



# Weekly Newsletter

FRIDAY 3rd MARCH 2023



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# Latest News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's lovely to hear what a wonderful time Year 3 and Year 4 had during their short residential in the Peak District. I hope they're all very proud of themselves for their bravery and good behaviour. I'd like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the school staff who made it possible. Our staff don't get paid any extra for attending residential trips so I'm very grateful to them for giving up their time and making arrangements at home so that they can attend and give our Knotty Ashers such memorable experiences.

I'd also like to thank you—our y3 & 4 parents and carers for trusting us with your precious little people!

Back in school this week we had the fun of World Book Day yesterday, with lots of craft activities to encourage an interest in books and reading. Thank you to everyone who sent in books for our 'Diddy Library' book exchange—more information on that to follow when it's set up.

There's also been lots of learning as always. I've especially enjoyed seeing Year 4 discussing a range of Issues and Dilemmas, and Year 3 learning their 8 times tables—our Diddy-learners are so full of enthusiasm and kindness!



To end the week, Revd Tom visited to perform a bible story in assembly. It's lovely to see the children's enjoyment of these monthly assemblies.

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## Water bottles

We've noticed that some children are bringing very large water bottles into school. Please could you keep bottles to no larger than 1 litre because there is only very limited space on children's desks.

We've also seen that some children are bringing in highly coloured juice. We want to encourage children to drink in order to maintain healthy bladders, and so we allow children to bring in dilute juice if this is easier to drink than plain water. **However, children should NOT be bringing strong juice, fruit juice or any drinks that are high in sugar.**

## Curriculum

This half-term, the curriculum focuses on the theme of Power and Governance.

Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
<p>A study of <b>exploration</b>, examining why and where people explore—now and in the past. This will focus on expeditions to the Antarctic by Scott in 1902 and Aston in 2002, comparing what has changed as well as the learning about the South Pole.</p>	<p>A study of the <b>Bronze Age</b> will shed light on the impact of natural resources on the <b>balance of power and wealth</b> (locally in 2000BC, globally in the present day.) Children learn how the use of metal changed prehistoric society.</p>	<p><b>How have artists reflected issues in society?</b> This study draws together children's learning throughout school and allows them to identify societal issues of particular interest or relevance to them. They will examine how art can give important messages.</p>

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

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# World Book Day



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# Learning to Read

## TOP TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUNG READERS AT HOME \*

Turn on the subtitles on the TV, laptop etc.



Research shows that the more children hear a sound and see the word written, the faster they learn to read.

Model reading for pleasure.



Children mimic the adults around them. Read for pleasure and model the enjoyment of reading to children.

Make time for reading.



Create a routine that works for you and try to stick to it. Before bed, after dinner... just read, and regularly!

Read with prosody.



Bring the story to life for your children: vary your speed, expression and \*always\* do the voices!

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## 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7** Maintain the motivation to read



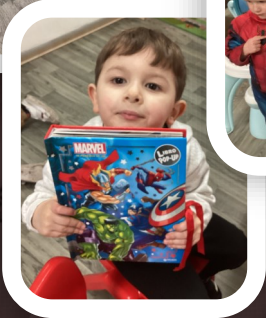
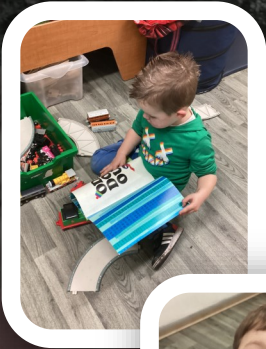
Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

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# What have we been learning?

## Nursery



This week in Nursery we started a new topic on Traditional Tales. We read Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We talked about the characters in the story and the setting. We acted out the story and drew pictures of our favourite parts. We sorted out the dressing up clothes and found lots of new superhero and story book characters' costumes.

In Maths we used the vocabulary of size and ordered some of the objects from the Goldilocks story- porridge bowls, spoons, chairs and beds. We compared the heights of different children in nursery. We used our new i-pads to play number games.

In outdoor play we made number tracks with chalk ordering numbers up to 20. then we played dice games on them. We used the water spray bottles to practise our fine motor skills.

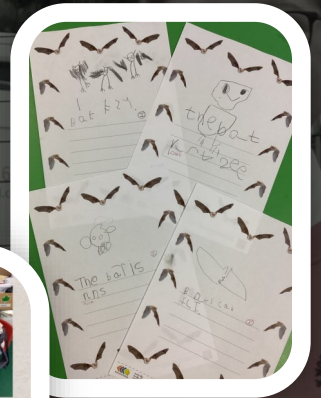
Thursday was world book day, we each brought in our favourite books to show our friends and to read with an adult . We made book marks, decorated with characters from some of our favourite stories.

We had two birthdays- Happy Birthday to Charlie and Kaya, both 4 years old this week.

