

NE46 14U Current

"Outstanding eagerness to promote good learning"

Edition: Spring 1 - 2019

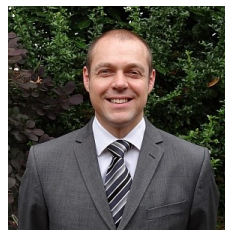


@HexhamMiddle

"The newsletter for you."

Welcome to the latest edition of the HMS newsletter. Although this has been a relatively short half term, a lot has been going on. Thanks as always to staff for their hard work, pupils for their active participation and parents for ongoing support. Enjoy the newsletter and best wishes for the half term break.

Mr. G. Atkins (Executive Headteacher)



House Plus Totals

ALN - 229 points

Coquet - 206 points

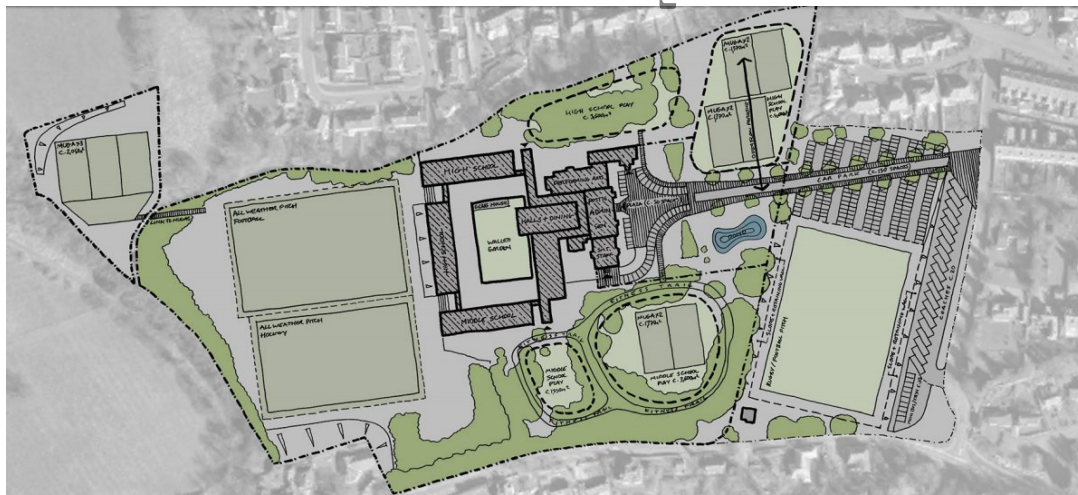
Wansbeck - 202 points

Tweed - 179 points

In this edition:

- Ski Course Review
- Careers Education News
- New outdoor benches
- National Storytelling Week
- Mandarin Club Update
- Interim Celebration of Pupils' Learning
- Language Leaders Update
- Looking Ahead - key dates for the diary

New School Build Proposals



Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the recent information evening regarding the proposed co-location of HMS and QEHS on the existing high school site. For those unable to attend, the details can be found on our website, <https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/index.php/2019/02/11/new-build-information-evening/>

In brief, the proposal would ensure that each child has a home of their own, blending the wonderful historic setting of the Hydro with modern, state-of-the-art buildings. Both schools would retain their distinctiveness while benefitting from exceptional shared facilities. More details to follow in due course.

Attendance

Year 5 - 96.5%

Year 6 - 96.7%

Year 7 - 95.2%

Year 8 - 96.4%

Mock SATs week

This week, our year 6 pupils have sat their Spring assessments in English and maths. We have a mock week to show the pupils what their actual SATs week will be like in May. We have been really impressed with their attitude and determination this week; we would like to thank them for this. We would also like to thank the staff at HMS who have worked extremely hard to put a timetable together which ensures that pupils can approach the tests as calmly as possible. These assessments will now be used to influence our teaching

over the next half term.

Thank you to those of you who managed to come along to our SATs Information Evening last week. We have since sent home a copy of the power point slides which contain up-to-date information about the assessments and how to support your child with their learning at home. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Online Safety

We are aware that online safety of children is a worry for many parents and carers. There will be another face-to-face online safety session after Easter delivered by the NSPCC in school for parents and carers.

However, can we draw your attention to some useful websites for further information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.net-aware.org.uk



Ski Course in France

Here follows a pupil's review of the trip written by two of our pupils.

Our school ski trip to France took place between the 2nd of February and the 9th of February, 2019. The 20 pupils and 2 teachers embarking on the trip met at 4:30am on Saturday 2nd at Newcastle Airport. Once everyone was assembled, we checked in our luggage and collected our boarding passes.

