

Holmwood School/ Newsletter



Autumn Term 2020
Have a Brilliant Winter Holiday!



A Message from Mr Ley, Headteacher

As 2020 ends, we are hoping that 2021 is a much better year.

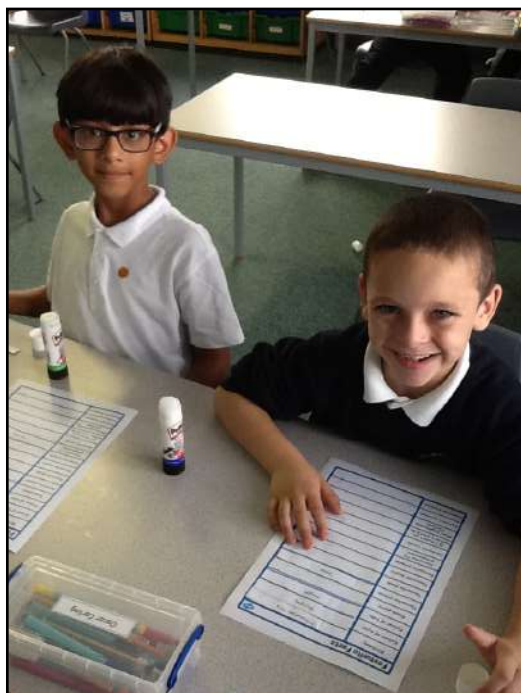
This term has been very busy. Our pupil numbers have once again grown and our staff have worked extremely hard to deliver a wonderful education for all the children.

Thank you for sending your child to school in their uniform, supporting with their homework and for all the positive comments you have made about the school.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year. Once again, thank you.

If you need to contact school during the Christmas Holiday, please ring the school's main telephone number 01642 819157. Please leave any messages and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Mr Dennis Ley



Improving Attendance

Holmwood School is focussing closely on attendance this academic year. We would like to thank the pupils, parents and carers for all the support they have given to the school.

Our current attendance is at 97.8%. We hope pupils will be fit and healthy in the New Year.

We would like to congratulate the 27 pupils who have had 100% attendance this term.

This is outstanding. **Well done to all of you!**

We are hoping to have the best attendance result ever in 2021.



Christmas Gifts

We are very grateful to have received wonderful donations from M&S, ASDA, Tesco, TFM Radio and the Salvation Army Gift Appeal.

All of our children at Holmwood School have received several gifts from these charities and organisations.





Miss Kazeminia's Class

We've had a busy first term back as usual. We have been getting our brains back into learning mode after a long lockdown and have worked so hard in all our lessons to catch up on lost time. All of the children have been superstars and are making excellent progress; learning new skills and building on previous knowledge. It's been a pleasure for the teachers to get to know all of the children in the class over this first term and hopefully vice versa!

Our first topic in Year 4 was 'The Roman Empire' and we now know how powerful the Roman army was and how they invaded lots of Europe including much of the UK. The children very much enjoyed making Roman shields and trying out some of the formations used in battle.

We hope you have enjoyed looking at some highlights of our learning on ClassDojo, and thank you all for participating and your 'likes' and comments. Please continue to send in photos of what the children get up to at home; we love to look at the photos on the whiteboard and listen to the children explain what they have been doing at home. Thank you for all of your support with reading at home and homework, it really does make a massive difference!

Although celebrations will be a bit different this year, we will still be continuing with Christmas Lunch on the last day of term, a Christmas party in class, Christmas films and lots of Christmas crafts.



Mrs Bourne's Class

Despite things being somewhat different this year, we have had a wonderful first term in the Support Centre. All of the children have worked incredibly hard and have tried their best with everything that we have done. Well done!

Our first topic was all about 'Our Bodies and Senses'. We had so much fun learning about the five senses, conducting scientific experiments to find out how each sense helps us to explore the world around us.

Our most recent topic has been all about 'The Weather and Seasonal Changes'. Since returning to school in September, we have been tracking how the weather has changed over the weeks. We have also been looking for signs of Autumn in our outdoor area and recording the changes that we have seen. The children are using their findings to create their own 'Seasons' book, of which they are extremely proud. We are looking forward to adding to the book as we move through Winter, Spring and Summer.

The children loved their immersive journey on the Polar Express! We have also enjoyed making lots of Christmas goodies and watching Christmas movies.

We would like to wish all of our children and their families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Mrs Callaghan and Miss Horne's Class

We have had a very busy Autumn Term! We have worked really hard on our topics for this term. Our first topic was "World War II". We became evacuees, wrote war poems and tried on real gas masks.

In our second topic "The Human Body", we had great fun exploring medicine through time; we looked at how germs spread and the growth of mould. We even tried stinky blue cheese!!

In our English lessons we have worked on spelling, grammar and comprehension skills and linked them to our fun topics. Our reading ages have continued to improve and we are very happy with all the hard work the children have done! It has been lovely having all the support from parents and carers on ClassDojo, especially keeping us updated with messages and photos.

Enjoy your Christmas Holidays and stay safe!

Miss Randle's Class

This Autumn Term has been full of excitement and lots of learning! The team in Year 5 are very happy with the progress made from all the children.

In the first half term, we looked at the life of children in the Victorian era. We played Victorian games and created our favourite inventions. It was fascinating to compare schools from back then to how they are today.

We have also been learning about Rainforests; Where are they? Who lives there? What do we get from Rainforests? Why should we protect them? The children have really enjoyed this topic and we even visited Chester Zoo, (virtually of course!) and saw some of the animals of the Rainforest.