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# What have we been learning? Reception



Firstly, I would like to say 'Thank you' to all the families that were able to make our after school club on Monday. I appreciate you all have busy lives and it was great to see the children being involved in class with you all. Don't worry if you haven't been able to make it yet, we will be running these every Monday until the end of term.

This week we have been finishing off our topic by finding out about nocturnal and diurnal animals. The children took a particular interest in bats so we decided to find more out about them. We then wrote about them and created our own Bats! Ask your child to see what information they can remember and share with us on Seesaw.

On Thursday this week, we also celebrated World Book Day. The children joined in a carousel of activities with Key Stage One. This meant they got to go to Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms to work with the teacher on a special activity. In our class, we read the story of Elmer and talked about how being different is special and makes us all unique. We then decorated our own Elmer's to represent us. Thank you for another lovely week Reception.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 1



This week year 1 have been working hard in Maths on working out doubles and using near doubles to work out simple addition calculations. They enjoyed exploring a lot of fiction and non-fiction texts in preparation for researching the Antarctic next week. For World Book Day, we did a carousel of activities across KS1 and EYFS. The children made little pig masks, an Elmer patchwork elephant and used finger painting to create their own Very Hungry Caterpillar masterpiece. The children also learnt about the different countries in the UK as well as their capital cities. In Spanish we continued to learn animal names.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 2



This week Year 2 have been very busy investigating facts about Captain Scott and his journey across the Antarctic! The children really enjoyed looking at non-fiction books and were fascinated by the bravery of Scott and his team. We are excited to complete some writing pieces of work next week! Max enjoyed sharing his wealth of knowledge on this topic! We also had an interesting discussion when Amelia asked, "Why were there no women in Scott's team?"

Following on from this we had a great geography lesson looking at the continents and oceans in the world! We tried to find all the places we have been on holidays and locate them on a map! In Maths we are continuing to work with addition and subtraction using money. In our Grammar work we are revisiting word classes and using them correctly in our sentences.

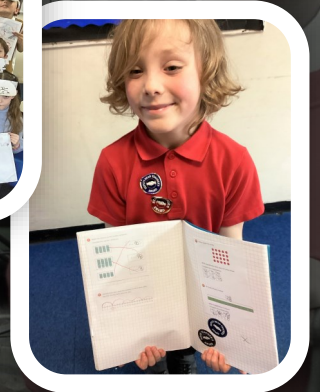
We also made pancakes this week...better late than never!!! The children loved eating all the delicious pancakes. Miss McCann was voted the best pancake maker! 🍳

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 3



We're back! What an AMAZING time we had in the Peak District along with Year 4 last week! We explored Hartington, looking at the differences between this small village and our home city, and spent a fun night in the YHA at beautiful Hartington Hall. Our trip was the perfect start to our new studies about prehistoric times, visiting Poole's Cavern in Buxton on our return journey to look at its geology and Stone Age history. Our children were wonderful representatives of Knotty Ash School. The YHA staff in addition to the many locals and half-term holiday makers we met commented on their excellent behaviour and attitude. We were SO proud of them all.

Back in school, we completed our poetry unit by creating imaginative shape poems and calligrams in English, some about water and some about yummy pancakes! We are now exploring our new writing focus (issues and dilemmas) through Anthony Browne's 'The Tunnel'. In Maths, we have continued with our investigations of both multiplication (4 & 8 times tables) and measuring length. In Science, we are looking at rocks and soils, loving learning more about the incredible stalactites and stalagmites we saw in Poole's Cavern.

But of course, this week it has been all about the reading and immersing ourselves in books. In our daily Reading Explorer time, we have read 'Stone Age Boy' and even learnt 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth!' Our highlight was World Book Day, enjoying our own favourite reads and joining in with fun from the National Literacy Trust. We also took part in an activity carousel by whizzing round every other teacher in the Juniors and all came back looking like 'Wimpy Kids!'

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 4



After our lovely trip to the Peak District, Year 4 have had a very productive week. We have learned about dilemmas and different difficult decisions that some people may need to make. It has been really interesting and the children have chatted about their ideas so maturely!

In Mathematics, we have been learning about measure and we even finished off the week measuring a variety of objects with rulers to the nearest millimetres. The class did ever so well!

In PE, we have enjoyed learning to play hockey and have been spreading pinpoint passes across the field like a young Steven Gerard; however, I'm not sure he can play hockey as well as Year 4!

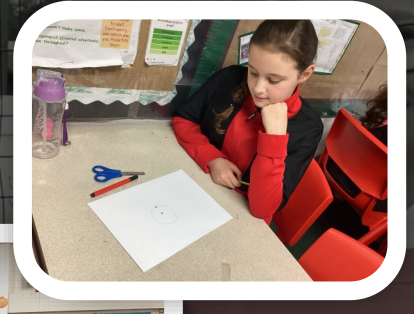
We also finished the week reading to Year 1! It was a belter way to finish the week!