Although the flight was tiring, it did not seem very long before we arrived in Geneva, Switzerland. After progressing through security, we boarded a coach, which took us to the resort – Les Menuires. It was snowing when we arrived and many people were already out on the slopes.



We started ski lessons on the second day at the resort. Lessons took place between 11:00am and 1:00pm, and 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Our school group was split into half – the more experienced skiers were in one group and the beginners in another.

Even though the majority of sessions were without mishaps, occasionally there were a few collisions and accidents. One person in the beginners group even succeeded in dropping their pole from the ski lift! There were also a couple incidents in the deep snow and on the steeper parts of the slopes. Luckily, no-one was injured during the trip and everyone had fun.

At the hotel, our group was separated into four rooms, although depending on the numbers this may not be the case for other trips. As well as a restaurant, where our group dined, there was a mall with a variety of shops, including a patisserie and a souvenir shop. Furthermore, there was a games room, which contained a pool table and some arcade games.

On some evenings, we took part in several fun activities. One night, we watched a movie of our choice,



whilst another night we boarded down the slope next to the hotel.

On the penultimate day at the hotel, we were assessed and given our ski levels by our instructors. Everyone had achieved and



improved greatly during our week in France.

It seemed as though we had barely been skiing a couple of days by the time we had to go back. Once again, we took a coach to Geneva, after returning our skis and poles to the resort staff. We were soon through the airport security and onto the plane back to Britain. At the airport, we were met by our relatives. Our trip had ended. We had had a brilliant time.

Written by Isabel and Elodie (Year 7)



Eco-bricks – we need your plastic!



Eco-bricks – we need your plastic!

As part of the upcoming Science Week (8-17 March) our Key Stage Two pupils will make something called an 'eco-brick'. An Eco-brick is a reusable building block created by packing clean and dry used plastic into a plastic bottle. Eco-bricks enable us to take personal responsibility for our plastic by using the incredible properties they have and reducing the amount that goes to waste. I would appreciate if you could start collecting clean and dry plastics for us to use to help create our bricks. You can send them in to me at school from Monday 25 February.

Ms Carruthers Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ecobricks.org/what/>

Careers Education Programme

Gatsby Benchmarks

By providing good career guidance to pupils it is possible to raise their aspirations. Every pupil needs high quality career guidance to help them make well-informed decisions about their future goals and ambitions. The Good Careers Guidance Report has identified a set of eight benchmarks which schools can use as a framework for evaluating their careers provision, known as the Gatsby benchmarks. The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

At Hexham Middle School we have been benchmarking our provision and determining the next steps to develop our approach. We are committed to supporting pupils as they start to enquire about the world of work and further educational opportunities.

One key aspect of our provision is the annual Year 8 Careers Fair. To support this year's event we are looking for any contacts amongst our wider school community to run an information stall. Whether you work for an organisation or own your own business, we would be keen to hear from you as wide a range of industrial sectors as possible. Please contact Mr Freeman-Myers via the school's reception for more information. Email all enquiries to admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

Language Leaders:

Following on from training they had before Christmas, HMS Language Leaders have been helping out in Year 5 French lessons. They have been praised by staff for their maturity and support.

The hope is for more Year 5 and 6 pupils to benefit from having Language Leaders in the classroom.

The role of a Language Leader is to support teachers in boosting pupils' confidence and understanding of French, particularly with speaking and listening skills. Language Leaders may work with specific pupils (individually or small groups) or the full class.

The intention moving forward is for Language Leaders to work closely with the staff member to provide other pupils with inspiration that learning a language can facilitate the opening of 'new, interesting and rewarding doors'.

We will be looking to gather further feedback from pupils about this venture and will update you in future newsletter.

Mr Armstrong (MFL Teacher)

On Wednesday 30 January 8 peers. Although we didn't win, pupils battled hard and in the Hexham Partnership represented the school incredibly well, with stand out performances from Alice competed against Corbridge and Felix. Middle and St. Joseph's Middle Schools for the coveted title of Spelling Bee Champions.

Pupils had to learn a variety of French words then spell them out in English, whilst being watched by their

Keep an eye out for the results of our House Spelling Bee in the summer term.

