



LEA HALL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 1 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our new look Lea Hall Newsletter. I hope that you find the information useful. We will be producing a newsletter at the end of each half term to update you on events over the previous weeks and inform you about future plans.

In this edition we have an introduction from our new Family Support Worker, Heena Iqbal, who has put together some information about her role and how she will be working with our pupils and families. Some of you will already have met with or spoken to Heena over the last half term, or may be aware that she has been doing intervention work with your child. Heena has added significant capacity to our team in supporting our families and pupils and has already started to have a big impact. She has arranged for and organised the provision of £20 food vouchers for all of our families to support with the increased cost of living over the half term holiday, through a Government scheme. You should all receive one voucher per child that you have in school so please look out for this and let us know if you do not receive it.

There is also a contribution from our new PE teacher, Mr Yousaf, who started in school towards the end of the autumn term. Mr Yousaf is looking to broaden the range of sports on offer in school and to introduce increasing amounts of competitive sport, which has already started, as reported below. Mr Yousaf has also increased the expectation that pupils change for PE, which is important for the development of their independence and for their personal hygiene. Thank you to our parents for your support in this.

Several of our classes (1, 4, 6 and 9) have contributed an update on the work that they have been doing over the last half term. This will be a regular feature of the newsletter and there will be contributions from other classes in future editions.

In this edition of the newsletter we have also provided information about our school's involvement in Children's Mental Health Week and have provided some guidance for you to follow up with your child.

Best wishes,

Stephen Garside
Interim Headteacher

IN THE NEWS THIS MONTH...

- Staffing update
- Engaging with our families and improving communication
- Pupil reports / Parent & Carer evening
- PE
- Family Support
- Class Reports
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Junior Award Scheme

**STAFFING UPDATE**

As some of you will be aware, a member of our Admin Team (Steph) left at the end of the Autumn term and we all wish her well in her new role. We were delighted to welcome Bella to our Admin Team in the front office. She has quickly settled into her role and is a valuable addition to the Lea Hall Team.

We have recruited a number of new, permanent classroom support staff who will be joining our class teams over the coming half term. Please look out for information about new staff joining your child's class. This will increase capacity but we are still looking to recruit more permanent staff to the school.

ENGAGING WITH OUR FAMILIES AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

Following on from the success of our activities for parents and positive feedback from our families, staff and pupils, we will look to introduce further activities in the lead up to the Easter break.

Please look out for our future activities through direct communication to you. We will also be making use of our website to communicate information and will be increasing our use of our school social media platforms on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook to share what has been happening at school. If you use these platforms please follow, like and share our school page with family and friends so they can see the wonderful things your children get up to at Lea Hall.



@LeaHallAcademy



"Lea Hall Academy"

PUPIL REPORTS / PARENT AND CARER EVENING

Another change made last term, that will continue in the next half term, will be the termly pupil reports and the parent and carer evening. You should receive the report for your child on 11th March and will have an opportunity to discuss this at the parent and carer evening on the 13th March. Please look out for further information nearer the time.

Staff have worked hard to review and re-assess pupils' levels of achievement and we have carried out a range of standardised tests since September. Your next report will, therefore, have accurate information about the level that your child is working at and future reports will reflect the progress that they have made.

PE WITH MR YOUSAF

Children from class 3, 4, 8 and 9 have been going to swimming at Stechford Leisure Centre over the term to increase their health and fitness and water confidence, by learning to swim the front and back crawl. They have been thoroughly enjoying their lessons.

Our year 7 indoor football team played against Hallmoor School. It was an impressive performance, which resulted in us beating them 7-1! The team was combined together from different classes and they displayed great team-work and sportsmanship.

It is fantastic to see the boys bringing in their PE kit, which consists of Navy blue/black jogging bottoms and a white t-shirt with trainers. Well done. Mr Yousaf (PE Teacher)



FAMILY SUPPORT

Hi, I am Heena Iqbal and I am the family support worker for Lea Hall academy. My role is to provide support and advice to the children and families I work with in school. I provide support to tackle a variety of difficulties, whether they are long or short-term challenges.

Our aim here at Lea Hall academy is to engage with and empower children and parents to ensure our pupils are receiving the best possible education.

Advise and support for parents and children will always remain confidential, although concerns relating to safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

I uphold the importance of building good relationships so that we can work together to support children to thrive, both at home and school.

Some days may be better than others, but I am here each day to provide guidance for the children here at Lea Hall and support to families, even if it's just a chat.

I will focus on enabling your child/children to:

- Enjoy and achieve.
- Build resilience and confidence.
- Stay safe.
- Have a voice and be heard.
- Encouraging and supporting positive behavior.

I may not have all the answers, but I am here to provide support and advice with:

- Information about services in your local area and support to access them.
- Improving school attendance.
- Signposting for help with finances.
- Providing emotional support.



Heena Iqbal
Family Support Worker

CLASS 9

How are we already half way through the year! The boys in class 9 have made so much progress in all areas of their development, the boys should be proud of themselves!

Before Christmas we enjoyed a wonderful trip out to the panto in Walsall and their excellent behaviour has opened doors for us to be able to book more trips out for the rest of the year! We have also enjoyed our swimming lessons so far this term!

