



Every Pupil Matters, Every Moment Counts

Auckland College Newsletter April 2020



A message from Headteacher, Miss Boyd

Dear Parents,

Well I never thought I'd be writing the school newsletter under these circumstances!

I'd like to start by thanking all of our hardworking staff continuing to risk their health and safety by attending school each day to provide for the children of our country's frontline workers. That is everyone from our caretaker, to cleaners, chefs, office staff, TAs and teachers. I am very proud that we are able to remain open during these unprecedented times.

I am really pleased that the first two weeks of home-learning have gone so well; I know it has been a difficult adjustment, but we are all learning and developing resilience which will make us stronger in the long run.

I must say well done to those completing and submitting their daily home-learning work to teachers via our different online platforms of EyLog, Class Dojo and Google Classroom. It is so important to keep up with daily learning, reducing the

likelihood of regression and gaps in knowledge forming. There is quite a bit of research from America on loss of learning during their summer holidays, where the break from school can be up to 12 weeks. This is one of the reasons why Auckland has always set holiday homework and why now in particular, we are striving to continue the education of our pupils 'online' as normal as possible to avoid detriment to academic progress. One quote in particular from a paper resonates with me when I think of parents who may be struggling at home:

"We don't have to replace every single hour, particularly when we're giving one-on-one attention to our kids, it's really engaged time in academic learning that's creating the learning, not necessarily the number of academic minutes in a school day."

No one knows how long this situation is likely to last, so if you or your child is struggling with any aspect of home learning, please get in touch with their class/subject

teacher and we will do all we can to help.

We have all been working hard throughout the Easter holidays to ensure that we can step things up further for the new term starting on Monday 20th April. This was originally marked as an INSET day on our calendar, however lessons will begin again instead.

The TAs, as always, are doing an amazing job and have been keeping life 'normal' in school in Holiday Club during the past two weeks. We've been blessed with great weather, so have made the most of the outdoor space and got plenty of fresh air.

Class Dojo is the quickest and easiest method of communication with the whole school community, so we're really lucky to have all families connected to it already. Please check in regularly to see updates from myself and Mr Ramsden, as well as for Early Years and Prep staff uploading the children's work daily.

Stay safe at home if you can.

Kind regards, Miss Boyd

Achievements

Secondary Dojo Leaders (up to 20th March)	Secondary 100% Attendance (up to 20th March)	Prep Dojo Leaders (up to 20th March)	Prep 100% Attendance (up to 20th March)
Gold Kanzy (Yr 8)	Gold Muaad (Yr 7)	Gold Emma (Rec)	Gold Riley (Yr 6)
Silver Jori (Yr 7)	Silver Shaden (Yr 9)	Silver Cyrus (Yr 3)	Silver Penelope (Yr 1)
Bronze Abhinav (Yr 9)	Bronze Abhinav (Yr 9)	Bronze Cara (Yr 2)	Bronze Felix (Yr 4)

Early Years News

What has Pre-Prep 1 been up to? - Miss Lloyd

March has been a very busy month for Pre Prep One and we have enjoyed every minute of it! We have learned about Space – we know there are 8 planets in the Solar System and we made our own planets using balloons, glue, and lots of paper. We discovered how colours change whilst painting the planets in lots of different coloured paints and thought about what we would take to space if we were Astronauts – lots of food and toys!!

We have been practising our cutting skills during different lessons and are getting quite confident when using

one-handed tools! In phonics we are looking at initial sounds in words and can even read some simple three-letter words!

We are continuing to look at number recognition, 2D shapes and we can tell you how many sides some of those shapes have! When learning about the jungle we looked at the patterns some jungle animals have on their fur. We then created our own patterns using two colours and shapes.

The children all look amazing for World Book Day! We had lots of fun

reading and sharing lots of stories, talking about who we were dressed up as and having our World Book Day party and disco in class.



What has Pre-Prep 2 been up to? - Miss Patterson

This term PP2 began learning about one of our favourite stories, 'The Gruffalo', which was perfect for when we celebrated World Book Day. We even got to make our very own Gruffalo biscuits! As the weather has started to get warmer, we have spent lots of time exploring outside, looking for mini-beasts and signs of spring. The children have especially loved taking care of our very own class caterpillars.

All the children are doing very well at developing their phonics knowledge, by beginning to segment sounds in small words and then blend them back together to read what the word says. In

Maths we have been practising our addition skills, creating repeating patterns and building on our knowledge of shapes, looking at the difference between 2D and 3D.

