



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Apologies for the slightly late newsletter. Due to teaching most of Friday, I was a little behind collating all of the information to be included.

Huge thank you!

Thank you all for your amazing generosity last term. We have had confirmation of two amounts from our fundraising efforts. We raised £182.77 for our Wear it Pink Day and even more impressively we raised an amazing £1020.80 for The Hospice of The Good Shepherd!

Thank you also to our parents who generously helped transport children to the High School, so that our Year 5 children could watch Grease. Also, to those parents who also did the same for our children attending the basketball tournament last week.

Calm Club and lunchtime activities:

Over the last couple of weeks, we have introduced Calm Club at lunchtime. This runs several times per week from 12.30pm until 12.55pm and is open to all children as a drop-in. Children can read quietly, play board games, draw, do puzzles, play chess or undertake a craft activity. There are no digital devices allowed. So far, the club has been really well attended with a wide mix of children, who just want a break from the hustle and bustle of the playground.

In addition, we have introduced a wider range of activities for our children to undertake at break and lunchtime, hopefully helping to make these times more fun and focussed. These include a skipping challenge station, basketball shooting challenges, an outdoor drawing station and a reading and outdoor social area (created by moving our benches undercover).

A huge thank you to our Year 5 children who have helped set up and supervise some of the outdoor activities and to our Year 6 children, some of whom have been helping me with Calm Club.

Owls:

This week in English, we have been working hard analysing and identifying the structural and language features of our WAGOLL narrative. In Maths, the Year 3s have put in a fantastic effort during our review and revision, clearly showing how much progress they have made over the past few weeks, particularly with multiplication and division. In History, we have been studying and researching Skara Brae and learning about how people lived during the Neolithic period. In Science, we carried out an investigation using magnets to discover which classroom items were magnetic and non-magnetic. In Computing, we began



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programming sound in Scratch, using more complex algorithms. It has been a great week full of exciting learning!

Peregrines:

This week in Art, the class has been exploring carving techniques in styrofoam in preparation for their upcoming printing project. The children have been carefully crafting their designs. In English, the class worked hard to analyse a text and identify the writer's knowledge and perspective. During PSHE, Peregrines had an interesting discussion around different scenarios to explore problem-solving strategies. The class debated whether they could resolve certain issues themselves or need to ask an adult for support. There was also a special treat for the Year 5's this week. They had a wonderful time attending a performance of Grease at Helsby High School. The children loved seeing the musical brought to life on stage! Meanwhile, the Year 4's were diving into the fascinating world of plants. They've developed a deeper understanding of the plant life cycle, from seed germination to full-grown plants. Another great week Peregrines. Keep it up!

This week some of our Year 5 and 6 children attended a basketball competition. They were really competitive throughout and worked amazingly as a team, showing off the skills they have learnt in PE as well. Well done.

Buzzards:

We've been busy, busy Buzzards this week - it feels like we've achieved so much! In writing, we've analysed an example text, picking out key 'writer's knowledge', we've written diary entries from the perspective of one of Shackleton's crew, and we've started planning our final 'endurance narrative'! In Maths, we've been tackling the tricky things: multiplying and dividing fractions by 2-digit whole numbers, though you wouldn't know it was tricky from watching the children work - they have absolutely flown through the workbook pages! Our spelling has been fun this week, filled with rule rhymes and accompanied by actions of course. We've spent our afternoons interpreting historical sources and considering their reliability, researching the artist George Marston and creating Antarctic colour palettes.

Sparrowhawks:

In Sparrowhawks this week we have been finding out all about the Rainforest. We have learnt where they are found and some of the key features of them. The children can do a fantastic representation of them using their bodies to create the 4 different tree layers found. They have enjoyed lots of independent activities, built around the Rainforest theme to support their learning.



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In English Year One children have been exploring some of the key characteristics of a good writer. They have been developing some fantastic sentences with some really ambitious language based on the story of Hermelin.

We have been creating the most beautiful artwork based on Henri Rousseau's style, with the children building up layers of lines, colour and texture.

We are looking forward to our adventure into the jungle continuing next week.

Kestrels:

Our learning has taken us deep into the world of birds this week, and the children have absolutely loved it. We explored a range of beautiful non-fiction and story books about birds, sparking thoughtful conversations and lots of careful observation. Out in the forest, teamwork and imagination came together as the children created a giant, human-sized nest...big enough for us all! They also made bird feeders, carefully hanging them up in the forest ready to help our feathered friends.

Back indoors, we made chocolate bird nests, which we hope you enjoy together this weekend. The children were so proud of their creations and showed wonderful focus and care around boiling water and the importance of hygiene.

We also spent time thinking about a big, exciting question: What do animals do when we're not looking? The children's ideas were nothing short of magical. Their ideas were bursting with imagination...and didn't they just come to life! We hope you enjoyed seeing their creations those that made it home.

This week also included our very first fire alarm practice, and it is so important to say just how calm, sensible and brilliant the children were. They listened carefully, followed instructions and showed such maturity, we couldn't have been prouder.

Looking ahead, we are very excited to be taking part in the bird watch next week, continuing our learning and care for the world around us. If you have any non precious binoculars that you wouldn't mind us using in our look out, we would be most thankful!

Another truly special week with our awesome little team.

Forest School:

Forest School for this week has been a tad blowy, in fact it was a little too dangerous to be out on Tuesday. Not to be disheartened we have used the time to learn about managing risk, weather and the Beaufort Scale!!



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Owl class were lucky as it was before the wind and they have been so productive, they are rebuilding the logsticle course and debrambling the pond area, so yes I have mentioned about them bringing in gardening gloves and loppers (ONLY if you already have them), they really seem to be enjoying doing their jobs!!

Thank you to Kate for bringing in and sharing her book with us all.

All of us are enjoying seeing the first signs of spring.

Attendance:

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	99.52%	97%
Sparrowhawk	93.55%	95.41%
Owl	98.85%	97.12%
Peregrine	94.84%	97.63%
Buzzard	95.17%	97.19%
Whole school	97.35%	96.67%

Celebration

Kestrel – Morgan & Annabel

Sparrowhawk – Jemima & Francesca

Owl – Mason & Finnian

Peregrine – Richard & Ella

Buzzard – Strath & Grace

Have a great week!

Mr Bell