



Hannah Ball Academy

March 2026 Newsletter



From The Principal's Desk

As we come to the end of this term, I am delighted to celebrate the wonderful progress our pupils have made across all areas of learning. Today's assembly was a special occasion where we awarded children for their outstanding attainment across the curriculum as well as for exemplifying our school values. Those who demonstrated exceptional commitment and character were honoured with the Principal's Award—recognising not only academic success but also the positive attitudes that make Hannah Ball Academy such a special place.

Our wider curriculum continues to thrive, with sporting competitions, educational trips, and clubs remaining highlights for our pupils. These enriching experiences play a vital role in developing confidence, teamwork, and a love for learning beyond the classroom.

We warmly encourage all parents to sign up for the upcoming Parents' Evenings on the 14th and 16th of April. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress in the recent Spring assessments and to receive guidance on how you can support their learning journey at home.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. We look forward to continuing our work together in the Summer Term to help every child flourish.

Keystage 2 Attendance Incentive Outing

On Tuesday 24th March, I was delighted to take 65 Key Stage 2 pupils to watch *Wicked* at High Wycombe Cineworld as a special attendance incentive. The children thoroughly enjoyed both the movie and the treat, making it a memorable experience for all involved.

We encourage all our pupils to strive for excellent attendance next term, as we have another exciting treat planned for those who achieve this goal. Regular attendance is key to success, and we look forward to celebrating more achievements together.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break and to our families celebrating Easter, we wish you a Happy Easter!

Mrs. L Machingauta
Principal

Dates for your Diaries

Monday 13th April - Inset Day

Tuesday 14th April - Summer 1 Term Starts
- All pupils back to school

Tuesday 14th April - Parents' Evening
5:00-8:00pm

Thursday 16th April - Parents' Evening
3:30-5:30pm

Thursday 16th April - Year 6 Netball at St Johns School

Thursday 23rd April - Year 6 Netball vs Kingswood School

Friday 24rd April - Reception Trip to Odds Farm

Thursday 30th April - Year 6 Netball at Widmer End Community

Friday 1st May - Year 4 Trip to Ashmolean Museum

Thursday 4th May - Spring Bank - School Closed

Wednesday 6th May - Year 6 Netball at Holmer Green

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
Year 6 SATs Exams

Friday 22nd May - Last Day of Summer 1 Term

Monday 1st June - Inset Day

Tuesday 2nd June - Summer 2 Term starts
- All pupils back to school



Hannah Ball Academy



We have had a staggering 140 children achieve their March wow badges today! March has been the largest amount of children that have walked, cycled or scooted to school this academic year. Fantastic work everyone! Keep this up for the summer term!



Please take part in the Travel to school survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentWOW>



The Park Federation Young Musicians

On Wednesday 13th March 2026, Hannah Ball Academy's choir and drumming club proudly took part in the Park Federation Young Musicians



The Park Federation Football Tournament - March 2026

On Thursday 26th March, our Year 6 boys and girls football teams proudly represented Hannah Ball Academy at The Park Federation Football Tournament held at Slough Town Football Stadium. Competing against eight other schools, our pupils demonstrated outstanding resilience and teamwork throughout the event.

Both teams showed great determination, supporting one another on and off the pitch, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship and collaboration. Their commitment and positive attitude made us incredibly proud and highlighted the strength of our wider curriculum in fostering confidence and character.

Well done to all the players for their fantastic effort and for representing our school with such pride. We look forward to many more sporting successes in the future!

