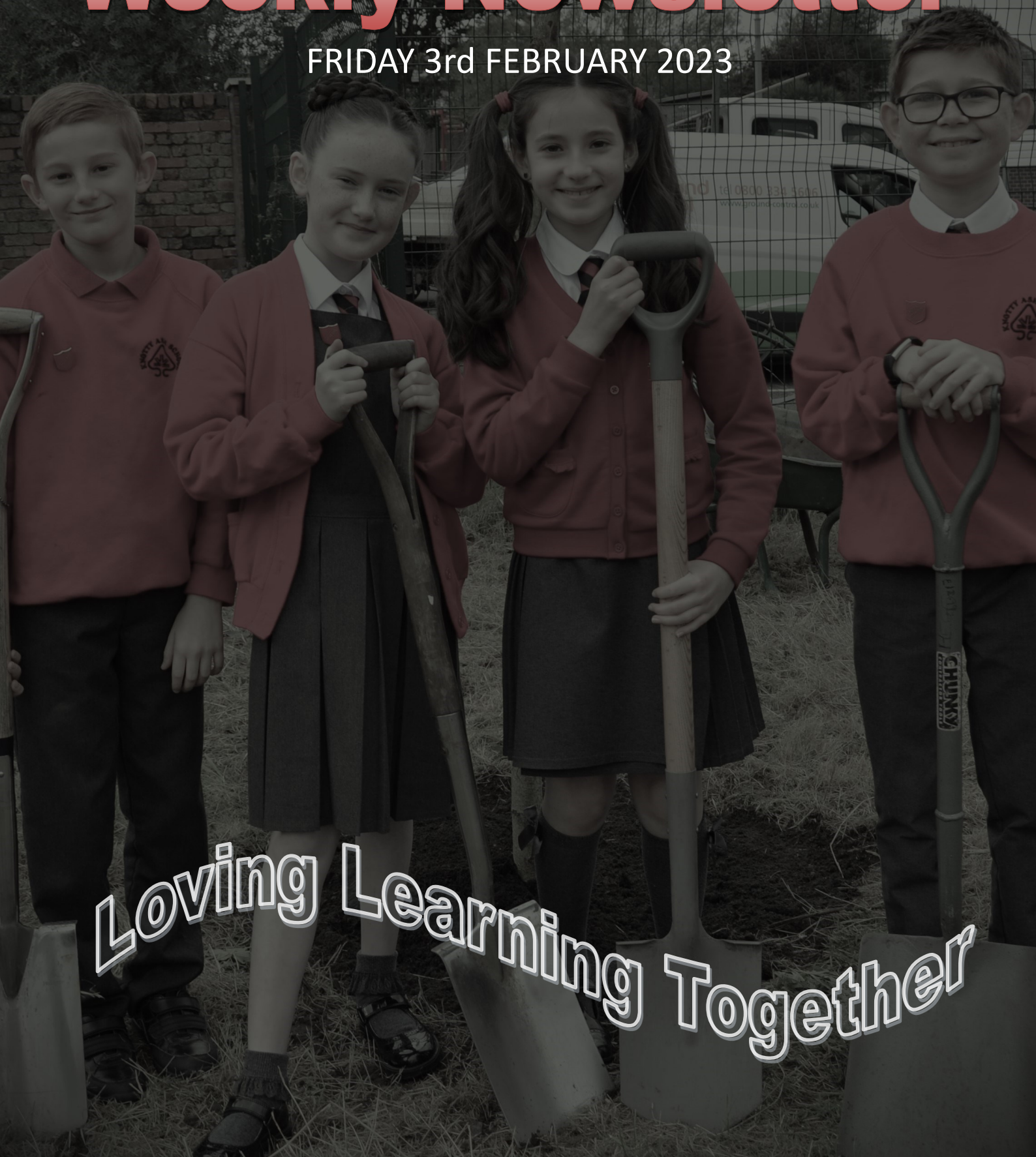




Weekly Newsletter

FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2023



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Latest News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we've moved from January to February, we've also had a busy week in school. Lots of the children have been taking part in assessments to check how they're progressing in their reading, writings, maths, grammar and spelling. Some assessments take the form of tests, others are short tasks or activities. We try to make sure they're child-friendly and low-pressure. Teachers will use the results to see what the children need to learn next and how best to support them to achieve even better.

