



HANNAH BALL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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<https://www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk>

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 5th January
2026**
INSET

**Tuesday 6th January
2026**
ALL Pupils back to
school

Friday 9th January
Year 3 Swimming starts

Monday 12th January
Clubs start

**Wednesday 14th
January**
Federation
Dodgeball Tournament

Thursday 15th January
Census Day

Friday 13th February
Last Day of term

**16th February - 20th
February**
Half Term Break

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of a long and incredibly busy autumn term. There has been so much to celebrate over the weeks, and we have seen significant progress and development across the school. Our children are consistently making excellent strides in their learning, and we continue to offer them the broadest curriculum, enriched with a wide range of opportunities to enhance their educational experiences.

Our pupils continue to be outstanding role models for the school, embodying the values we hold dear - respect, kindness, resilience, curiosity, responsibility and they have all worked exceptionally hard and truly deserve a well-earned rest over the holiday period, ready to start the new term in January refreshed and motivated. The Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity performance was inspiring and full of festive cheer. We are incredibly proud of them all and know that you share this pride.

We are also deeply grateful to all the staff who work tirelessly every day to support the children across the school. Their unwavering commitment and passion to improve outcomes for our pupils shine through in all they do. We are truly fortunate to have such a talented and inspiring team supporting and teaching our children. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the families who continue to support the school and their children so generously. Our progress would not be possible without you. We appreciate the feedback from the recent parent survey and will be sending a response in January.

We wish you all a wonderful festive break and look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year. Please note that Monday 5th January is a whole school INSET day, so we will welcome all children back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs Machingauta
Principal

Hannah Ball News



Schoolboy's festive design to land on Prime Minister's desk

Bucks Free Press

School pupil wins Wycombe MP's Christmas card competition

Ilhan from Hannah Ball Academy has been named the winner of MP Emma Reynolds' second annual Christmas card competition. Ms Reynolds said: "Congratulations to Ilhan from Hannah Ball Academy, this year's winner."



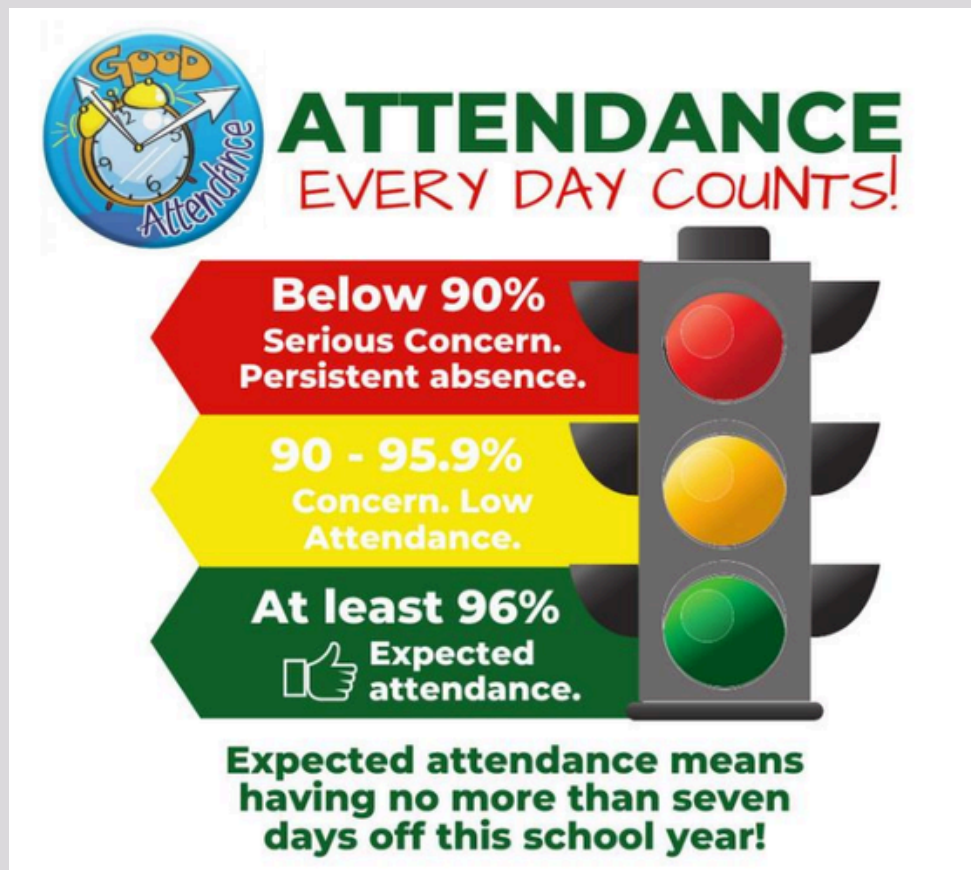
Ilhan's design.

