



# NEWSLETTER

## No January blues here...

Firstly, 'thank you' for your support in the new start of the day procedures. Children have been coming through the gate really calmly and the transitions have been smooth. It has been lovely to see the families with children in multiple classes all being dropped off together!

It has been great to see the children getting into their new learning themes over the last week or so; with The UK being studied in Ash class, the Vikings in Birch and Hazel and The French Revolution in Yew and Oak. Children have also been talking about their new texts linked to their English learning with great enthusiasm, inspiring some to begin to create their own book in a similar style!

At the start of this week, our value of 'excellence' was clearly on display as four of our Year 6 children competed with other schools across the County in an English competition. Rounds included knowledge of books and their authors, accuracy of spelling and grammar and sentence structure. Our team finished second but we have been told that as it was such a close and high-scoring competition that we may still be eligible for the final! We shall wait and see.



*Have a restful weekend,*

*Mrs. Housden*

## Stars of the Week

*Congratulations to our recent Stars of the Week...*

Friday 17th January - Willow, Robin, Tor, Charlie, Grace, Olivia

Friday 24th January - Oliver, Bethan, Noah, Poppy, Joy & Paolo



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## Young Carers

As a school, we are looking to create a register of our Young Carers to raise awareness of these children amongst staff and look at ways we can further support them.

The NHS refers to a Young Carer as someone who 'looks after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug or alcohol problem'. This could be supporting/caring for a parent or a sibling. A Young Carer may have to help prepare meals, make adjustments for someone with a disability, give medicine, translate or take care of your relative's hygiene.

There are more than 1800 young carers living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

- Around two thirds of young carers look after a parent - or both parents
- Around a third of young carers look after their brother or sister

If you think your child would be considered as a Young Carer, please email the office with the subject 'Young Carer' and include your child's name, this will be treated confidentially and Mrs Housden will return your email.



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Acorn Class

We have had a busy time settling back into school. In Maths the children have learnt all about numbers to 10, using and applying them and thinking about composition of number. The children have become experts at using ten frames to represent numbers and have begun to practise partitioning the numbers 5 and 10 with part whole models.

In Phonics the children have been working hard to expand their grapheme knowledge, The children have begun working on their listening and attention skills during whole class and group work time and recognizing and naming their emotions and acknowledging the impact that has on others and themselves.

Please can everyone bring PE kit in on Tuesday (joggers and jumpers too) and ensure your child is able to get into and out of their own clothes independently. We have had a lot of items go missing since our return after Christmas, so please check that everything is named with YOUR child's name.



## Birch Class

We have had an action packed couple of weeks in Birch Class. In our English lessons we have been creating our own tales, with a twist, based on the fable of the three little pigs. Children have kept the overall structure of the story but have changed characters around and added twists to the problems the characters encounter and how they are resolved.

We have been deepening our understanding of the concepts and language behind the process of division to develop our understanding. We are also relating division to multiplication so it is important your child keeps on with their practice of the multiplication table they are working on.

We are studying rivers of the world in our geography lessons and have been looking at the features of some of the main rivers in Africa, such as the Nile and Niger. In our language lessons we have been learning colours such as . The class is doing really well with recalling this language as they are picking up objects little and often and asking what colour this is and replying in mandarin.

Thank you to everyone who brought in their soils from home for us to compare pH and drainage rates in our Science lessons. We can reveal the soil in this areas is fairly natural – which is not the most exciting result so we introduced some vinegar to measure also!

## Ash Class

The Ash class highlight this week has been in our maths learning. We have developed our understanding of place value within 100 using part-part-whole models, place value charts and recording using expanded form. A tricky concept to understand but Ash class did very well.

Did you know  $60 + 5 = 65$  can also be recorded as  $50 + 15 = 65$ ,  $40 + 25 = 65$  and so on...



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

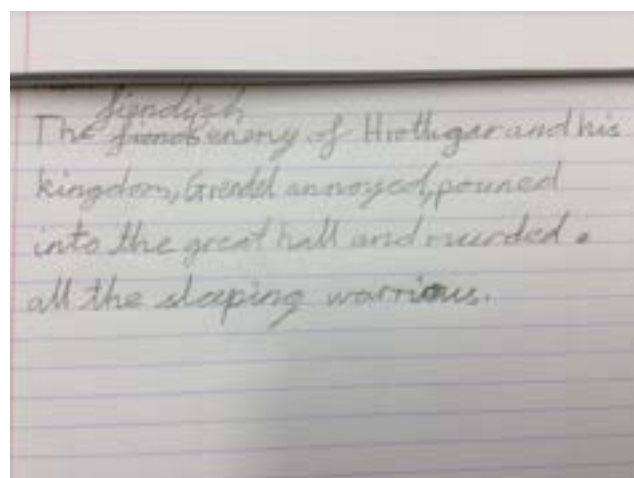
## Hazel Class

In English we have started looking at the Anglo Saxon story of Beowulf which has so far led us to writing rather impressive descriptions of the setting and of the monster Grendel. The children seem to be captured by this ancient poem and the story it has to tell. Work related to Beowulf will continue until half term.

In Maths we have still been thinking about multiplication and division; we have been finding factor pairs, identifying perfect numbers and using our understanding of multiplication and division to find related facts. Work on this area of number will continue for the next two weeks.

In Science we have been thinking about and investigating states of matter.

Our history work has focused on the Anglo Saxons, Geography this term looks at rivers and our Art work focusses on the architecture of Ancient Rome.



## Oak Class

This week, Year 6 have been getting to grips with 'Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to Fantastical Creatures,' which has certainly generated some interesting discussion about the 'invisible world.' We were very excited to be the runners up in this week's Year 6 English Challenge heat and are hoping that we qualify for the final in April. Our four contestants were great ambassadors for the school and took on the challenge with a great deal of enthusiasm. Our members of the football team who were all geared up for today's tournament will be able to look forward to it being re-scheduled later in the term. Predicted gale force winds were to blame!



## Yew Class

In English we have finished our unit of work on the book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'. The final piece of work involved the children designing a persuasive leaflet about a favourite holiday destination or restaurant. Here are some examples below.

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing our work on fractions. We concentrated on adding and subtracting fractions. A key point to remember here is that when adding and subtracting fractions the denominator stays the same – it is the numerator that is changed. Knowing times tables is really crucial for the children here – please keep on learning these at home.

ASK ABOUT  
OUR CHILDREN'S  
PARTIES



# HOT STEPS

Dance Academy

FIRST  
LESSON  
FREE

**MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL**

3 years to Reception  
Year 1 to Year 3  
Year 4 & Year 5  
Ballroom & Latin (Year 3 +)  
Year 6 +

3.45pm - 4.15pm  
4.15pm - 4.45pm  
4.45pm - 5.15pm  
5.15pm - 5.45pm  
5.45pm - 6.15pm

For more information or to  
book a free trial class  
please contact Harriet

hotstepsdanceacademy@gmail.com  
07470 379584



Our teachers are DBS checked, fully insured,  
first aid trained and IDTA qualified.  
Classes run to school term times.

Freestyle, Street & Hip Hop dance  
are taught in all classes  
unless otherwise stated.

**HOTSTEPSDANCEACADEMY.CO.UK**

## Half-term music making days!

Our Half-term music making days are the perfect opportunity for children aged 6-11 to explore the magic of music in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Scan the QR code to access the booking link and reserve your spot.



Monday 17 Feb - Friday 21 Feb 2025



9.30am - 3.30pm



St Albans Music School



£49 per day or £200 for the week  
(£40/day with discount).



Scan me for more



01438 843987



[www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMS-StAlbans](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMS-StAlbans)



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