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 5



This week has been a brilliant week for Year 5. We were very lucky to be invited to Childwall Sports and Science Academy to go and watch a performance of Annie, it was amazing! The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and many commented on how talents the children at Childwall Academy were, with their amazing acting and singing skills. What a treat! We have also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. The children engaged in an online Zoom with the National Literacy Trust which was called 'Our Great Big Footy & Booky World Book Day quiz'. It was brilliant to hear how different footballers use reading to enhance their skills such as looking at tactics. In the afternoon, the children went round to different classes in the juniors to complete a range of reading activities, it was lovely to see their enthusiasm when talking about what they had done. In Science, we looked at how light travels and how we see different objects. We looked into the anatomy of the eye to understand how we see things the way we do. Overall, Year 5 have had an amazing week full of enrichment.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 6



Year 6 have been even busier than usual this week. They've had to cram in lots of SATs practice on their basic skills - to make sure they don't lose any marks on the more straightforward questions come May. They then completed another round of practice tests at the end of the week to check their progress.

On a more fun note, Wednesday was forest school and the afternoon was spent seeing how spring is gradually making itself felt throughout the garden and wooded area.

Thursday was World Book Day: after exams in the morning the children took part in a number of activities, including origami, hat making and book cover design. They've certainly earned a weekend rest, before getting right back to it on Monday morning!

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB Key Stage 1



This week we have started our two new books. One is an ORT book called 'The Journey' and the other one is called 'The Great Explorers' and these both link into the curriculum theme 'Globalisation and Interdependence'.

We had our trip out to the Tate last week and we have been learning about different ways to travel. We've been outside to find how many different vehicles we could find – we nearly forgot our boat! We have made our own map and used this to plan a journey around school.

We had lots of fun dressing up for World Book Day and exploring all the books in our new book corner.

On Thursday, we had a great session with Mr. Mills – we created our own characters and were able to change them into animations – we can't wait to carry on with this next week!

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB Key Stage 2



Last Friday the children in the DRB enjoyed a trip to the museums at Albert Dock. What a wonderful day we all had!

We started the day by getting the bus to the Albert Dock and walking over to the Tate to see the Turner Prize exhibition. The Turner Prize is an award given to an artist in recognition of their outstanding work. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing the artists' work – they were all amazing! We would highly recommend going to see the Turner Prize for yourself; tickets are free and available until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets can be booked at: <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/turner-prize-2022>

Following that we wandered over to the Piermaster's House, which took us back in time to 1852. The house was one of four built and was the only one left standing following the heavy bombings in the Second World War. The Piermaster was responsible for ensuring the safe passage of ships entering and leaving Albert Dock. It was so interesting to see a house, with all its traditional textures and fittings, and make comparisons to our own homes. The most obvious difference we spotted was that there were no electronic devices, such as TVs, phones or iPads!

Before heading back to school, we had lunch at the Museum of Liverpool and spent time exploring all the wonderful things that Liverpool is well known for. Alex said his favourite part of the museum was the football section; he said he is proud to go to school in Liverpool because he loves LFC!

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# Attendance



Class	Attendance
Reception	97.0%
Year 1	95.1%
Year 2	92.5%
Year 3	91.8%
Year 4	96.3%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	95.4%

**Whole school attendance this week 95.0%**

**Class attendance winners Year 5 97.1%**

Well done to all the children who were in school every day this week. Our lucky £10 winner in the attendance raffle was Evania in Reception.

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# Self-Care & Mental Health for Kids



Share your own feelings to encourage self-awareness.



Set aside time for low-stress or solo activities.



Find social groups that help them feel like they belong.



Focus on articulating feelings.

"I am angry."  
"I am sad."

Encourage journaling and diaries.

Encourage your child to focus on the moment.



Practice self-care for yourself to set the standard.

Establish a self-care routine.



Recognize toxic stress events.

Blessing Manifesting

Cultivate interests and hobbies.



# Term Dates and Events

- 13th-17th Mar Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- 15th-16th Mar Proposed NEU strike days—possible closure
- 19th Mar Mothering Sunday
- 20th-24th Mar Nursery Stay & Play sessions this week
- 27th-31st Mar Rec-y6 Teacher-Parent meetings this week
- 30th Mar Easter Bonnet competition
- Fri 31st Mar Easter Service at St John's Church
- Fri 31st Mar School finishes at 1:30pm for Easter break

3rd—14th April **EASTER BREAK**

Mon 17th Apr School reopens at 8:50am

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# Help and Advice

For a range of local services - [info@localsolutions.org.uk](mailto: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/](http://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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