



# Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Diary Dates

September

2<sup>nd</sup> INSET (pupils not in)

3<sup>rd</sup> Children return to school on Tuesday

6<sup>th</sup> Digital Wizards assembly



## Summary of the Year

The year began with the public release of last summer's Ofsted inspection outcome – 'Good' once more, with lots to be proud of. During the year we have worked on areas identified for further enhancement, with allocated subject leadership time extended and a focus on assessment in the foundation subjects (subjects other than Maths, English and Science).

In **Curriculum**, our new art scheme, designed with advisor Julie Mitchell, has been very well received by pupils and staff, and has resulted in clear improvements in the quality and range of work produced. A new PSHE scheme, *Jigsaw*, has also been implemented, and parental consultation took place with regard to the RSE elements of this curriculum. While a short-term financial necessity, mixed-age classes and streaming have been implemented very effectively in KS1 this last year, and high school links have continued to develop, with Year 5 having visited Christleton High for a morning of Computing, and an Eco Conference at Abbey Gate to come in the autumn. Mathematics lessons have continued to benefit from our involvement with the local Maths Hub, and details of our involvement in an exciting parental initiative, the National Numeracy Schools & Families Programme, are being announced separately today.

**Wellbeing** for the school community has again been a focus, with considerable effort directed to this area. Alongside continued use of *My Happy Mind*, we have introduced the *Zones of Regulation* approach across the school, to assist pupils to regulate their emotions. Staff have much appreciated the efforts of governors, in particular Beth Hennessy, to provide a wellbeing week for them each term (with breakfasts, cakes, goody bags and raffle entry provided). And, of course, all have benefited from the arrival of Rodney, our wonderful wellbeing dog, who brightens every Thursday with his presence (thanks Mrs Nicholson!).



The **school environment** has been developed further, with significant enhancements to the Early Years outdoor learning area having been made by staff, following the latest educational research. Sunshades have also been added to the area, and with a similar, longer-term intention, our tree planting day (left) was both enjoyable and an investment in the future of the site and the planet.

Inside, the sound system in the hall has been much improved, and new laptops have been purchased to enable the introduction of a new school library computer system in the autumn. We have also established 'Regulation Stations' throughout the building, to provide chill-out spaces in connection with the *Zones of Regulation* approach.

Following the award of the School Games gold mark last year, another full calendar of **physical activity and sport** included retention of the MBNA Mini-Marathon participation trophy, reaching the semi-finals in

Under 11 boys' county football (following the win in the Chester area event), runners-up placings for the Y5/6 girls' football team in both Chester area tournaments, and a win for our Y6 boys' cross-country team. All junior classes enjoyed a residential visit, including to a new venue in the Lake District for Year 4, and our Nursery, Infant and Junior Sports mornings benefited from fantastic staff organisation and were enjoyed by all.

Within **The Arts**, our choir took part in the annual *Young Voices* event in Manchester, sang for the residents of Deewater Grange care home, and brought music to the Huntington Christmas Lights Switch-On and the PTA Christmas Fair. The Musical Theatre club enjoyed a visit to see *Shrek the Musical* as preparation for their own wonderful production, and Y4 pupils presented guitar, samba and brass concerts for their parents.

Our **super PTA** organised both Christmas and Summer Fairs, a quiz night for grown ups, and Easter egg and summer bunting design competitions for children – many thanks to them, and chair Sarah Rotherham in particular, their efforts enabling the purchase of a wide range of school resources, and funding for events such as Nursery's Teddy Bears' Picnic.



## Staffing update

Mrs Thomson has now returned from maternity leave, and Miss Carter has become Mrs Gait, having married over the half-term break.

Staffing for KS1 in the autumn is now confirmed as:

KS1 Elm	Mrs Thomson (M-W), Miss Bate (Th-F)
KS1 Beech	Mrs Ward (M-W), Mrs Pelham (W-F)
KS1 Maple	Mrs Jones (M-T), Mrs Gait (W-F)

## Retirement

One of our longstanding Teaching Assistants, Mrs McClellan, affectionately known as Mrs Mac, retired today. Over fifteen years with us, she has performed a range of one-to-one support roles, but has also taught French to the junior children, stood in for class teachers at short notice, been our junior playground morning supervisor, a First Aider, a residential adventurer, and a hundred things inbetween. She will be sorely missed – and not just because of her amazing cakes! – and we wish her the very best in her retirement (although she may be making some guest appearances on future residential visits!).



