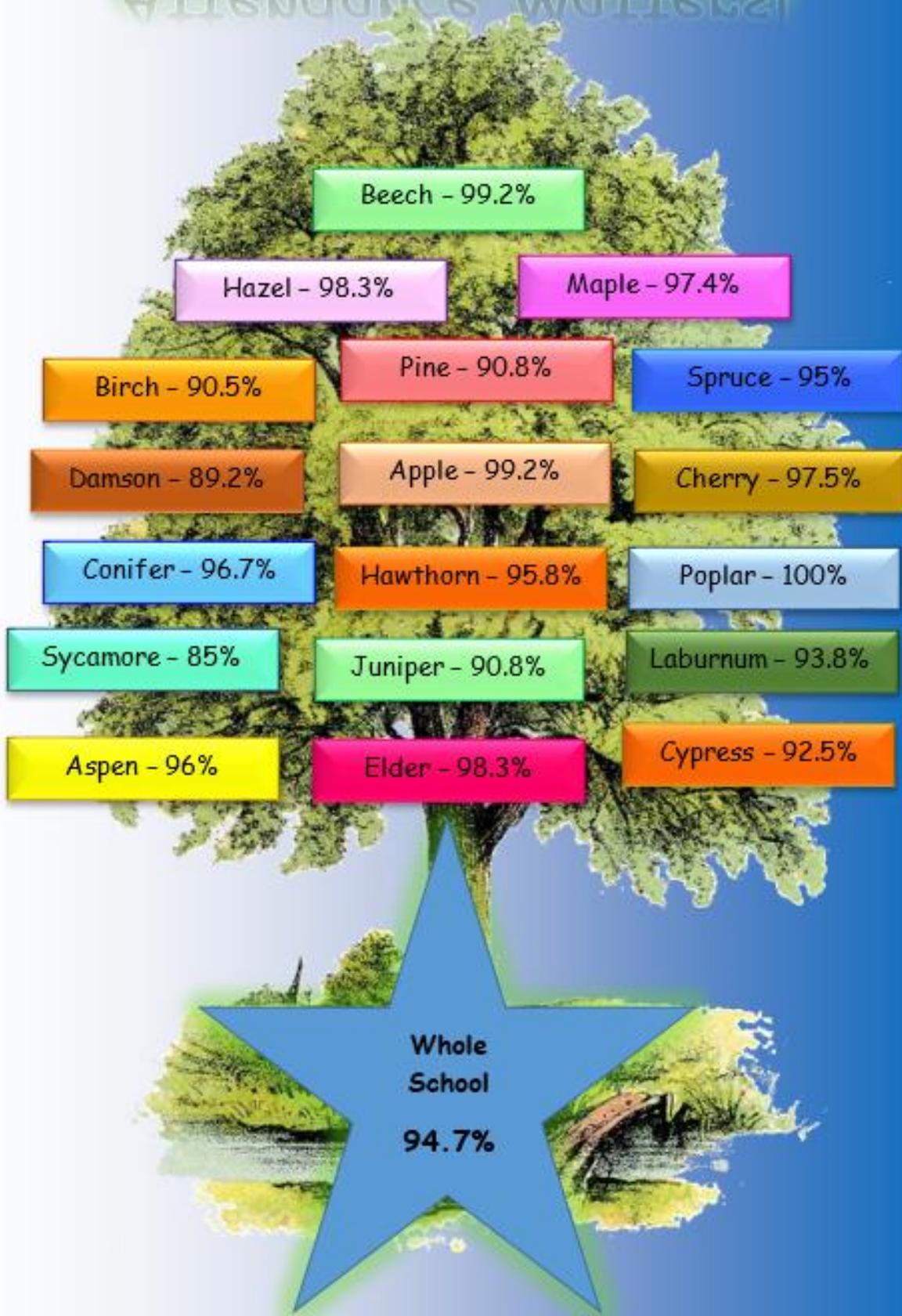


# Thinking Inclusively

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 Castle.		
<b>Golden Tie</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Henry for showing enthusiasm in all areas of learning</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Marwah for having a great first week at school</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Honey-Rae for responding with wonder to new learning</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – Ernie for working well with others</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Rivith for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Sylvia for working well with others</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Georgia for continuing to keep trying</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Leon for taking safe risks</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Olly for working well with others</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Ben for taking safe risks by challenging himself in his learning</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Jase for fantastic behaviour for learning</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Ivy-Gwen for working well with others and being her best self</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Evie-Louise for always trying hard with all her learning</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Keyemo for her decimal knowledge application</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Ruby A for an excellent attitude towards your learning</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Max for managing the impulses of his peers during our debate.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Rueben for taking safe risks with his Art work</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Kamara for taking safe risks with her learning</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Dylan for showing an improvement in managing his impulses in his behaviour for learning</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Zara for being a role model for all of our school rules</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Yameen for working well with others.</p>
<b>Achievement Alley</b>	<p><b>Ash</b> – Angela for halving an amount independently</p> <p><b>Elm</b> – Marwah for accuracy when halving</p> <p><b>Oak</b> – Noah for striving for accuracy when halving numbers</p> <p><b>Beech</b> – Zach for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Hazel</b> – Victor for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Maple</b> – Ollie for taking safe risks</p> <p><b>Birch</b> – Elijah for persistence</p> <p><b>Pine</b> – Frankie for applying past knowledge</p> <p><b>Spruce</b> – Ava for striving for accuracy</p> <p><b>Apple</b> – Florence for a fantastic tree map in Humanities</p> <p><b>Cherry</b> – Christopher for being a superstar at finding fractions of amounts</p> <p><b>Damson</b> – Disha for showing a good understanding of fractions</p>	<p><b>Conifer</b> – Tommy for persisting with his learning about decimals</p> <p><b>Hawthorn</b> – Melanie for continuing to be a positive role model in Maths and French</p> <p><b>Poplar</b> – Lexie for challenging yourself and others with your decimals learning</p> <p><b>Juniper</b> – Rylan for the prior knowledge shared during the Hook task.</p> <p><b>Laburnum</b> – Evan for his good work adding/subtracting wholes and decimals</p> <p><b>Sycamore</b> – Iris for really thinking about word meaning in guided reading.</p> <p><b>Aspen</b> – Samuel L for great use of language when identifying features of the diary entry</p> <p><b>Cypress</b> – Chantelle for her excellent work on character empathy in reading</p> <p><b>Elder</b> – Alana for thinking flexibly when reasoning in maths, independently</p>

# Attendance Matters!



# Term Dates

Term	Dates
<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>