



HUNTINGTOWER A PRIORY ACADEMY

Tower Times wb 16.10.23

Welcome to October's newsletter.

Included within this newsletter:

- Organisational information including timings and attendance
- Clubs information
- Celebratory items

ClassDojo



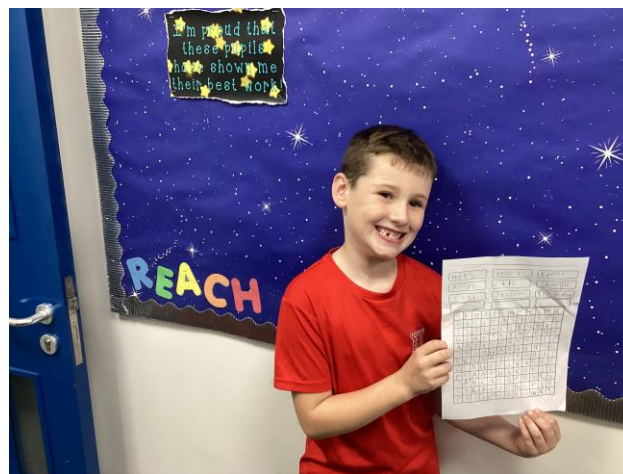
As an academy, we try to keep you informed as much as possible about what is going on in the Academy. We use Parent Hub and also ClassDojo to do this. ClassDojo allows us to celebrate achievements of the

children in their class story as well as on the academy story. As a parent, you also have the ability to message your class teacher if you need to communicate with them and cannot speak to them at the start or end of the day. It is also a great platform to find out more about the wider life of the academy including clubs, events and competitions.

ClassDojo is a very versatile platform that can be accessed by many types of devices and also offers 23 languages for translation. We are aware that some families who had access before have been struggling. Please speak to the office if you have an issue.

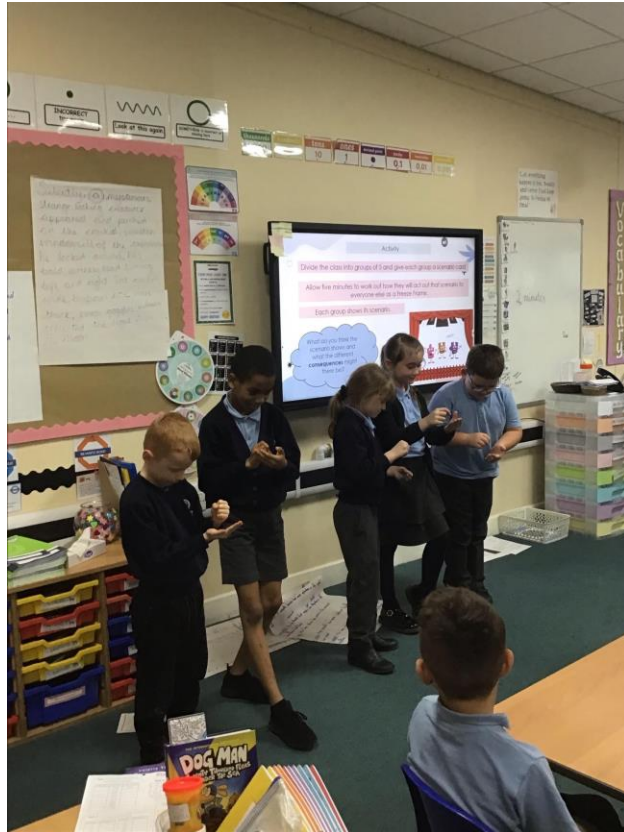
Messaging can be a little confusing as within your child's class as there may be other staff member such as myself (Miss Harkins), our SENDCo (Mrs Craddock) or a Senior Leader (Mrs Kightley, Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs Giles and Mrs Smith) who leads the phase that your child is in but isn't their teacher. If you would like to speak to any of these members of staff, please contact the office as they may not check their ClassDojo as frequently as the class teachers do. Teachers will respond to your messages as quickly as they can but please continue to let the office know if there are changes to who will be collecting your child or if they are absent.

Please see some of the photos that staff have posted on their class stories.

