



Hawthorn Community Primary School



Weekly Newsletter 11/09/20



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 **Welcome to a new school year!** 

We have now completed our first full week of the new academic year and the children seem to be very settled and have picked up their lives at Hawthorn remarkably well, following the period of enforced closure. It was lovely to welcome our new EYFS children into school yesterday to complete the family. The children all seemed to be very excited about coming into school and settled in very well – I hope that this is the start of a happy and productive time at Hawthorn for them.

Although things are still very different to what we would perceive to be the 'normal' for school life, I have been so impressed with the way that the children have adapted to the changes. Although things remain 'busy' particularly at the end of the school day, the initial teething problems of drop off and pick-ups seem to have been resolved. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We have noticed that a number of children are not arriving at the designated time for their social bubble. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly, but not too early, in order that they do not run the risk of crossing into another social bubble.

In light of the new government guidance limiting the number of people who are able to meet together at any one time, I would strongly advise all parents and carers to wear a face mask when collecting their child from the playground at the end of the school day. At this time there is always a large gathering of people, and I appreciate that social distancing can be difficult. I will also be encouraging all staff members to wear a face covering when bringing the children out to the playground at collection times. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

I would like to welcome Miss Webster who will be teaching in Maples class this year; Mr Jeewoonarain who will be working in Cedars class; and Mrs Dawson who has joined our lunchtime supervisor team. We hope that they have enjoyed their first full week and that they settle into life at Hawthorn as well as the children have!

Upper Key Stage 2 Update

WOW! What a week UKS2 have had. They have got stuck into some formal Maths, Writing and English sessions, and the children have certainly shone! The staff have been amazed by their ability to adapt so quickly and settle into the routines of UKS2.

In English, the children have had a bit of a Roald Dahl theme. For writing, they have been developing some recounting ideas for tricks that the gruesome Twits play on each other. It has been a pleasure - as well as quite frightening - to listen and read their ideas. In reading, they have focussed on retrieval questions based on the great story "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". In Maths they have been developing their understanding of place value, and it has been great to see how the children have developed a good understanding on some basics within Maths. As part of our Art, the children have created some phenomenal pieces of work based on developing shade and tone using pencils. Please see the pictures attached!

Lower Key Stage 2 Update

It has been fantastic welcoming all of the children back into LKS2 this week. Their smiling faces have been sorely missed. We have focused our learning on the book, 'Here We Are: Notes for living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers. We have thought about what space means to us, the nature that was reawakened during lockdown, how we can keep ourselves healthy, how we are all unique and the impact we intend to leave on the planet by creating a Gallery of Greatness and thinking ahead to what we would like to achieve when we are adults.

There has been a strong emphasis on PSHE and how we can deal with the differing feelings we have experienced in the last 6 months and how we feel now that we are back in school and settling back into our routines. Our maths has been very informal and based on a variety of activities all based around number and number sense. The children have all been stars this week and we are incredibly proud of them all.

