



Dear Parents and Carers.

These few weeks feel like a whirlwind of activity as we get ready to celebrate two historic events: the Coronation and Liverpool/Ukraine's Eurovision! It's going to be a busy time in school with activities to enjoy for both., meaning that this term's curriculum topics will need to extend well beyond half-term. I don't think that will be a problem though, as every class seems to be really enjoying their topics about the environment and sustainability.

#### This term's curriculum topics:

A study of waste and recycling. Children investigate plastic pollution of the Year 1 & 2

oceans, incorporating study of animals and materials. They learn about

some of the measures being put in place and how they can take action.

Year 3 & 4 Children reflect on the effects of **pollution** on the world's **habitats and** 

wildlife. They find that interrelatedness, including food chains, extend the

impact of damage to one area. They explore the life of Sir David Attenborough.

Year 5 & 6 Children learn about issues of **environmental sustainability** in the world today.

Focusing on the **Earthshot** project, they research some of the pioneering work

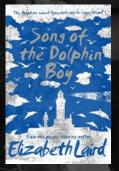
being done on different scales to help humans live more sustainably.



Y1&2



Y3&4



A little perk of the job this week... see why on the next page!



Last week I shared our pride in John from y6 and his trampolining achievements. This week, I've been delighted to hear that another of our Knotty Ash pupils attended the Cascais Beach Cup in Portugal, and also the English Silver Competition. Well done Theo for showing such excellent skills and commitment to trampolining!



#### **BBC Morning Live feature**

We were very excited to be visited on Friday by a film crew and the one and only Dr Ranj! One of the producers of BBC Morning Live had seen our tweet of the Signing Choir performing 'Imagine' and asked if they could do a feature about it. So, on Friday, they filmed the whole Signing Choir performing the Ukraine national anthem to the Juniors in assembly, then a choir group of the younger children took a trip to John Lennon's childhood home and were filmed there performing 'Imagine'. They even got to play in the garden where Lennon himself played at their age!



I'll let you know the day and time of our tv appearance when it's confirmed.

For more news, make sure you're following us on Twitter @AshKnotty





Some special thank-yous this week—to Miss Fisher and Mr Jones for leading the signed songs (Miss Fisher even learnt Ukrainian sign language in order to lead the national anthem!) and to Mrs Blower and Mr Murphy for driving all the way to Birmingham on Friday in a van to pick up a wonderful selection of furniture and equipment for our Nursery. Also to our wonderful PTFA, who continue to provide funding so that the cost of trips can be reduced for parents and who meet with such enthusiasm to plan extra events for our Knotty Ash children...

...and to all the staff for your daily acts of kindness and dedication, thank you.















This week in Nursery we have had so much fun hunting for minibeasts both in Forest School and in our own Nursery outdoor area. We took magnifying glasses with us so we could look more closely at the creatures we found. We found woodlice, slugs, beetles, centipedes, ants and lots of worms. Back in class we have been painting and making collages of minibeasts. Lots of us have been looking for minibeasts at home as well and sending in photos on Seesaw.

Our class picture book this week is Norman - the slug with the silly shell by Sue Hendra. We have loved listening to this story. It is so funny and has made us all laugh. We have been thinking about what else Norman could use for a shell as well as a doughnut.

Our beans are still growing well and are almost ready to be planted outside. Our Cress Heads have grown so much and are ready to go home soon. Next week we are hoping to plant some more flowers and vegetables.

We have been looking at daffodils closely and naming the different parts- stem, petals, flower. We used oil pastels to sketch a vase of daffodils on black paper.

In Maths we have been learning all about capacity- our important vocabulary this week is full, half full and empty. We have been investigating how much different containers hold in the water tray, the rice and barley tray and the sand tray. We have also been comparing how much different containers hold.





# What have we been learning? Reception









This week, Reception have started their new topic on 'Minibeasts'. We have looked at the different critters we might know and some we might not! We talked about what their differences and similarities were and which ones we liked and why. We also learnt about how strong ants are and how they work together to survive. They learnt about each ant having a different job and we watched footage of ants at work. Then we had go at working together to transport heavy objects. They were fabulous at helping each other and working as a team. Well done Reception!







This week has been a busy one in Year 1. We have been learning about different types of sentences in English and can now identify all four; statement, question, command and exclamation. We will be writing our own next week. We have also been reading, The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle and looking carefully at the sentences. Sustainable Development is our theme for this half term and so we have been looking at Materials in Science. We had a great P4C session on Friday where we discussed recycling at looked at the question; is it ever ok to litter? The children have also learnt about habitats, the plants and animals. These included jungle, desert and the arctic.





Year 2 have had another busy week!

In maths we are continuing to use arrays...but this week we are using the arrays to find half of an amount. Everyone has worked so hard to challenge themselves with this topic this week! In English we are exploring poetry! This week we had fun with tongue twisters at alliteration. Everyone had a go at writing their own poem. The work produced was very impressive!

Miss Davies has taught some more Spanish...which everyone is enjoying. The Spanish topic "under the sea" ties in well with our geography this half term. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at pollution in our oceans. Already, the children are hooked on the topic!