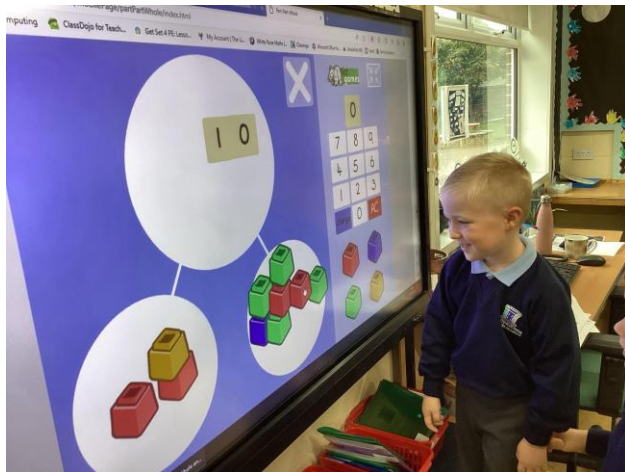




























Daily Routines



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Please see below for reminders of our daily routines:

- Classroom doors open **from 8.50am** in Early Years and Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2, staff will collect their classes from the playground. **We register the pupils straight away.**
- **Doors and gates close at 9.00am. This is when our registers close.** Any children who arrives after 9.00am will need to enter the academy through the main entrance. We ask that parents complete a late slip. Any child arriving after 9.00am will be registered with an unauthorised late. For more information regarding our attendance policy, please see [here](#).

In addition, can we remind you that:

- Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle in the classroom for them to access during the day. This should only be water and not squash.

- Children should come in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. **They should still wear their school jumpers or cardigans and not hooded tops.** Tracksuit bottoms and leggings should be black, dark grey or navy without motifs or visible labels.
- Earrings should be removed for PE days.

Finally, at the end of the day:

- It is always very busy in the car park at the end of the day. If possible, we recommend walking to collect your child. The yellow zigzags lines on the roads are there to protect our pupils and to keep them and their families safe whilst entering and exiting school. We have had several parents speak to us about their concerns with other parents/families parking on the zig-zag lines even if it is to briefly drop off. Please help us to keep all children safe by parking away from these lines or choosing to walk to school.

Leave of Absence or Holiday Absence:

As per our attendance policy, **we will not authorise absence unless for exceptional circumstances.**

Please see the link to the attendance policy above for examples of exceptional circumstances. Please be aware that this unauthorised absence could be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice Fine of £60 per pupil per parent.

Clubs and Events



We are delighted that clubs and sporting events have resumed, this term. Year 6 Zebras have been having swimming lessons this term with Year 6 Wolves starting their lessons after half term.

Mrs Duxbury-Mead has been busy organising a range of events that have begun to take place. A group of children have participated in a Y3 and Y4 Mega Tag Rugby Festival and Y4 Bee Netball Festival. There have also been some Sports club running with Inspire+ coaches.



Please check both ClassDojo and Parent Hub for more information about more clubs and events coming up. We are continue to use online forms to apply for places so it is important to routinely check ClassDojo and Parent Hub for the specific information.

Our PE leaders, Mrs Bensley and Mrs Duxbury-Mead would like to congratulate our new Year 5 Bronze Sports Ambassadors who have been elected this year to join our existing Year 6 Ambassadors. They took part in the Inspire+ training that was held in the academy after with Inspire+ and Mrs Duxbury-Mead reported that they should be proud of how they conducted themselves and represented the academy. We look forward to hearing more about their endeavours with the Year 6 Ambassadors over the year.



1 - Our new Bronze Sports Ambassadors and Change 4 Life Leaders

Leadership Roles

As our pupils progress through the academy, there are increasing opportunities for them to hold a position of responsibility in the academy. From Year 2 onwards, pupils can be elected as Academy Councillors by their classmates and then as they move into Upper Key Stage 2, they can hold roles such as Tower Captain, Sports Ambassador, Reading Ambassadors (previously known as Librarians), Mini Police, Playground Leaders and Change for Life Leaders. The children take these roles very seriously and aspire to hold these roles from quite a young age.