Of course, there's been lots of fun learning too, as you'll see in the class pages below. Many children have enjoyed listening to authors talking about their books online. Many have had fun in Forest School and everyone had a brilliant time watching the teachers' fun race today for NSPCC Number Day!



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Children's Mental Health Week 6-12 February

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and there are a variety of activities for the children to enjoy and learn from. We all know how very important it is for children to learn how to look after themselves and each other. There are some lovely ideas for activities you can do as a family too, with video information and discussion topics. Go to... <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families>

Building Works Update

The extension is almost complete now—scaffolding has come down and the carpet is going in! The next stage after half term is going to be converting the staffroom into a classroom

Cookery Club

Unfortunately, while the staffroom is being changed, we won't have a staff kitchen so Mrs Rigg won't be able to run cookery club again until September.

Chickenpox

Quite a few Knotty Ash children currently have chickenpox. Please be alert to early symptoms—fever, headache, sore throat, or stomachache

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

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We're going to be focusing on Safer Internet Skills this week. It's a good chance to talk to your children about staying safe online. Tell them to follow these SMART rules:



BE SMART ONLINE 

S SAFE  Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET  Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A ACCEPTING  Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE  You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL  Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART  Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

More information at: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

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Safer Internet Use Tips for Parents

Having conversations without judgement.

Whether by playing games, watching videos, or doing things your child enjoys, spending time together online is a great way to start conversations about the online world and how they're finding being a part of it.

It is important to ask questions and take an interest in what your child enjoys online.

An essential part of having this open dialogue is to not judge, even if their behaviour or life online isn't what you wanted or expected. This ensures that your child feels they can come to you if ever they make a mistake or experience a problem online.

Knowing where you can learn more about their favourite apps and games.

Websites like Common Sense Media or The Family Gaming Database can be invaluable sources of information. When your child starts talking about a new game or app, why not do some research into the reporting and blocking options available? Then you can help your child if they come to you with an issue.

Getting support if things go wrong.

There are lots of organisations who are there to support you and your family if something has gone wrong. The [Report Harmful Content](#) website can help you with issues such as cyberbullying, impersonation and threats. You can report worrying behaviour towards children to [CEOP](#). Find out more on [Childnet's Get Help](#) page.

Reassuring your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them.

Let your child know that the best way to address any problem they have online, is to tell a trusted adult immediately. For example, this might include someone sending them a friend request; an online message; telling them to visit a specific website, or app; or asking them for their personal information. Reassure them that if anything happens online that they are unsure about, or makes them feel worried or upset, they can come to you for help.

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What have we been learning?

Nursery



This week in nursery we started a new topic on space. We enjoyed playing in the space command centre and space rocket in our role play area, dressing up as astronauts and shining torches in the dark.

We read and then acted out the story "Whatever Next" by Jill Murphy, using our own props.

We built space rockets in the creative area, using old boxes and other junk.

We ordered numbers up to 10 and then back again to 0. Then we shouted "Blast off!!!"

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What have we been learning? Reception



Reception have continued learning about Space this week, with lots of fun activities including making 'Galaxy Bottles' yesterday.

Today they've had a great day doing a number hunt to celebrate NSPCC Number Day. The children are getting so good at talking about numbers and matching the written number to an amount.



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What have we been learning?