	HBA - ALL	National Average
Reading Expected and Above	89%	75%
Reading Greater Depth	26%	33%
Writing Expected and Above	75%	72%
Writing Greater Depth	19%	13%
Maths Expected and Above	85%	74%
Maths Greater Depth	41%	26%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Expected and Above	93%	73%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Greater Depth	56%	30%
Combined Expected and Above	78%	62%
Combined Greater Depth	7%	8%

Key Stage 2 SATs (Standardised Assessments Tests)

We are pleased to inform you that the Key Stage 2 SATs results for Hannah Ball Academy have now been published by the Department for Education. We are proud to share that our pupils have achieved results above the national average across all assessed areas. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils, staff, and the ongoing support from our families. We remain committed to continuing this positive progress and ensuring every child reaches their full potential.

Attendance - it matters!



Our school attendance target is 98%. The overall attendance so far this year is 92.94%. Thank you to all those families who are working with us to prioritise their child's learning. We appreciate your working with us to achieve the best outcomes for your child. Well done to Year 6, which has the highest attendance this term at 95.74%!

SPOTLIGHT ON TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Parents/carers will be sent a Penalty Notice for taking their children out of school in term time for the purpose of a holiday. All families who take an unauthorised absence of five days or more will receive a Penalty Notice unless the circumstances are considered to be exceptional.

- Payment is payable up to £160 per child, per parent, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- From August 2024, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a threeyear rolling period.
- Any second notice will automatically be charge at £160.
- Any Further Offences (within a three-year rolling period) will be referred straight to the Magistrate Court. This could lead to:
 - o Prosecution under s444 (1) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £1,000
 - o Prosecution under s444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or 12 weeks imprisonment.

We are aware that some families take time off school and call their child in as 'off sick'. If we have reason to believe your child has been away from school due to a family holiday rather than illness, we will write to you and ask for evidence such as medication or a screen print from the GP. We believe that if your child is off school for a week, medical advice should have been sought at some point. If we do not receive this evidence, you may still be liable for a penalty notice.

The Wider Curriculum

Pupils Leaders

Our pupil leaders have a vital role in the life and improvement of our school. They not only meet and wear badges, but they actively shape a positive and supportive environment for everyone!

Our Eco-Warriors have met a few times this term, and have been on a mission to be environmentally friendly by: promoting walking to school, recycling at school, reducing water and food waste and completing an environmental review of the school. Our next aim is to create an action plan!

Our Digital Champions have learnt about looking after the digital devices we have at school and are supporting others in their digital literacy.

Our students are making a real difference and they are learning essential skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Art



These are the winning pieces from our Autumn 1 break Art competition. Well done to Eddie, Hareem and Noah.

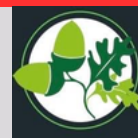


Our Art Ambassadors



The Wider Curriculum

Our Sustainability Strategy



Thank you for completing Cut Your Carbon! Below, you can see the amazing carbon savings that as a community, we have created through the campaign.



Overall Combined Carbon Savings of 150 participants =
1429.4 kgCO₂e



59
people dropped the temperature to 30°C for three washes across the month, resulting in carbon savings of up to:
49 kgCO₂e



63
people dropped their heating by one degree for a week, resulting in carbon savings of up to:
439.1 kgCO₂e

63
people had a device-free-day, resulting in carbon savings of up to:
12.6 kgCO₂e



69
people meal planned to reduce food waste for one week, resulting in carbon savings of up to:
20 kgCO₂e

We would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful parents/carers for your incredible support during our Nativity. It truly was a magical success, and we are so proud of how our Reception children performed.



It was such a joy to see their faces light up as they took part in our songs and dances. Watching them perform with such confidence and big smiles made the event incredibly special for all of us.

