

Herbert Strutt Primary School

WE CARE; CHALLENGE; ACHIEVE; AND OPEN MINDS

17TH SEPTEMBER 2021

It has been lovely to welcome all of the children back to school. We did this by using the book, 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers, to enjoy and explore the messages in it. Each class used the ideas from one of the pages to make a display in the hall, some of these are in this newsletter (the rest will be in the next one).

One of the biggest changes we are all adjusting to, is not being in bubbles anymore and responding to Covid cases differently (more of this over the page). Children have enjoyed playing with friends from other classes and have done so with kindness and care. The atmosphere in school is cheerful, positive and calm with all classes focused on the business of learning. I am especially impressed with how children in Y6 have 'stepped up' to the expectations of their year group. They are supportive of younger pupils and taking pride in their work and how they behave. **It's good to be back!**



Children in Year 2 made this display from the book. As we all join together back at school, it is the perfect message for us all. Well done Year 2!



INSET DAYS FOR THIS YEAR ARE:

- Wednesday 1st September 2021
- Friday 22nd October 2021
- Friday 7th January 2022
- Monday 27th June
- One more date to be confirmed

How we are managing the risk of Covid-19 in school

- A new risk assessment is in place (see website-Corona Virus Tab-it has been emailed to you too, this week)
- We have a system of controls in place, which are :
 - ⇒ Maintaining increased ventilation in school
 - ⇒ Continued hand washing/sanitizing hands
 - ⇒ Maintaining additional cleaning during the day of toilet areas, classes
 - ⇒ Catch it: Bin it: Kill it approach to sneezes and blowing noses
- We have asked parents & staff to consider wearing masks at drop off/pick up
- When someone tests positive, we inform parents of who could be a close contact, so they can book a PCR test for their child.

What are the rules now?

- ◇ Do not send your child in to school if they have the 3 main Covid symptoms. Book them a PCR test-they must isolate immediately.
- ◇ However, Public Health England have said that symptoms of headache, sickness, sneezing and runny noses are seen in children with Covid (so please take this into account when making decisions about PCR tests).
- ◇ Child/adult shows Covid symptoms in school- we will isolate them and ring you to collect them. You must book them a PCR and they need to isolate whilst waiting for the result.
- ◇ If you are a close contact to the person with Covid, you should get a PCR and you do not have to isolate, **as long as you do not have symptoms. If you do have symptoms, then you must get a PCR and isolate immediately.**

NOTICE

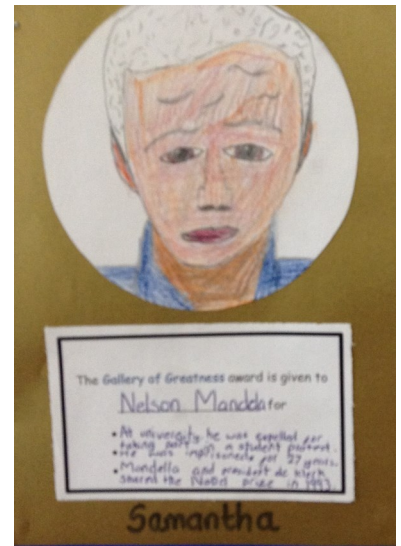
Additional whole school closure day to be confirmed

All schools have been told to choose a day that they will close to mark the Queen's Jubilee, as it falls in the May half term holiday.

Once this has been confirmed, we will let you know the date.

