



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

July 20th, 2021

Diary Dates

July
21st INSET (pupils not in)
22nd Summer break

September
1st INSET (pupils not in)
2nd Return to school

A rollercoaster year

Monday's removal of much of the Covid-19 guidance brings to an end, we hope, the unusual arrangements that you have followed, with us, to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on our school community. Alongside this legal change, of course, sits the government's continued advice to remain cautious, and to wear face masks in certain

settings, which does suggest that the confusion experienced over the past 18 months is set to continue. All we can hope is that, come September, we are still able to return to normal school arrangements in all aspects, and that is indeed the plan at present. CWAC will be contacting Headteachers regularly over the summer break, and if there are any changes to the arrangements we will let you know as soon as possible.

I will repeat my message of the last communication, however – which is to **thank you all** for helping us to negotiate the most trying time in education for decades.

And on to some educational matters!

Curriculum

Some exciting developments are on the horizon for 2021-22. The school has successfully applied for a place on a national programme for early Mathematics (EYFS and KS1), facilitated in our region by the Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub in collaboration with the NCETM. This will involve staff training to deliver a daily *Mastering Number* session in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes, to embed early mathematical understanding.



Our Computing curriculum is being updated in line with the latest developments, following staff input from a STEM advisor. From September we will be using *Teach Computing*, a new scheme from the [National Centre for Computing Education](#), to deliver Computing from Y1 to Y6, using a range of online resources and our existing hardware (computer suite with 1:1 class access to PCs, a *Learnpad* tablet set in every class, and almost 50 Chromebooks).

We have also purchased a catch-up English programme from the same, award-winning stable as our Writing and Reading schemes. *Pathways to Progress* has been devised by *The Literacy Company* to dovetail with their existing text-based schemes, as used in school, and provide support for pupils who have fallen behind.



Eco Initiative

The recent tragic flooding in Europe, and intense heat experienced in North America, are reminders of the challenge posed by climate change. To raise awareness amongst the school community as a whole, we have pledged commitment to the [Climate Neutral Now](#) initiative, organised by the United Nations. Pupils have already heard from the headteacher of a participating school in Wales, and guided by Miss Avery have calculated our carbon emissions to enable the pledge process to be commenced – more on this exciting project next year.



National Poetry Success

Many congratulations to Y6 pupil Indigo Konstant-Hambling, who recently won first prize in the *Poetry by Heart* KS2 celebration competition at the Globe Theatre in London – a fantastic achievement!

International Stars

Y3 Birch held a sweepstake on the result of the Euros, and the two winners both received a copy of Marcus Rashford's inspirational book 'You are a champion'. See who 'Liked' the Tweet about it! (at right)



Marcus Rashford MBE liked your Tweet

These Year 3 boys were so proud to place 1st and 2nd in the class Euro 2020 sweepstake. A super message for the boys from @MarcusRashford in his book 'How to be the best you can be'. We also thought more about @GarethSouthgate and what we could learn from his journey. #EURO2020 pic.twitter.com/1cs12fZhq

School Events

It was third time lucky for Year 6 as far as an adventurous activities trip went, with a great day enjoyed at Manley Mere following the cancellation of both the usual Conway Centre visit and then the alternative day visit to Colomendy, as a result of national and local guidance respectively. Year 3 were also lucky enough to enjoy a good sample of the activities usually experienced during the Burwardsley residential, on a day visit there (possible since the centre is within the CWAC council area). Year 4 enjoyed a Viking day within the school grounds, and Year 5 a Maya day, in addition to a live video Q&A with a Maya archaeologist.



Y3 at Burwardsley



Y4 Vikings ready for action



Y5 Maya artefact Q&A



Y6 building rafts at Manley Mere

Sports Day was replaced by Sports Week, during which the various year groups participated in all the usual events, with photos and videos made available online so that parents/carers could feel as involved as possible. Newgate were the winning house for the junior events.



A selection of scenes from Sports Week

Fundraisers were held for the Stroke Awareness Association and the WWF (featuring the popular *Wear it Wild* dressing-up day), the latter as part of *Environment Week*, which encompassed a range of other activities to raise awareness of ecological issues. A *Refugee Week* was also held in June, using books from *The Literacy Company* to deliver text-based learning on this emotive topic.