Year 1



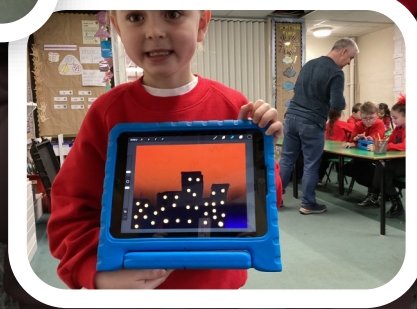
This week Year 1 have had great fun at Forest School while thinking about how the great outdoors affects their mental health. We have been busy learning how to 'count on' in Maths, using ten frames and counters and number lines. They have also been learning about human rights; talking about the rights that are important to them. This week we looked at the right to live without fear and the right to dream. The children came up with lovely ideas about what they want to be when they grow up. In English the children have been reading Handa's Surprise. They have been sequencing the story and answering comprehension questions. They've also examined lots of lovely fruit using all of their senses. They came up with some wonderful adjectives to describe their smell, look and texture. PE has seen them focusing on balancing, and in Computing, they've made digital pictures of the things they like.

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What have we been learning?

Year 2



Year 2 have been very busy with their learning this week. We have been looking forward to NSPCC number day and have been trying to order very large numbers and using predictions to help find our answers. We have started to apply our phonic knowledge to help spell some very tricky words by breaking the word into segments. In computing Mr Mills has been very impressed with our art skills and at how quickly we can create our pictures. We have used an app called ProCreate which is available as a download so we can use it at home.

A super week Year 2 well done!

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What have we been learning?

Year 3



This week, Year 3 have been visited by teaching students from Liverpool John Moores University to help us learn more about sustainability. We have enjoyed three lessons about access to water, water pollution and recycling. With Miss Kerr, we have explored length in Maths, measuring in both centimetres and millimetres, and created colourful collages in Art inspired by the famous artist Matisse. We've had great fun in a chilly Forest School where we were excited to find a curly snail, lots of woodlice and a wonderfully wiggly centipede! In Music, we listened and watched Mr Webb very carefully whilst playing our guitars - he was very pleased with us! We are also saying goodbye to our lovely Miss Kerr this week as she comes to the end of her first Hope University placement. Her 3 months with us have flown by - both staff and children alike have loved having her at Knotty Ash. Thank you for all your hard work and we can't wait to see you again on our trip to the Peak District!

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What have we been learning?

Year 4



Year 4 have had a quietly busy week! They have worked really hard on their Maths, English and spellings especially. We have enjoyed learning about water inequality and pollution with some students from Liverpool John Moores and have found the lessons really interesting. We can really appreciate how people in different parts of the world can live so differently especially with regards to water. Swimming has continued this week, the children learned about water safety wearing their pyjamas into the pool. They learned about what to do if you do end up in water in your clothes. We had a perfectly splendid number day on Friday too! We used compasses to draw swirling patterns and explored rotational symmetry! Some of the drawings were as beautiful as flowers – totally Mathematical! Number day, as always, was a belter to behold!

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What have we been learning? Year



Year 5 have had a brilliant week! In English, we have written biographies about Irena Sendler including an introduction, subheadings, pictures and captions making sure it was written in chronological order. In Maths, we have continued with our work on fractions, securing our understanding of equivalent fractions and moving onto mixed number fractions. Year 5 have had the pleasure of being taught by four student teachers from Liverpool Hope University. They're now experts on water pollution, focusing on how sea life can be affected and how they can make small changes to play their part in making a difference. In guitar, Year 5 have been learning to play 'Voodoo Child' by Jimmy Hendrix and learning to sing 'Don't Stop Me Now' by Queen. On Friday it was NSPCC Number Day, Jessica Williams was the winner of our fun race competition by having the closest number to the final standings. Year 5 enjoyed watching Mr Kenwright race ahead to take the lead, but all of the children were very supportive of the adults who took part in the race. We also created our own Mandalas, for NSPCC Number Day, using a compass and focusing on repeating patterns. Year 5 have been amazing, as always!

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What have we been learning?