So far this year, we have appointed our Tower Captains, Sports Ambassadors (please see above), Change for Life Leaders and the Academy Council. Children will be putting themselves forward to hold the role of Reading Ambassadors and these will be announced after half term. We will also be introducing the role of Junior Online Safety Officers. This is a role for Year 5 pupils and the children are keen to be involved. The children who have already been appointed are keen to begin their roles and we are also incredibly proud of all of the children who put themselves forward. It took real courage.



2 - The Academy Council for this academic year.



3 - Our Tower Captains elected by pupils in Year 1 to Year 6.

Harvest Festival



Towards the end of September, we celebrated Harvest Festival. It has become a tradition that we collect items for Grantham Foodbank and this year we collected more food than we have ever collected before. In total, we collected 19 crates of food and hygiene items. This was even more than last year. The Grantham Foodbank asked us to pass on their thanks. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity. We also, held our Harvest Festival in the week when we celebrated the value of Generosity. We also call this week, Evelyn's Week. Thank you for your kind and generous donations.

You Said, We Did

During last academic year, we worked as part of the Trust to gain a greater understanding of how our different stakeholders feel about our academy (and the Trust). We normally gather this information in our academies in our own way. Last year we used the online system, Edurio.

We first asked our Year 5 and 6 pupils a range of questions to understand how they felt. Their responses told us that they felt safe in school, felt safe walking to and from school and most importantly felt that their teachers helped them to learn by explaining the learning clearly. They also said that they found their lessons interesting.

Their responses did identify some areas to work on. 42% of the children in the survey told us that they do not read beyond their school day, that they can worry about things and also sometimes find some of the learning difficult. Since the survey, we've been working with the children throughout the academy on

these elements. We use a resource called the regulation tool kit to support children with their emotions and also, have tailored our PSHE curriculum to support both anxiety as well as resilience. Reading is so important (it's the secret to success) and staff are passionate about the books and texts we use in school. We are in the process of buying new books with the money raised from the Summer Fayre as well considering ways in which we can further inspire children to read. We have reviewed our leadership role of the Librarians and Mrs Dewhurst and Mrs Smeed are excited to work with the Reading Ambassadors once appointed. If you could

Thank you to everyone who completed the parents' survey. The responses were like the pupils' survey in that they were incredibly positive. We are able to compare our results with those across the different Trust academies and our responses were even more positive. The three most positive responses related to the quality of the communication you receive, how easy it was to get in touch with the academy and speak to appropriate members of staff as well as how much information you receive about your child's attendance. There are always areas to improve and we will be looking closely at your responses. You asked for more engagement beyond the school day and we are pleased to announce that year group discos will be starting next term (Year 4 and 5 in Term 2). You also asked for more information about your child's learning. Over the year, we hope to bring more information events. So far we have hosted after school and after work sessions on reading and phonics in KS1 and Early Years. It was also identified that it was sometimes difficult to see how your feedback impacted upon the academy. Hopefully, this new section of the Tower Times 'You Said, We Did' will keep you informed as to how the voice of the different groups that work with the academy help to shape and improve it.

Information by Third Parties

We often receive information about events, clubs and our local community from third party groups. Due to GDPR, we are unable to share the full information with you but we may share the basic information that you can then request more specific details.

We have recently received information about:

Monday Bingo Afternoon at the Railway Social Club (perfect for parents and carers as it finishes by 3pm)

One Touch Soccer Club

If you would like to know more, please contact the office.

Message from our Admin Team



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If your child is unwell, please let us know as soon as possible. A message can be left on our absence answer machine, a message can be sent via text or email (to our enquiries email address) or you can wait to speak to one of the administrators. We appreciate that the phone lines and the office can be very busy first thing in the mornings but it is important to let us know. If we are unable to ascertain why your child is absent, we will have to register them as having an unauthorised absence as well as considering a home visit.

Happy Half Term



Friday, 20th October is the final day of this term. It's been a busy and productive term and one where the children have worked hard in their new classrooms. We will return to the academy on **Monday, 30th October at 8.50am. Please remember to order your child's lunches by Tuesday, 24th October with Ideal Kitchens through ParentPay.** The clocks also go back on 29th October, so please be mindful of the darker mornings and nights. We hope you have a safe and happy half term.