

Hannah Ball School

Weekly Newsletter

22nd January 2021



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We now find ourselves at the end of our third week of lockdown and although still most definitely winter, there are glimmers of the longer days to come. If we look carefully we can see the green shoots of growth all around us, snowdrops are peeping through and the light of the day is holding out a little longer.

You will have seen some news about the two weeks' notice schools will receive when instructed to fully reopen. We are hopeful that this will be soon after half term, but we are playing a waiting game at the moment. Although the infection rates in Buckinghamshire are coming down, they remain very high and we must all try to stay safe.

Our virtual learning provision is going well, with an overall engagement in our first week of 66%, which includes those pupils learning in school. These figures are pleasing, although we are determined to increase them. Last week saw some increases as many of you have got to grips with logging on to Google classroom and setting up your learning spaces at home. We are also producing work packs that shadow the online learning - if you can't access the work that we produce on line. We will be sending out a very short survey about our remote learning provision through google forms which we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to fill out. This will help us to iron out any problems that you may be having and help us to make the lessons even better. Please do remember that we are here to help you. We rather you ask us to help you, and remember, 'There are no silly questions!'

Please note that our office is fully manned so that you are able to contact us throughout the school day. For those of you dropping off your children, please remember to wear a mask at all times and maintain social distancing. This is for everyone's safety.

Have a safe (and warm) weekend,

Mr. Hingley

HAMPERS!

Our hampers are looking fabulous. If you qualify for these, you do have the option to collect them every week, or every two weeks. Please note that the two week hampers are very big and you will need to bring spare bags! Again, if your situation has changed, or if you decide you want to now take up the offer of a hamper, please contact our school office.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception

Ruwaayd for always being ready to learn in lessons and always trying his best with his learning, in particular his phonics, you're a star!

Year 1

Yasmin for joining all of your live inputs enthusiastically, especially our PSHE Wellbeing sessions where she did fabulous rainbow breathing exercises.

Year 2

Kyle Monk for his excellent coat of arms design and detailed written work. Well done Kyle!

Year 3

Finley for his excellent drawings in art this week and his commitment and hard work towards all of his home learning. Well done!

Year 4

Zara for her excellent approach to learning as always, and fantastic math's and writing –well done!

Year 5

Nameera for displaying resilience in Math's as well as making valuable contributions during discussions. Well done!

Year 6

Zara Ahsan for always working hard, delivering work of a very high quality and for having a positive attitude towards online learning.

MESSAGES FROM THE CLASS TEACHERS!

RECEPTION

This week in Reception we have been trying to catch and explore stars in the night sky. The children have had their first week of live sessions and we have had a great turn out, all the children who are present are on time and ready to learn. We have been practising our phonic sounds, reading captions and practising our cursive writing together. In Maths we continue to learn our numbers and have moved from learning up to the number 5 to the number 8 using 10's frames. The children have had a great time making their own stars, learning about the solar system, making star biscuits and doing their very own star hunt at home. The class teachers have loved all the sharing you have been doing with us this week. Well done Reception for adapting well to a new way of learning and thank you to all the parents who are spending the time supporting their children with their learning and during live teaching sessions!

YEAR 1

Year 1 have had a busy week continuing their live remote sessions and watching videos to learn tricky words and new phonics sounds. On Tuesday we dressed in our comfy clothing and learned some breathing techniques to use when feeling sad or angry. We imagined we were bees or rainbows, smelled flowers, blew bubbles and balloons, and all felt very happy after. On Wednesday we were back in our comfy clothes crawling on hands and knees around our rooms pretending to be polar bears. Today's Maths lesson was a great success and most of the children were able to order a random selection of number cards to 20 correctly. Firstly from greatest to smallest and then from smallest to greatest. I was most impressed! This is a game they will continue to play at home. Well done Year 1 Ms Pitman and Mrs Simmons are very proud of you.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been brilliant this week and yet again I am very proud of their efforts and ability to adapt to a new way of learning. In English this week the children have written character descriptions and made quality planning notes to use for writing their own recount of 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. In Maths the children have been doing division using grouping and sharing, they have made good use of bar models; well done for your hard work Year 2! During our 'Towers, tunnels and turrets' Topic lessons this week we have looked at castles from around the world and learnt about the different continents and oceans that make up the world. In Science we have been learning about living things and their habitats, the children made some wonderful and very interesting fact files on different animals. Year 2 has also enjoyed developing their phonics and handwriting skills and it has been super to see some beautiful handwriting uploaded. A busy and brilliant week, well done Year 2.