French Spelling Bee



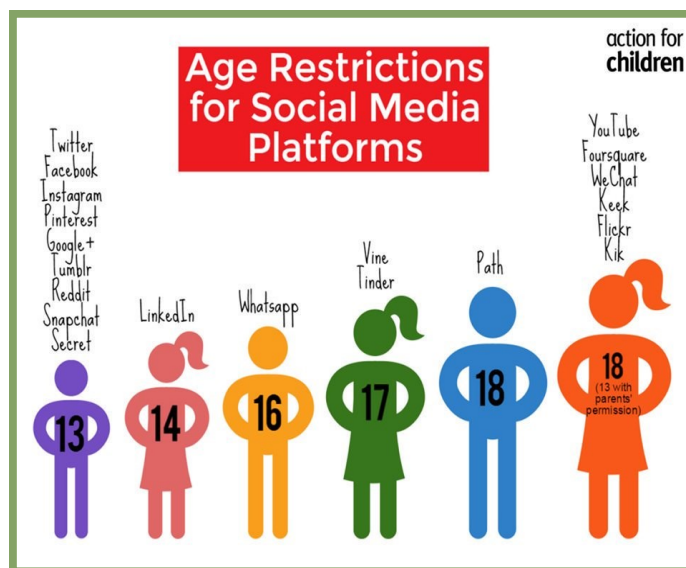
Themed Food Days: Earlier this half term, staff and pupils were treated to a Chinese themed lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year. Many thanks go to our catering team who made some very tasty meals. Diners were also treated to a fortune cookie. Also on 8 February, it was National Pizza Day. The selection of pizzas went down very well. We look forward to further themed days later in the year.

Pastoral Leaders' Column

Returning to school after the excitement of Christmas, when the mornings are dark and cold, is a challenge for everyone. However our pupils have shown resilience and positivity which has been reflected in their hard work in the class room and their participation and enthusiasm towards all the enrichment opportunities on offer. A huge well done to them all.

A particular mention to our Year 6 pupils who have just had a week of practice SATs where their attitude and effort have been outstanding.

Over the half term break, please can we ask all parents to check children have the correct uniform and equipment needed for school. The list of what is required is available in your child's planner.



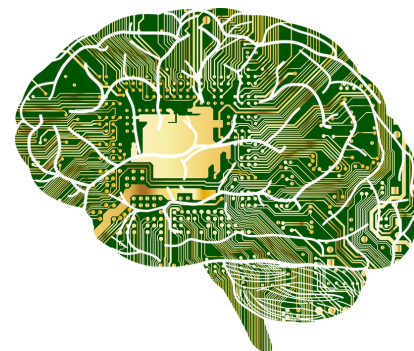
Many thanks to parents for their ongoing support of school and we wish everyone a lovely half term break.

Mrs Frankish, Mrs Cave and Mr Barry.

School Councillors

Usually School Members of Parliament meet once each half term to discuss matters, however it was decided this half term that School Councillors were to be invited along for an interim year meeting. The nature of their role was discussed alongside thoughts which their fellow form group constituents have passed on.

It was decided that, moving forward, MP clinics should take place allowing School Councillors to meet with MPs and pupils who want to bring forward their thoughts and ideas. It was decided that the clinics should take place once a month. MPs from each year group will be expected to attend along with School Councillors. These meetings will provide opportunities to share thoughts and discuss ideas more frequently.



Good Luck Tom and Ben

In the Autumn term, Key Stage 3 pupils took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, an international initiative aiming to promote computing and computational thinking. We are really excited that two of our pupils' results have placed them among the best in the country from over 70,000 UK competitors.

Tom Carr and Ben Sanderson will be competing in the second round during half term at the University of Oxford's Department of Computer Science. Good luck to you both and we hope you enjoy your visit to Oxford University.

Year 8 Taster Days at QEHS

Year 8 have undertaken some taster days at QEHS this week. Many thanks to all the staff at QEHS for welcoming our pupils. It is very clear that they have come back energised about the next stage of their school career which will shortly be upon them all. Check out the school website for some photographs of the days - <https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/index.php/2019/02/14/year-8-taster-days-at-qehs/>

Year 8 pupils should have taken an options form for Year 9. It is strongly advised that they spend time over the Spring Half Term discussing options returning forms following well-informed conversations with parents/carers. It is important they do not just pick options because their friends have chosen particular combinations.

Any remaining options forms must be returned after the half term holiday, signed by a parent/carer.

New Benches

Many thanks must be passed on to our PTA who have helped to oversee the process of installing new benches in the playgrounds. 16 benches have been installed on all 4 playgrounds across the school site. Made from recycled plastic, the benches have provided some welcome seating areas. Funded by Groundwork, the school was successful in securing over £3000. There is some additional money left

"It's really good to have a place to sit down after you have been running about on the yard."

"I like to card swap on the benches with my friends."

"You can sit around the edge of the yard and talk to your friends whilst others may be running around and

playing other games."

"I cannot wait for it to get a bit warmer and we can sit outside."

Some benches are placed under trees which will create some nice shade."



Mandarin Club Update

Mandarin Club has continued to be an excellent addition to extra-curricular provision at HMS. Pupils have been learning about Chinese New Year and have been perfecting the art of Chinese paper cutting.