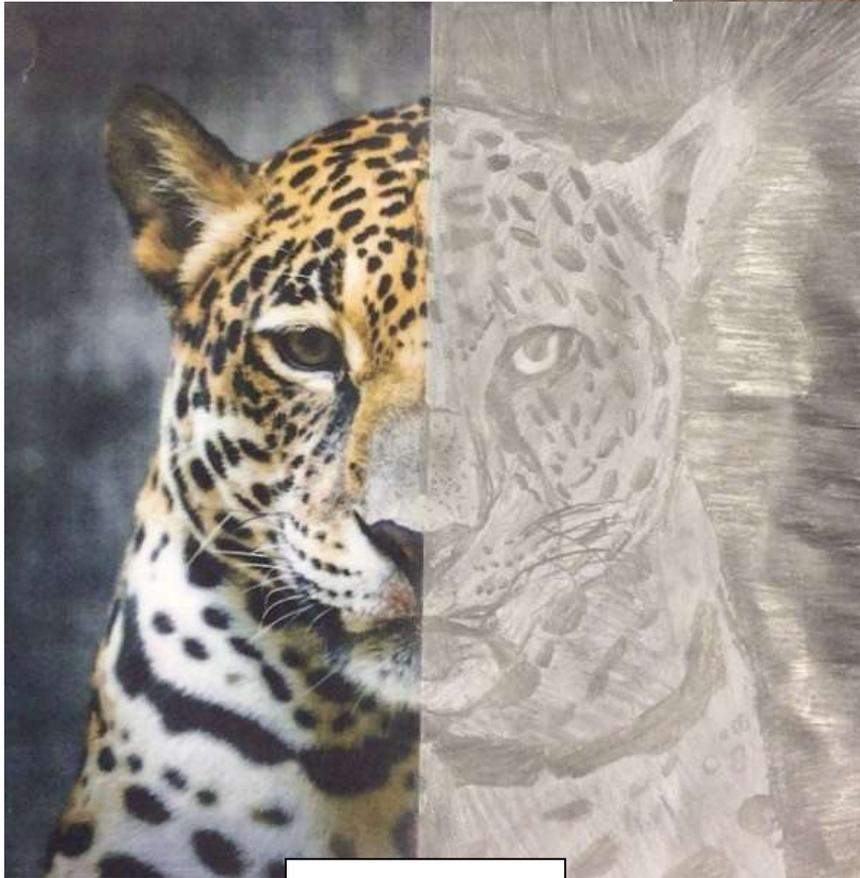
Year 6 artwork from Oaks Class



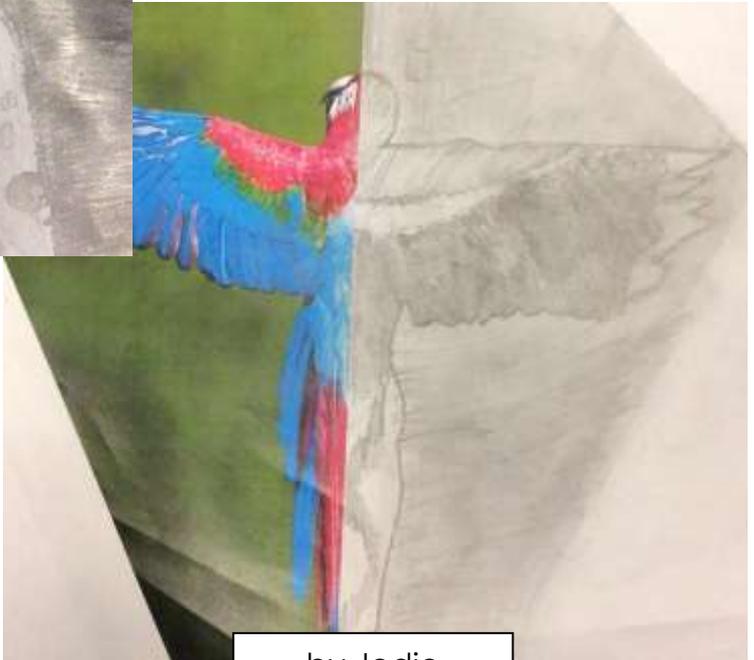
by Abbie



by Hollie



by Milo



by Jodie

Key Stage 1 Update

We are delighted at how well the children in KS1 have settled back into school life. For our English lessons, we have used the book, 'Here we are', by Oliver Jeffers, creating a new planet, labelling it and describing who lives there. In Maths our focus has been looking at various numbers and finding different ways to represent them. The children were excited to visit our new learning area – The Hub – and have particularly enjoyed our garage role play area. They have designed new cars of the future and described how they would work. During Science, the children have learnt about the uses of different materials around the classroom.

EYFS Update

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our meet the teacher sessions, it was really useful to meet the children and yourselves and learn more about them before they started school on Thursday.

Wow! What a fantastic start the children have had into EYFS. We have had lots of fun meeting and making new friends and exploring all of the activities on offer in Apples and Cherries. We have painted, built models, created puppet shows, shared stories, played together in the role play area, used different tools in the playdough, drawn pictures and had tremendous amounts of fun and laughter. All that fun and we have only been together two days! We are all looking forward to getting to know each and every one of our new children and watching them as they grow and develop over the coming school year.