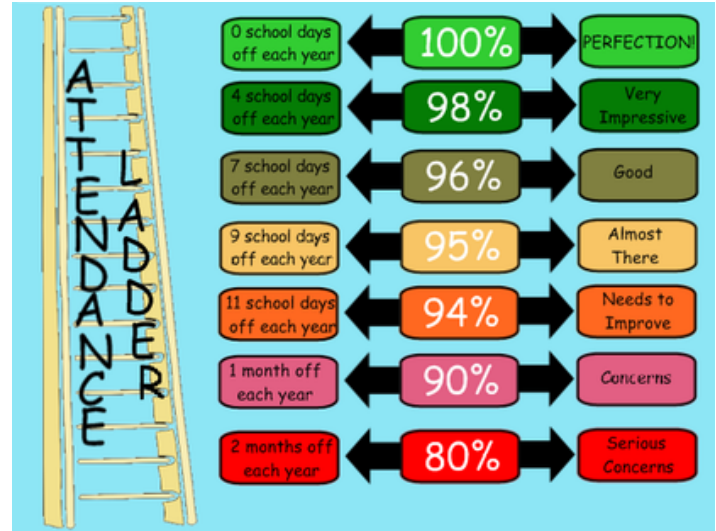




Wellbeing & Attendance

Educational Neglect

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and overall well-being. Every child has a fundamental right to an education, which serves as the foundation for their future opportunities and personal development. Consistent attendance ensures that your child fully benefits from the learning experiences and social interactions that school provides. On the other hand, poor attendance can severely hinder their progress, leading to gaps in learning, diminished confidence, and social isolation. In some cases, chronic absenteeism may be considered educational neglect, as it deprives a child of their right to an education and the essential skills needed to thrive in life. By prioritising attendance, you are actively supporting your child's right to learn and succeed, setting them on a path toward a brighter future. Where is your son/daughter currently on the attendance ladder?



Safeguarding

Online Bullying

Bullying is a serious issue, and technology can make it easier for harmful behaviour to happen. In school we teach children what online bullying looks like, how it affects people, and why it is never the victim's fault. They learn how to recognise unkind behaviour, respond safely, and seek help from trusted adults or reporting services. As they progress, children explore issues such as "banter" that goes too far, the differences between online and offline bullying, and how to report or capture evidence. By the end of primary school, they are equipped with practical tools to help them deal with online bullying and offer support to others.

Hannah Ball's Attendance League

September - March 2026

- Year 6 - 95%
 - Year 5 - 94%
 - Year 3 - 93%
 - Year 4 - 92%
 - Year 1 - 92%
 - Year 2 - 91%
 - Reception - 89%
- Well done to Year 6.



Ways to Support Your Child at Home

- Talk openly about kindness online – Discuss how words, images, or videos shared online can affect others, even if they seem like a joke.
- Explain what bullying is – Make sure your child knows that bullying is repeated, intentional, and hurtful behaviour, and that anyone who experiences it is not to blame.
- Model respectful behaviour - Show how you interact positively online and explain why treating others with respect matters.
- Show them where to get help – Remind children they can always talk to you or another trusted adult. Share support services such as Childline and The Mix and explain that reporting bullying is a positive step.
- Encourage empathy – Ask your child how they think someone might feel if they were left out, teased, or targeted online.
- Teach safe responses – Encourage your child not to reply to bullying messages and to block or mute abusive accounts if needed.
- Practise evidence-keeping with older children – Talk about how to take screenshots or save messages if bullying happens, so they can share it with you, their school, or another trusted adult.

Reception Highlights

Well done to all the Reception children for all their hard work in the month of March!

Our first school trip was to the Union Baptist Church. We listened to the Easter story and learnt about how Christians celebrate. The children were able to talk about what they celebrated with their families. The children listened carefully to the story and shared their own experiences.



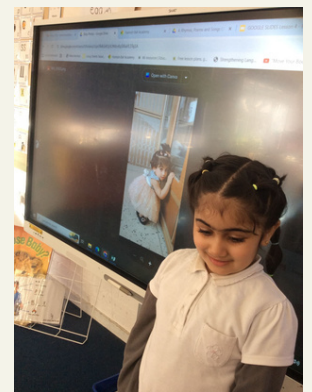
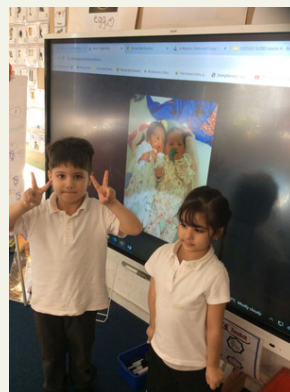
Eid Mubarak to those that celebrated this month! The children made Eid cards for their friends and family. They also enjoyed decorating our role play area and talk spoke about how they celebrated this festival with their family.