Pupils (Martha, Jasmin and Betsy) have also delivered an informative and interesting assembly on Chinese New Year. Well done to everyone involved. After half term pupils will be making dumplings, a traditional Chinese New Year delicacy.

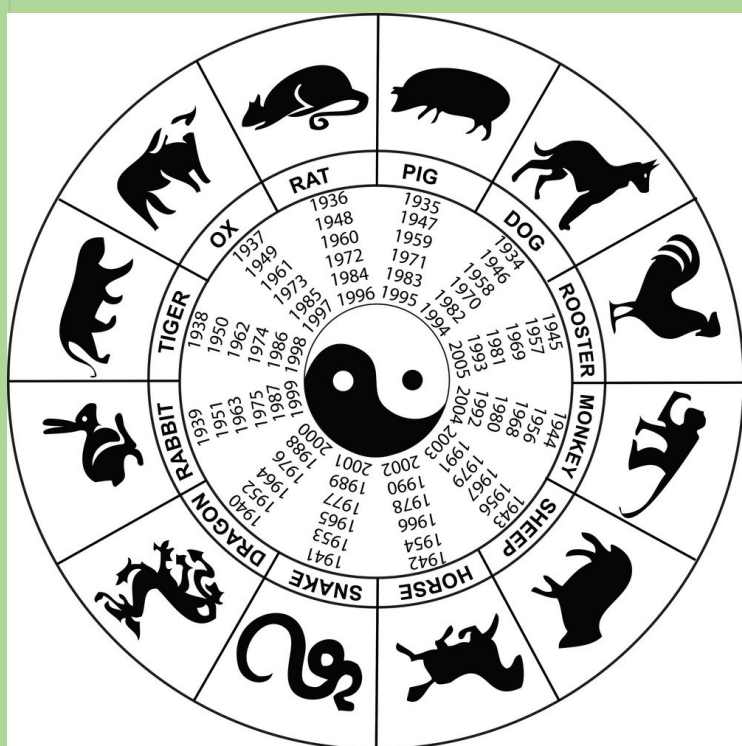
5 facts about Chinese New Year

- ♦ Happy New Year = Xīn nián kuài lè (新年快乐)
- ♦ Chinese New Year celebrations last for 15 days.
- ♦ 2019 is the year of the Pig.
- ♦ Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year, but it is always somewhere between January 21 and February 20.
- ♦ Children are given little red envelopes called *Ang pao* or *Lai see* that contain money.



Digital Leaders

Earlier this term, our team of digital leaders attended the local digital leader conference hosted by Hexham First School. It was a great opportunity to meet other digital leaders and share ideas. The digital leaders also helped to support some of their younger counterparts from first schools. They are already busy thinking of ways they can bring what they learnt on the day to a classroom near you very soon!



National Storytelling Week

Photography Competition:

Last week was National Storytelling Week and, to celebrate, I am launching a reading competition for pupils. This is a photography competition for any pupil who wishes to enter a photo of themselves reading or telling a story over the next three weeks in an unusual or amusing place (such as under their bed or to their pet!) Pupils in Key Stage 3 will remember we did this competition in 2017 with great success and therefore look forward to re-launching it this year.



The photos will be used in school to form a display and the most creative entries will be awarded prizes. Please remember to be sensible and safe when choosing locations for your photos. The deadline for entries is Monday 4 March and prize winners will be announced on World Book Day (Thursday 7 March). **Please email entries to the school at the following address: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk**

Mrs Roff

Pupil Book Review

Lord of the Flies

Hello. The book I'll be reviewing today is Lord of the Flies, by William Golding. It is a classic novel, written in 1954, about a group of twenty-or-so English boys around our age who are stranded on a desert island with no adults. However, the island is good for survival, as there is a big forest for firewood, streams for clean drinking water and fruit bushes and pigs for food. This book is not particularly about how the boys struggle to survive, but about how they keep order amongst the group without adult supervision. In this book they are not fighting death, but themselves.

This book doesn't really have a genre. I would say that it is closest to psychological fiction, but it is its own genre. Some parts of this book are quite disturbing – from both mild gore and the sheer brutality of the boys' minds. The book aims to show what the author thought would happen if children's minds were not kept at bay by superior adult minds.

The boys have a sort of pecking order, determined by age. There are two main categories in this order. They are known as "the biguns" and "the littluns". The "littluns" are boys aged about seven, and anyone older than that is classed as a "bigun". Unhelpfully, there are more littluns than biguns. The littluns are kind of left to themselves by the biguns, and only at meetings do the two age categories really mix. The littluns are not really classed as people.