We had a lovely PE session on Wednesday. We all accessed different circuits and practiced different skills! We were all very impressed with Penny and Poppy, who could climb high on the ropes! We will return to hockey practice next week and upload some photos!

Next week, we will be working hard on our routine for our Eurovision song! We can't wait to show everyone in a couple of weeks at the Eurovision party!











This week we have been busy learning all about Sir David Attenborough in order to be able to write a biography on him next week. The children have loved learning facts about him and watching some of his well known shows...we certainly have some budding naturalists in Year 3! Also in English, we have been attempting to master the arts of pronouns and the children have written a letter to Ms C-B about their Easter holidays.

In art, we took part in The Children in Need Royally Big Portrait and drew along with Sam Barnett to create a portrait of King Charles III. These will become part of a giant digital portrait which will hopefully be a record breaker!

In other events, we have learned how to sign the Ukranian National Anthem, thought about the pros and cons of zoos, learned the basic skills of tennis in PE (which we will be developing on over the summer weeks) and in maths we continue to master fractions. It has also been a very good week for our class attendance. We have recorded our best weekly attendance figure since before Christmas (97%); well done Y3 and families!





Year 4









Year 4 have had such a busy week they almost forgot to do the newsletter! However, we just managed to squeeze it in! We began the week by finishing off our own peer biographies! The class got assigned random partners and then wrote a biography on them. It was really nice to learn new things about people who we have been in a class with for so long! They were completed with such positivity and eagerness! We also have enjoyed furthering our understanding of mixed number fractions and beginning improper fractions. To finish the week, we began exploring the life of Sir David Attenborough who is amazing! We watched videos narrated by him which featured everything from sharks to koalas! We also have continued developing our times-tables skills which have been a real focus so far this term! It's been a fun week and I am sure the class are looking forward to a long weekend followed by more epic learning!





Year 5 have worked really hard this week. I have been really impressed with their understanding of speech punctuation in preparation for writing a narrative. In Maths, we are using bus stop method to complete division calculations. In Science, we have been looking at and investigating the properties of materials. This week, we looked at magnetism and the reason certain objects are magnetic and the benefits to this. In BSL, the children have been learning to sign the Ukrainian National Anthem in honour of our European visitors. We picked a song to perform at our Eurovision concert, which we are all excited to be a part of. We also improved our computing skills with Mr Mills. It has been a fun filled week, in which all the children have earned a long weekend.





It's been a busy week here in Year 6! The class thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon in forest school on Wednesday. They were able to play hide and seek, climb trees, build bases, whittle spears from branches, to name a few of the wonderful outdoor opportunities. Having the forest school facility is truly special. On Friday, Dr Ranj of BBC Cbeebies fame called in to film our school signing the Ukrainian national anthem. It was really interesting to watch how the crew put a segment together - maybe a few of our class were inspired to pursue a career in TV! Throughout the week, the class have been working on a tricky science project. The object of the exercise is to think and work scientifically; to construct an experiment that can give a definitive answer to a well structured hypothesis and to record their data accurately. It's challenging and will take some time. Ask your child to explain their experiment to you - they all have some great ideas to try out.

Overarching all of these wonderful activities, of course, looms the upcoming SATs! Only 1 week to go...

Have a great weekend!



DRB 1





This week in KS1 DRB, we carried on with the story 'Let's recycle' and learnt that there are different bins for when we recycle materials: paper, glass, plastic, cans, and food waste. We have also sorted the images from the story into verbs and nouns. Who they are? What the object is? What are they doing? We are getting good at identifying the difference!

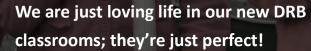
We have also enjoyed an afternoon session of Art. We looked at a famous British artist 'Andy Goldworthy' who is known for his use of natural materials. We had a go at sketching some of his land artwork using different materials such as soft pastels, graphite and oil pastels. Our favourite was using soft pastels to create a colourful circular shape.



DRB 2







We've had another busy week in Junior DRB with lots of learning, fun and laughter along the way. We started off the week with Ann introducing new language and concepts about the upcoming and exciting Coronation of King Charles III. The children explored the history of the British Monarchy and how King Charles III has become to be our King. The children were most impressed that last year they met King Charles' brother, the now Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh!

In maths the children have been consolidating their knowledge of multiplication. They have been challenging themselves to beat their best time to answer different timetables questions. The children have also been multiplying larger numbers by using the column multiplication method, they're all doing so well.

In English, the children have been using their senses to describe a setting. We had some fun playing a game where objects needed to be sorted into the correct category! The children then selected single words and used them to create some great sentences.