Retiring Mrs Mac

## Year 6 Leavers

Following their fantastic Leavers' show, *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*, greatly enjoyed by pupils and parents alike, we bid a fond farewell and best wishes to all of our Year 6 pupils. They have achieved much in a wide range of pursuits, from theatre to sport, performed admirably in their SATs this year, and have been good role models for the rest of the school – we will miss them.



Leavers' lunch



Leavers' Show: *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*



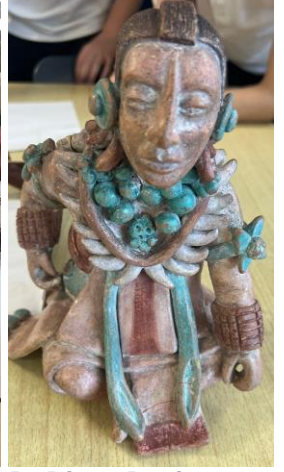
## A sample of recent school activities



Year 6 baking on French Day



Year 5 examining Maya artefacts with Dr Diane Davies



Printing in KS1 Beech



Y6 Conway Centre residential



Nursery Teddy Bear's Picnic

## Behaviour

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

Y3 Birch: Santiago Allman	Y3 Hazel: Tabitha Ackerman
Y4 Hawthorn: Sarah Hennessy	Y4 Lime: Isabelle Chadwick
Y5 Larch: Serena Abbinante	Y5 Rowan: Isla Holgate-Stedmans
Y6 Alder: Ollie McMillan	Y6 Sycamore: Molly Wood



## Huntington's Got Talent

A wonderful KS2 talent show was organised by Mrs Caldecott, and showcased the many and varied skills that our pupils are developing. A very enjoyable afternoon was emceed by Eban and Oli of Year 6.



Mr Hay's pupils performed to classmates in Y5 Larch.



If your child would like to learn a musical instrument at school, *Music for Life* offer private tuition (as well as the whole-class lessons that we currently provide within our curriculum).



Click [HERE](#) to find out more about accessing individual tuition from MfL, or [HERE](#) to find out about the instruments offered.





## PTA

The Summer Fair at the end of June was a great success, raising more than £3000 for the school, the most since before Covid. Bunting made by pupils decorated the site, and a rare afternoon of good weather meant that the event could take place outside, with stalls and games across the field and infant playground, meaning lots of fun for everyone (see photos below). Many thanks to all the volunteers (parents, staff and Y6 pupils) who helped make it happen, and to all of you who bought a raffle ticket or were able to come to support the event on the day – it's really appreciated.



## Sports Day Scenes





## SPORT

### Football

All three of our teams with league programmes reached the Chester Finals Days, for the second year running – a brilliant effort, leading to multiple visits to the King George V facility in Blacon over the last fortnight. Our Y5/6 girls' team performed extremely well and were runners-up on the day, in a closely fought final against Boughton Heath.



**Y5/6 girls' team with their Chester Finals runners-up medals**

**Y5/6 Girls:** Dotty Bell-Rowe, Zoe Gilbert, Poppy Griffiths, Emilia Hughes, Annie Knights, Elizabeth Marsh, Ella Peers, Amy Wentel

Our Y4 mixed and Y6 boys' teams also played some fine football, but overall victory eluded them on this occasion, although the Y4 team did draw with the eventual winners in the group stage. Our Y6 boys' team have had an amazing season, with wins in the autumn ESFA tournament at Christleton High and at Liverpool Academy, and were semi-finalists in the county event, so perhaps we should not be too greedy! Many thanks to Mr Pullman for coaching them to much success.



