

Hannah Ball School

Weekly Newsletter

12th February 2021



Hannah Ball School
Philip Road
High Wycombe
HP13 7JS

Phone: 01494 522476

E-Mail:
office@hannahball.bucks.sch.uk

Website:
www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr N. Hingley

What a term this has been so far! As we arrive at our half term break, it is a natural time to reflect on the things we have achieved over the last six weeks.

With less than twelve hours notice, our school, along with every other UK school, re-opened for key worker and vulnerable children only. We moved to our remote learning provision, built around live teaching through Google Classroom. Cloud based programs such as Maths Whizz, TT Rock Stars, Lexia and Myon have supported the live teaching and we have been able to migrate our wider curriculum to our remote learning. We have ensured that your children have had a balanced diet of live teaching, online learning and screen free activities which have included PE, wellbeing activities, project work, food technology and even some gardening!

Our teachers have worked tirelessly to design lessons and resources that have not only been used online, but that have also been accessible through paper based packs too. They have provided feedback regularly to ensure that your children are able to consolidate their knowledge and skills and to continue to make progress. Teachers have continued to 'phone families regularly and have signposted extra resources or extra help where needed. They have also continued to develop their practice through their Continuous Professional Development (or staff meetings for the old fashioned amongst us!), much of which has been focussed around remote learning. Many of our staff have sought out their own development too, with an array of courses ranging from Characteristics of Effective Learning to Lego Therapy. Our incredibly hard-working LSAs have been in school and working with their class bubbles, balancing live and virtual support. They have been key in making sure the children in school have been safe, are in the right place at the right time and fully engaged with their learning. Many of them have worked closely with their Class Teachers to develop our curriculum provision and have also given much needed moral support to their teams. The Hannah Ball staff have ensured that our families' concerns have been listened to and as a result, we have been able to provide extra support as necessary, for example by providing food hampers, devices, home visits, or even just an extra phone call home.

Other developments have also been taking place in the background. Our digital reading platform has been launched, so that our pupils have access to a wealth of books and 'Accelerated Reader' is currently being set up in school, ready for our full reopening. This has involved scanning and barcoding every book in our library and adding them to our new library system - Simple Little Library; this has all been done by our incredibly dedicated team of LSAs. We have also further bolstered our early reading books as part of our ongoing reading

scheme development. An updated handwriting scheme has been purchased so that we have a consistent approach to this across the school - this is all in addition to our new computing, PSHE, RE and Science curriculum and the continuing development of our Maths and English curriculum.

The school council have continued to meet, making some important decisions about our new playground markings. The Smart School Council has facilitated insightful family debates which we hope you are all taking part in as families. We have also taken delivery of new sports and play equipment to reflect our ongoing commitment to encouraging healthy lifestyles. We have also organised some further building improvement work, starting with some much needed doors for our offices, some repairs to our perimeter fence, a tree survey and some roofing work. We are planning further exciting work over the coming year, but we will share this news closer to the time.

Our kitchen staff have catered for the children in school and have organised food hampers for those who have requested them and our local charity, The One Can Trust, are now supporting 30 of our most vulnerable families.

This has been an incredible learning journey for all of us, not least for you as parents who have had to undergo a crash course in supporting your child's learning at home. You have worked incredibly hard and many of you are also balancing your own work commitments at the same time - an almost impossible task, but one which you have risen to. My staff and I have been incredibly touched by your messages of support and thanks and I am pleased to note that over a third of our families responded to our recent parental survey about our remote learning provision. Thank-you to everyone who took the time to respond as it will provide vital feedback to help us further improve our multi-disciplinary approach.

The falling infection rates are encouraging, although we all recognise that we still have some way to go until we can return to normal. Please stay safe, follow the COVID-19 guidance and enjoy the opportunity to rest and spend time with your families over the half term break. I look forward to 'seeing' many of you all virtually on 22nd February and perhaps in person very soon after that.

Mr Hingley



STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception

Laila for always being ready to learn, for taking part in live teaching sessions, show and tell and at story time. Well done!

Year 1

Riley has enthusiastically attended online lessons and I have even caught him carrying on with his work after the session has ended. Riley has also had a go at writing an ebook.