In PSHE, we have been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy. We learnt that we have to make choices that help us to have a healthy body and mind. We can make healthy choices about the foods that we eat. The children made a fruit salad and of course enjoyed eating it too!



Thank you to all the grown-ups that have sent in their child's baby photos. The children loved sharing their photos and talking about how we have grown and changed.



The children have been pretending to be the Easter bunny and hiding eggs around the Reception garden. We have been counting the eggs and working as a Team! Well done Jane, she found 11 eggs in the garden.

In Science Week, our focus has been asking questions and being curious learners. We have linked this to our learning about plants and begun to propagate strawberries. We look forward to watching them grow over the coming months.



Year 1 Highlights

A highlight this term was our trip to the Berkshire Aviation museum in Woodley. This was to support our history topic of How did we learn to fly?

The children had a fantastic day out, learning about some of the different model planes that were made since the Wright brother flight in 1903. They learnt about the different materials that planes are made from and the parts of a plane. Their behaviour was impeccable throughout the day. They should be very proud of themselves.



The class were over the moon to be awarded the coveted 100% ATTENDANCE trophy this half term.

This is the second time we have lifted it during the spring term, despite stiff competition from older year groups.

A very well done to the whole class for their efforts in attending school every day each week.

We hope it continues into the summer term. As well as the individual award in assembly for children, we will also give an award to a Year 1 pupil in class on a Friday.



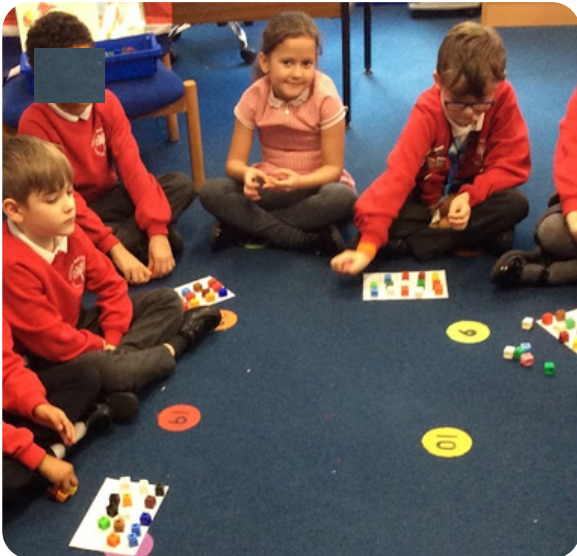
On a Wednesday, the children take part in music, Art/DT and one of their PE lessons for the week. The children really look forward to these lessons as it gives the opportunity to show their creativity, musicality and sportsmanship. We are clearly a class of budding singers, musicians, sports stars and artists.

Year 2 Highlights

Celebrating Reading in Year 2



In Maths, our pupils have been enthusiastically exploring multiplication through the use of arrays—a powerful visual tool that helps them understand the concept of multiplication as repeated addition and the arrangement of objects in rows and columns.



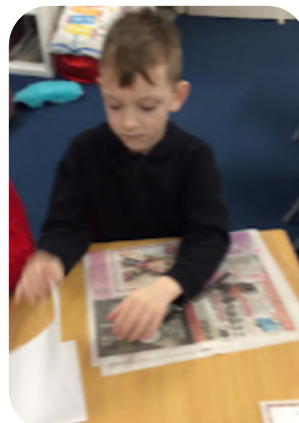
Our Year 2 class has been joyfully celebrating the power of stories and the joy of reading, a vital part of their learning journey. Reading at this stage offers numerous benefits that support children's academic progress, personal development, and lifelong love of learning.

For Year 2 pupils, reading helps build strong foundations in language and literacy. It enhances vocabulary, improves comprehension skills, and encourages fluency and expression. Engaging with stories also sparks imagination and creativity, allowing children to explore new worlds, ideas, and perspectives.

Beyond academic skills, reading nurtures critical thinking and empathy. When children connect with characters and narratives, they develop a better understanding of emotions and social situations, which supports their personal and social growth.