**Y6 boys' Chester Finals squad**

**Y6 Boys:** Alex Durband, Oscar Gutkowski, Oliver Hope, Seth Jackson, Archie Lacken, Nathan Li, Ollie McMillan, Fletcher Pullman, Gabriel Render, George Roberts, Noah Sanderson, Eban Thomas



**Y4 Chester Finals mixed squad**

**Y4 Mixed:** Archie Abraham, Oscar Cameron, Harry Freeman, Sarah Hennessy, Rupert Hughes, Jaxon Foster-Lovell, Lucas McKay, Noa Parsonage, Tabitha Stenning

A Y4 boys' team also enjoyed competing against other footballers from across Chester at Blacon High School in June, winning an impressive five out of seven matches and showing excellent team work throughout.

**Y4 Boys:** Zac Butler, Aston Capewell, Leo Griffiths, Jack Jeffs, Louis Jeffs, Ares Kumral, Lucas Scott





## Other sport

Our membership of both Chester school sports organisations (CSSP and CSSA) gives our pupils access to a range of events throughout the year, and in the summer term these included Rounders and Tri-Golf for Year 6, and the District Athletics. While we could not realistically hope to feature on the podium at the Athletics, since the vast majority of Year 6 were away at the Conway Centre, pupils from Year 3-5 were still able to enjoy the experience of competing in track events against other schools in Chester.



**District Athletics Squad**

### District Athletics Squad:

Serena Abbinante, Oscar Edge-McCaffrey, Jack Enright, Olivia Evans, Sam Evans, Harry Freeman, Maisie Gamble, Leo Griffiths, Ellie Hay, Sarah Hennessy, Isla Holgate-Stedmans, Emilia Hughes, Rupert Hughes, William Hughes, Niall Lahive, Marcus Leung, Lucy McConnell, Noa Parsonage, Florence Pickering, Chloe Roberts, Dexter Shingfield, Jack Swadling, Lilly Woodcock



**Tri-Golf Squad**



**Rounders Squad**

Tri-Golf Squad: Cecilia Bell-Rowe, Drew Benson, Noah Box, Zach Bryan, Sam Evans, Poppy Griffiths, Wilson Luckhurst, Erin McKay, Max Whitehead

Rounders Squad: Zoe Gilbert, Poppy Griffiths, Oliver Hope, Archie Lacken, Marcus Leung, Ollie McMillan, Ella Peers, Eban Thomas, Amy Wentel



## Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge theme this year is **Marvellous Makers!**  
Click the link [HERE](#) to find out more.

Children can join the challenge online nationally via the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) website and locally (so they do not have to fill in forms at the library) via the Cheshire West libraries page (click [HERE](#)).



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

### School Lunch Ordering

Please remember to order school lunches by 8am at the latest on the day your child requires them (via [parentpay.com](#)). Remember, you can order up to 3 weeks in advance – pre-ordering helps the catering team’s planning immensely, and reduces food wastage.

If lunches are not ordered in advance, children will be offered the main option only (dietary needs/allergies will be taken into account where the option is not suitable). If a child refuses this option, their parents will be contacted to bring in a packed lunch.

Click [HERE](#) to access our website’s Lunches page, with 2024-25 menus and other information.

### Labelling clothing and other items

With the cost of living ever rising, please remember to label ALL your child’s belongings, and especially outerwear and water bottles – with a helping hand, it can then find its way back to your child.

### Jewellery

Please note that our [uniform policy](#) states that ‘one pair of stud earrings may be worn – no other piercings are permitted’. Hoop earrings are not appropriate – thanks.

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

[World Drowning Prevention Day](#) takes place on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Junior pupils have already received awareness training in school from Brio Leisure staff.

There will be a **water safety event at The Groves, Chester, on August 9<sup>th</sup>**, to raise awareness of water safety, including a ‘throw line challenge’ to practise using safety equipment.

### Recent Pupil Training



Cheshire Fire Service smoke tent



Examining fire engine equipment

### Final Message

I would like to thank you all for your continuing support, through attendance at school events, supporting your children’s education at home, attending parents’ evenings, making the voluntary contributions for visits and visitors without which such enrichment activities could not take place, reinforcing the school’s rules and generally being active members of our school community – it is very much appreciated.

***We wish you all a very enjoyable summer break –  
see you back in school on Tuesday, September 3rd***

*from Mr Rose and all the staff*