We never actually find out exactly when the book is set, but we can infer that it is during wartime. There are not particular "main characters" but some of the most featured include Ralph, Piggy, Jack, Simon and the twins, Sam and Eric, who are always together, and because of this they are given the collective name "Samneric".

There is one particular symbol of peace in the story; one that brings everyone on the island together: a white conch shell. The boys manage to keep civilisation and peace at first, but naturally, they start to make enemies with each other. This, and "the fear" are what can cause society and democracy to be lost, as is shown by this incredibly clever and well thought out book. Golding seemed to know the human mind better than anyone else in the world.

By Felix Hayler Hughes



Looking ahead - dates for the diary

25 February - 8 March - Fairtrade Fortnight - Activities

7 March 2019 - World Book Dress Up Day - more details to follow in a letter after the half term holiday.

8-15 March 2019 - Travelling Book Fair based in Fellside Hall

11-12 March 2019 - Key Stage 2 National Marine Aquarium STEM workshops

15 March 2019 - Red Nose Day Events/Comic Relief Day

21 March 2019 - Year 6 Heights and Weights

w/c 25 March 2019 - Year 5 Explore Vindolanda Trip (specific date to be confirmed)

1-3 April 2019 - Spring Games

2 April 2019 - Year 5 Théâtre Sans Frontières performance

Other notices/reminders

- ⇒ **Nut allergies** - Please could we remind all parents and carers that some pupils in our school have severe nut allergies. We operate a 'No Nut' policy for our Dining Hall area. Pupils should not be bringing in food items that contain nut products.
- ⇒ **Donated Uniforms** - If anyone has uniform items which they would like to donate to the school to be used as spare supplies, please could these be handed in at Reception.
- ⇒ **Be a smarter parker!** When dropping off or picking up children during the school day, please can everyone refrain from parking on the double yellow lines. In the interests of safety, it is important that pedestrians maximise their visibility when crossing the road. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Assembly Themes for Spring Term 2

Week 1 - w/c 25 February - Peace, Activism and Reconciliation led by [Mr Anderson](#)

Week 2 - w/c 4 March - World Book Day led by [Mrs Roff/Miss Aynsley](#)