Reception Chefs



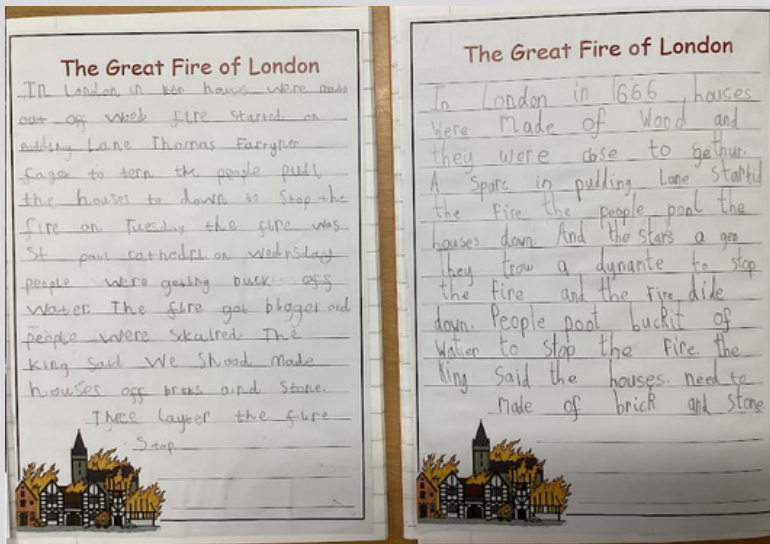
We have had such a wonderful time in class this week as the children became little chefs! There was so much excitement and joy as we worked together to bake our very own gingerbread men. It was lovely to see the children so engaged as they carefully learned each ingredient and proudly recited the instructions together. The classroom smelt absolutely delicious!

Year 1 Highlights



The children did a fantastic performance in our Nativity play! They all worked so hard to bring the story to life, and their enthusiasm and dedication truly shone through. From the beautiful singing to the acting, each of them played their part with confidence and joy, creating a magical experience for everyone who watched. They practiced and worked hard. Well done to each and every one of you for your amazing performances!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London this month. They have acted out the events, taken part in a workshop and have been engrossed in the store in their English and topic lessons. They have showed a wonderful ability to recall the events and explain what happened and why. It has helped them to understand about modern times and why we build houses the way we do now. They wrote some amazing reports!



The children have also enjoyed taking part in science and learning about different materials. Their enthusiasms, focus and love of learning is to be celebrated. We used fabric to design a toy for a child and the children were thoroughly engaged and thoughtful about their work.

Year 2 Highlights

The Nativity Show



Thank You to Our Wonderful Parents and Carers

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our lovely parents and carers for your incredible support during our Nativity performance. It was truly heartwarming to see our children stand confidently as narrators, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm. We hope you enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Your encouragement plays a vital role in helping our pupils develop self-confidence and a love for learning, which aligns perfectly with our vision at Hannah Ball Academy. Together, we inspire, aspire, and achieve!

Our visit to Windsor Castle

After learning about monarchy in our History lessons, the children enjoyed their trip to Windsor Castle. They loved exploring the grounds and asked very insightful questions in our Kings and Queens Workshop.



Year 3 Highlights

In science this term, we have been busy exploring the fascinating world of rocks, soils, and fossils. The children have become experts in identifying the three main types of rock—metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous and understanding the unique ways each one is formed deep within or on the surface of the Earth. To bring this learning to life, we visited the Bucks Museum where the students reinforced their knowledge and discovered plenty of new facts through hands-on exhibits. Back in the classroom, we took on the role of palaeontologists by creating our own fossils using clay!

By using clay for the base, making an imprint as the "bone," and adding sand as our sediment, we simulated how minerals in water eventually turn remains into stone. While we didn't have millions of years to wait for the final result, the children had a wonderful time seeing the process in action and solidifying their understanding of the natural world.

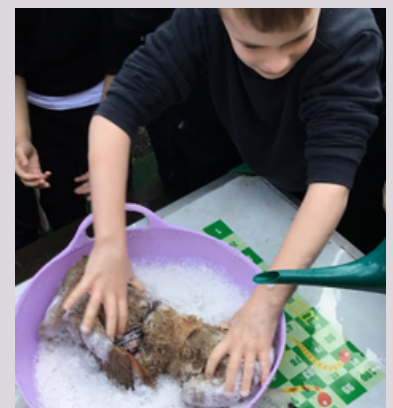
It has been an amazing term with the children filled with memories and lots of learning! Please can parents ensure children are reading daily and please also sign your Childs planner. As Dr. Seuss said; "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."



In our English lessons, we have been diving into the world of instructional writing! We have been using the wonderful book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' to help us understand how to write clear, step-by-step guides.

The children had a great time getting creative and deciding how they would look after an animal of their own at home. Through these activities, we have been learning exactly what makes a good set of instructions, from using imperative verbs to making sure every step is in the right order.

