

# HANNAH BALL SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 3RD FEBRUARY 2023



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Headeacher: Mr N Hingley

## Message from Mr Hingley

This week saw the first teachers strike. There are a total of 6 more planned for England over the coming months, not all of which will affect us. I realise that this was an inconvenience to many of our parents and I am hopeful that the dispute will be able to be resolved before further action is taken.

A great many people in our country are finding it hard to make ends meet at the moment. Everything is becoming much more expensive. These price increases, as you know, are driven by a combination of factors. Both oil and gas have been in greater demand as life gets back to normal after COVID and the war in Ukraine means that less was available from Russia. Some of us are finding these price increases harder to cope with than others.

Please remember that we will try to help you in any way we can. Please come in and talk to us if you need help. We have a wide range of support available to us in Buckinghamshire, and we can help to signpost you to services that you may not already know about.. Some of the things that we already do within school are:

- Make food parcel referrals
- Refer families to clothing (including school uniform) support
- Provide free bagels in school for breakfast
- Breakfast club places for selected families
- Liaise with Buckinghamshire transport services on your behalf
- Sponsor club attendance
- Assistance with trip costs
- Provide fruit snacks (beyond the Key Stage 1 allocations)
- We hold pre-loved uniform sales regularly
- Our uniform is affordable and we don't insist on branded items

This list is not exhaustive so please do come and talk to us if you need further guidance.

On Wednesday and Thursday we had teams of people on site (including your children!) helping us to develop our Forest School provision. This is an exciting project that our pupils have designed themselves. The latest phase of the project has involved planting native hedgerows, creating paths through the woodland, felling trees to create spaces for an arboretum and developing a meeting area. I will share more information (and hopefully pictures!) next week.

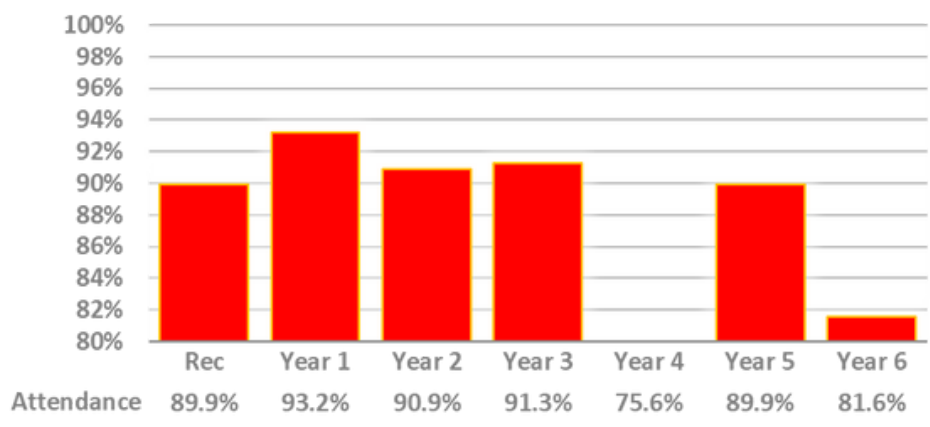
We have one more week next week before our half term holiday. Please make sure that you book appointments for the parents evenings on Tuesday and on Thursday. It will be lovely to see you there and to celebrate the successes that your children are having. This is an important time, and one in which you will receive key information to help you to support your children and be clear about their next steps. Our governors will also be on hand to answer any questions that you may have about our intended academisation.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

**Attendance – information for parents**

**In the event that your child is unwell, we ask that you contact the school to let us know. To notify us of your child's absence, please use the email address: [office@hannahball.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@hannahball.bucks.sch.uk) or phone the school office on 01494 522476 giving your child's name and class and the reason for absence. This email address is monitored by Mrs Sullivan who deals with daily attendance matters.**

**Thank you.**



Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a school, we are very excited to announce that we have subscribed to a new online learning platform for Maths called 'Mathletics'.

