

Hannah Ball School

Weekly Newsletter

1st April 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

What a strange term this has been! We have had our second lockdown and the vast majority of our pupils have had to adapt to learning from home for nine weeks. Not many of us would have predicted that at the start of last year. Our pupils and staff have coped admirably and have been able to adapt to this new way of learning.

Our whole school community are now adapting to being back in school. This has been another big change for us all and with change, comes anxiety. Our pupils have shown their resilience and I have been proud of the way that they have settled back into the routines of school. They are determined to do well and to be successful and our staff are working hard to ensure that our pupils are ready for their next steps. That will be our focus next term - a balance of 'getting back to basics', providing challenge within learning, looking for enrichment opportunities and making sure that our pupils are ready for the next stage of their learning journey. Our Year 6 pupils will be starting transition activities, our very youngest pupils will be moving up into Year 1 and we look forward to meeting our new intake of Reception pupils too.

As you know, our pupils have recently undertaken PiXL assessments which will give our school clear next steps for each pupil. This will shape the focus of their learning for the next 8 - 10 weeks and will help us to support areas of weakness as well as extending thinking within the areas of the curriculum that they are confident in. Our approach means that we can support individual pupils and provide them with the opportunities that they need. We all learn at different rates and in different ways and we are here to facilitate that.

We are launching our new handwriting scheme next term as well as continuing to develop our Talk for Writing approach in English and our Mastery approach in maths. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, our ability to provide cloud based learning opportunities will support our pupils within the core subjects of maths, reading and writing.

Now it's over to you. As a parent, you have a responsibility to ensure that your child is in school, in the correct uniform, with the correct equipment and on time. The vast majority of you are doing this and are doing it well. A small minority are letting our school community down. Imagine the disturbance when your child is late for school. (The odd time is unavoidable. We all get stuck in traffic, or sometimes have problems when our car doesn't start or we can't find one shoe!) To be continually late actually has a massive effect on our school. 5 minutes late each day = 35 minutes a week and 140 minutes (2 hours and 20 minutes) of lost learning time each month. Over an academic year this is nearly 23 hours of lost learning - nearly 4 days of school. So, 10 minutes each day is nearly 8 days of learning, 20 minutes each day is 16 days of learning. You get the idea.

This also impacts on the rest of the class. The class teacher or the office have to add your children to the register and has to make sure that your child has ordered their lunch. Often, your child will need the input (teaching time) repeated so that they know what they are learning. This all detracts from the time the class teacher can spend teaching the rest of the class. That is unfair and we will encourage you to be on time throughout the next term. If you need any help with this, please don't hesitate to contact us. Remember also that our breakfast club is available from 8 am each day and that can sometimes help.

Again, I must stress, the majority of you are doing your bit, but let's now make sure that we are all being on time. Every second counts for our pupils and your children. We have had our education, now let's give all of our pupils a fair chance at theirs.

Thank-you again to Gemma and Simon for keeping us safe come rain or shine.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 20th April.

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Nicholas Hingley

School start and finish times:

Timings of the school day

Reception: 8:40 – 14:45

Year 1: 8:50 – 14:55

Year 2: 9:00 – 15:00

Year 3: 8:40 – 14:45

Year 4: 8:50 – 15:00

Year 5: 9:00 – 15:00

Year 6: 9:10 – 15:10

To make things easier for you, you are allowed to send in your children together (i.e. at the earliest drop off time) and collect them at the same time (at the latest pick up time). This means that if you have 2 children at school, you will only have to do one drop off and pick up. This will also help us to reduce the number of people that are staying on site as we have to be cautious due the increase in COVID-19 cases.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception

Nafisa for settling into the class, making friends and joining in with learning in all areas of the curriculum, well done!

Year 1

Sasha for telling an amazing story and trying hard with her writing.

Year 2

Niana for her super use of scientific vocabulary talking about what plants need to grow. Well done!

Year 3

Zainab for her effort and teamwork skills in PE this week!

Year 4

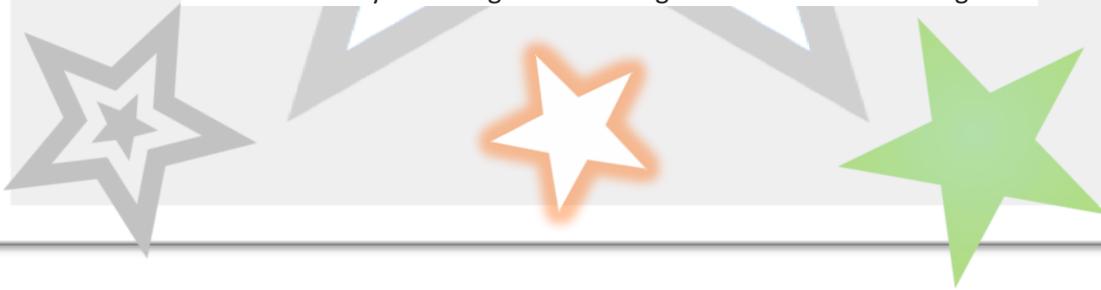
Ayman – Fantastic decimals work, helping her classmates in Maths and excellent passing in basketball.