In PE we have been doing Yoga to create different shapes with our bodies and enjoy some quiet time. The children have also have been learning how to maintain control over an object in different ways, such as by kicking, rolling, throwing and catching.

Finally, we have been experimenting with new techniques in our Art lessons to create symmetrical butterflies and spring lamb puppets for our display

walls. The children have especially loved using masks to act out familiar stories to their friends.



What has Pre-Prep 3 been up to? - Mrs Collins

Pre Prep 3 has had an excellent half term, and they have worked extremely hard both in school and at home.

The class enjoyed learning all about Space, creating their own space rockets with the help from parents donating materials for us to recycle, as well as learning the parts that make up a space rocket.

The children enjoyed looking at pictures of the different planets and describing the differences that they could see.

Pre Prep 3 also enjoyed a selection of different Space stories; listening and

taking part in the stories by describing different endings or repeating the refrains in the story.

In Phonics, the children have moved on to Phase 3 sounds, playing different Phonic games and identifying words with the sounds in.

In Numeracy the children have increased their counting to 30 and are identifying and writing numerals of numbers to 20 and some beyond.

The children also met Super Cat this half term, who helped the children learn

about road safety, through a story and song.

I would also like to thank the parents for the home learning that is taking place, the children have taken part in lots of exciting lessons, including a mini-beast hunt and building their very own bug hotels.



What has Reception been up to? - Miss Scholfield and Miss Bainbridge

Both Reception classes have had a wonderful Spring term! We ended with our fantastic topic of Dinosaurs and with a special trip together to the Museum! They discovered lots of real fossils and dinosaur bones together during our Liverpool World Museum trip.

During Numeracy we have focused doubling and halving numbers to 20. We have also enjoyed looking at measuring objects using non-standard forms of measure. The children have been busy measuring their hands, feet, shoes and even their parents' and carers'! They

have been using items such as Shreddies, Cheerios, small toys and it has been lots of fun!

We have been looking at scientific concepts of floating and sinking and the children have been busy making their own predictions and testing them out in their own bathtubs or sinks.

In Literacy we have focused on fairy tales and enjoyed lots of familiar stories, re-telling tales and re-writing our own endings. For our new topic we have received our very own special, class

caterpillars; the children worked together and thought of names for our caterpillars. Miss Scholfield wrote all of the names and placed them inside her lucky hat and they were chosen at random! After half term we will enjoy watching them closely and how they grow into butterflies.



What has year 1 been up to? - Miss Kelly

Year 1 has continued to make fantastic progress this term and have especially enjoyed our History topic 'The Great Fire Of London'. The children created their own fantastic oil paintings of the London skyline and used shading techniques to portray the flames as the fire spread over the streets of London. The children were especially proud of their artwork when Ms Bradshaw displayed them on the Great Fire of London display.

In Literacy lessons, we have been learning about 'non-fiction' text features.

Using the information, we learnt about whilst studying 'animals and their habitats' in Science lessons, we have created our own non-fiction books based on animals that typically live in the rainforest. The children worked very hard on their books and enjoyed sharing them with Year 2 pupils.

In Numeracy lessons, Year 1 has been using division as a means of sharing and multiplying to count sets of objects. We then led on to learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

The children have been working very hard both in school and at home and I am very proud of their hard work and efforts. I have enjoyed receiving lots of quality pieces of work that Year 1 has been working on at home and want to congratulate all of them on their attitude and approach to the daily lessons.



Prep News

What has Year 2 been up to? Miss Murphy

This term in Year 2, we have progressed through lots of new learning. We spent some time consolidating our knowledge of fractions, before moving onto our topic of measure which saw us measure the length, height, weight and temperature of many different items!

We celebrated a fantastic World Book Day where we all dressed up as a powerful character. We had two fabulous guest readers, Dr Charlie and Midwife Catherine. We were so

engaged in many questions about their jobs and managed to link it to our current world climate. We then progressed onto our online learning. Year 2 have adapted to this situation extremely well and I am so very proud of how they have been engaging with their learning from home. It has been great to see many of your faces in your portfolio and I have even heard year 2 have engaged in a class video call which sounds like so much fun! Enjoy your Easter break and I can't wait to see

the learning that commences in two weeks.



What has Year 3 been up to? - Miss Lyons and Miss Muscart

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term! Throughout this time, the children have been studying 'Extreme Earth' and despite recent events, we have seen some superb home learning taking place right across both Year 3 Red and Year 3 Yellow. We can't believe how resilient and motivated our children are during these uncertain times. We have seen some amazing work produced at home and both myself and Miss Muscart can't thank our parents enough for their support. The children have used their understanding of descriptive language from their prior English lessons to

complete some wonderful, informative posters and stories on extreme weather events such as tornadoes, tsunamis and volcanoes. The standard of language used is unbelievable!