Mathletics is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online learning resource, which is aligned to curriculum standards and follows the maths scheme we use. Your child has access to Mathletics – they simply sign in with their username and password using any compatible computer or mobile device.

The extra Mathletics practice at home can make all the difference to your child's progress. Encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn a certificate, building through bronze, silver and gold across the school year. Go for gold!

Each week, your child's teacher will set work on the 'To do' section which should be completed as their maths homework task. They are awarded points for every correct answer they give in Mathletics curriculum activities and Live Mathletics. The student's weekly point score is displayed at the top of the student console so they can keep track. When a student has earned 1000 points in a single week, they are awarded a certificate, which we will be awarding in our Friday celebration assemblies.

The children have already been introduced to Mathletics in a launch lesson this week and are all extremely excited to have access at home. We can't wait to begin awarding certificates next Friday and to see which children in each class can earn the most points!

There is more information about Mathletics in the parent guide which will be sent out on Monday along with login details. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Thank You,  
Miss Mehdi

# February Half Term

Monday 13 - Saturday 18 February 2023

Discover how your amazing brain works with our family fun activities this February Half Term. Take part in brain baffling optical illusions and find out how different brains work through interactive experiences.

Discover more at [discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org)  
or scan the QR code



## **B** Discover Bucks Museum

### **Monday 13 February**

My Hero Optical Illusion Valentines card

10am - 3pm

Bucks Heroes Drawing workshop for children aged 9+

10am-11.30am or 11.45am-1.15pm

### **Tuesday 14 February**

Optical illusion thaumatropes and decotropes

10am - 3pm

### **Wednesday 15 February**

Colourful kaleidoscopes

10am - 3pm

### **Thursday 16 February**

Quiet Books - £5

10am, 12pm and 2pm

Autism Reality Experience

10am - 4pm

### **Friday 17 February**

Museum object memory game

10am - 3pm

Dementia Experience - FREE

10am - 4pm

### **Saturday 18 February**

Family museum finds handling

FREE

10am - 4pm

Share photos of your day using #DiscoverBucks and don't forget to tag us!

### **Booking Details - booking essential**

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org).

Unless stated each activity costs £2.50 per participant and is suitable for years 3+ with some parent/ carer support.

Make a day of it and why not visit the **Roald Dahl Children's Gallery** while you're here. It's open Monday 13 - Saturday 18 February, 10am - 4pm.

# Star of the Week



## RECEPTION

**Umar - for being a real star at tidy up time and helping to put the toys away. Well done Umar!**

## YEAR ONE

**Paige - Who has done really well with her homework and worked hard on her spellings. Well done Paige!**

## YEAR TWO

**Emanuelly for writing a fantastic story in English and consistently working hard in Maths**

## YEAR THREE

**Eisa- for his writing in English about the stone age boy, he was very focused and worked hard using all the correct punctuation & spellings. He showed great attitude towards learning and showed resilience by never giving up.**

## YEAR FOUR

**Zohair - for trying hard in English to come up with relevant words to describe a character's thoughts and feelings.**

## YEAR FIVE

**Zainab: For an excellent attitude to writing a mystery and suspense story.**

## YEAR SIX

**Isha for her effort, determination and resilience during assessment week.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

### RECEPTION

The Reception children have enjoyed learning about space this week and they have been role playing a 'space station' in class. We read the book called "How to catch a star" by Oliver Jeffers and acted out the story using a story map. The children made rockets using a variety of different materials and were very proud of their creations. They have been put on display in the hall for the children and visitors to admire, along with some fantastic writing. Well done Reception – you have been very busy learners. Please remember to sign your child's planner after listening to your child read.

