



Hughenden Primary School

Working together, Empowering Lives, Enriching Minds

Newsletter – Easter 2021

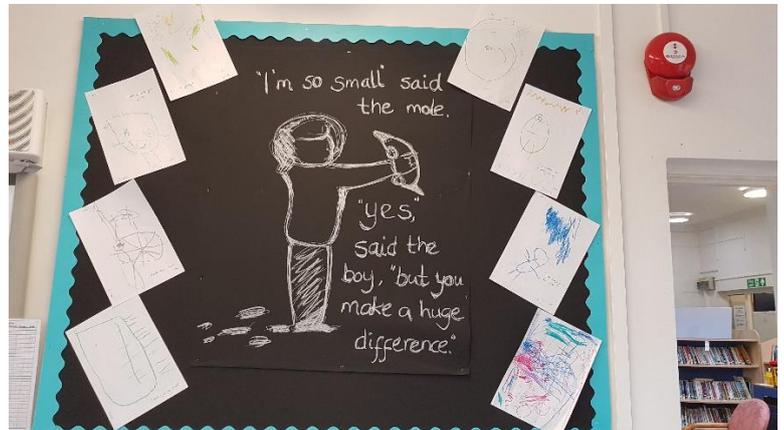
SCHOOL NEWS



Dear Parents / Carers,

Spring has definitely sprung and brought the promise of new beginnings. For our pupils, they have all now returned to school and are embracing their 'normal' learning and it is clear they are happy to see their friends and teachers. During the first 2 weeks back, as well as a focus on English and Maths, the children had the opportunity to undertake more art and DT activities during the afternoon lessons. Art lessons were focused around the wonderful book by *Charlie Mackesy - The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* and the art work the children produced was both inspirational and thought provoking, Some examples of their work are below and if you wish to find out more about the book you can do so here.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+boy+the+foc+he+mole+and+the+horse&&view=detail&mid=9DCE7AA2209ED26F0AA69DCE7AA2209ED26F0AA6&&FORM=VRDGARM>





For the remainder of this term, we will be working with your children to understand if they have any gaps in their learning and where their focus needs to be during the remainder of this academic year. The end of Key Stage assessments for EYFS, Y2 and Y6 and the Y1 phonics test and Y4 multiplication test have been cancelled by the DfE for 2021, but in order to understand what our pupils learning needs are, we will be undertaking internal assessments and the initial findings from these will be discussed with you at our next parents consultation evenings which are being scheduled for the week beginning April 26th. These will be virtual.

Kind regards,
Miss J E Garlick
Interim Headteacher

First two weeks back...

Monday 8th March dawned cold and overcast, but we felt incredibly sunny at Hughenden as the children were all coming back into school full time. A school is a hollow place without children's chatter and it's always a little 'Mary Celeste' after hours and early morning. The staff feel the same on INSET days, when there are no children to cajole for dawdling in the corridors or chatting too loudly at lunch. It's not that we're all bossy boots or like the sound of our own voices, it's that we care about our classes and our whole purpose is to instil the love of learning in our pupils, without them, there's no joy for us either!

So over the last three weeks, as well as lots of catch up English and Maths in the mornings, each class has spent a week of afternoons focussing on Art, PSHE and DT. Our theme for Art/PSHE has been based upon the book, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, by Charlie Mackesy. He has a unique way of looking at the world and during both lockdowns posted many interesting quotes with pictures of these characters on his Twitter feed, providing inspiration and a little bit of hope for many.

Each class read sections of the book and found something that their children could relate to. Foundation made moles from black crepe paper and Year 1 drew beautiful charcoal and watercolour images inspired by the book. Further up the school, Year 5 went on a 'Mackesy Journey' each afternoon creating ink drawings of the characters, chalk & charcoal flying horse sketches, pastel rainbow sketches (like his NHS rainbow), watercolour paintings of stormy weather, and pen illustrations of trees.

The classes also talked about how to be kind, like the mole and the boy, with Year 1 loving the cake eating with friends, and Year 5 writing how to be kind to themselves on little red hearts. Even Hoppers created a display about being small, but very important just like the mole!

For DT, each year group took on a design project for the week. Foundation made sock & finger puppets, to complement their wooden spoons puppets from World Book Day. Year 1 examined lots of different ways of joining fabric and made large hand puppets using felt with stapling and sewing along the way, and Year 5 made wooden bird boxes as part of their local area project 'Giving back to the Chilterns'.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed these two topic weeks and it eased them back into school with plenty of time for one to one support from their teachers and chatter with their school friends. DT is never quiet and art is often accompanied by soothing music, much to the benefit of all. We hope that your children have shared their enjoyment of being back at school full time with you and told you about some of their Art and DT. Pictures of their work can be seen on their class eschool and Dojo pages.

Collection Arrangements - reviewed

Having reviewed our collection arrangements again today, we have made the following change to Foundation's collection arrangements. With effect from Tuesday 16th March, Foundation children will disperse from the Hoppers entrance between 3.05-3.10pm

KS1 remains the same at 3.10. KS2 remains the same at 3.20pm.

Unless you are waiting for older siblings, when you have collected all your children, please leave school promptly to avoid issues with social distancing. All adults should be wearing a face covering unless exempt.

We have allowed parents to use the turning circle at drop off only as this will help the traffic but at collection time, you should arrange to park in a side road, or to meet your child at an agreed place away from the school gates. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Medicines in school

Please be reminded, that should your child/ren need to be given any prescribed medicines in school, we must have the medicines in the original box with the pharmacy label clearly showing the child's full name and dosage required. Medicines must be accompanied by a signed consent form which can be obtained from the school office. It's also available on the front page of the school website under Important Information for you to print at home if you wish. Please note, we can only give medicines that are prescribed for 4 times a day unless your child is at after school club. Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Tempest Photographs – 1st April 2021

We are happy to confirm that individual photos are now booked with Tempest for the 1st April 2021. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do non-school sibling or family photos as we have done in the past on this occasion.