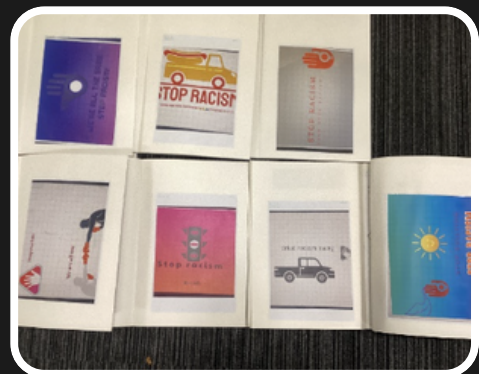
With some of our boys leaving this year, let's keep looking onwards and upwards and make the most of these few months together!

CLASS 4

In class 4, we have been learning about World War II. In our discussions, we explored reasons why Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power. We also researched the effects it had on Jewish people, which led us to the life story of Anne Frank and her family.

In Design and Technology lessons, we extended the boys' curiosity about the war and challenges people faced due to racism by designing their own t shirts. We have an ambition to enter the anti-racism competition "Show Racism the Red Card" All the boys worked really hard on making their logos and plan for the final piece.

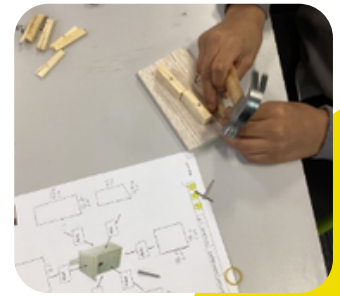
Here are some examples of their brilliant work.



CLASS 6

Math & DT: Bird House Building

Class 6 have integrated Mathematics with Design & Technology (DT) for an engaging project. We started by exploring measures - mm, cm, m, and km - and applied this knowledge to real-life scenarios. Students then transitioned to DT, where they drew detailed diagrams of birdhouses, labelling dimensions accurately. Putting theory into practice, they measured, cut, and assembled wood pieces with precision. This interdisciplinary collaboration not only strengthens their math skills but also fosters creativity and practical problem-solving. Stay tuned for updates on their remarkable creations!



English Excitement: Chocolate Adventures

Class 6 have been enthralled by Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Our students have designed their own chocolate bars, explored persuasive advertising, and used literary devices to craft captivating adverts. Next term, we're off to Cadbury World to delve deeper into the world of chocolate. Stay tuned for more delicious adventures!



Judo Celebrating Jacob's Victory!

In a recent judo competition, class 6's very own Jacob emerged victorious, showcasing his incredible talent and determination. With skill and grace, Jacob navigated the mats, ultimately claiming the championship title. His triumph not only fills us with pride but also serves as a testament to his hard work and dedication. Let's join together in celebrating Jacob's well-deserved win and applauding his commitment to excellence!

CLASS 1

On Wednesday 7th February, class 1 parents were invited for a special Valentine's fun activity morning. This was an opportunity for parents to work with their child. Pupils used 'Talk for Writing' and performed 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to parents. They then made valentines crafts using motor skills and lastly the parents had a chance to enjoy pancakes with a warm drink.



BEING SAFE AWARD

We were delighted to hear that our site officer, Alex Porter, has been recognised for his work in Lea Hall Academy by his employers Bellrock Property and Facilities Management Ltd.



Alex was awarded the Being Safe Award for the hard work and effort he puts in every day, to provide a safe environment to pupils and staff. Alongside the ongoing repairs and maintenance needed, Alex ensures that all safety compliance checks are carried out within the correct timescales and manages external contractors in the delivery of this.

Alex thoroughly deserves the award and we would also like to add our thanks for the work he does to ensure that the building and environment are safe for our pupils, staff and visitors. Well done Alex!

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

This last week before half term has been Children's Mental Health Week and we have had a focus in lessons throughout the week around the theme "My Voice Matters". Our pupils have carried out a variety of activities around this theme including looking at what it is that makes them feel proud.

Please see guidance for parents below about ways to open conversations with your child in order to support their mental health. There are also links to other support and guidance.

MY VOICE MATTERS



TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGi8](https://bit.ly/3PzCGi8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wK)

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

As a next step in our continued development and improvement of the school, we will be building on the theme of "my voice matters" after half term by introducing a student council. We hope that pupils from each of our classes will put themselves forward for election to the council, so that they can represent the views of their classmates and peers and shape the future of Lea Hall Academy.



Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

**TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY**

**WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?**

**WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?**

**WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?**

**WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?**

JUNIOR AWARD SCHEME

After half term we will be introducing the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS) into the curriculum. This will provide a framework and accreditation for pupils to access a range of activities that increase their opportunities for physical activity, access to nature, development of personal interests and access to the community.



The programme has eight different levels of award that can be earned, from White through to Gold. Each award is based around the same four skills but require increasing commitment and time, with the Gold award taking up to 2 years to complete. In the long term we will look for the white to silver awards to be achieved as pupils progress through our Primary department and the Gold award to be delivered across years 7 and 8. The skills developed should then prepare our Year 9 pupils to access the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which we will look to introduce in the future.

For our current pupils we will look to manage delivery to enable them to maximise their achievement of awards over their remaining time in school, although some of the higher level awards will not be achievable in the time they have left.

The four skills that pupils will be assessed against are:

My Interests – A new hobby or interest, or an existing one that can be developed further.

Get Active, Stay Active – Regular involvement in a sport or physical activity.

Me and My World – A community or nature-based project.

Adventure – Involvement in an outdoor activity.

Pupils will keep records of the progress made against these areas and their chosen activities and on completion of an award level they will receive a certificate and pin badge.

We look forward to reporting on the progress made by pupils towards their level of award in future newsletters.

Our vision for our pupils at Lea Hall Academy is to provide a safe environment, where children feel happy which enables them to learn and reach their full potential.

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