Mrs Knox

YEAR 3

This week year 3 have created some amazing drawings of fruit for Art and made their own delicious smoothies with a set of written instructions for our topic lesson! We've had a great second week of home learning with some excellent progress being made towards writing our own stories based on 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' next week. I'm so proud of all the hard work that year 3 have been doing and I know they will keep it up to continue producing excellent work and having fun as they do it. Well done year 3!

YEAR 4

This week Year 4 have continued to impress me with their adaptability during online learning. In Maths we have come to the end of our multiplication and division unit so we've been applying our knowledge and skills learnt so far. In English, we have been focusing on writing skills and became 'feature detectives' and found different features in our suspense text. We have been up-levelling our sentences with fronted adverbials and creating interesting sentences from our year 3/4 spellings list. Again, I'd like to say thank you and well done to all of my parents for doing a super job and powering on through our minor technical troubles, you're all superstars!

Please do have a rest this weekend everyone, you deserve it! Miss Peters



YEAR 5

The children have had a very enjoyable and successful week of online learning. In Literacy they have completed their descriptions of Michael, one of the main characters as well as the setting in Skellig. They have also 'stepped' into the shoes of Michael via hot-seating of him and the range of feelings he has experienced as the story progresses. In maths, they have just completed multiplication and division, and have solved problems involving that topic. As a class in PSHE, we have had meaningful discussions on our 'Well-being,' the children were able to express themselves very eloquently as to how they are feeling about the current situation. I was very much impressed with what they had to say. Being able to talk and express their feelings is of paramount

importance in their development and going forwards. Finally, in Topic, the children have really 'thrown' themselves into their projects and have done themselves very proud. Super work, guys. I really liked the mini beast hotels, also the many drawings of a butterfly as well as a bug's eye plan of your bedroom. Keep up the good work and have a great weekend. Stay safe!!

YEAR 6

Well done Year 6, I have to thank all of you for another positive week of online learning. You keep amazing me with your perseverance, honesty, kindness and determination to succeed during all our live online lessons. This week Year 6 have learned about the Human Circulatory System. They have also started an investigation on how exercise affects the heart rate and will be recording their observations in a table. They have created wonderful pieces of art in the Heart Art Project and have used sketching and drawing skills to draw the heart.

ALSO THIS WEEK...

Maths-Whizz

Congratulations to **Year 1** who have made 3.4 progressions this week – you are legends!
Year 3 have made 2.4 and **Year 2** 1.9 Well done!

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

Year 1: Aarib, Wera, Hashim
Year 2: Abu, Niana, Sareena
Year 3: Nicholas, Fredrik, Kira
Year 4: Olivia, De'Shawn, Methuli
Year 5: Humayl, Nameera, Ecrin,
Year 6: Kenzie, Ali

This week at the top of the leader board for each class are:

Year 3: Aaron
Year 4: Amana
Year 5: Araiz
Year 6: Ali

<https://ttrockstars.com/>



Battle Of The Bands



6TH JANUARY - 15TH JANUARY

1	Year 3 Boys	636
2	Year 3 Girls	159
1	Year 4 Boys	3,324
2	Year 4 Girls	1,711
1	Year 5 Boys	2,624
2	Year 5 Girls	1,420
1	Year 6 Boys	1,625
2	Year 6 Girls	498

WELLBEING

Welcome to our well-being section of this newsletter. Below are ideas with helpful web links to support your child's well-being while they are at home.

Helping Children sleep during COVID-19

Children are creatures of routine and thrive when they know what time to go to bed and what their routine consists of. A consistent routine will help reduce many anxieties displayed at bedtime. Physical exercise is really important for mental health. Being physically tired can help children drift off for a good night's sleep. Make the most of daily exercise by going for a run, bike ride etc, especially now as they spent most of the time on virtual lesson.

Yoga can be helpful for calming your body down and getting ready for rest at night. Try getting your child to lay down on their back with their legs perpendicular up against a wall. Have them put their arms out to their sides and encourage them to do some deep breathing as they lay like this. If it's possible, have them do this pose in their bed, so it's easier to transition them to lying in bed for sleep. You can also try Yoga during the day with your child.



Below are the yoga links.

For younger children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-BS87NTV5I>

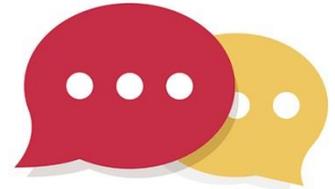
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ImHIWzP49M>

For older children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eJoUIBhLkE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM5MGLMNN_E

Communicate any concerns with school. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's emotional behaviour or well-being, then please let school know. There will be things that we can do to help and support you.



Mrs Machingauta