



# Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

## Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to welcome all of our amazing children back to school this week. They have returned refreshed and with amazing attitudes to their learning. Despite the freezing and wet weather for most of the week, the children have shown just why we love them so much – I can already tell that this term is going to a fabulous one.

### Owls:

We have made a fantastic start to the year 2026! The class has been working hard to finish writing our fantasy stories and has begun predicting what our next story might be about. In Maths, we are tackling some of the trickiest concepts of the year, learning to divide with and without renaming. In Computing, we have started our new programming topic using ScratchJr, while in Spanish we are exploring our new topic *El Invierno*, learning about clothes and parts of the body. We are also thoroughly enjoying our new History topic on the Stone Age. We are really looking forward to all the great learning ahead this half term!

### Peregrines:

Peregrines have come back after the Christmas break with an eagerness to build on the great start they had during the Autumn term. They have already produced some excellent preposition poems during English with a focus on accuracy and presentation. They also started looking at their new Art topic which is linked to the Sutton Hoo Helmet. The class did some excellent sketches of the helmet and found out some interesting facts too. With another busy term ahead, I am excited to see the progress they make.

### Buzzards:

It's been such a lovely first week back in Buzzard class. Tuesday was filled with sharing holiday news, a rather long playtime in the snow (got to make the most of it!) and looking forward to the year ahead. Buzzards spent Tuesday creating vision boards filled with pictures, words and positive affirmations to represent their hopes, goals and dreams for 2026.

On Wednesday, we had some very exciting and intriguing objects arrive in our classroom including a pair of old looking binoculars, an old-fashioned pocket sundial and a sledgehammer. We used the objects, as well as some other clues to make predictions about our English text for the half term. Special mention to George, whose prediction was spot on - our text is all about Shackleton and his famous expedition to the Antarctic! In other news, we've begun daily practise of our arithmetic skills, we've started our unit on decimals in

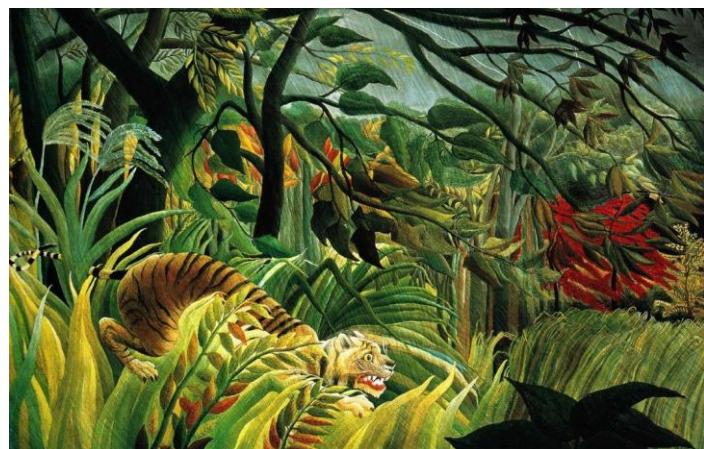
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Maths and we've had a lovely time honing our watercolour mixing skills and creating colour wheels in Art.



## Sparrowhawks:

Sparrowhawks had a great week settling back into school. They all really enjoyed the snow on Tuesday and had great fun playing with their friends. Year One children have been showing off their amazing writing skills and Year Two children have started finding out about their exciting new text in English. We have been exploring where the UK is and all the countries that make their UK up. In art we have been learning about the artist Henri Rousseau and have been intrigued to learn that despite all his amazing jungle paintings, he never actually visited a jungle!





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## **Kestrels:**

It has been a gorgeous start back for our wonderful Kestrels. The children have returned with confidence and big smiles. Ready to learn. We have been captured by the book 'The Gruffalo's Child. After a few days of enjoying the snow and ice building, exploring and even painting the snow, we have been identifying footprints, making scary animal shadows and writing descriptive sentences about the big bad mouse. Incredibly, this week I was delighted to get a cheer from the children when I told the class we were going to do phonics – these children just love to learn!

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the children who have put on shows for us in the classroom this week – we have some serious talent in Kestrel Class!

## **Forest School:**

Forest School in the snow is so much fun . . . Peregrines were so lucky to be able to use science and trial and error to build a HUGE snowperson, whom we are watching melt . . .

Over the past few months Buzzard class, as a whole, have been working on designing and improving a game . . . 'Capture the Flag' was causing too many arguments, so 'Risk It for a Biscuit' was invented. It had been a while and we worked on tweaking rules and Mrs Mochrie has used her Christmas Pressie to order a special 'biscuit' for the game . . . watch this space for further updates!!

Kestrels were promised before Christmas that we were going to try and build a spider's web. When we got up to the Forest we managed to build Itsy's web, which of course trapped a few of the children 😊 .

Sparrowhawks are hoping to brave the weather and we are going to try and spot animal tracks after the snow and ice as it is now muddy and squishy in the woods.



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## Attendance:

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	97.16%	96.91%
Sparrowhawk	96.77%	95.27%
Owl	97.04%	97.09%
Peregrine	99.49%	97.62%
Buzzard	96.27%	96.59%
Whole school	97.79%	96.67%



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## **Crazy Hair Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January!**

Our wonderful PTFA are running their crazy hair day next Friday – Please see the email sent out this morning with further details.

### **Running club**

Starts again on Tues (13th) can you please make sure that children are dressed appropriately for the weather and they MUST have trainers to be able to take part!

School shoes are not suitable running footwear!

We will be using the forest area a lot more to prepare for the Cross Country race, children will get muddy!

Thank you  
**Mr Bell**