

A delayed newsletter this week, but there is a reason.

Our Week:

In maths last week, we continued looking at multiplication and division. We've been focusing on factors and multiples, and how to tell if a number is divisible by another number. This will help with our problem solving.

In English, we have started the preparations to complete our own piece of writing based on Art and Max. We now have a word bank full of adverbs, adjectives, verbs and nouns, all relating to our "magic string" that we will be writing about. The children have come up with some brilliant vocabulary and were excellent actors as we thought about ways we would manipulate our string as we create with it and the manner in which we would do it.

On Friday, we visited Attleborough Academy to get a taste of high school. In drama, the children showed their creative sides, working in groups to portray a particular shape, object or scene. Without any props, the children had to decide how best to show what they had been tasked with. There were some brilliant ideas. I particularly loved the ways some groups became rivers, forests and even a motorbike! We then did some computing and got to use our scratch knowledge to create a game, then finally we headed to science. Here, in a controlled way, the children used candles and jars to see how oxygen is needed to create and sustain fire, before seeing what happens when gas bubbles and fire combine!

Today (hence the intentional delay in sending this), we went to Wymondham High for a similar experience. We started in the library (which our avid readers, including myself and Mr Shackleton, would happily have spent the day in), playing library bingo, allowing us to explore what the library had to offer. We then headed to DT where the children made keyrings from recycled plastic. Finally, another science lesson and more flames! This time, the children got to set up and use Bunsen burners to complete an experiment, looking at how copper, sodium, potassium and lithium burn with a different coloured flame.

For anyone considering both schools, I hope seeing them both in this way has helped and allowed for a good comparison. For anyone going to one or the other, or neither, I hope the visits were still enjoyable and helped to show the kinds of things that you might get to do in high school and what being in a big school like that feels like.

Homework

We had lots of children who didn't complete the homework tasks last week. I have now been made aware of some possible problems with TTRS and AR that I'm looking into. Your child knows if they are one of the people affected. I've advised those children to leave the TTRS/AR task until I have confirmed they are ok to proceed. A couple of children did mention that something on theirs wasn't working right last week but many didn't.

We want to encourage independence and resilience so I am asking that all children take more responsibility for themselves and their learning. By that I mean things like paying attention in the

classroom and not allowing themselves to get distracted, or being proactive about making sure they can complete the homework. With regard to homework, what I am particularly asking from them is; to remember what tasks they need to do; come to me early if there's a problem; check in with me later in the week if I haven't come back to them about a tech issue; think about what the best time of the week would be to complete tasks (if they're not at home at the weekend for example).

Homework for this week has been set today, so another reason for my delayed newsletter is to allow me to write here what the homework is. All children have been given a slip of paper today with it on and it is always written on a board in our room. To cover all bases, if I add to our newsletter too, they can always check at home if they have forgotten and it's too late to look at school.

Due in: Monday 21st October

Maths homework book - pages 8 and 9

Grammar homework book - pages 36 and 37

TTRS - 15 minutes across the week

AR - 1 book quiz or 1 article quiz.

Thank you for the continued support with the homework. All tasks are specifically set. No homework is given "for the sake of it". These are all tasks and questions, designed in particular to help prepare for SATs but to generally support the work we do in class. If any child is struggling, please tell them not to worry and just to come and see me about it. I have no problem with someone attempting a couple of questions but finding the rest too tricky, providing they come and let me know so we can look together. What I don't want, is people having nothing written in their books at all and not coming to see me.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss, you can email otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk or catch me on the playground at the end of the day.

Finally, I know many children (my own included) will answer any after-school questions with "don't know", "can't remember" or something along those lines. If you want to know about their day today, you could try asking about the cookies at break time! That may seem a bit random but they were a big hit with lots of the children, so might be a way to start a conversation about the day that will then lead to a bit more than "it was fine"!

Dates to remember:

15.10.24 - Young Carers afternoon session

17.10.24 - Reception 2025 open morning (year 6 will be helping to show families round).

24.10.24 - Last day of this half term

24.10.24 - Halloween Disco

25.10.24 - First day of the half term holiday

04.11.24 - Back to school

08.11.24 - NSPCC workshop (Y2/5/6)