



Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired

Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

A message from our headteacher Alex



I am sure Northcroft staff will join me in thanking the Haywards Farm School staffing team for accommodating the staff and young people during this time of transition; with this transition comes changes for both schools, with new students joining the cohort of Haywards Farm School, staff changes and Hannah the school's **Maths** lead will be reallocating children and young people to suitable learning groups.

Every half term, children and young people take part in pre quizzes which highlights any prior missed learning as well as secured learning which doesn't need revisiting from previous years. In both schools, we will continue to work with the model of allocating children and young people to learning groups in maths, to ensure that children and young people are given opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in units where missed learning may have occurred, and those children/young people who haven't missed as much prior education can still make progress at a pace.

This term, all groups will be working on the unit of **Fractions**.

Both schools will join a termly **Maths** challenge. The tables for this half term will be **3,9,12**. Children and young people who have secured knowledge of these tables, we ask them to remember they are a team and, therefore, we ask them to mentor their peers when needed and offer practical support to each other.

At the end of the term, via Teams, Years 4,5,6,7,8,9, will join a **times tables** bingo session where the winners will join each other to attend a trip to the climbing centre in Reading.

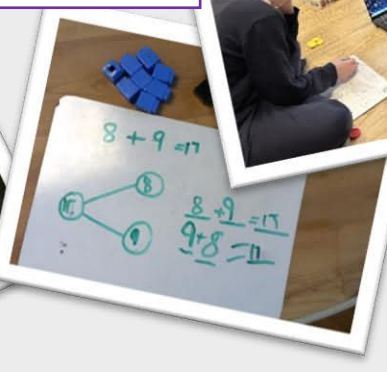
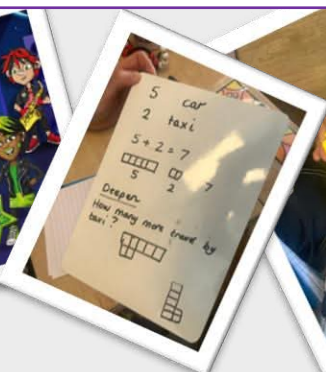
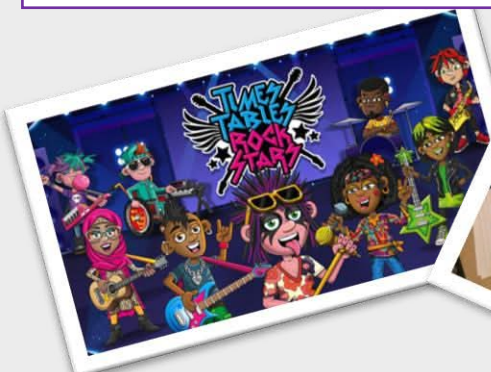
We ask for your support where and when possible, to reinforce any learning you can. All students will have access to TT Rock Stars and have access to the maths games website <https://www.coolmathgames.com/>

Attached is the curriculum map for all students.



Dates for the Diary

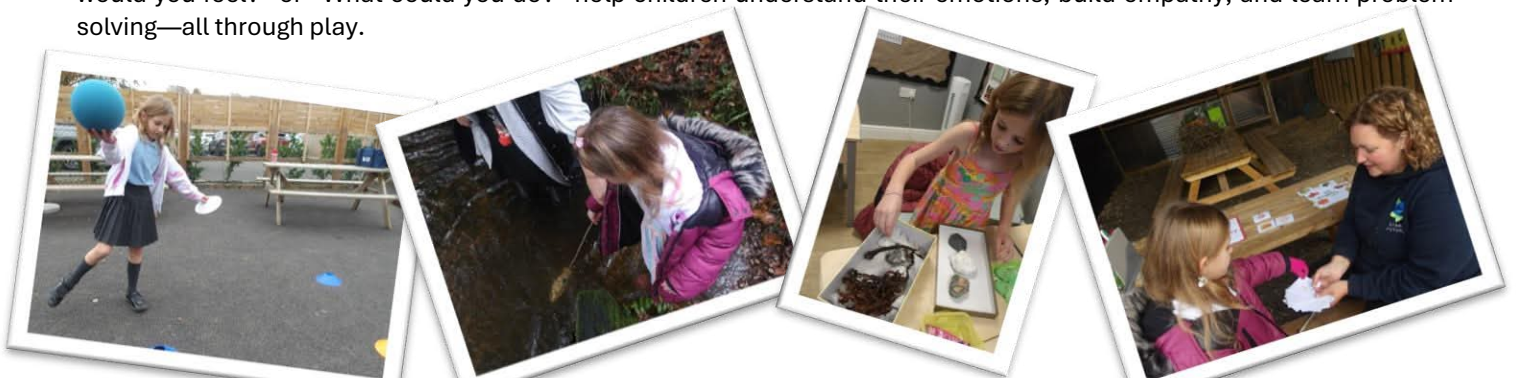
- **Monday-** Cherry Class Stables AM, Maple Stables PM, 7EC Paddocks PM
- **Tuesday-** 7EC PE at Meadway PM
- **Wednesday**
- **Thursday-** Cherry Class Paddocks AM, 7EC Stables PM
- **Friday-** 1pm finish.