### YEAR ONE

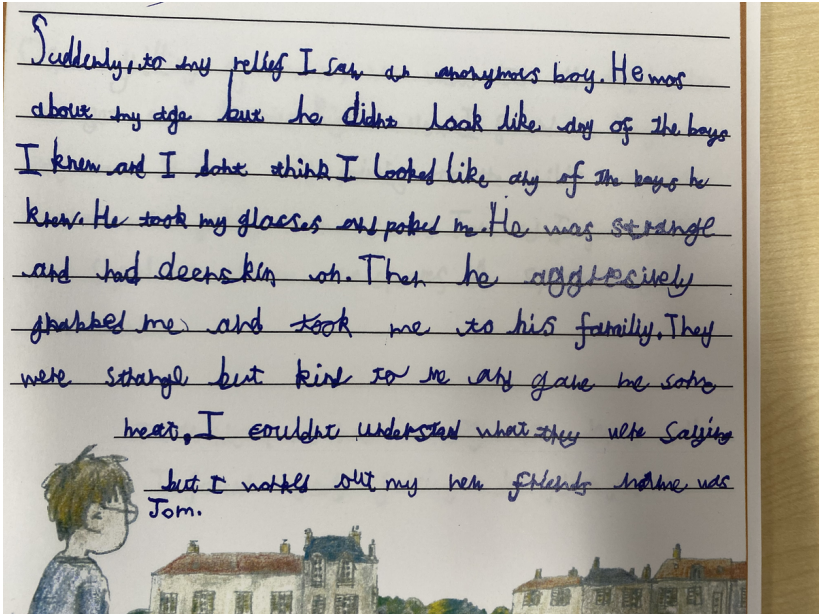
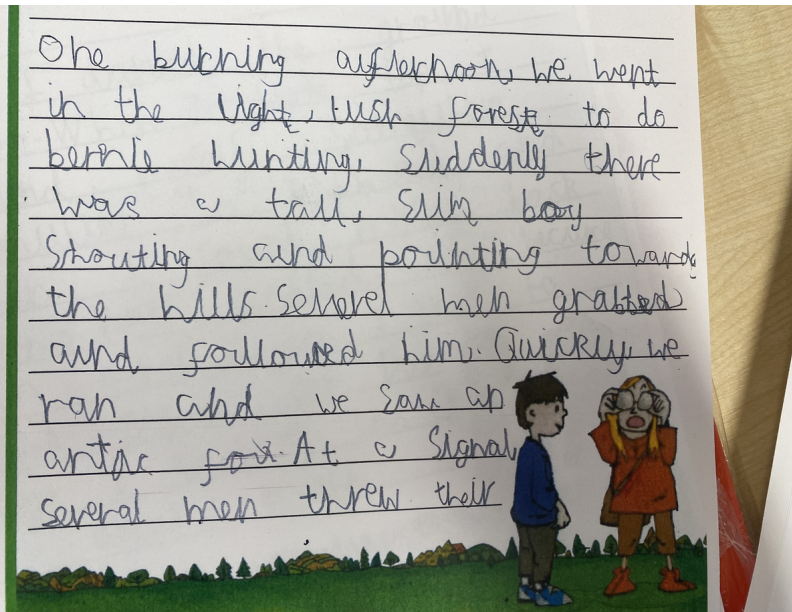
This week we have been consolidating our learning with our numbers to 20. In DT this afternoon we will be starting work on our animal enclosures which we have been looking at in Science and writing about in English.

### YEAR TWO

This week in Year 2 the children have been writing and publishing their innovated stories in English. They wrote brilliant stories and I have been really enjoying reading them! Towards the end of the week, we looked through photographs of our trip to Windsor Castle and discussed what we had learnt while we were there. The children remembered lots of interesting facts and used these to write a fact file all about Windsor Castle. In Maths we continued our topic about money by learning to compare amounts and to calculate with money. The children are now using their knowledge from our Addition and Subtraction topic to solve problems with money. In Science the children learnt about the importance of personal hygiene in order to have a healthy lifestyle. They carried out an experiment using glitter on their hands (pretending that it was germs) and they had to see what the most effective way of removing it was. First they used just a tissue, then they used just water and finally they used soap and water. The children found out that using soap and water was the most effective way to remove germs from your hands.

