

HANDSWORTH NEWS

**BRANCHING OUT, GROWING TALL
HAND IN HAND, ONE AND ALL**



Handsworth
Primary School

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We hope you all had an enjoyable half term, what beautiful weather we had! The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting outside the classroom this week. Year 5 had a great time at Highams Park lake, we are so lucky to have that and the forest on our doorstep!

This week we have been made aware of a few Covid cases in our wider community. It is so important we are all cautious and keep following the guidance. Thank you for wearing masks during drop off and collection, I appreciate it is not comfortable in this weather! It is vital we still keep socially distanced and remember our hand hygiene. If presented with a positive a case, individuals are asked to identify their close contacts, these are other people who have been within 1 metre of them for any amount of time or 2 metres for 15 minutes. That is why keeping distanced is so important. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office.

You will find lots of information in the newsletter this week, we have a lot going on in school! Remember we are committed to working together with you in order to best support our children. So please, as always, get in touch if there is ever anything you would like to discuss.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend - it is going to be a hot one!

Mrs Nairne

Our ducks have hatched! We were all so excited this week to see our special guests. The children enjoyed seeing the ducks hatch and this allowed for some wonderful conversations in Nursery and Reception. Click on the picture below to see a video of the ducks.



This week we launched our [Nursery](#) and [Reception](#) transition pages.

TOYS!

Please be reminded:

Children are not allowed to bring any toys from home to school.

This includes fidget toys like Pop Its and trading cards.

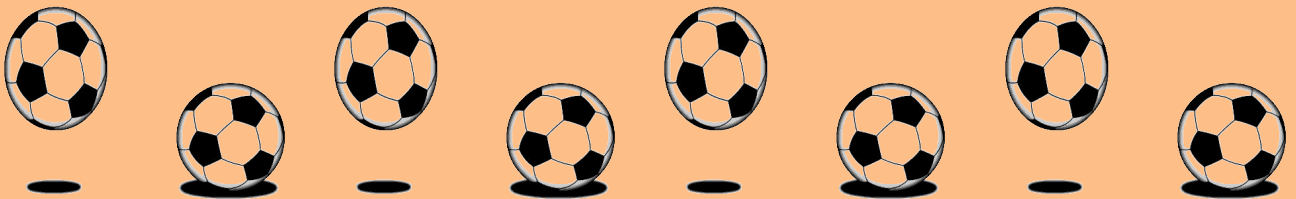


Next week is KS2 Sports Day! The children will remain in their year group bubbles.

Please send KS2 children into school wearing their house colours on Thursday 17th.

KS1 is on Thursday 24th. They will also come to school in their house colours and will remain in their bubbles.

Unfortunately, due to government restrictions we are unable to invite parents to the Sports Days this year. However we will take lots of pictures and videos so please check the school website for updates!



11 JUNE - 11 JULY
2021



The Euro
Championship
starts tonight!

Click on the
picture on the
left to see the
fixtures.

Changes to the School Day

As you know, we have been reflecting on the changes we have made due to the pandemic. Whilst it has been a very challenging time, we have also learnt how things can be done more efficiently. We always like to ask ourselves **why** we do the things we do. Our school values underpin everything we do here and when thinking about any changes we make sure that we are doing it for the good of the children. As a result of this we have decided to make two changes to the school day at Handsworth. From September we will be implementing **Soft Starts** and **Staggered finish times**.

What is a Soft Start?

Soft starts at Handsworth mean that children can arrive in class any time between 8.35am to 8.50am. The register will be taken at 8.50am when school will officially start.

Why are we moving to a soft start?

Since we returned back to school from lockdown many classes have been using soft starts to support families where siblings have different start times. We have found that soft starts have led to calmer more purposeful mornings. We also can see that they have been supportive for families with multiple children in school as there is no need to rush when dropping children off at their individual classes.

What are the new staggered finish times?

From September:

Reception will finish at 3.10pm

KS1 (Years 1 & 2) will finish at 3.20pm

KS2 (Years 3 - 6) will finish at 3.30pm

Why are we moving to staggered finish times?

We have found that staggered finishes have meant that the end of the day is less congested. Parents have time to pick up siblings in different year groups and speak to teachers if needed.

All of these changes are dependant of government guidance regarding Covid-19. However if all restrictions are lifted this is the current plan for September 2021

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Mr Oakley



Miss Grant



Mrs Wood



Mrs Demirbasa



At the end of this academic year, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Oakley, Miss Grant, Mrs Wood and Mrs Demirbasa.

Mr Oakley has taught at Handsworth for over 10 years, he has been a wonderful member of the team. Thank you Mr Oakley for all the productions you have written, films you have made, residentials you have attended and fantastic opportunities you have given our children.

We also say goodbye to Miss Grant who has been an LSA for 5 years. We will miss your creativity and artistic ideas but know we will still see you as much as possible!