Year 5

Star of the week is Humayl for consistently producing quality work right across the curriculum. Well done, Humayl!!

Year 6

Nicolas for always listening and following instructions and working hard.





Math-Whizz

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE

Year 1

Wera

Yasmine

Mustafa

Year 2

Jasmine

Anaum

Sethun

Year 3

Nicholas

Kira

Lily

Year 4

Madiha

Olivia

Mehuli

Year 5

Ines

Luca

Sitki

Year 6

Zara

Noah

Nicolas

Class Progressions

 1st -



 2nd - Year 3

 3rd - Year 2



This week's Rock Legends

Year 2 - Hakimah

Year 3 - Muhammad

Year 4 - Harley

Year 5 - Ruquyyah

Announcing the Easter Break Battle of the Bands

Start date: Thursday 1st April

Finish date: Tuesday 20th April



MESSAGES FROM THE TEACHERS...

Reception

While continuing their learning about the celebration of Easter the children have been making their very own chocolate cornflake nests. This week Reception children have been outdoors enjoying the weather while doing their Easter egg hunt. Our story 'we're going on an Easter egg hunt' ties in with our Easter theme. The children have been using their positional language to describe where they found their eggs and hid their rabbits. With the Easter holidays around the corner, please remember to read and practise your sounds every day. Do plenty of activities outdoors and have fun! We will see you again on Tuesday 20th April for a new term full of learning! Bye!

Year 1

Well it has been an interesting term in Year 1. The children have worked hard getting back to the routines of school. They have been learning how to write sentences and when we should use a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. They have been recording the weather, observing and drawing trees. The children have produced some wonderful mosaics based on Van Gough's painting 'A starry night' and they have finished the term by writing and telling some amazing stories about friendship. They now deserve a well earned rest before returning for the summer term when we will be exploring an Enchanted Wood. Happy Easter from all the Year 1 Staff.

Year 2

Year 2 have produced some wonderful work this week. They have planted their bean seedlings out in the sunshine and drawn conclusions as to why the beans planted in different conditions grew or not. Their creativity shone in completing their Maasai necklaces which look fantastic- well done! In English lessons the children have completed their personal zig-zag books about how to plant and maintain a garden, there were some super instructions in their writing. In Maths there has been lots of measuring in centimetres and comparing the lengths of classroom items to learn more about length and height. They have ended the week reflecting on their RE work by doing some Easter egg scratch art. I look forward to seeing Year 2 after the break ready for an exciting summer term!

Year 3

Year 3 have had an extremely busy and exciting week in the run up to Easter! We have had lots of creative fun in the afternoons and really enjoyed this last week of our 'tribal tales' topic. We made Stone Age necklaces out of clay in DT and 'Dirt Pudding' in science to help us with our learning for our 'rocks' topic. Year 3 have also finished their Stone Age stories this week, after 6 days of writing and editing them and we will be displaying these wonderful stories in our classroom after Easter! In RE, we've spent the half term looking at why Good Friday is known as Good Friday and the children wrote some thought provoking responses in our class journal. After such a busy half term, we all deserve a rest! Well done to all of you for your hard work across all areas during the last 4 weeks. We've all shown a lot of resilience towards our learning and kindness to each other and it's been wonderful to see. Have an amazing Easter Holidays filled with fun and chocolate - you all deserve it!

Year 4

By a pupil:

Hello Reader! This week, in English Year 4 have been writing up a fact file about the digestive system. We have been writing three parts of the digesting journey. We have learned lots of things 'I found it fine and fun' Anas in Year 4 said. Also in Maths we have been looking at decimals. 'Its quite easy as we have already been learning fractions' Courtney – Year 4

'In Science, we did an experiment with crackers, we added Iodine to see what colour they went . I found it quite gross and disgusting '– Cassie in Year 4 said

Year 5

It has been a very busy short term for Year 5. In Literacy , the children have written biographies and narratives with a focus on their class text 'Treason'. Maths, the children have looked at decimals, fractions as well as percentages. For Topic, Year 5 have created some excellent artwork including detailed sketches of the various homes of King Henry V111. In Science, Year 5 drew bar graphs to reflect the gestation periods of various animals as well as interpreted the information using scientific language in their explanations. Finally, we all took advantage of the beautiful weather and enjoyed fantastic games of basketball during PE as well as at lunchtime. Hopefully, this weather continues into the half term. Have a lovely break, be safe and look forward to seeing you after the half term.

Year 6

By a pupil:

This week in year 6, I learnt how to calculate the area of a triangle and in English we wrote the key events of the Lady of Shalott. We did a drama activity called hot seating and we had to pretend to be Lady Of Shalott and answer questions from the other children. On Thursday, in PE, we played basketball and football and we all enjoyed every moment of it. This week was amazing in terms of behaviour. What we found interesting was the paper mache and the paintings we did, it was enjoyable.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Summer Term 2021

- 19th April INSET Day
- Term Starts: 20th April
- Bank Holiday: 3rd May
- Half Term: 31st May – 4th June
 - 7th June INSET DAY
 - Term Ends: 21st July