In Mathematics, Year 3 have been doing a terrific job of identifying, comparing and ordering fractions, using models and supportive videos to guide their independent learning. Once again, we can't thank our parents enough and we look forward to continue our work together to ensure that our Year 3 learners progress across the curriculum.

We are excited to teach the topic of 'Egyptians' next half term and we are sure that Year 3 will love this topic just as much as we do!



What has Year 4 been up to? - Miss Trainor and Miss Buckland

This half term has been a little different than what any of us are used to. I would firstly like to say thank you for your continued support and the amazing work that has been going on at home during this difficult time. Both year 4 classes and our school have really pulled together to support each other and find the positives out of the current circumstances. We are extremely proud of all the students in year 4 and their parents for the work they have put in to continue our learning journey, even though it may be a little different than our usual route.

We focused on Ancient Maya this half

term, it was an interesting term for all as many of our students had never heard of or learned about Ancient Maya; it was a time of discovery for everyone. In Science we loved learning about living things, particularly as it took us on a trip to Chester Zoo, where we applied our knowledge of living things; it may have been a rainy day but we certainly didn't let this dampen our spirits.

In Math we have been working extremely hard on fractions and we have continued this great work at home. A topic that can be very difficult, so I am very pleased at the continued

hard work going on at home. In English we wrote several creative pieces linked with Ancient Maya, and even wrote a range of instructions using a range of grammar techniques to create Mayan meals and games. We have continued to work hard in our punctuation and grammar lessons and have focused on using VIPER skills in our comprehensions.

We hope you have a lovely break and eat lots of chocolate and hopefully things will be back to normal soon. Best wishes, Miss Trainor and Miss Buckland.

What has Year 5 been up to? - Miss Dobbins

Year 5 has been continuing to explore World War II this half term and how the lives of British people had been affected by the war. We discussed why British people wanted significant changes in the way Britain was governed at the end of the Second World War and how new towns were built. Furthermore, we discussed the importance of the NHS and how this creation improved the lives of people living in Britain.

In Numeracy Year 5 are becoming expert problem solvers as they continue to practise their reasoning and problem-solving skills. We have been practising these skills when learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. The children

can identify, name and write equivalent fractions of a given fraction and can confidently convert between fractions, decimals and percentages.

This half term in Literacy we have been focusing on fiction writing relating to the Battle of Britain. We have learned how to analyse elements of a character description in order to plan our own characters. Additionally, we discussed what a story mountain is and used this to visualise the structure of a narrative - this helped us understand how stories are pieced together. We used this new knowledge to plan and create our own stories. In science we have been learning about famous scientists and inventors

including David Attenborough, Margaret Hamilton, Eva Crane, Stephanie Kwolek and Leonardo da Vinci. When learning about these scientists and inventors, we discussed documentaries, computer coding and how it enabled Apollo 11 to go to the moon, the invention of Kevlar, the proportions of the human body and much more. I have been extremely impressed with the effort the children have put into their work when learning from home. Everyone has applied a mature and positive attitude towards their learning. Year 5 have continued to show enthusiasm and commitment to their work, and they should all be proud of themselves. I hope everyone has a lovely and well-deserved Easter break.

What has Year 6 been up to? - Mr Ramsden

Year 6 had a lot of changes thrust upon them in the last half term. They had been working extremely hard on their preparations for the upcoming SATs that were due to be held in May. However, the current situation has led for these to be cancelled and so many of the Year 6s have been left disappointed that they would not be able to see the results of that hard. Please be assured that we will be contacting all secondary schools to let

them know how special our Year 6s are and they have continued to show this during their time in Home-Learning. They have been engaging really well and sending in some fantastic work; some students have returned almost every piece to a very high standard, which is a remarkable effort. Year 6 have also been enjoying Live Maths lessons from Mr Ramsden and very interesting Art projects from Miss Bradshaw.



Next half term they have more to look forward to when they begin to investigate the Americas and The Titanic Disaster, and we look forward to seeing what is produced. Keep working hard Year 6.

Secondary News

Geography— Mrs Moore

This half term year 7 studied volcanoes. For homework they have been created model volcanoes which we are looking forward to viewing on return to school. They have looked at the structure of a volcano, how volcanoes are formed and the different types of volcano. During home learning Year 7 have looked at the impacts of volcanoes for an advanced country and a low income developing country.

