MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seek what is good, treasure what is true, do what is right

Our value this month is Resilience

Dear Families,

As usual, it's been busy, busy, busy here in school, and we have got plenty to share with you all!
Thank you to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire. Your feedback is incredibly valuable both the positives and the areas for improvement. I'll be sharing the outcomes with Governors and with our wider school community in the upcoming weeks.

The children have been working so hard, as always, and you'll find some brief class updates later in the newsletter.
One of our highlights this week was a lovely chat with our new partner school Chitiwiri in Malawi. Three of our classes were able to "meet" over Zoom, and ask questions. We learned about the subjects they study, the food they eat in school, what they enjoy doing in their spare time, and so much more. And of course, someone had to ask the all-important question: Do you play football, and who is your favourite team? Thankfully, Arsenal did get a mention. What an amazing experience for our pupils making connections with children 5000 miles away!

Our school choir also had a fantastic time at a fun rehearsal hosted by Sacred Heart Primary School. Their behaviour was superb as always polite, enthusiastic, and a real credit to us. The excitement of travelling on the top deck of a double-decker bus only added to the adventure. We are getting ready for our big performance on June 18th! We also have our athletics event coming up at StoneX Stadium, which is always a brilliant occasion. We're all cheering on our squad and wishing them the very best.

Finally, our Year 6 children have their end-of-Key-Stage-2 SATs next week. I want to take a moment to reflect on how incredibly hard they have worked this year in every aspect of their learning. Mrs Phiakkou has been right there beside them:supporting, challenging, and encouraging them every step of the way. Well done year 6!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and I will see you at the gate on Monday.
Ms. Eyres

Stars of the Week

We have been enjoying the lovely weather in **Willow Class** these last few weeks, spending lots of time in our lovely outdoor area and enjoying the sun. We have especially enjoyed riding the bikes in the junior playground and working on our balancing skills ! It was tricky for some of us but we had loads of fun. In English we have returned to our learning of Handa's Surprise and our Year One children have innovated the story and have written their own versions this week. Our lovely Reception children have been practising using their phonics skills to write sentences, remembering finger spaces as well as capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end of the sentence. In Geography we have been learning about homes in Malawi and making comparisons to homes in the UK and the children produced some beautiful art work based on these. We also loved sharing a Zoom call with Chitiwiri School in Malawi and asking our questions to them. In Science we have been identifying and labelling parts of the body, both inside and out. In DT we had fun making basketball posts and finding out how we could make them more stable by using weight and we started to design our own pencil pots. A big highlight of the fortnight was Reception's trip to the church. They were amazing completing a treasure hunt and listening to Francesco tell them all about the church and what happens there. What an exciting couple of weeks we've had!

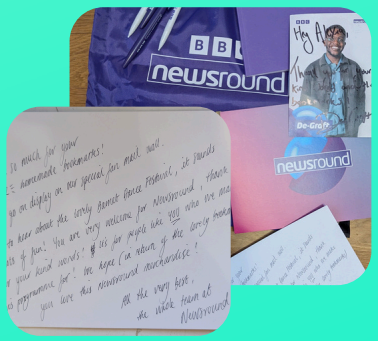
Our **Chestnut pirates** are still merrily sailing the seven seas. In the last two weeks, they have written character and setting descriptions based on 'The Pirates Nextdoor' and are now working on their own pirate adventure stories inspired by 'Molly Rogers to the Rescue' by Cornelia Funke. Do ask your children the names of their pirates and their pirate ships - they were very inventive! In maths, we have slipped seamlessly from marvellous money to fabulous fractions. Meanwhile our science lessons have seen the children plant their own sunflowers and monitor their growth from seeds to seedlings. Some children have even noticed the seeds discarding their protective coats as they sprout - what careful observers! PSHE has been all about threading hygiene and healthy habits into daily routines and the children played a fabulous beanbag version of 'capture the flag' in PE on Thursday with defenders and attackers showing good sportsmanship and clever strategies. And finally ... there are some superb self-portraits a la Frida Kahlo hanging in the school hall and the classroom - our Chestnuts loved expressing their individual identities through the medium of flowers.

Beech Class has been working hard in Science while learning about plants. We carried out an experiment to investigate how water is absorbed and transported through a plant.
First, we looked closely at the different parts of a plant and described their functions. Then, we used white flowers placed in coloured water to observe how water travels through the stem to the petals.
To make our investigation even more interesting, we placed one flower in a warm place and another in a cold place to compare how temperature affects water transport. We enjoyed watching the petals slowly change colour and discussing our results together.

We have also been making fantastic progress in swimming this term. All of the children have shown great determination and confidence in the water. Our less experienced swimmers have made remarkable progress, and we are very proud of their achievements. A huge milestone was reached when every child successfully swam in the deeper end of the pool and confidently managed to jump in. Well done, Beech Class!

Over the last few weeks, in **Cedar Class**, the children have been reading a great book called Tuesday, which is about the adventures of some magical but mischievous frogs. Firstly, the children worked with a partner to describe the setting of the story, using ambitious vocabulary. They then retold the start of the story in their own words. This week, the children have been finding out all about news reports and they have written a transcript of a news report about the strange frogs and their adventures.
It has been time to tell the time in maths and lots of resilience was on show, as reading an analogue clock and converting between hours, minutes and days was tricky at first.
In history, the children explored the cures that were used for the plague in the 1300s and made some Four Thieves Vinegar of their own. In geography, the children researched some of the reasons why the plague arrived and spread so quickly in England and made posters of their top three reasons. We then ended by having a debate about the reasons of the plague and some very articulate and persuasive arguments.
In art, the class used charcoal to create still life compositions and they continue to improve their catching and ball striking in cricket.
Any children who would like to play cricket more are invited to Old Elizabethans Under 11 training, on Monday at 6.00 pm.

Finally, Alexia had an exciting delivery in the post this week. The budding journalist wrote to BBC Newsround to tell them all about Cedar's performance at the Barnet Dance Festival. They were so impressed that they sent Alexia a lovely thank you letter, a signed picture and a goody bag! Well done, Alexia!.



It has been a very busy and productive couple of weeks in **Oak Class,** with the children showing fantastic effort and resilience across all areas of learning. We have been revisiting and recapping important grammar knowledge, brushing up on our calculation strategies and developing our understanding of algebra. The Year 6 pupils have also been working incredibly hard as they prepare for their upcoming SATs, showing determination and maturity in their learning.

In Geography we have been learning about the journey from wheat to bread and exploring the different stages involved in getting bread onto our plates. In Science, the children have enjoyed classifying animals using classification keys and learning how scientists group living things based on their characteristics.
I am proud of the enthusiasm and positive attitude the children have shown throughout these busy weeks.

Ms Eyres knows that some of the Year 6s are a little worried about next week so she wrote this to remind you all...

Year 6

You are more than SATs, more than a score,
More than a test paper spread on the floor.
These are just moments, a few hours in time,
Not the whole story of how you all shine.

You are singers and artists, explorers at heart,
Footballers, writers, all playing your part.
Piano players,scientist, guitarists in a band
Bakers or builders making wonderful plans.

You love science and DT, creating with care,
Dreaming of futures that wait for you there.
To travel, to study, to help and to grow,
To find your own pathway and proudly to go.

These tests cannot measure your kindness or smile,
Or how you help others going the extra mile
They don't show the courage you carry each day,
Or the thoughtful and caring small things that you say.

For what makes us proud is much bigger by far:
The heart of your community shows who you are.
The way that you care for the world all around,
In your laughter, your friendships, true greatness is found.

So try your best proudly, but always remember
Your talents and kindness are treasures forever.