



# *Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter*

It's been a very busy two weeks at school, with swimming and lots of learning going on. Today's newsletter includes two weeks of news from the classes, as we were unable to get the newsletter out last week.

## **Swimming Pool:**

Thank you for all of your support over the last two weeks, making sure your children had the right kit on the right day has been incredibly helpful. The children have had a wonderful time in the pool and have made fantastic progress in such a short time.

## **Owls:**

It has been a fantastic start to the new half term in Owl Class! The children have returned with great energy and a wonderfully positive attitude towards their learning.

In English, we have started our new text, *Fox*, which is a fable. The children have been analysing our WAGOLL texts, which we will use as inspiration when writing our own fables. They have already written some fantastic descriptions of the setting, using rich vocabulary to bring the scenes to life. We have been very impressed with the excellent concentration and effort shown in both reading and writing.

In Maths, our Year 3s completed their review on mass and worked incredibly hard to showcase their learning in both their review and their journals. Over the past week, we have moved on to learning about capacity, focusing on millilitres (ml) and litres (l), and practising how to convert between them. The journaling has been of a very high quality, with pupils clearly explaining their thinking.

In Geography, we launched our new topic on the desert biome. We began by exploring the biggest deserts in the world using Google Earth and discovered that not all deserts are hot and arid, some are actually very cold! More recently, we became meteorologists and studied the climate of different deserts around the world, focusing on precipitation and temperatures during different months of the year.

In Art, we have been learning important sketching techniques in preparation for our upcoming cave painting topic. The children have shown great focus while practising their shading and line work.

In Spanish, we have started our new topic, *La familia*. Over the next few weeks, we will be creating our own family trees, so please make sure you visit Rockalingua and practise the key vocabulary.



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In DT, we have started preparing for our exciting new topic on pneumatics and are exploring how air pressure can be used to make mechanisms move in our designs.

## **Peregrines:**

Peregrines have made a fantastic start to the new half term, and I am very proud of the positive attitude and enthusiasm they have brought back to school.

In English, the children have been researching, planning and now writing their information reports about polar bears. They have gathered many fascinating facts and have been thinking carefully about how to organise their writing clearly using headings and subheadings. It has been wonderful to see them applying the writer's knowledge they have developed to produce their final drafts.

In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of fractions. The different year groups have been working hard to build confidence when comparing fractions and finding equivalent fractions. It has been great to see pupils clearly explaining their reasoning and demonstrating their understanding.

In RE, we explored how Easter is celebrated in different European countries. The children enjoyed discovering similarities and differences in religious traditions and reflected thoughtfully on why these celebrations are important around the world.

In Geography, Peregrines have been sharpening their atlas skills by locating and naming the counties of the UK. They also explored the topography of the UK, learning about mountains, hills and rivers and how the landscape of our country is shaped.

During PE, pupils have been developing their swimming skills in the school pool, showing great determination and confidence in the water. They also took part in a fun mini curling tournament, demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship.

Well done, Peregrines, for a brilliant start to the half term. Keep up the fantastic effort!

## **Buzzards:**

It has been a lovely first two weeks back in Buzzard class - we've been so busy that half term seems a distant memory!

The swimming pool has brought such excitement and the children have thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons; it's also been a great way to give our brains a break from all the hard work we're doing in the mornings. We have started a new text called 'The Ways of the



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Wolf' and we're loving it! Wolves are such interesting creatures and, as always, Buzzards are enthusiastically learning lots of facts. We are working on writing 'documentary narratives' and the children have absolutely excelled at this style of writing - we've loved checking that our sentences make sense by reading them back in our best David Attenborough impression.

In Maths, we are flying through the topics! We had a great week exploring ratio last week and this week, it has been all algebra. The children have discovered that algebra is unfairly villainised as a subject and it's actually not as tricky as expected - it can even be fun!

In the afternoons, we have started a new RE topic about Islam, focussing on family life. So far, we've learnt about Ramadan, why Muslims choose to fast and how families prepare.

In Geography, we've started exploring rivers and we are really looking forward to our trip to Quarry Bank next week!