Year 6



Year 6 have had to work really hard this week. When they've not been completing Maths assessments, they have been writing, editing and perfecting their Irena Sendler biographies. During the previous years in school, the children have worked on the skills of researching and gathering together the best facts for a biography, so that the reader is enthralled and captivated by the subject of the writing. In year 6, we push the children further - getting them to combine those skills they've already worked on with new skills to take their writing to the next level: adding a fronted adverbial to heighten the sense of urgency or drama; using semi-colons to separate items in a more descriptive list or just ensuring that all of the sentences flow nicely for the reader. It's a long process, but the finished pieces truly reflect the amount of work that has gone into them.

Friday was NSPCC Number Day this week. We all had a blast predicting the winning order of our wacky race, doing maths related artistic activities and winning prizes for our number knowledge. Hopefully we have advertised the value and importance of an organisation like the NSPCC enough, so that children will always be aware of it if they need it.

In Science, we learned the parts of the human eye, how it works and the children had a go at building a functioning eye with torches, water, card and anything else they needed!

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What have we been learning?

DRB Key Stage 1



Wow – another brilliant week in KS1 DRB.

On Monday we took part in a Boccia competition at Greenbank Sports Academy – we met lots of old friends and made some new ones too!

In BSL and English, we have carried on with our story and role play sessions. We have been learning lots of new vocabulary and have been able to use this when retelling the story to the class.

In Art, we had fun using rollers and paintbrushes to create leaf prints which we then transformed into animals and bird bookmark.

In Science, we have looked at what plants need to grow and stay healthy. This week and next week we are observing what happens to three plants. The first plant has **soil+water+light**, the second has only **soil+water** and the third has only **soil+light** – we will keep you up to date with what happens to each plant.

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What have we been learning?

DRB Key Stage 2



On Monday, the children in the DRB competed in the Panathlon North West Deaf Boccia Tournament at Greenbank Sports Academy.

Panathlon is a national charity that provides all children equal access to competitive sports.

Boccia is a Paralympic sport which was introduced almost 40 years ago. Boccia is a team sport and the aim of the game is to get your ball closer to the 'jack' than your opponent.

The DRB made up 5 teams. Each team played 3 matches before the quarter-finals in which all our teams participated. 4 teams qualified through to the semi-finals and 2 succeeded to the finals.

The finals brought a whole new level of nerves; the children were calm and collected as the staff watched on in anticipation! We cheered on as the finalists came 2nd and 4th. 2nd and 4th place in the Panathlon North West Deaf Boccia Tournament! What an amazing achievement!

What a fantastic day we had! Bring on the next tournament!

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Attendance



Whole school attendance this week 92.3%

Class attendance winners Year 5 97.9%

Well done to all the children who were in school every day this week. Our lucky £10 winner in the attendance raffle was Paige from Year 4!



Term Dates and Events

26th Jan—7th Feb Liverpool Festival of Reading author talks

Mon 6th Feb Wateraid workshops y3/4

Mon 6th Feb Safer Internet activities

6th—10th Feb Children's Mental Health Week

Tues 7th Feb Daily Xpress Live online wellbeing workshops

Wed 8th Feb LFC Foundation Live online wellbeing workshops

Thur 9th Feb Yoga Bugs online workshops

Fri 10th Feb School finishes at 3:20pm for half-term

13th—17th February HALF TERM WEEK

Mon 20th Feb School reopens at 8:50am

Fri 31st Mar School finishes at 1:30pm for Easter break

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Help and Advice

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

Parenting

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

There's 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/>

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. <https://www.the-drive.org/home>

Domestic Abuse

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

You, Me Mum course (for women suffering domestic abuse) running 24th Jan to 28th March at Yew Tree Children's Centre (creche available) Call the Centre to book on 296 7950

For more advice and support, follow us on Twitter @Knotty_Families

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Winter Illness

Advice from NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until ALL the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

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