## YEAR THREE

Y3 have been very busy writing their stone age adventure stories, please have a look at some of their extracts below.



## YEAR FOUR

This week in year 4, we have moved onto our new text in English which is looking at a diary entry from a Pilgrim's point of view. The children have been learning about how the Pilgrim travelled to

America and became friends with the Natives.

They also found out that this is where the celebration of 'thanksgiving' originates from. In Science, we have been learning all about hope to classify animals. To begin with, to understand

the concept of classification, we classified some 'liquorice all sorts' sweets. This allowed the class to understand the concept of classifying and sorting things in a variety of ways. The children really enjoyed this, as well as tasting a few along the way! In Maths we have been learning how to divide 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1-digit. Year 4 found this very tricky, so please keep practicing at home. Well done year 4 for a great week. Have a wonderful weekend.

## YEAR FIVE

This week, Year 5 have been writing mystery and suspense stories during English. They have started to publish their pieces of work and some will be on display in our classroom and in the main hall.

We have started to use Mathletics throughout the school and your children had their first session today. We have set maths homework to do using mathletics for this week. (Your child has their password and this was put at the back of their planner today)

In art, we have been learning to use different ways of shading using our topic theme – Beast Creator – and insects as inspiration. Here is an example – By Fredrik.

Finally, thank you to those that supported NSPCC today. There were so many Staff and Children that came to school dressed in numbers.

Homework: Mathletics, Spellings (we are a week behind so continue to learn last weeks word list) and a comprehension Sheet.

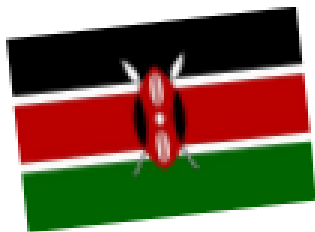


## YEAR SIX

This week, year 6 have been working really hard on completing our spring term 1 assessments. They have all tried their best and should be extremely proud of themselves.

In science this week, year 6 have been looking at the concept of inheritance and completed an activity based on Mr Men characters! We considered the traits that offspring may inherit from their parents and learnt about the difference between inherited characteristics and environmental characteristics. In art this week, we have been sketching to design our very own dragon eyes which we will be making out of clay next week. Year 6 have also been introduced to the exciting new online learning platform 'Mathletics' where many of them have already earned more than 1000 points! An excellent week year 6, well done!





**Year 2 Kenya Day**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

*Year 2 really enjoyed Kenya Day. They learnt an African dance routine, baked traditional Kenyan cupcakes, made clay pots and painted a Kenyan picture. Here are the highlights of our day.*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Who?
<b>February 2023</b>		
Mon 6th February	School nurses – Height & Weight Checks	Reception
Tues 7th February	Parents Evening 3:30-5pm	Whole School
Thurs 9th February	Parents Evening 5pm-8pm	Whole School
Friday 10th February	Police & Lawyer Visit	Year 5 & 6
Fri 10th February	End of half term (Normal finish time)	Whole School
Mon 20th February	Start of half term – School Opens	Whole School
<b>March 2023</b>		
Fri 31st March	End of Spring Term (Normal finish time)	Whole School
<b>April 2023</b>		
Mon 17th April	INSET DAY – School closed	Whole School
Tues 18th April	Start of Summer term – School Opens	Whole School
<b>May 2023</b>		
Monday 1st May	May Bank Holiday	Whole School
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation	Whole School
Mon 8th – Thur 11th May	SATS WEEK	Year 6
Fri 26th May	End of half term (Normal finish time)	Whole School
<b>June 2023</b>		
Mon 5th June	INSET DAY – School Closed	Whole School
Tues 6th June	Start of half term – School Opens	Whole School
<b>July 2023</b>		
Tues 4th July	Transition day	Whole School
Wed 5th July	Transition day	Whole School
Fri 21st July	End of Summer Term (Timings tbc)	Whole School
<b>September 2023</b>		
Mon 4th September	Start of Autumn Term (tbc)	Whole School