## **Kestrels:**

What a wonderful first two weeks back it has been in Kestrels. The children seem to have returned taller, older and somehow even more grown up than before half term! We have been so impressed by the independence we are seeing across all areas of learning. Our classroom promises aren't just words on the wall, they are being lived out every day through the children's kindness, responsibility and respect for one another. It is such a joy to see.

The biggest and most exciting news recently is our transformed outdoor area... we have grass! Along with lots of lovely new spaces to explore and learn in. It is safe to say the children are completely in love. Over the past two weeks they have embraced it beautifully, using the areas thoughtfully, creatively and collaboratively. It has been wonderful to watch.

The children have also absolutely loved visiting our swimming pool. They have shown great confidence and excitement in the water, and it has been lovely to see them building their skills while having so much fun together.

We also headed out on a spring walk armed with magnifying glasses and cameras, ready to spot the first signs of the new season. The children were brilliant observers, noticing buds, shoots and tiny changes all around us. We can officially confirm: spring is on its way!

This half term our learning is all about growing — seeds, plants, food and even ourselves. There is already so much curiosity bubbling and we can't wait to see where it leads us.



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Please do keep checking Tapestry! There are so many lovely snapshots of your children's learning that we absolutely love sharing with you. And thank you for the beautiful home learning updates too; it is so special to see those moments.

Two joyful weeks with our very special little dots. 🧡

## **Sparrowhawks:**

It has been a busy and exciting couple of weeks in Sparrowhawk Class, and the children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and wonderful attitudes to learning.

One of the biggest highlights has been our swimming sessions. For many of the children this has been a brand-new experience, and they have all been absolutely amazing. They have shown great determination and resilience in the water, encouraging one another and growing in confidence with every lesson. It has been fantastic to see their bravery and excitement as they develop their swimming skills.

This week we have also been supporting one another as Mrs Cuthbert has been absent. The Year 1 children have been working with Mr Bell in the mornings, and they have settled brilliantly into the new routine. We are very proud of how maturely they have adapted and how focused they have remained in their learning.

In English, the Year 1 children have begun exploring the wonderful story *Where the Wild Things Are*. The class has enjoyed becoming familiar with the characters and the imaginative world of the story. The children have brought the book to life by acting out parts of the story and discussing how the characters might feel. They have also written some fantastic descriptive sentences, thinking carefully about their vocabulary to describe the wild things and the magical setting.

In Maths, the children have been learning all about shape. They have been identifying and naming different 2D and 3D shapes, exploring their properties and spotting them in the world around them. It has been great to see them using mathematical language to describe shapes and explain their thinking.

As part of our wider topic learning, the children have been discovering the fascinating life of Mary Anning. They have loved learning about her important discoveries and how she helped scientists understand more about dinosaurs and fossils. The children have been particularly interested in the fossils she found and the incredible work she did along the Jurassic Coast.



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Meanwhile, the Year 2 children have been busy exploring and developing their ideas within the continuous provision. They have been sorting and grouping animals in different ways, discussing their features and habitats. It has been lovely to see them working collaboratively to create games, build models using recycled materials and explore their creativity together.

We are all very excited about our upcoming trip to World Museum next Tuesday. The children are really looking forward to extending their learning and seeing some fascinating exhibits connected to our topics. It promises to be a wonderful experience for the whole class.

Well done, Sparrowhawks, for another brilliant couple of weeks filled with curiosity, teamwork and fantastic effort.

## Attendance:

An awesome week for attendance! Every class exceeded our target of 96.7%. Thank you!

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	97.27%	96.85%
Sparrowhawk	98.06%	94.66%
Owl	96.9%	97.05%
Peregrine	96.79%	97.45%
Buzzard	97.83%	96.35%
Whole school	97.37%	96.42%

## Celebration

Kestrel – Archie & Aiden

Sparrowhawk – Elijah & Max

Owl – Elis & Georgina

Peregrine – Eveline & William

Buzzard – Penny & Alex

Have a great weekend!

**Mr Bell**



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