



## ***Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter***

Good afternoon.

### **A little note about smart watches**

We've noticed a few children wearing smart watches in school. While they can be great fun at home, many models can take photos, record sound, make calls, or play games. This not only creates safeguarding concerns but can also be a big distraction in class. To help keep everyone safe and focused on learning, we kindly ask that smart watches stay at home. Thank you so much for your support.

Martin Willis



As you may recall from my last newsletter, one of our parents, Martin Willis, took part in a mammoth running challenge - generously raising funds for our school, specifically to enhance the provision for children with special educational needs. I am delighted to share that Martin completed the 228KM in an astonishing time of 48 hours and 31 minutes – finishing 4<sup>th</sup> place. A superb performance, especially given the brutally wet conditions for much of the race. It isn't too late to donate to Martin's Just Giving page – details can be found below. From everyone at school – thank you Martin!

**Here is the link to the just giving page**

**[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ashtonhayesprimarysen?utm\\_medium=CR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ashtonhayesprimarysen?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL)**



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### **Owls:**

What a busy week we've had in Owl Class! In English, we've been getting creative with our words — using dictionaries to find better, more exciting vocabulary. Everyone had a go at writing a *"What am I?"* poem, and they were brilliant! In Maths, the Year 3s have started using the column addition method. They've been working hard on simple addition and even tackling renaming — great effort all round! In Science, we've been identifying the different parts of the digestive system and learning what each one does. The highlight has been writing the journey of our favourite foods as they travel through the body In History, we've nearly finished our Tudor houses. We've also been learning about the Great Fire of London and why the houses back then burned so quickly — the class had lots of questions and interesting ideas! And in Art, we've been playing with ways to show movement in water through painting. Lots of experimenting and some beautiful results already

### **Peregrines:**

What a great week it's been in Peregrines! In English, we've been getting to know Annie Edson from Queen of the Falls, and the children wrote some brilliant character descriptions full of detail and imagination. In Science, we had lots of fun testing out different materials to see which were conductors or insulators. We have some real super scientists in the making! We also got creative in Art, using charcoal to explore shading, with some fantastic results. To top it all off, both Year 4 and 5 completed their first Maths reviews of the year and they absolutely smashed it! Well done, Peregrines!

### **Buzzards:**

Buzzards have had another fantastic week. We've been working particularly hard in Maths on our multiplication skills. We have been multiplying by 2-digit numbers and thinking carefully about which methods might be the most efficient. We're still loving our shared reading text 'Tyger' and are now 6 chapters in! There are some really grown up themes around prejudice and injustice which are prompting some amazing discussions. In science,



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we have been exploring forces and this week, we learnt all about friction. We used Newton metres to measure the amount of force needed to pull an object across different surfaces, and drew conclusions about high and low friction. Finally, in Art, we have been working on shading techniques, using biro and graded pencils to achieve different tones.

### **Sparrowhawks:**

This week Sparrowhawk class have been continuing to develop their knowledge on the properties of materials, sorting items using their own and went on a scab hunt to look for materials that have different properties. They have been developing their knowledge of compass directions which has carried into their learning on the story of Lost and Found and N/S poles. Year two's have been working really hard on their spellings and year ones have really impressed Mrs Cuthbert with their Guided Reading. We have continued our learning about feelings into work towards a display that we are developing based on the book - 'The Grand Hotel of Feelings' - where each room is filled with a different emotion. Some children chose to independently recreate the hotel in their mini world play!

We have had a lovely time in Year One maths playing lots of games that involve the concept of 1 more/ 1 less. Perhaps this is a something they could develop and recreate at home?

### **Kestrels:**



What a fantastic week we've had in Kestrels! We are all so proud of our beautifully tidy classroom. Every single pair of little hands helping at tidy up time. What an amazing team we are, looking after each other and making sure that everyone is happy and included in our



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play. The highlight of our week was on Wednesday in Forest School. Take a look at our gorgeous faces in nature!