Homework

Next week we will begin to send out homework tasks for the children to complete each week. This year, the children will be provided with a homework book, which they may use to complete different tasks, but all homework will be set through the Class Dojo page. We would ask that parents do not return the homework book each week, but that instead work is uploaded to the child's portfolio on Class Dojo, in the same way that many children uploaded their work during the period of school closure before the summer break.

All homework will be uploaded onto Class Dojo on a Wednesday and children should submit their completed tasks by the following Monday, so that teachers have time to provide feedback to the children before the next lot of homework is set.

Spellings will also be set for the children to learn each week and these too will be uploaded by the teacher to the Class Dojo page. We have thought long and hard about what to do with the children's completed spelling tests each week, and have decided that these will continue to be sent home so that parents can keep a check on how their child has done and look at the mistakes that they made. Please note that these tests should not be brought back into school once they have been sent home.

Hawthorn's Birthday!

Very disappointingly, the pandemic has forced us to cancel many of the plans that we had for celebrating our 125th birthday. However, for the next 2 weeks in school we will be celebrating Hawthorn's this monumental event. Each KS1 and KS2 class will be focusing on a different decade. They will be finding out about key events, the social history of their decade and what school life would have been like at that time. The EYFS children will be joining in with our celebrations and making flags and bunting.

Our birthday celebrations will finish with a dressing up day on **Friday 25th September** for the whole school. On this day we would like each child to dress up in the style of clothes that were in fashion in the decade that they have been studying. This does not need to be anything elaborate so please don't worry if you haven't got anything suitable, we just thought that the children might find it fun to dress up in the styles that their parents, grandparents, or even great grandparents might have worn!

On-line Safety – very important

Earlier this week we sent out a message to the parents of children in key stage 2 regarding a graphic and disturbing video that had been posted on TikTok and advised that parents did not allow children to access this site. We have now been provided with further advice from the Online Safety and Wellbeing Officer at the Local Authority regarding this matter.

If young people have come across the video it's important we signpost them to DSL's (Mrs Clubley, Mrs Billingham or Miss Brown our family support worker) so they can get support. The Local Authority is also following the UK Safer Internet guidelines so we can try and get the video removed, don't forget you can report inappropriate content directly on [TikTok](#) and also [Report Harmful Content](#) especially if the video is on other social media or instant messenger platforms.

We have also put some online safety advice together for schools, parents and carers around managing the incident:

- 1. Please use the Report Harmful Content website and report functions on a social media websites or apps, we need to work together so we can get it taken down as quickly as possible. More information on this is highlighted below.**
- 2. Please do not share the video. If a young person or adult gets a video sent to them that they are unsure of we need encourage them to not open it.**
- 3. If a young person has seen the video we need to get curious both at home and in the classroom** - ask questions like 'how did you get to that?' or 'what did you click on' this will help parents and professionals understand how their child or children clicked on the content in the first place.
- 4. Try not to blame** children and young people, they may have clicked on things innocently or may have gone looking for the content on purpose, but it's still important to remain calm and be supportive. They may have heard their friends talking about the video but not know what they might be exposed to by looking at the video.
- 5. For professionals and parents make sure you do your research**, some of the information being shared around this incident is very misleading especially on social media.

We recommend the following websites to look and to promote to parents and carers, [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) offer some great guides and [Internet Matters](#) is full of useful information especially around keeping safe on social media. We have also attached two important handouts that you can also share with parents and carers especially the guide to social media and gaming.

For more online safety support you can email us: onlinesafety@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Further information can be obtained through the following links:



Parent hand out -
2020.pdf



Parents - Online
safety gaming and so

Uniform

Please remember that all children are required to wear school uniform, but that items do not have to include the school logo, as we appreciate that these can be expensive. Please see the school website if you require further information about the uniform including suppliers.

Long hair must be tied back for P.E. lessons, but all hair accessories should be discrete and in school colours wherever possible. Please do not send your child to school in accessories with oversize bows and lots of decoration.