Year 2

Adiva Islam - for your detailed work in all subjects, your fantastic commitment to your learning and your excellent castle model

Year 3

Fredrik for his brilliant attitude towards his home learning and for his growing confidence in asking for help! Well done!

Year 4

Methuli for always attending online lessons and being adventurous in her word choices this week, she has been trying hard to up-level her work.

Year 5

Stars of the week are the entire class of Year 5 for their infectious enthusiasm and dedication to their online learning. You have been absolutely superb, guys. I am so proud of everyone!! Well done!!

Year 6

Kenzie Lewis - for having a positive week and an improved learning behaviour.

MESSAGES FROM THE CLASS TEACHERS!

RECEPTION

This week's learning in Reception has been full of exciting and creative activities such as making monster slime, a rocket balloon experiment, making a spaceship using playdough and having a moon tea party with aliens. In maths we have been using tens frames, Ally the alien and the number blocks to help us work out number bonds to 10. The children have been practising number bonds and adding using different resources they can find at home. The children have enjoyed learning about e-safety this week and have started learning about upcoming celebrations such as pancake day and valentine's day. The children have worked really hard with the continued support from their parents and LSAs, so well done everyone! We hope you all have a restful and relaxing half term break.

YEAR 1

Well what a term we have had! It has been very different, very tiring but also very enjoyable. The children have learned lots about polar bears and other animals and I am looking forward to seeing the fact files they have produced when we return to school. They can now order numbers to 20 and have learned how to add and subtract numbers within 20. They can now explain the meanings of camouflage, herbivore, omnivore and carnivore and enjoyed learning about compasses this week. They have written a poem and joined Mrs Simmons and Ms Pitman for storytime sessions.

Mrs Simmons, Mrs Hadadi and Ms Pitman are really proud of how well Year 1s have adapted to this new style of learning. Year 1 you are amazing!

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been very busy this week. The highlight of the week for me has been seeing the fantastic castle models they have made, well done all of you, they are really wonderful models you have made! On Wednesday we all brought our favourite cuddly toy on screen and had a great discussion about why they are special to us. We have also discussed lots of ways to stay safe online for Safer Internet Day, Year 2 had lots of good ideas and knowledge to share. In English lessons the children have completed their fact files about castles, these were really interesting and well presented. In Maths the children have continued their work on properties of shapes and have enjoyed cutting symmetrical shapes out of paper. In Science, the children have finished their unit of work about living things and their habitats and have had fun exploring different habitats and playing food chain games. I wish you all a restful half term break, Mrs Knox.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have had an excellent week leading up to half term. They haven't missed a beat and have maintained their brilliant attitudes towards their home learning. There have been some wonderful diary entries written as Augustus Gloop and they have designed their own book covers and blurbs for the story which I have been very impressed with. Continuing with our cooking sessions this week, they have created some wonderful 'crumpet pizzas' and 'gooey chocolate brownies' to go with our topic. All in all I have been so impressed and proud of every child in Year 3 for their resilience, hard work and the responsibility they have taken towards their learning. I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and that you all take this time to explore the outdoors away from screens! Have a lovely break y3!



YEAR 4

Today, to finish our Potions Unit, Year 4 have been designing their own Harry Potter character. They have thought about what they look like and their personality. At school, Miss Dear has been helping the children to make rice crispy cakes and they made slime on Monday in Science, exciting! In maths we have been working on fractions which is quite a challenge to do remotely so well-done year 4! This afternoon, we watched some wonderful project presentations as some of the children got the chance to be a teacher and teach something to the group. It has been really wonderful to see children adapting and learning in a new way this term. We have all had to change the way we are used to working incredibly quickly, and the children have taken it in their stride marvellously.