Spotted in the Forest School area on *Wear it Wild* day!

Outstanding Behaviour

The winners of the KS2 individual behaviour prizes for this half-term are as below - and well done to the other children whose behaviour has been exemplary.

Y3 Birch: Ruby-Louise Gibson
Y4 Hawthorn: Logan Nott
Y5 Larch: Liberty Munslow
Y6 Alder: Mia Jeffs

Y3 Hazel: Erin McKay
Y4 Lime: Sophia White
Y5 Rowan: Sam Cole
Y6 Sycamore: Maddie Roberts

Leavers

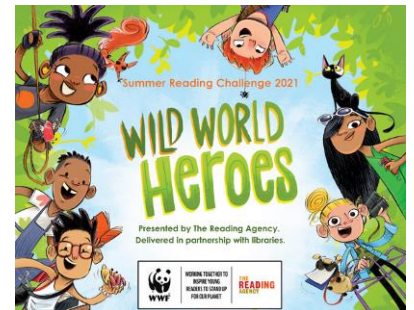
We bid a fond farewell to all of our year 6 pupils. They have shown great resilience, spirit and humour throughout their final year, under difficult circumstances, and we hope that their start at high school coincides with a return to normality for education. It has been a privilege having them at Huntington.



Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge theme this year is *Wild World Heroes*, encouraging children to help the environment in their local communities and beyond. The activities are as follows:

- The Challenge started on Saturday 10 July and continues until early September. All children can take part as long as they are library members: joining is free (as long as a parent or guardian gives permission) and no identification is needed.
- *Wild World Heroes* is entirely free and is aimed at children in Key Stages 1 and 2 - new for this year, there will also be a Mini Challenge for pre-schoolers.
- Almost all libraries will have one or more free events over the Summer that your children can come to, including animal handling. Depending on guidelines, events may be held outside if necessary and there will also be online events, including the fabulous Mama G and superb John Kirk.
- The author Onjali Rauf, author of *The Boy at The Back of the Class* and *The Night Bus Hero*, will be doing a special Zoom session on Tuesday 10 August at 10.30am.
- There will also be competitions to win one of 20 *Bewilderwood* bundles (including books and tickets) and a collection of *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* books by Andy Shepherd.
- Each child is given a presentation pack when joining. After their first return visit and reading two books (any book is fine), they are given a sticker sheet, including scratch "n" sniff ones. These stickers can be added to the fold out picture in the pack to show what can be done to help the environment. After reading another two books, they are given another sticker sheet. Finally, after reading a final two books, they will be given a final sticker sheet.
- They are then invited to a special awards ceremony in September where they will be awarded with a certificate and a medal.



Children can join the challenge online nationally via the [Summer Reading Challenge](https://www.summerreadingchallenge.co.uk/) website and locally (so they do not have to fill in forms at the library) via www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/read webpage.

Free School Meal Provision

Parents whose children receive benefits-related free school meals will receive a further voucher for the summer holiday period via the Wonde platform, CWAC having allocated funds from the Covid Local Support Scheme to individual schools. Please contact the school (head@ address) if you do not receive the voucher (£90 per child) by the weekend.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

No Smoking Site

A parent recently reported seeing an adult smoking on site, in the drop-off area, and then disposing of the cigarette butt out of their car window. Please observe the site ban on smoking (and vaping) at all times, in all areas of the school.

Swimming Skills

Year 4 rounded off their swimming programme with survival skills in the pool, fully clothed (in pyjamas!). They had a lot of fun learning an essential life skill, working co-operatively to develop the ability to keep themselves and others safe. Some Y6 pupils also benefited from additional lessons at the Northgate Arena to boost their technique, in a programme facilitated by the Chester School Sports Partnership, our membership of which is funded by the government's PE and Sports Premium.



Year 4 pupils enjoying survival skills tuition at Christleton pool

Best wishes for the summer break, and to all our leavers, both pupils and staff

Mr Rose