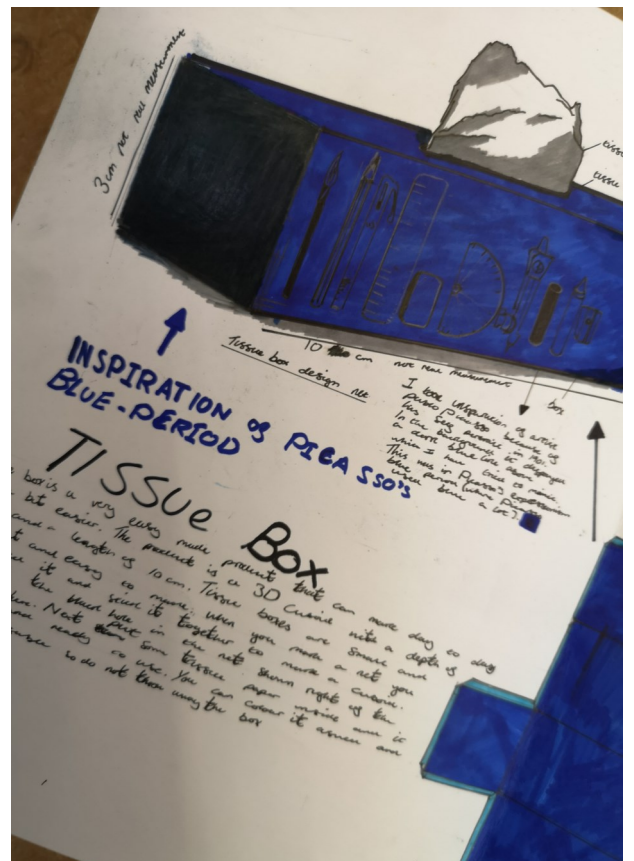
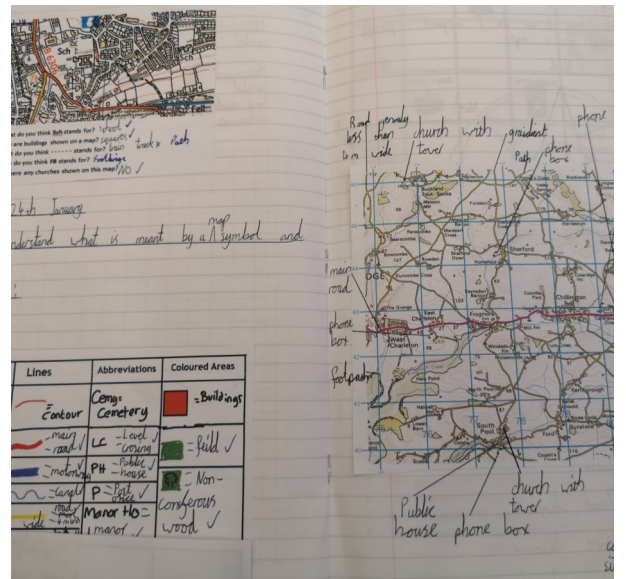
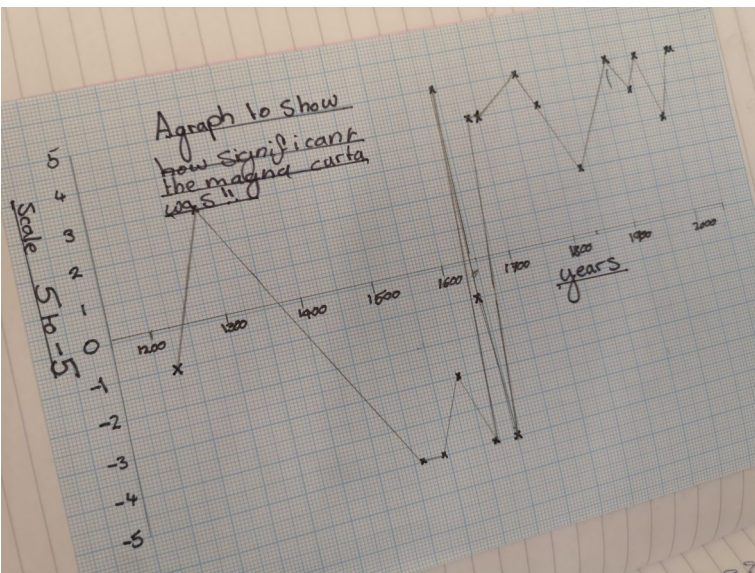
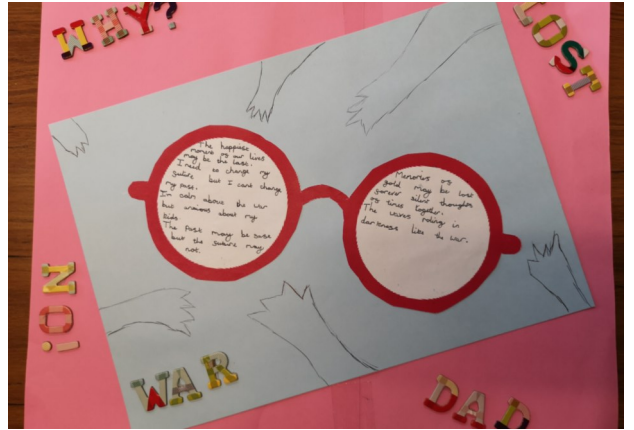
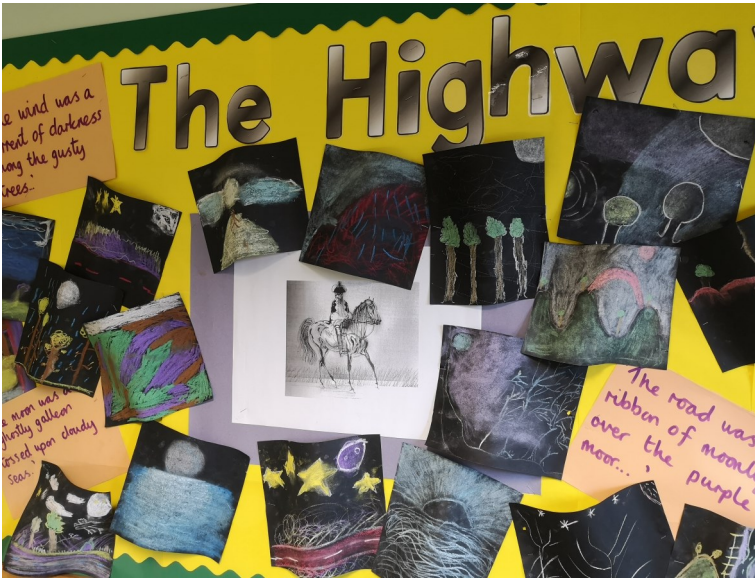
Week 3 - w/c 11 March - Emotional Health and Wellbeing led by [Mrs Frankish](#)

Week 4 - w/c 18 March - International Day of Happiness led by [Mrs Cave](#)