Class updates:

Cherry Class

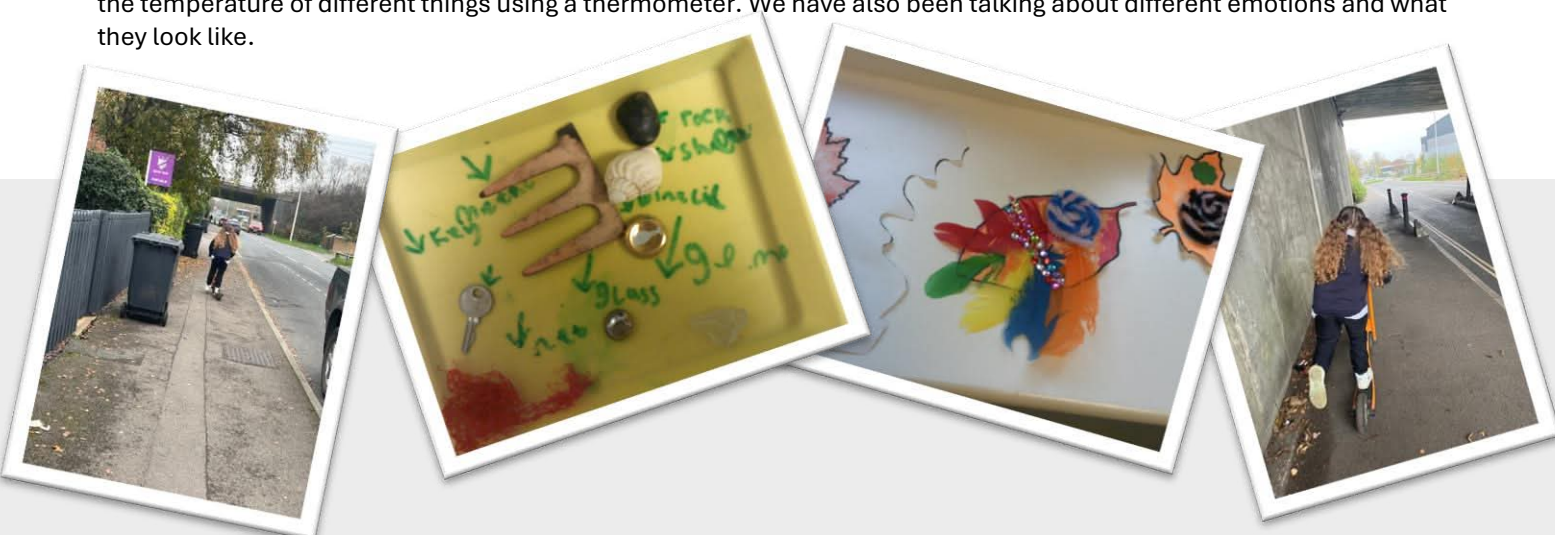
In English, we've started a new book, *The Thames and Tide Club* by Katya Balen, and it's already sparking loads of curiosity! The children are making predictions based on their own knowledge and connections, gathering strong adjectives for persuasive writing, and using conjunctions and prepositions to add detail to their writing. We're also beginning to uncover some of the book's themes and ideas. It's been a fantastic start to build both their reading and writing skills. In Geography, we've kicked off a new topic all about the water cycle. The children are learning to identify and describe each stage and have explored some very grown-up vocabulary whilst doing so. In History, we have moved along our timeline from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age. Children have been comparing similarities and differences between bronze and stone tools and finding out how new technology changed daily life. We even got to experience what hunting would have been like back then. We made our own spears and went hiking to find food in the river! In D&T, we've started a new topic on creating a healthy packed lunch and balanced meals! The children are learning about different foods and what makes a meal both nutritious and delicious—just right for building healthy habits and fun lunch ideas. In PE, we've taken our one-leg balancing to the next level! The children have shown wonderful resilience and determination, really pushing themselves to hold steady for longer. It's fantastic to see their focus and confidence coming along so nicely each week. In Science this week, we took a fascinating look at fossils. The children explored how fossils form, discovering the differences between animal and plant fossils. During our icebreaker, we had great fun playing games like Plus-Plus and then kicked off our learning with a bit of friendly competition in Times Table Bingo! It was a brilliant way for children to settle in and enjoy a bit of light-hearted competition together. We played conversational Snake and Ladder game which helps children learn social and emotional skills in a fun way. Landing on a snake lets them talk about handling tricky feelings, like feeling sad or upset. Landing on a ladder gives a chance to discuss good moments, like helping someone or being patient. Simple questions, such as "How would you feel?" or "What could you do?" help children understand their emotions, build empathy, and learn problem-solving—all through play.