### Attendance

Attendance Ladder		
Equates to:	100%	PERFECTION
SCHOOL DAYS Off each year	98%	IMPRESSIVE
7 SCHOOL MAYS Off each year	96%	<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> G00D
9 SCHOOL MIT BUT BUT BUT BUT BUT BUT BUT BUT BUT BU	95%	NEARLY THERE
SCHOOL DAYS off each year	94%	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
20 SCHOOL DAYS off each year	90%	CONCERNS inferred to Educational Welfare / Persistent absentery
SCHOOL DAYS Off each year	85%	SERIOUS

多种相反。《美術家等等表現網絡	
Class	Attendance
Reception	92.6%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	95.9%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	97.0%

Whole school attendance this week 96.7% Class attendance winners Year 1 99.1%

We've had great attendance this week! Well done to all the children who were in school every day. Keep up the good work everyone!





This is a topic that is integrated into our curriculum through every year-group in school; however, sometimes children forget what they've learnt when they're faced with interesting-looking messages or content online. It's always worth reinforcing messages about keeping safe online, and reminding children what they should do if they see or read anything that doesn't feel right. Here are some useful links...

Advice for parents:

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

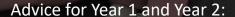
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

https://www.childnet.com/resources

Video for Nursery and Reception children:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfcvhbk/articles/zkcj92p



https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zymykqt/articles/zym3b9q

Videos for Years 3-6

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/44074704



Advice for Year 5 and Year 6

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zv63d2p/articles/zfmhfdm

In BSL:

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/deaf-zone/bsl-videos/





Roblox is enjoyed by many of our younger children and we wouldn't want to spoil that... but it can provide a way of strangers sending messages to your children. Check this information for ways to improve security settings...





We are often contacted by parents with concerns about Online Safety at home. There are some really useful tips here for how to talk to your child about Online Safety and how to respond if there's a problem...







## Term Dates and Events

Mon 1st May

Tues 2nd May

Mon 8th May

9th-12th May

10th May

Fri 12th May

22nd-26th May

Thurs 25th May

**Bank Holiday** 

Partial school closure for strike

Bank Holiday (extra for the King's Coronation)

Year 6 SATs exams

Chess tournament with Whitefield Primary

**Eurovision Party 3:30-5pm** 

**Knotty Ash Deaf Awareness Week** 

**Inclusion Quality Mark review assessment** 

29th May—2nd June HALF TERM

Mon 5th June

INSET Day—school closed for staff training



### A letter from Rose Crossland, our local Road Safety Officer:



slower speeds safer streets



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to a high number of complaints across the city we are having to issue another reminder to motorists about your responsibility as a driver to park responsibly. We need to share the road with all road users, especially the more vulnerable, and allow for safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Remember pupils need to see and be seen when crossing the roads so please think seriously about the location of the school and neighbourhood and consider ways you can help as a parent/guardian to improve their road safety.

If you use a vehicle to drop off and pick up your child from School, please consider parking further away from the entrance & exits in a safe legal place and walk the remainder of the journey.

Do Not Park on

- School Keep Clear Zig Zags
- Double/Single Yellow Lines
- · Close to junctions / Drop Kerbs
- Near School Crossing Patrol locations
- On Pavements
- Cycle Lanes
- · In front of resident driveways

Parking Services and Police may be in attendance near your school do not be abusive as they are doing their jobs at the requests of concerns raised regarding road safety of the pupils.





## Family Activities & Support

The latest edition of the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter is here.

#### https://sway.office.com/yaQ6W3itHm4L9gTU?ref=Link

ou will find new information about local support available for families and children in Liverpool, along with information regarding events and activities on offer running from March to May 2023.

We have also been sent information about Family Learning and Engagement Courses run by LCC Adult Learning Service. This can be found on our school website, link here:

https://knotty-ash-primary-school.secure-primarysite.net/family-information-and-support/

For families in receipt of benefits related free school meals, there are a variety of activities over the Easter break, all of which are free and include a meal: <a href="https://merseyplay.com/easter-haf-holiday-activities-food/">https://merseyplay.com/easter-haf-holiday-activities-food/</a>

Locally, St John's Church offer a range of community groups and activities for families:

https://www.stjohnsknottyash.org/our-community

There's also a range of groups and activities available at Yew Tree Children's Centre for parents whose children are 0-5 years.

https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres/yew-tree-childrens-centre/





### Help and Advice

For a range of local services - info@localsolutions.org.uk

### **Parenting**

Solihull Free Online Parenting Courses are now available on a mobile app. Go to the website: <a href="https://inourplace.co.uk/">https://inourplace.co.uk/</a> and enter the access code PURPLEBIN to register for any of the FREE parenting programmes Or download the Free app and do a course on your mobile device at your own pace.

Early Communications—a language enrichment group (Wednesday mornings) for 2-3 year-olds at Stoneycroft Children's Centre. <a href="www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/">www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/</a>

The Drive is a local community centre offering a range of activities for family members, old and young. They also run weekly food clubs and provide breakfast/lunch to families during school holidays. <a href="https://www.the-drive.org/home">https://www.the-drive.org/home</a>

#### **Domestic Abuse**

For support around domestic abuse - https://worstkeptsecret.org.uk/

If you are worried about anything affecting your own or your children's safety or wellbeing, please get in touch in confidence and we'll be able to signpost you to support.

For more advice and support, follow us on Twitter @Knotty\_Families