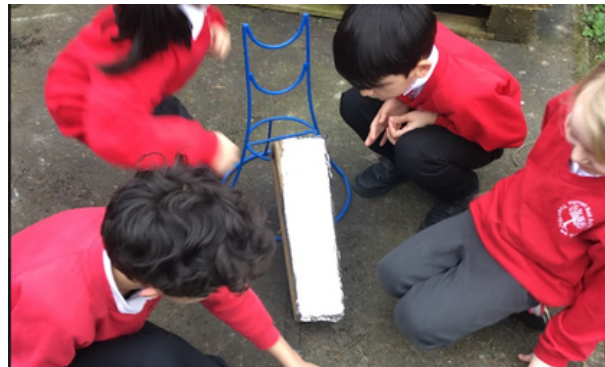
Regular reading also boosts confidence and independence. As pupils become more fluent readers, they gain the confidence to tackle new texts and share their ideas with peers and adults. This confidence extends beyond the classroom, contributing positively to their overall communication skills.

Moreover, celebrating stories together fosters a love of books and a positive attitude towards learning. It encourages children to see reading not just as a school task but as an enjoyable and meaningful activity that can enrich their lives. We are proud of our Year 2 pupils for embracing reading with enthusiasm and look forward to supporting them as they continue to develop these essential skills that will benefit them throughout their education and beyond.



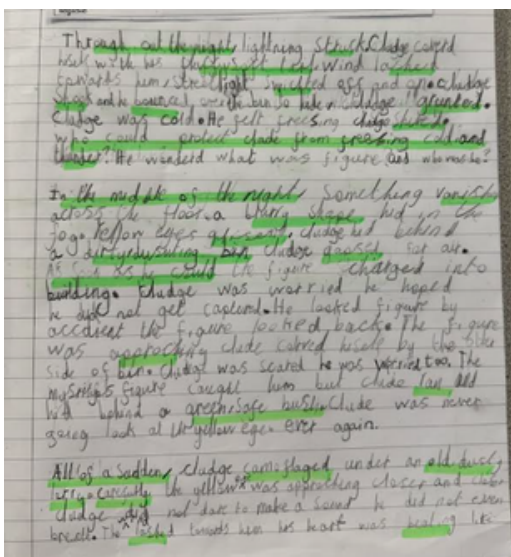
Year 3 Highlights

As we reach the end of this incredibly busy and productive term, I want to take a moment to say how immensely proud I am of every single child in Year 3. It has been a joy to watch their confidence grow whether they were becoming master scientists investigating forces or talented authors weaving suspenseful tales. We now have just one term left of the school year and while it's hard to believe how fast the time is flying, I am so excited for the final adventures we have planned. Thank you for all your continued support at home, it truly makes such a difference to the children's progress and enthusiasm!



It has been a high energy few weeks in Science as Year 3 stepped into the shoes of physicists! We began our journey by "feeling" the invisible, identifying exactly what a force is, whether it's a push, a pull or a twist. The classroom transformed into a laboratory as we explored the mystery of magnets. The children have become experts at identifying North and South poles, predicting with fantastic accuracy whether two magnets will attract or repel.

Our investigations didn't stop there. We've been putting friction to the test by creating mini-highways using various materials. By rolling cars down ramps covered in everything from smooth plastic to bumpy bubble wrap and sandpaper, the children observed firsthand how different surfaces affect speed and distance. It's been wonderful to see their scientific vocabulary grow as they explain why certain materials create more grip than others!



In our English lessons, the atmosphere has been thick with suspense! We have officially started our new unit, Zelda Claw and I have been blown away by the children's engagement. This story is packed with imagination and "edge-of-your-seat" moments which has clearly inspired our young writers.