Mrs Wood started at Handsworth in 2001 and has been a caring and supportive member of the Handsworth family. Mrs Wood genuinely loves the children she works with and is always so kind and caring! She has made many friends whilst working at Handsworth and we are all so thankful for everything you have done over the last 20 years!

Mrs Demirbasa has worked at Handsworth for 18 years, and like Mrs Wood, is now looking forward to travelling and having some time for herself. Mrs Demirbasa has been a committed and dedicated member of staff, working so hard for the good of the children. Mrs Demirbasa doesn't ever seem to stop! So much energy and enthusiasm for our children, but now it is time for you to relax, take some time for yourself and enjoy retirement.

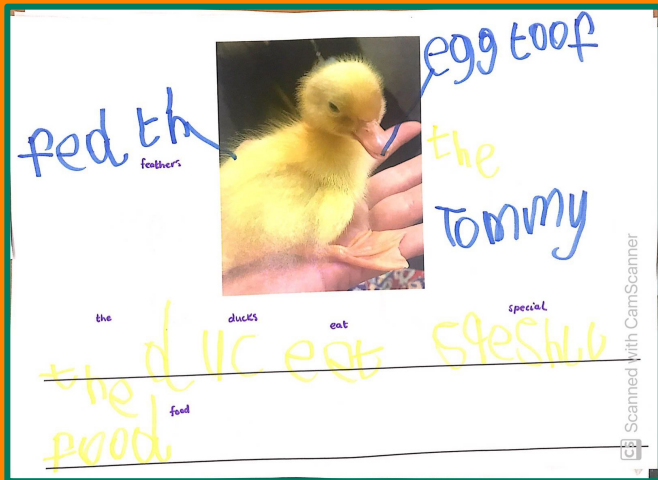
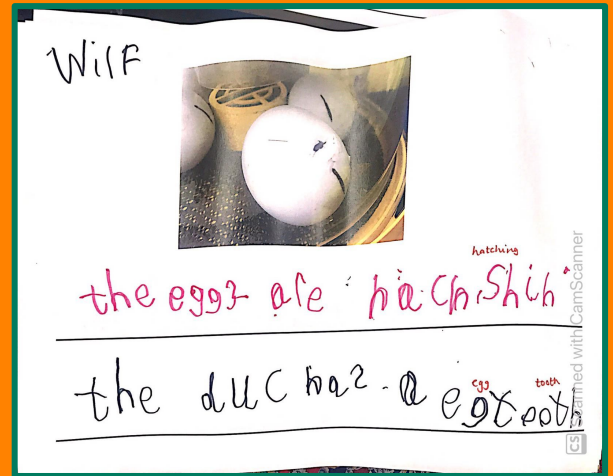
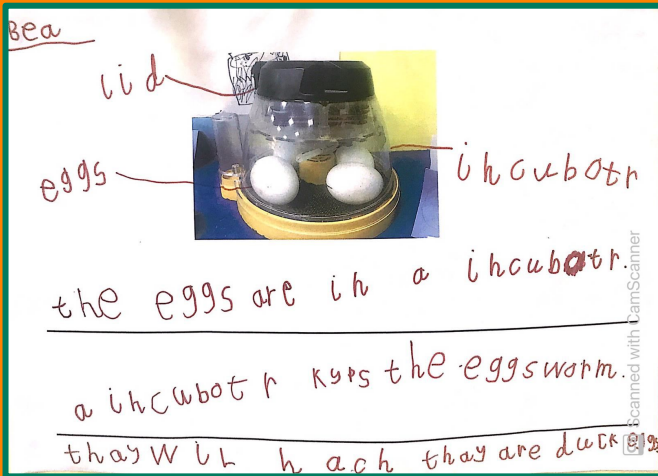
Thank you to all these members of staff who have contributed so much to our school. You will always be part of the Handsworth family. Please stay in touch!



Year 6

So many learning opportunities in Early Years! All inspired by our special visitors!

It is so important for children to be excited about their learning.



To support the Science topic of Planting and Growing, The children planted beans and seeds and small plants in tin cans that were recycled from the school kitchen and Dale then made them safe, getting rid of sharp edges and making holes in the bottom. Fun and learning for all!



Planting and Growing

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EYFS

KS1

KS2

TOMMY

RAO

WYLDER

1IL

REEVIE

3FB

ZARA

RHH

POPPIE

1MJ

ANISE

3LB

ALEX

2KC

GYORGY

4BD

SAYHAN

2MW

KIAN

4SN

LOUKA

5TC

LEON

5JG

DANIYA

6SM



The purpose of Star of the Week is for us to have the opportunity to celebrate every child in our community specifically. We encourage everyone to celebrate what is wonderful about that child. Children do not need to do anything to earn Star of the Week – each child deserves it and they will each get a turn.

If your child is Star of the Week we encourage you to ask them to repeat to you some of the positive statements their classmates and teachers make about them and add your own!