Easter Trail

After the success of our Halloween Trail we have decided to run this again, this time with an Easter trail for you all to enjoy.

On our Friends of Hughenden Primary Easter Trail we have over 30 households involved in and around Hughenden Valley. Children can choose to follow either the questions trail or picture trail.

All entrants will receive a sweet treat on completion of the trail and will be given the opportunity to be entered into our price draw.

Lots of fun for the whole family and it's only £1.50 per child. All funds raised will go to Friends to help support the children of Hughenden Primary School.



Music Taster Sessions

An opportunity has arisen to hold some taster sessions for children in year 4 to learn to play the Cello, Trumpet or Trombone. Taster sessions would take place in school on Thursday morning, first thing and if your child is interested, we can put you in touch with the music teacher to take things further. Lessons would be funded and paid for by parents. Musical instruments would be provided for the taster session and everything will be duly sanitised in accordance with their Risk Assessment.

Cello week 1 - 25th March

Trumpet week 2 - 1st April

Trombone week 3 - 22nd April

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email the school office as soon as possible.

Remote Learning and Class DoJo

Early feedback from parents relating to the use of Class DoJo has been very positive and we are seeing increasing numbers of pupils and parents signing up to use the app. Please do try to upload work regularly to the class page so that teachers can provide feedback and support as required. Teachers would like to see regular evidence that children are engaging with learning. Remember this can be in a range of formats. Aim to submit something each day.

SchoolGrid accounts

Thank you for all our parents for supporting us in ordering your child's school lunch from home, it really does help us. Our preference is for all pupils in KS1 to order a school lunch as this is funded from the government but if for particular reasons you prefer to make a packed lunch, that is also fine on the understanding that there will not be any spare lunch if the lunchbox is forgotten!

Please can parents in KS2 check their account balances and ensure there are funds available to cover all meals ordered and taken as we have been informed that some balances have been outstanding for a number of weeks – thank you.

One Can Trust

Thank you to you all for your support with our food collections, your support has been overwhelming. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our collection for this week but the next dates are: 12th May 2021 and the 22nd June 2021.

Belongings and the School Office

Please ensure your child brings everything with them to school in the mornings. Due to Covid restrictions, the school staff should not be carrying items to your child's classrooms that are brought in late. Also, please do not enter the school building in the morning or at the end of the school day. We are working really hard to keep our staff and pupils safe and to avoid cross-contamination wherever possible. If you have something to hand in, please give it to your child. If you have a message, please email or telephone the office. Alternatively, you can also message your child's class teacher through ESchools.

Ordering Lateral Flow Test Kits

Just a reminder that parents can now order their own Lateral Flow Test Kits. Public Health England are encouraging parents to order their own Lateral Flow Testing Kits for you to complete at home with your child/ children prior to coming into school. This is especially beneficial if your child is presenting symptoms and can produce a fast result ensuring minimal time off school.

Please follow the link below to order yours now.

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

The results need to be recorded on to the Government Website and if anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, you should inform us as soon as possible and make sure the person and your household or bubble self-isolates immediately and gets a PCR test (a different coronavirus test) to confirm the result.

All staff members have been conducting these tests twice weekly, since the beginning of January, doing the test every Monday and Thursday morning and recording the results accordingly. They give a speedy result and a level of peace of mind that all the measures we are taking here at school are helping to keep us all safe.

Getting a Covid Test

If you need to book a Covid 19 test, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please keep us informed and forward your results for our records as soon as they become available.

Year 5 Trip to Smalldean Bank, Lacey Green

On Tuesday 9th March, Year 5 arrived on a beautiful sunny morning at Smalldean Bank to meet the National Trust, some Chiltern Rangers and a man who works for the Butterfly Conservation Trust. We were going to help get the area ready to encourage a very rare kind of butterfly (called The Duke of Burgundy) to lay its eggs there.

This butterfly can only be found in a couple of areas of the United Kingdom and is very fussy about where it lays its eggs. It loves primroses and cowslips on areas of scrubby grassland, that aren't too heavily wooded. We were split into two groups – the cutters and the draggers. The cutters used loppers and bow saws to cut down little spiky shrubs and beech tree saplings because the Duke of Burgundy doesn't like too much shade where it lays its eggs. The draggers then dragged all the shrubs and saplings down the hill to the large bonfire, which the Chiltern Rangers then fed with the twigs and branches.

After lunch on the sunny hillside and sitting near the bonfire, we swapped groups and the people who had been dragging were now cutting and vice versa. Some people had to go right to the top of the steep hill, which was hot work in the sunshine!

The National Trust and Chiltern Rangers thanked us very much for doing such a good job and said we had all followed instructions really well. They asked us to mention to our families that, from June, we should be able to return to Smalldean Bank to see the Duke of Burgundy butterflies fluttering around.

SPRING TERM 2021

12 th May 2021, 22 nd June 2021	One Can Trust food collections
1 st April 2021	Tempest individual photos – whole school including Hoppers Break for Easter Holidays, 1.30pm finish
19 th April 2021	Return to School
3 rd May 2021	Bank Holiday
31 st May – 4 th June 2021	Bank Holiday/Half Term
9 th July 2021	INSET DAY
21 st July 2021	Last Day of Term, 1.30pm finish
2 nd September 2021	Return to School – new academic year