Chestnut Class

This week in Chestnut class we have been looking at different treasures that you could find on the beach, and using noun phrases to describe them. We have been inspired to do this through our new book, 'The Thames and Tide Club,' by Katya Balen. We have tried to use adventurous vocabulary such as 'frayed' and 'swirled' in our writing.

In Maths we have been strengthening our understanding of addition using resources such as cubes, part- whole models and place value counters to support us. Maths is always better when it is hands on! In Science we have been measuring the temperature of different things using a thermometer. We have also been talking about different emotions and what they look like.



Maple Class

This week in Maple Class, the children have begun new topics in History, Geography and Science! They have begun to explore Electricity in Science and have learned the different symbols for electrical components and how to draw out electrical circuit diagrams. They also got to open their box of electrical equipment and begun thinking about experiments they could conduct with the resources. In History, the children have started learning about how archaeologists find out about the past through excavation, field walking and surveying. They then began researching the Coppergate excavation in York where over 40,000 Viking objects were discovered! These objects told archaeologists a lot about the Vikings that lived in York through the food, clothing and pottery they left behind. In Geography, the class have begun to analyse what tectonic plates are and how they cause earthquakes. Our new Class Book for English is called "Can we save the tiger?" and it explores many different animals that are at risk of extinction. The children have been using role play, writing using conjunctions, prepositions and expanded noun phrases to create exciting sentences with varied structures. Over the next three weeks, the children will be building knowledge to feed into a lengthy discussion text about why tigers are so endangered. Our new Personal Development book is called My Hidden Chimp. Did you know that we all have a hidden chimp brain living inside our head? Ask you child what the chimp does!

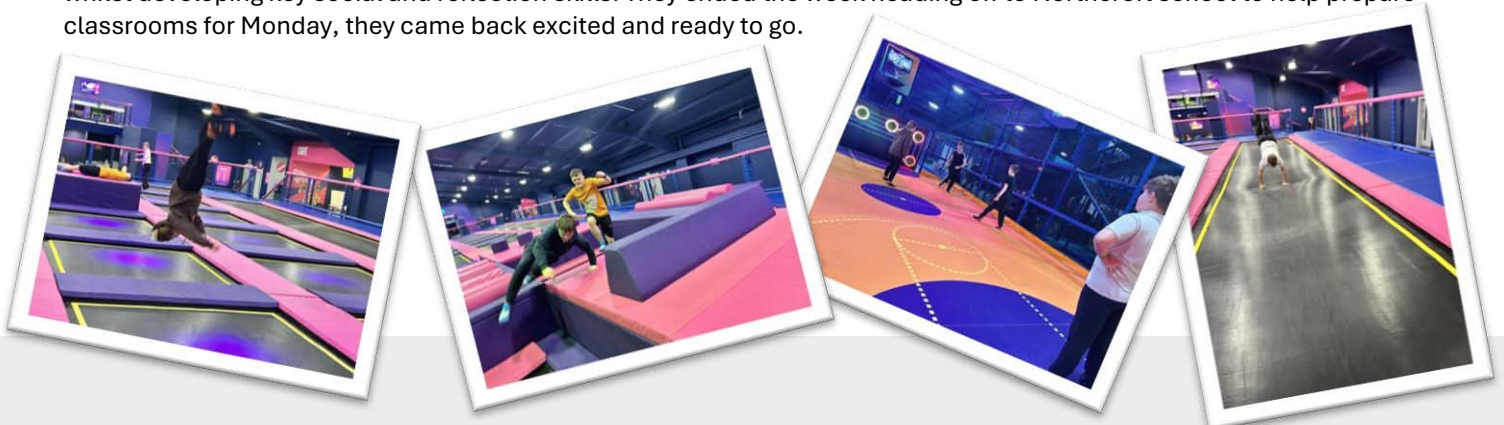


Secondary Classes

What a spectacular end to the week at Haywards Farm School. Students finished the week showing real growth and maturity in their journey and time at Haywards Farm with a celebration assembly at the end of the week and staff and students sharing some of their proudest moments whilst in the school. Exciting times lie ahead as they embark on their journey at Northcroft.

Year 7s worked hard this week making sure all of their learning and work was completed so that they could attend this weeks PE enrichment trip to Oxygen Activeplay trampolining centre. Whilst here children focused on transferring key physical skills such as balance, coordination and power learnt in previous lessons to an alternative sport. Students also demonstrated excellent behaviour whilst offsite and considered the British Values whilst out in the community, amazing role models for the school. Students also undertook some drama this week as part of their English Shakespeare topic, students acted out some lines from some of Shakespeare's plays and demonstrated some awesome acting skills!

Our year 8s and 9s demonstrated excellent maturity skills whilst developing their communication skills undertaking some restorative practice. We believe restorative practice is an excellent way for our young people to resolve issues whilst developing key social and reflection skills. They ended the week heading off to Northcroft school to help prepare classrooms for Monday, they came back excited and ready to go.



Have a restful weekend, Alex.

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