As Christmas approaches the children will be participating in a class production of 'The Sheep's Version', the children have been working hard to learn their lines and we have invited some very important people in school to come and watch it. We would love to see what the children get up to over the holiday on ClassDojo.

Although this year has been very different, we have still done many crafts, games and experiences to get us in the Christmas spirit. We have enjoyed watching Christmas films, Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas. Please stay safe.

Mrs Mansbridge's Class

This term has been a little bit different for the staff and children at Holmwood. However, we have still had a very exciting term, we are so happy to be in contact with so many parents via ClassDojo. We have shared pictures of our successes and the children shared their reading at home achievements.

We discovered some interesting facts during our topic 'The Great Fire of London'. The children enjoyed acting out the story using 'Now, Press, Play' and they demonstrated brilliant art skills whilst building Tudor houses from cardboard boxes. The topic came to a great finale, when the houses were set on fire to show how the fire spread and how it was controlled. This demonstration was carried out with ultimate safety and it brought all the facts the children had learned to life.

We brought the term to an end with an afternoon watching The Polar Express, and we had treats of hot chocolate and cookies.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to returning in January.

Mrs Lees and Miss Kelly's Class

In History & Geography the children have been learning about 'The Stone Age', 'Bronze Age', 'Iron Age' and 'What makes the Earth Angry?' They made a 3D Stonehenge model in DT and made pinch pots out of clay. They have been introduced to a variety of materials including charcoal to draw cave paintings. We used paints and wax to create pictures of an earthquake. They made Bronze Age weapons and witnessed some amazing visual effects replicating tornadoes and a volcanic eruption in Science.

The children have been learning to use new vocabulary and simple phrases in our French lessons. In our Music lessons they have learnt how to play percussion and tuned instruments.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing the children in the New Year.

Mr Ford's Class

It's been very different in many ways this year, however, we have had a busy term as usual. We hope you have enjoyed looking at our photographs on ClassDojo, showing you our fabulous work this year! It has been a brilliant way of communicating with you all.

Our first topic was 'World War II' and we now know who the world leaders were and how Britain prepared for war. We made gas masks, tanks and Blitz pictures, and even wrote our own newspaper reports of D-Day. In DT, we have all made a model of a Spitfire, which we got to take home.

In our second topic 'Our Bodies', we investigated how our bodies work; answering questions such as why we have a skeleton; What foods make up a healthy diet? Why do we need to brush our teeth?

Although some Christmas activities had to be cancelled, we ended the term on a high with Christmas films, crafts and of course our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas. Please stay safe.



Mrs Wearing and Miss Kearney's Class

All of the children have settled back into school life! It is lovely to have them in class and see so many smiling faces! I am very proud of how well the children have adjusted to school life and how hard they are working!

Last term our topic was 'Who Lived in Britain First?' We focussed specifically on 'The Saxons'. The children have really enjoyed this topic and have enjoyed learning about Stonehenge and Skara Brae as well as finding out about the way Saxons lived, their clothing and the different foods they ate and caught.

In Art, the children enjoyed becoming archaeologists and making their own clay bowl and tools - things got very messy but the bowls turned out really well and looked fabulous!

In Science, the children have been learning all about different rocks and fossils. We made our own fossils and became palaeontologists for the afternoon; we had lots of fun!

Mrs Cairns' Class

We do hope you have a safe and Happy Christmas!

After a challenging year, we are excited to start 2021 and to have lots of fun along the way. The children have settled in well and we will continue to focus on following school rules and routines this term.

Our first topic for the Spring Term will be 'How have things changed since my parents were little?' We will be exploring changes within living memory and specifically looking at how toys have changed over the years.

Our second topic in Spring will be 'How are the character's feeling?' In this topic, we will explore traditional tales and link this to the feelings of ourselves and others.

Despite the restrictions we have faced this year, the children have enjoyed celebrating Children in Need, Diwali, Christmas and lots of birthdays in our class. We hope that in the near future, we will be able to go on some school trips to support the children's understanding of our topics. Thank you for your continued support!

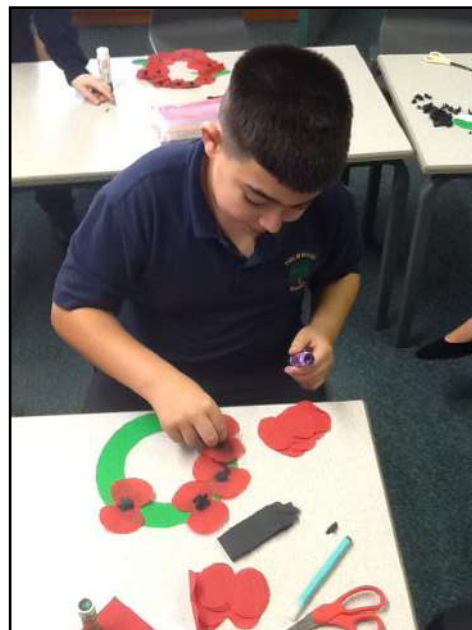
Spring Term Dates

Monday 04 January 2021
to
Friday 12 February 2021

Monday 22 February 2021
to
Friday 26 March 2021

School Website

Just a reminder our school website address is www.holmwoodschool.org.uk



*And to the Pupils, Parents,
Carers and Friends
of Holmwood School,
We wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.
Thank You for all your support
from
The Staff at Holmwood School.*

