



HANNAH BALL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 2nd July

KS1 & KS2 Sports Day at
Highcrest Academy

Friday 3rd July

School Visit to Local Library
Year R and Year 2

Friday 3rd July

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip

Monday 6th July

Bikeability training with year 3&4

Tuesday 7th July

Transition Day

Wednesday 8th July

TPFA Athletics Competition -
Year 5 & 6

Friday 10th July

Year 3 Trip to the Library

Friday 10th July

Job Fair - Year 4, 5, 6

Monday 13th July

Bag2School Collection

Tuesday 14th July

EYFS Sports Day

Thursday 16th July

Year 3 & 4 Mosque Trip

Thursday 16th July

Year 6 Production Performance

Friday 17th July

Year 6 Prize Giving Day

Friday 17th July

End of Year Reports out

Friday 17th July

Lark in the Park - Summer Fair

Monday 20th July

Year 6 Production Performance

Wednesday 22nd July

End of Term - 1:30pm

Principal's Update

Welcome to our June edition of Hannah Ball News. It has been a busy month with several statutory assessments taking place. Our Year 1 pupils completed the national Phonics Screening Check and our Year 4 pupils took the national Multiplication Tables Check. We are very proud of how well both year groups performed and of the effort shown by pupils and staff alike.

Thank you for your continued support during this unusually hot spell. We are currently reviewing the long-term value of installing air conditioning across the school. We recognise this would be an expensive project, especially given the limited funding available, but we are clear that the weather should not dictate children's learning. Safeguarding, well-being and academic progress remain our highest priorities, and it is reassuring that the majority of parents share this view.

Celebrating diversity

Earlier this month we held a whole-school Diversity Week. Pupils took part in an assembly and a wide range of classroom activities that celebrated the many cultures, languages and backgrounds represented at Hannah Ball. Our diversity is one of the school's greatest strengths: it enriches learning, widens perspectives and helps every pupil develop respect, curiosity and resilience.

We understand there can be negative stories in the wider community about difference, but here at Hannah Ball we see diversity as something to be valued and celebrated. We encourage parents to talk with their children about the positive examples of diversity and to support the inclusive attitudes we model in school.

Inspiration and aspiration

We were honoured to welcome Nerys Pearce, a paralympic champion to the school via The Great Athlete programme. Her visit was truly inspirational – she spoke about determination, resilience and how difference is not a barrier to success. Pupils were motivated by her message and by seeing a role model who embodies our values of resilience, responsibility and respect. Thank you to the parents and pupils that helped us fundraise for this event.

We sent sponsorship forms with all your children and we are grateful to the 14 pupils that raised £506.37.

Thank you once again for your partnership. Your support helps us ensure every pupil at Hannah Ball is safe, confident and ready to take the next step in their learning.

With best wishes,

Lorraine Machingauta
Principal

Wider Curriculum

WOW Badges



We have had 130 children achieve their June wow badges! Keep walking, cycling or scooting to school everyone! There is 1 month left and 1 more badge to receive. Keep up the good work!

Girls Cricket Trip



On Wednesday, 18th June, 7 girls from our Year 6 class took part in a Dynamo Cricket Tournament at Uxbridge Cricket Club. This proved to be a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their skills. Well done girls for representing your school with such pride.

Attendance League

Year 6 - 94.9%
Year 5 - 94.8%
Year 4 - 93.4%
Year 3 - 93.3%
Year 1 - 92.7%
Year 2 - 92.7%
Year R - 90.1%

Strictly Speaking Competition



Congratulations to our Year 5 Debating Team – Strictly Speaking 2026

Please join us in congratulating our Year 5 debating team who took part in the 2026 “Strictly Speaking” competition. The event brought together Year 5 pupils from across the Park Federation for an engaging and thought-provoking afternoon of debate.

The motion this year was: Should teachers be replaced by AI?

Hannah Ball’s team – Faith, Laila and Aleeza – earned the Bronze Award, finishing 3rd out of 9 schools. The judges praised the girls for presenting “their argument with passion and a spark.” We are incredibly proud of their confidence, clarity and teamwork.

Well done to Faith, Laila and Aleeza – and thank you to the staff who supported them.

Safeguarding Spotlight



Livestreaming

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts video live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.

What are the risks?

What are the risks? There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

- All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.
- For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.
- Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.
- Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
 - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-livestreaming/>
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Reception Highlights

Our focus this half term has been 'Where could my journey take me next?'

Summer is here!