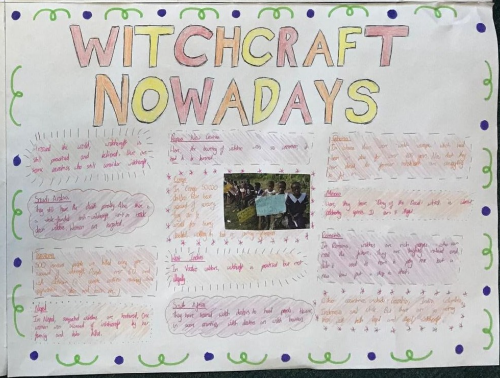
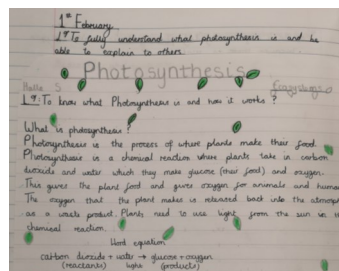
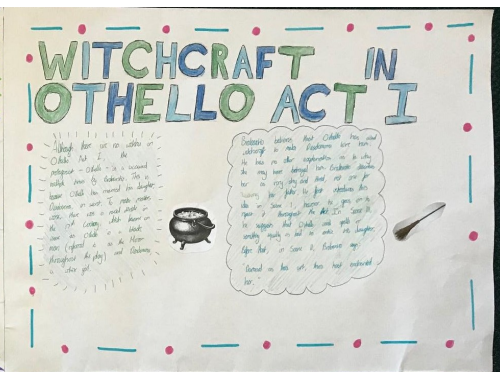
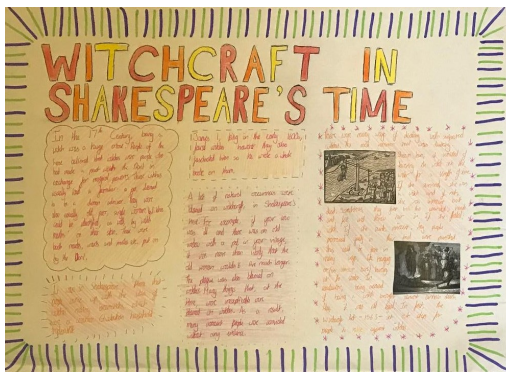
Week 5 - w/c 25 March - Deal or No Deal (Brexit) led by [Mr Freeman-Myers](#)

Week 6 - w/c 1 April - What makes people great and British? Led by [Mr Holdsworth](#)

Interim Year Celebration of Pupils' Learning



Interim Year Celebration of Pupils' Learning



Friday 1st February 2019.

L.O.:- to be able to write using formal language
Buzzwords:-

Buzzwords:
express,
squalid,
alarmed,
urge.

Mrs Birney
The Masters Workshop
Hackney road
London
L12 0TW

Friday 2nd July 1837

To her majesty Queen Victoria,

Following your urgent request that I take up the task of inspecting the standards of care at the workhouse, I am writing to severely outline my utterly incomprehensible findings herein. A fair warning though, what these children experience daily (that I am about to speak of) may cause you grave disappointment and anxiety.

In the particular workhouse I visited I was extremely shocked to find that the boys were only given one measely bowl of gruel per day to fuel their immense load of energy. Furthermore, children were seperated from adults leaving families torn apart with only a pathetic half an hour to spend together every Sunday evening, just hoping for the rest of the week that their loved ones are not harmed ^{or} worse.

Upon entering the workhouse however, the poor were stripped and bathed (under supervision) which not only took away their dignity but their sense of confidence too. And it doesn't get any better: two children were made to sleep in one tiny, cramped bed; they are not taught the two most important skills for getting a job (reading and writing) and they are also made to wear uniforms to let all the more fortunate people outside know they are poor and avoid them, which I think of as disgraceful!

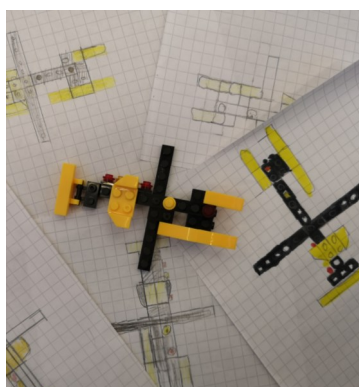
What I urge you to understand Ma'am are all of the terrifying and extremely ghastly conditions in which our young generation ^{are living} living in and all the sights they must be seeing at their ^{very young} ~~small~~ ages. As Queen of Great Britain and a person who I know respects children, ^{you} ~~I~~ ^{ask} ~~urge~~ you to be more like dear old Dr Thomas Barnardo and take immediate, drastic action to prevent on more dreaded losses to take place.