We even cleaned a 'mammoth' to help us understand how direct instructions need to be.



Year 4 Highlights

It has been a wonderful term with lots of learning and achievements. As we draw to the end of term, here is an overview of what we have been learning

In English, Year 4 students have been exploring the world of journalism. Stepping into the role of reporters, they have practiced delivering news to an audience using formal language and the use of subordinating conjunctions to create more complex sentences.



Science - Electricity - In Science, Year 4 have been investigating the practical applications of electricity. Through hands-on circuit experiments, the students explored how different variables affect bulb brightness and tested various materials to identify effective conductors and insulators. To conclude this unit, the children discussed the importance of electrical safety and designed informative posters to share these vital rules.



We would like to say well done to all those who have been practicing their timetables and attending the weekly Timetables club. We are seeing improvements in the weekly MTC results with more students scoring 25/25. Thank you and please keep this up!

YEAR 5 HIGHLIGHTS

December was an exciting month for Year 5 including a trip to The Tower Of London to support our learning on the Tudors; a visit from firefighters from the Wycombe Fire Station and many exciting Science experiments linked to our topic on materials.

Tower of London



Firefighters Visit



Year 6 Highlights

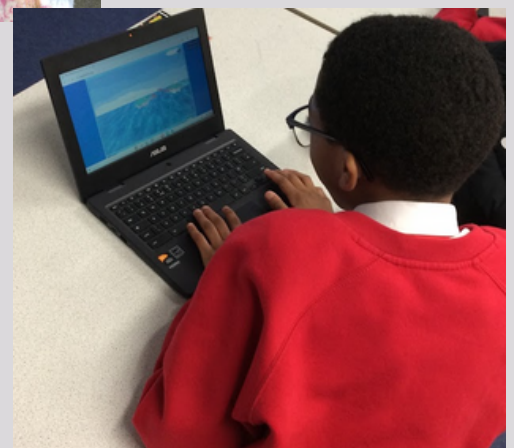
We have been blown away by the incredible Anderson shelters the children have constructed as part of our history learning. The attention to detail—from the corrugated "metal" roofs to the tiny vegetable patches outside—shows just how much the children have immersed themselves in the lives of those during the Blitz. They are currently on display in the school hall and look truly authentic!

A huge well done to the entire class for their focus during our recent practice SATs. We are celebrating some truly amazing scores across the board. More importantly, we are seeing a significant growth in confidence and stamina. It is clear that the hard work from earlier in the term is providing a fantastic foundation for the year ahead.

As we look toward the new year, we are already getting excited about our next D&T packaging project. We will be exploring the journey of Fair Trade cocoa and designing our own sustainable, eye-catching packaging.

This month, we held an engaging session called Digital Defenders alongside a visit by the Thames Valley Police. The children engaged in an interactive game specifically designed to challenge and sharpen their online safety knowledge. It was a brilliant way to discuss digital footprints and staying safe in a virtual world. For those who want to play again or show you what they learned, the link to the game has been added to Google Classroom.

A little holiday activity: I encourage the children to use any free time during the break to look at different types of food packaging at home. Think about the shapes, the materials used (like cardboard or foil), and how brands use logos to tell a story. This "market research" will give them a great head start next term.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger



**National Domestic Abuse Helpline
National helpline 24/7
Tel: 0808 2000 247**

**Childline
National helpline 24/7
Tel: 0800 1111**



Karma Nirvana supports victim-survivors of 'honour'-based abuse and forced marriage.

National helpline, Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Tel: 0800 5999 247



The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) offers advice and support to victim-survivors of forced marriage, as well as guidance to professionals.

Helpline Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Tel: 020 7008 0151

Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk

Sports News

Well done to all those who took part in our Federation Sports Tournaments this term. We are so proud of the children who represented our school at Wood End Park Academy and Western House Academy.

We have shown amazing sportsmanship and have gained some new skills in our new after school Boccia club.



Park Run for adults and Juniors will still be operating over the Christmas period so if you want to get outside and burn off those sprouts, this is a great run event and is free to attend. A free event taking place every Sunday at Wycombe Rye to keep our families fit and active. All you need to do is click the link and register.
<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/wycomberye-juniors>

Wow Travel to School Challenge



This December, we have had **93** children walk, scoot or cycle to school, and they are proudly wearing their December badge! We are really proud of the commitment each child is showing to support our environment, and thank you parents as well, for supporting us with this too!