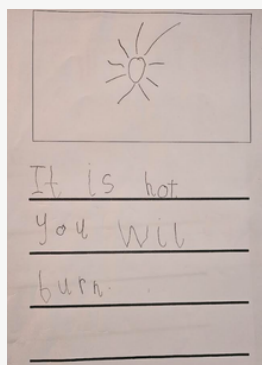
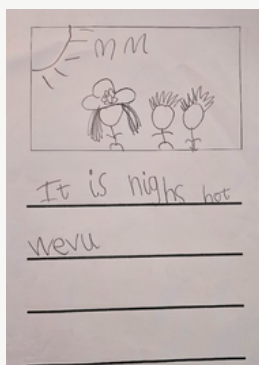
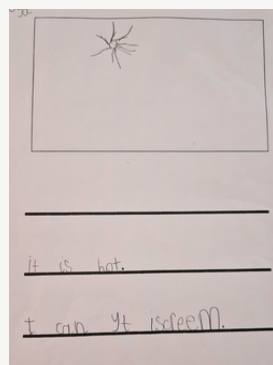
With the arrival of summer, the children discovered apples growing on our Reception garden tree, leading to discussions about how fruit grows in warmer months and its importance to local birds and insects. This interest inspired fantastic hands-on investigations, with the children practising their counting skills and testing whether the apples would float or sink. They have also enjoyed using their imagination in our mud kitchen to make 'apple pies'.



Great Athletics Event

On Tuesday 23rd June, we took part in the Great Athletics event. We learnt about the importance of resilience and hard-work. The children did a fantastic job taking part in the exercises. We also met an amazing athlete called Nerys Pearce who told us her inspirational story.

The heatwave also inspired some lovely writing!

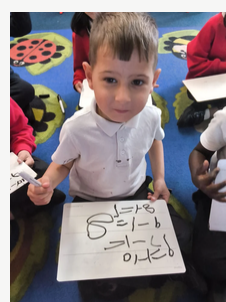


Numerical Patterns

The children have been successfully applying their counting skills to explore and understand more complex numerical patterns. To represent this learning, they have also begun recording their number sentences.

A Royal Event

To mark the King's official birthday, we discussed who the King is, deepening the children's understanding of the world. In our creative area, they designed their own crowns, exploring colour mixing and applying foundational mathematical skills to create beautiful repeated patterns. This theme extended beautifully into the home corner, where the children developed their communication and social skills through role-playing a collaborative royal tea party.



Year 1 Highlights

SUPER SCIENCE



A highlight this month has been our science topic where we have been learning about plants. Children were able to observe, draw and label real plants which helped to bring lessons in the classroom to life. Children also planted seeds of edible plants and will observe them over the coming weeks. They may even be able to eat some of what is produced. We will also be investigating the plants that grow in the local environment, which will support children's understanding of plant life further. They have thoroughly enjoyed their outdoor learning this month.

In maths we have been learning about measures including measuring height, length, capacity and weight. Children were able to use tools to measure such as rulers, scales and measuring jugs. It was wonderful to see them working carefully together so that their measurements were accurate. There were many new words to learn throughout these lessons but they all showed great focus and ability to remember and use the correct vocabulary.



In both topic and maths we are focusing on dinosaurs. Children worked brilliantly in groups and carried out research on some of the most memorable dinosaurs. They are preparing to present this to each other, and are so excited to find out what others have discovered.

In English we are studying the tale of The Little Green Dinosaur and are building up skills to help write our own tale. They have thoroughly enjoyed creating actions to support remembering the story by heart.



Year 2 Highlights

How school has changed: pupils reflect on life in the past and why today's school is better

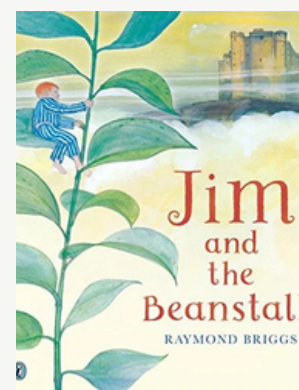


This term we explored how school life has changed over time. It was fascinating to discover the differences within living memory – from lessons and classrooms to playtimes and school rules. By comparing and contrasting past and present, pupils concluded that we are very fortunate to learn in the welcoming, well-equipped schools we have today and would not want to return to the old ways.



Twisted tales: comparing Jim-a and the Beanstalk and creating new story endings

This term in reading and writing we have been exploring Jim-a and the Beanstalk – a fresh twist on the traditional Jack and the Beanstalk tale. Pupils compared and contrasted the two stories, identifying similarities and differences in plot, characters and setting. In writing lessons they have practised using descriptive vocabulary to bring characters and places to life and experimented with alternative story openings and endings.