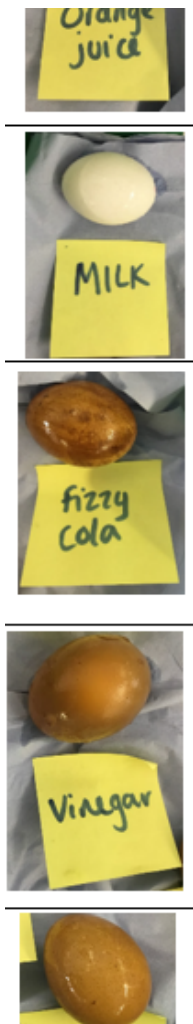
The quality of work being produced is truly exceptional. From spine tingling descriptions to carefully crafted sentences that build tension the children are showing a real flair for storytelling. Ask them about the mystery! They might just give you a sneak peek into the world of Zelda Claw but be prepared for some serious suspense!

Year 4 Highlights

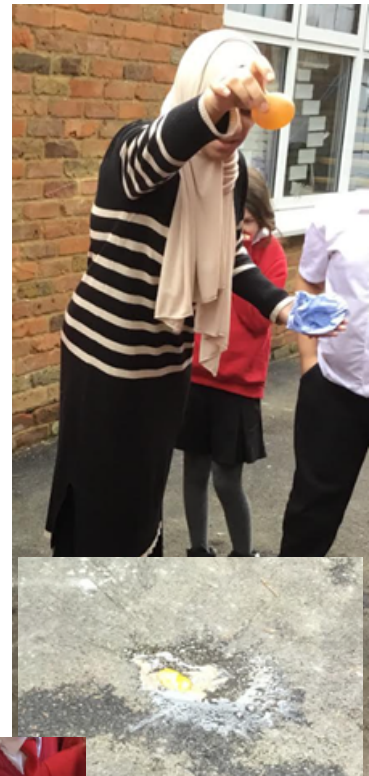
This month Year 4 have celebrated lots of exciting events happening in school, outside of school and in the classroom. Firstly, well done to those that have shown great attendance this month. As a result they enjoyed a wonderful trip to the cinema. Let's see if we can aim for our full class to achieve a special treat next month!

In English, children have been planning and writing a portal story with a focus on action. They came up with their own brilliant ideas in the planning stage which helped them to write their stories.

We have had a great term in Science exploring our digestive system and looking at how to take care of our teeth. We used eggs (the egg shells) to test which liquids affect our teeth and came up with some awesome results! (see pictures attached). Please do ask your children about the experiment and if they are now brushing their teeth for at least 2 minutes a day!



After brushing the shell with toothpaste.



The children were amazed to see that the vinegar completely dissolved the egg shell leaving just the membrane. They were all curious to see if the egg would bounce - it didn't and ended with a big SPLAT on the floor!



It was lovely to see children dressed in their costumes for World Book Day. Our day was filled with reading activities, making bookmarks and their own books. The children really enjoyed taking part in the activities and were given a token to use in a store to claim a free book!

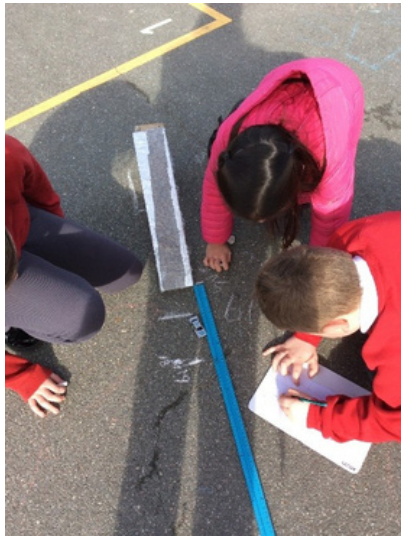
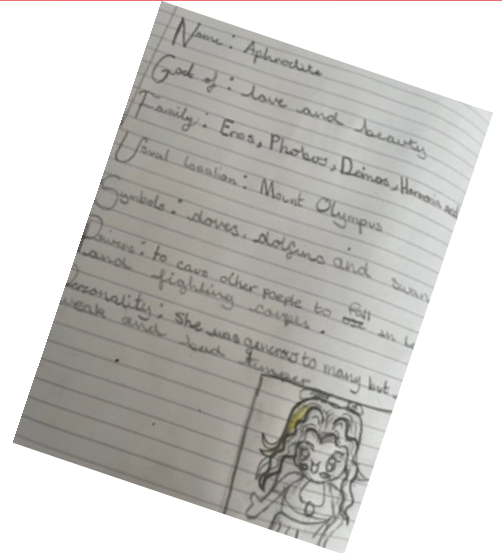
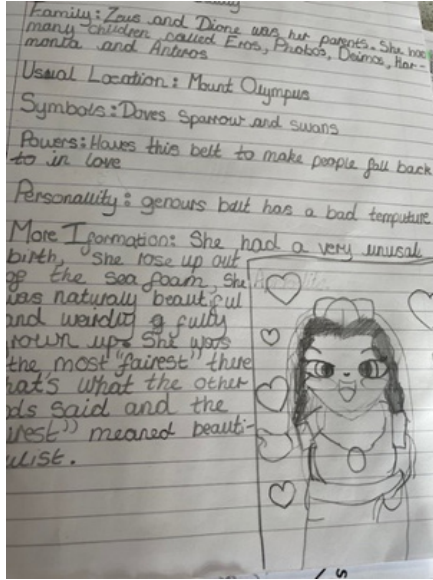