YEAR 5

What a strange but amazing term it has been for Year 5. Strange and amazing because it has been a new way of learning which the children have gradually adapted to and certainly embraced in the last 4 weeks. From week 1 to week 5, Year 5 children have displayed all the values of Hannah Ball school right throughout their online learning. Honesty, kindness, respect, responsibility, and resilience have all been in abundance on this journey of online learning. The children's attitude to learning has been very exemplary from 9:00 – 3:00 each and every day, never once wavering. They have all supported each other and I can't speak highly enough of them. In the last week the children have just finished writing their letters of an adventurous experience in the role of Michael, the main character, from our class text, Skellig. In Maths, Year 5 have enjoyed adding and subtracting fractions as well as solving problems involving fractions. In PSHE, they have looked at the very important topic of 'Taking care of myself' with a focus on having a good night's sleep. The children have created posters of the 10 top tips for a good night's sleep. I can certainly do with a good night's sleep so I will be taking their advice on board. Finally, we ended the term on a very positive note of love, it's Valentine's Day this weekend and amidst the sadness and uncertainty in today's world, there could not be a greater need for love to each other. Year 5 have certainly done their part by making Valentine's Day cards for family members and friends. I am sure they are going to be well received by everyone. Year 5, you are all stars of the term, well done for all the hard work and dedication to your learning. Stay safe and enjoy a very well-deserved rest!!

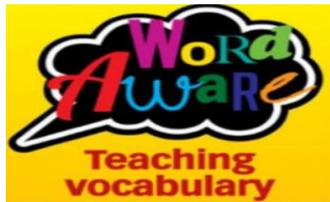
YEAR 6

This week Year 6 has been writing a diary entry, as a character in a story and included a poem, expressing the character's feelings and worries about his impending heart operation. In maths they have improved their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages, which is quite challenging. They have learned about the importance of a healthy balanced diet and exercise and the impact it has on the heart. They have also discussed and shared their ideas on how to maintain mental health. We are looking forward to a well-deserved break!



KS1's Word of the week is...

hesitate



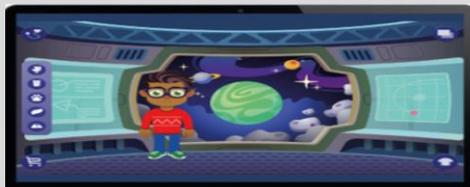
jostle

Maths-Whizz

Congratulations to this week's Maths Whizzers who have made it to the top of the leaderboard for their class:

Year 1: Filip, Wera, Yasmine
Year 2: Anaum, Sethun, Isaac
Year 3: Owais, Nicholas, Kira
Year 4: Methuli, Cassie, Olivia
Year 5: Oliver
Year 6: Urwah, Nicolas, Kenzie

1st - Year 1
2nd - Year 3
3rd - Year 2





Rock Legends

Year 2 - Hakimhan
Year 3 - Nicholas
Year 4 - Amana
Year 5 - Logan
Year 6 - Shamus



The Winners for the Mental Health Week Writing Competition are:

Year 3: Nicholas, Lily, Fredrick

Year 4: Madiha

Year 5: Oliver, Ali, Noor, Ruqayyah

Year 6: Zahra Ah & Mia



Announcing

Battle Of The Bands

GIRLS VS BOYS BATTLE

Whole school Battle starting from Friday 12th
February to Friday 26th February 2021.

Teachers are taking part too!

Let the battle begin!



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I am going to share with you thoughts about something called Self Esteem. It means how you feel about yourself. Self- esteem is important for making new friends, having confidence to try new activities and **being** able to cope well when things go wrong. It is a key ingredient for mental well-being in children and we should try and help them develop positive self- esteem.

Your thoughts are very powerful. If you speak to yourself in a negative way, it can be as damaging as someone bullying you. Always be kind to yourself



If it was up to me.....

Sometimes we do things because it is what other people want. Think of how much time you spend trying to please others. Are there things in your life you would change? What would you change if was completely up to you?

I would

I would not

I would try

I would no longer

I would go

Have a good half term, rest and have fun!
Mrs Machingauta

High Self Esteem	vs	Low Self Esteem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You see yourself as a positive person Get over mistakes quickly Feel liked by other people Happy to try new things Feel confident Are proud of what you achieve You like who you are 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feel negative about yourself Think you get everything wrong Feel people dislike you Scared to try new things Lack confidence Think of the time you failed Dislike who you are

How to improve Self Esteem

1. Find a box with a lid
2. Write down all the things you are good at.
3. Write down the things you are grateful for.
4. Write down the names of all the people who care about you
5. If you ever feel that your Self Esteem is getting low, open the box and read what you are good at, what you are grateful for and the people who care about you.