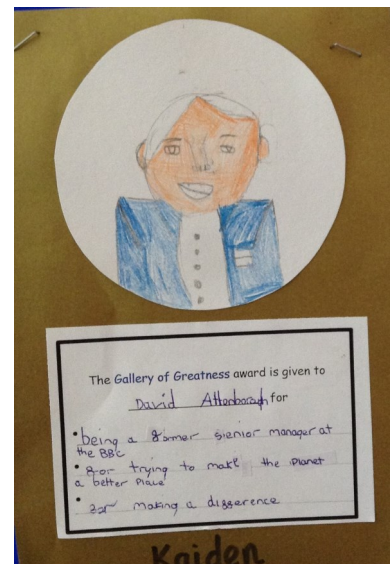
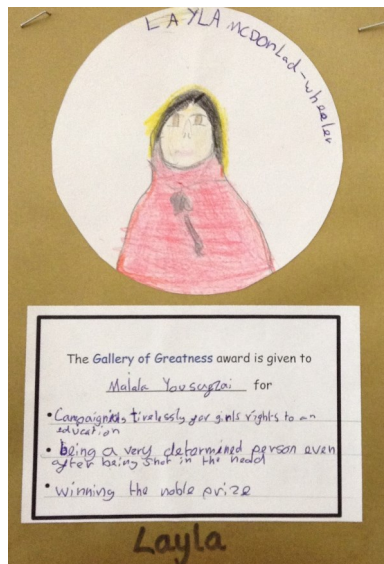
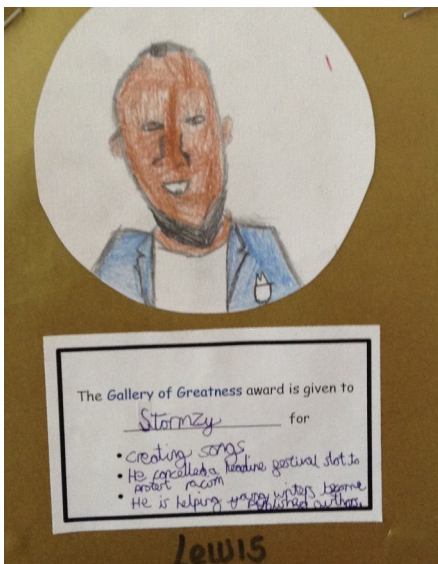


Well done Y6 for your work inspired by the book.



Oscar
When I sat behind you in
Yr 1 I never had a dull day.
Lucy

Chrissie
You're a lovely friend.
Gudrun



Frankie
I is the best.
Riley
I like you as a friend
Jack

Attendance and absence during term time

It is expected that all children attend school in term time. This is even more important following the disruption over the last 18 months due to Covid.

Holidays in term time are not permitted.

If you need time off school for a different reason, please ask the school office for a request form. This should be returned 2 weeks before your requested time off.

A decision will be made whether to authorise the absence and you will receive a letter confirming this decision.

If it is not authorised and your child does not attend school, you will receive another letter informing you that this has been forwarded to the LA and you may receive a fixed penalty notice (**this is a fine of £120 per child, per parent**).

Please see the website for details. Look on the 'Office' tab at the top and click on the 'Absence from school' link on the drop down list.

Staffing changes

Miss Vernon (Y5 teacher got married in the holiday and is now called Mrs Mortland: Congratulations!

Mr Broughton has been the relief caretaker for our school since last November and this post has now been filled by DCC. He has been with us much longer than he planned, which we have been pleased about, but it is time for him to have a well deserved rest!

From Monday 20th, the new caretaker will take up post; his name is Mr Houldsworth-we welcome him to Strutts. Mr Broughton will remain with us for a handover period.

Parking outside school

At drop off/pick up, we have had reports about double parking and children therefore struggling to cross the road safely. It is always busy outside a school but we do not want a child to be knocked over. Please review your parking plans.

Our priorities this year for school improvement are:

1. Strengthen the teaching & learning of computing and online safety
2. Catch-up: to ensure all pupils are back on track
3. Raise the attainment of writing, to be inline with reading
4. Implement the new EYFS curriculum
5. To review our assessment systems

Parents Evening

We were planning on returning to face to face meetings with you in school but as we have had several cases of Covid in school already, I wish to be cautious. We are therefore considering using the phone call system instead that we have done previously. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Dates are:

- **6th and 7th October**
- **Y3 will be 4th and 6th October**