Year 8 have studied Climate Change this half term. They have researched human and natural causes of Climate Change, including solar orbit, volcanoes, fossil fuels and deforestation. They have researched what people can do to slow current rising temperatures and the impacts of rising global temperatures on different communities. They have discussed how rising temperatures is seemingly unfair on low income developing countries and who contributes most to rising temperatures.

Year 9 and 10 have been looking into case studies for their Distinctive Landscape topic. They have created a profile of the River Severn and will be adding to this over the Easter holidays researching the History of flooding on this river including the most recent floods. They have also been looking at coastal erosion and the features of the coast including headlands, bays and stacks. They will be developing this knowledge further by looking at more depositional features and coastal protection methods.



English—Mr Davies

We started the term with World Book Day and it was great to see some of our Secondary pupils engage and choose to dress up as their favourite characters. We enjoyed lots of activities across the curriculum and took time to share our favourite books with each other.

It clearly changed quite quickly and the latter half has been a bit strange, with some pupils in school and others working from home.

Year 7 pupils have been studying William Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet' with focus on the main plot and analysing important scenes of the play. In addition, they have been learning how to use persuasive techniques to

create and market their own chocolate product.

Year 8 pupils have been exploring the background of the playwright William Shakespeare and his contribution to our literary heritage. They have also been studying poetic techniques and developing their own poetry skills.

Year 9/10 pupils have been exploring a range of poems from the WJEC anthology and developing their written responses to exam style questions. They have also been studying narrative writing and examining writers' techniques and developing their own narrative writing skills.

Year 11 pupils have been completing a range of controlled assessments and practising past papers. They have also been developing their prose writing skills for both the Language and Literature syllabuses.



Science— Miss Burns

Year 7 has been studying the Earth. They began the term identifying rocks using microscopes. They studied the effect of weathering on rocks, by shaking Weetabix in a container and measuring the erosion. We formed our own crystals and experimented on how crystal size in rocks is related to temperature. Year 7 celebrated British Science week at an event in Liverpool Hope University and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. At the end of this term students have been home-learning all about space, they have produced fantastic articles and diagrams of star cycles, solar systems and moon phases.

Year 8 has been studying Earth processes, resources and reactions this half-term. They began the half-term studying the carbon cycle and combining their art skills to produce beautiful carbon cycles of their own, which are going on display. Year 8 spent the day at Chester Zoo to look at how changes in the Earth's processes are affecting habitats. We also did experiments on metals to discover their properties and experimented on some of the most reactive metals and noted our observations. Year 8 also celebrated British Science week at an event at Liverpool Hope University and were also fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Year 9/10 has been studying energy. They started the half-term measuring energy changes in chemical reactions and identifying them as endothermic or exothermic. They planned and conducted their own experiments as part of their required practical work. Year 9/10 examined energy stores in Physics and wrote down the energy transfers in different situations.

Art— Miss Bradshaw

Year 7 have been working hard this half term, in and out of school.

They completed their Pop Art self portrait successful before starting their project on the theme Ocean.

They have analysed the abstract artwork of Jason Scarpace and have had the opportunity to experiment with a variety of techniques and materials like pen and paint effects to develop their ideas.

Since being at home year 7, have worked hard on a project on 'Insect'. They have researched the artist Rosalind Monks and about to create a 3D insect at home over the Easter.

Well done on your progress year 7.



sweet packets, very successful before starting their project on Street Art.

They have demonstrated sustained effort and progress at home on their theme Street Art.

Throughout the project pupils have shown critical understanding of sources to do with this theme, in particular researching into the work of Banksy.

Excellent effort year 8.

Year 8 have been working hard this half term, in and out of school.

They completed their larger than life



This half term, has seen a promising start of their GCSE coursework project on their theme Cultures.

Year 9 & 10 have developed their ideas, experimenting with various materials and techniques such as painting, collage, printing and drawing. Since being at home year 9 & 10 have developed their ideas in response to the artist Roy Lichtenstein and creating still life setups in his style.





Our Gallery of Stars



Year 11 GCSE Art work

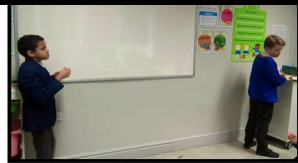
World Book Day Celebrations



Year 7 & 8 British Science Week trip to Liverpool Hope University



Year 6 Safety Online Role-play



The Chazuka Project Workshop



Thank you NHS