### **Forest School:**

Forest School this week has been looking at the autumn equinox, what it means and how it was celebrated through the years, including Harvest and Mabon. We made crowns using what was around us (you will see these again throughout the coming seasons). Buzzards and Peregrines are working on skeleton leaves so we can examine the intricate nature.

### **School Attendance:**

A wonderful week for our attendance again this week!

This week was the first week of the 'attendance league' (its not really a league, but a comparison of how our attendance ranks compared to 122 other schools in Cheshire). You can see below that currently we are pretty much in the middle. As time progresses I am sure that we will fly up the comparison table. We are actually ranked 1<sup>st</sup> for two of the measures (children who are persistently absent – below 90% and severely absent – below 50%



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| Attendance measure   | Percentage | Ranking ⓘ                              |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Overall attendance   | 96.9%      | You are ranked 64th out of 122 schools |
| Overall absence      | 3.1%       | You are ranked 64th out of 122 schools |
| Authorised absence   | 1.1%       | You are ranked 18th out of 122 schools |
| Unauthorised absence | 2.0%       | You are ranked 91st out of 122 schools |
| Persistently absent  | 0.0%       | You are ranked 1st out of 122 schools  |
| Severely absent      | 0.0%       | You are ranked 1st out of 122 schools  |

| Class               | This week's attendance | Cumulative attendance for the year |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Kestrel</b>      | 99.03%                 | 99.41%                             |
| <b>Sparrowhawk</b>  | 96.77%                 | 94.68%                             |
| <b>Owl</b>          | 98.85%                 | 97.67%                             |
| <b>Peregrine</b>    | 98.47%                 | 98.14%                             |
| <b>Buzzard</b>      | 98.06%                 | 96.82%                             |
| <b>Whole school</b> | 98.19%                 | 97.24%                             |

### Next week in Ashton Owls .

| Day              | Sport              | Craft                             |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Multi-sports       | DIY bouncy ball                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Football           | Aqua beads                        |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Netball/basketball | Cooking – Toffee marshmallow cake |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Football skills    | Paper plate masks                 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Quiz night         |                                   |

As part of my newsletter series on changes and improvements or areas of renewed focus we are introducing at Ashton Hayes please see the latest instalment below about maths journaling. Next week, I will be including information about how we ensure our children are active every single day and how PE is taught in school.

Maths journaling has been in place at Ashton Hayes for some time. However, this year we have decided that we will refocus our attention on this key aspect of maths learning. If you





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haven't heard of a maths journal before, please read on. You can also see a very short video (link attached) that helps to explain maths journaling.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIPghBTL4zk>

## **Maths Journaling in *Maths — No Problem!***

At school, your child may sometimes be asked to write in their maths journal. But what is this, and why do we use it?

### **What is maths journaling?**

A maths journal is a special part of your child's work where they explain their mathematical thinking in words, pictures, and numbers. Instead of just showing answers, children write about:

- how they solved a problem,
- why they chose a method,
- what they found tricky, or
- what they noticed or discovered.

In the *Maths — No Problem!* scheme, journaling is built into lessons. Sometimes children write short reflections, sometimes they explore a problem in more depth. Every journal entry is their chance to "show their thinking."

### **Why is it important?**

Maths journaling helps children to:

- **Deepen understanding** – explaining *why* something works strengthens long-term learning.
- **Build confidence with maths language** – using words like "fraction," "equivalent," or "multiple" helps them talk clearly about maths.
- **Think about their own learning** – children reflect on what was easy, what was challenging, and how they improved.
- **Show more than the answer** – teachers can see *how* your child is thinking, not just whether they got it right.
- **Take ownership** – journaling gives every child a voice and helps them see themselves as mathematicians.



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## **How does it help in class?**

- Teachers use journals to spot misconceptions early and support children individually.
- Children can look back over journals to see how their thinking has grown.
- Journals provide space for creativity — there's not just one "right" way to explain.

In short: **maths journaling is about thinking, not just answers.** It helps children understand more deeply, express themselves clearly, and develop the confidence to tackle new challenges.

Have a great weekend.