Growing scientists: investigating seeds, bulbs and plant care

This term in science we have been exploring seeds, bulbs and plants. Pupils have learned what plants need to germinate and grow – including water, light, space and the right temperature – and how to care for them. As part of our investigations, each class planted bean seeds and are observing them closely, recording changes as the seeds germinate and the seedlings develop. These hands-on activities are helping pupils build scientific vocabulary, make careful observations and understand how living things depend on their environment.



Year 3 Highlights

In science this term, we have been learning all about plants and what they need to function. We discovered the clever way that water transports all the way through a plant to keep it alive. Specifically, we learned that water gets absorbed from the soil by the roots, travels up through the stem, and moves all the way to the top to feed the flower.



Well done, Year 3! You have all tried so incredibly hard this year, and I am so proud of how much you've grown and learned. I am so excited for our last couple of weeks together—let's have lots of fun and finish the school year on a massive high!



We also had a very special guest named Nerys Pearce come to visit us at school. She shared her incredibly inspirational story about her life journey, the challenges she has faced, and exactly what it took for her to get to where she is today. Her powerful words taught us all about resilience and never giving up, no matter what obstacles are in our way. Before listening to her speak, we all took part in an exciting fitness challenge right here at school. It was an absolute blast that got our hearts racing and we had so much fun pushing ourselves to our limits just like true athletes.



Year 4 Highlights

A huge congratulations to year 4 for achieving excellent results in their official Multiplication Timetables Check! We are all incredibly proud of you. All their hard work and dedication over the past few months has paid off!

Science



In Science year 4 have been brilliant scientists this term, exploring the fascinating world of sound! We discovered how different instruments create unique vibrations and how these vibrations travel through different mediums (solids, liquids, and gases) to reach our ears. We even made cup-and-string telephones to prove that sound travels much faster through a solid than through the air! Fantastic work, everyone!

An inspirational morning with Nerys Pearce!



We had a truly inspirational morning with the phenomenal Nerys Pearce, who taught the whole school a powerful lesson in resilience. Through a fun, high-energy exercise session, she showed us the value of self-discipline and pushing forward toward our goals, no matter the obstacles. Thank you, Nerys, for motivating us all!

Year 5 Highlights



Garsington Opera

We were very privileged this month to be part of Opera First, a programme that aims to introduce the world of opera to students. As part of this, we had an amazing in-school workshop learning all about the opera *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* – the story of Ulisse by Homer. We acted and sang with professional opera singers to familiarise ourselves with the story. Then, a week later, we watched a performance of the opera at Garsington Opera, joining in with some of the singing. What a fantastic time we had!



Great Athletes

On the same day, we met Nerys Pearce, a Paralympic athlete who shared her incredible story of resilience in the face of challenge. We learnt about how she pushed through in her learning and then in her career as a medic in the Army. She inspired us with how she didn't give up when she became paralysed as a result of a motorcycle accident. In fact, she went on to set nine World Records. We also took part in exercises to raise money for sports equipment for the school. It was a great morning!



Year 6 Highlights

What a productive month of June we have had in Year 6! With the end of the school year fast approaching, the children are throwing themselves into every activity with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Here is a look at what we have been up to:

Writing Moderation Success

We kicked off the month with our official writing moderation, and I am absolutely thrilled to share that we received amazing feedback. The moderators were incredibly impressed by the children's beautiful writing pieces collected throughout the year. This success is a true testament to their hard work, stamina, and creativity. Well done, Year 6.

Swimming

Our swimming sessions are well underway, and the progress has been fantastic. A special mention must go to the children for showing such great resilience over the weeks. We have moved from learning how to safely support a peer during Water Safety Week to swimming sustained distances without resting on the floor.

Production Rehearsals

The countdown to our end-of-year production is on! Rehearsals have officially begun, and I want to say a huge well done to the children who have already learnt their lines by heart. They have taken a huge liking to our show tunes, and the classroom has been filled with singing. Parents, I hope you are ready for a real treat - you are going to be blown away.

Summer Events Preparation

We are busy prepping for two massive events on the school calendar. The children have started designing their exciting stalls for Lark in the Park, as well as creating vibrant, eye-catching posters for our upcoming Federation Athletics Day and Sports Day.

🔑 Key Reminders for Home:

Script Practice: Please continue to help your child rehearse their lines as much as possible at home so they feel confident on stage.

Lark in the Park: Kindly ensure all resources and materials needed for your child's stall are gathered and ready to bring in for July 17th.



Have you tried these places in and around High Wycombe with your child?

Click on the place and it will take you to their website.



Jungle Mania
Bourne End

Bojangles Creative
Cafe



Omniplex Cinema