In anticipation of your response,

Yours most faithfully,

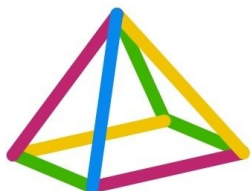
Dr Birney.

- Formal language and Standard English
- Use of subjunctive mood
- Varied openers and conjunctions
- Powerful verb choices
- Persuasive, emotive and hyperbolised language



Puzzle page

WHICH ONE IS THE TOP VIEW OF THIS PYRAMID?



4

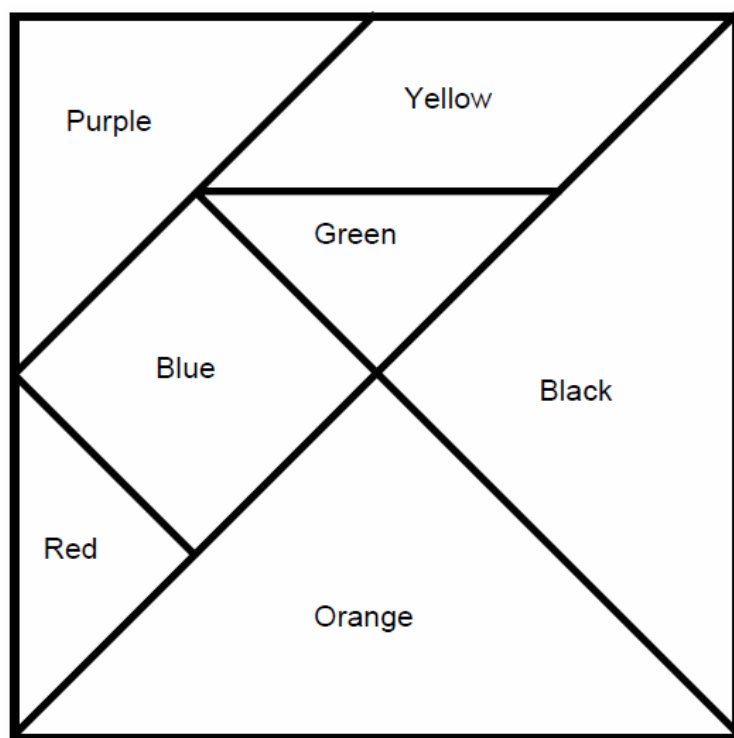
Riddle

What is the
3/7 chicken,
2/3 cat,
1/2 goat??

Guess the City Name??

		6			7	3		
	1	8			9		5	
5							6	4
9	2			8				
			7	6	3			
				9			7	5
6	3							8
	9		3			5	2	
		2	4			6		

Tangram Puzzle Project - Complete the research and task . This is worth **4 House Pluses**. Submit the project to Mr Freeman-Myers .



Either, cut out the above shapes and use as templates to cut out on coloured card, or other printed paper, or add colour with felt tip pens or coloured pencils.

Research the history of the Tangram Puzzle and search online for different challenges you can complete with your Tangram pieces.

	+		=	8
--	---	--	---	---

=	8
---	---

	-		=	6
--	---	--	---	---

=	6
---	---

$$=$$

What is the **number** of the parking spot?



Pupils can now challenge themselves during the half term holiday to this edition's puzzle page. Submit sheets with answers to Mr Freeman-Myers.

Year 5

Sporting endeavour has been strong during this half term by Year 5. The pupils have been studying dance and gymnastics and the levels of performance have been extremely high. Pupils are always looking to achieve their best and each class champion is due to compete in the champion of champions dance off at the end of half term. As well as this, a strong group of Year 5s have been engaging with volleyball and girls' cricket. In the opening weeks of next half term Year 5 rugby and hockey players will be in action.

Year 6

What an incredible half term for Year 6 sport. Both the boys' and girls' teams are into the semi finals of the football county cup, winning their quarter finals 4.2 and 3.1 respectively. Both semi finals are due to take place next half term with the boys facing a home tie against the current champions Highfield whilst the girls host a strong St Albans side. The Year 6 boys also finished 3rd in the county for futsal.

Year 7

Year 7 pupils have again performed extremely well and have been in action in football and netball where, despite narrow defeats, they performed extremely well and left lots of positives to build on next half term. It was the runners, however, who stood out with two HMS pupils qualifying for the national finals of cross country! An incredible achievement! Well done to both Zach and Poppy.

Year 8

Year 8 performed extremely well in both the county futsal event, with the girls finishing 6th in the county, and the boys winning a fantastic semi final penalty shoot out win before just falling short in the county final. Away from football, it has been great to see so many Year 8 pupils attending girls' sports club and fitness club each week.

Sports Update



Sporting Clubs– Sporting clubs will be rebranded with some clubs returning. A parent mail will be sent out with more information.