Children should wear sensible shoes – trainers are acceptable but should be plain, dark and with non-marking soles.

If children wear ear-rings, these should be studs, but no other jewelry should be worn unless for medical or religious reasons. All jewelry MUST be removed for PE for Health and Safety reasons.

Birthday Treats!

Please note that until further notice we will be unable to distribute any sweets or treats that children bring into school to share with their classmates on their birthday.

Please remember that for the foreseeable future the children should come to school wearing their P.E. kit on their designated P.E. day: Monday for Ash, Bay and Elm; Tuesday for Silver Birches and Oaks; and Thursday for Redwoods, Willows, Cedars and Maples.

P.E. kit should be a white t-shirt, black shorts, a dark coloured plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, and trainers. The children will not be able to change into or out of their P.E. kit at school.

Children should not bring large bags or rucksacks to school with them, as these cannot be stored safely at the current time.

Breakfast and After School Club

This is now available for parents who may need to use it. Booking and payment details can be found on our school website and an online registration form should be in place by Monday. Please note all sessions must be paid for in advance.

Data Collection Sheets

It is essential that the data we hold on file for your child is correct. You should have received your child's data collection sheet by e-mail today so that you can check the information and inform us of any changes using the form on the attached link. Please inform us of any changes (particularly to contact telephone numbers) by Friday 18th September. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary:

A full list of diary dates will be sent out as soon as it is finalized, although I am sure that you can appreciate, this is severely curtailed because of the coronavirus pandemic and will be subject to change at short notice.

September	
w/b 14 th	EYFS children in part time
16 th	Year 4 children begin block of 10 lessons led by NMPAT to learn to play the ukulele.
w/b 21 st	EYFS children stay for lunch – leave at 1.15pm
25 th	Dress up day for our birthday!
w/b 28 th	EYFS children in full time
October	
9 th	Flu vaccinations (tbc)
16 th	END OF TERM 1
November	
2 nd	START OF TERM 2
w/b16 th	Bikeability for year 6 children
December	
18 th	END OF TERM 2
January	
4 th	START OF TERM 3
February	
11 th	END OF TERM 3
12 th	Teacher training day
22 nd	START OF TERM 4
March	
26 th	END OF TERM 4
April	
12 th	START OF TERM 5
May	
3 rd	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
w.b. 10 th	KS2 SATs
28 th	END OF TERM 5
June	
7 th	START OF TERM 6
w.b. 7 th	Year 1 Phonics Screen
July	
23 rd	END OF ACADEMIC YEAR

Attendance

Every child should be at school on time every day and every absence is detrimental to your child's education. If possible, please make any non-urgent medical or dentist appointments outside of school hours and please be aware that we are unable to authorize any holidays taken during school term time.

We appreciate that during the pandemic, children may be absent from school more often and we will deal sympathetically with all attendance issues over the coming term. Please refer to the Covid-19 related pupil absence sheet that has been sent with this newsletter which is a quick reference guide for parents about what they should do in different circumstances. However, all schools are required to promote good attendance and as such we check our registers monthly and parents will be informed if we have any concerns about their child's attendance.

Please remember that if your child has vomited they should remain at home for 24 hours after the last bout of sickness, and if they have diarrhea, they should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode, in order to prevent the infection of others.

Please keep our office staff informed of any absences by leaving a message on 07807 941646 out of school hours, or by phoning the office on 01536 512204.

PFA News

We hope you've all enjoyed your first full week back! A warm welcome to our new reception classes and new parents to the school, we hope you'll enjoy your time with us at Hawthorn :)

Second-hand uniform for sale will be advertised on the PFA Facebook page this evening (Friday) for collection next week. Mainly Hawthorn logo jumpers & cardigans this time, but if you are after anything else in particular do get in touch to see what else we have available. More details over there!

We are currently exploring the ways in which we can continue to fundraise for the school this year. If you would like to join the conversation, please get in touch to be added into the informal WhatsApp group. All new ideas and faces are very very welcome! There is no obligation to help at every event at all & it is a brilliant way to get to know more of your fellow parents across the year groups!

For updates & to reach us...

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