We would like to say well done to all those who have been practicing their timetables and attending the weekly Timestables club. Just a reminder that the national times table test will take place in June (only two months away!). Please keep practicing with your child to ensure they stay consistent in getting 25/25. Thank you.

Please continue to practice on: Maths frame TTRS Timestables.co.uk

Ancient Greece

The children have enjoyed learning more about Ancient Greece and researching their different gods and goddesses. We also have been learning about the origins of philosophy (thinking about big things) and held our own philosophical debate.



Science

Our learning about forces continued with looking at air resistance. We created different sized parachutes and had to time them to see which landed first. After that, we looked at friction, specifically measuring how far a toy car could travel over different surfaces. We found that the car was unable to move far at all on the surface covered in bubble wrap but went the furthest on the fabric lined plank.



PSHE

(Personal, Social & Health Education)

We have been learning about how to stay healthy and this has included learning about the dangers of smoking, vaping and drinking alcohol. We learnt how to put someone in the recovery position and discussed how we can have a better body image.



Year 6 News

A visit to Union Baptist Church

In preparation for the Easter season, we took a meaningful trip to Union Baptist Church. The children explored the traditions and significance of Easter within the church community, providing a fantastic real-world connection to our RE curriculum. It was a wonderful time for questions and community engagement.



Science: Living Things

Is Yeast Alive? Our Science lessons took a microscopic turn as we investigated yeast. The children proved that yeast is a living thing by observing how it respires and grows when provided with sugar and warmth.



Product Packaging: In D&T

We have officially completed our product packaging project! The children worked hard to ensure their designs were eye-catching, functional, and sturdy.



Maths: Geometry in the Great Outdoors

To sharpen our understanding of measurement, the children headed to the playground to measure its perimeter and area. It was a fantastic way to apply classroom geometry to a large-scale, real-world space—and it certainly involved a lot of steps (and chalk)!



We have just completed our final set of benchmarking before the upcoming SATs. I am incredibly moved by the results - the progress the children have made across the board is amazing. Year 6, you have done yourselves proud!

Top 5 Tips for Stress-Free SATs Revision

To help the children feel confident and prepared over the break, here are some simple tips:

1. Little and Often: 20 minutes of focused revision is much more effective than hours of tired effort.
2. Mix it Up: Use a variety of methods—practice papers, online games, and quick-fire mental maths questions.
3. Prioritise Sleep: A well-rested brain remembers information much more easily!
4. Teach Someone Else: Explaining a concept to a parent or sibling is the best way to check you truly understand it.
5. Keep it Positive: Remind yourself of how much progress you have already made. You've got this!

Please Note: As we head into the Easter break, I want to thank the parents for your continued support during this busy term.

Please note that further revision resources will be available on Google Classroom to help your child stay on track. I have prepared printed Holiday Challenge booklets for the children in Grammar, Reading and Maths. I am so impressed by the resilience of this class, and with your continued encouragement, I know they will go into the next term feeling ready and capable!