



Newsletter



Spring Term 2021



A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

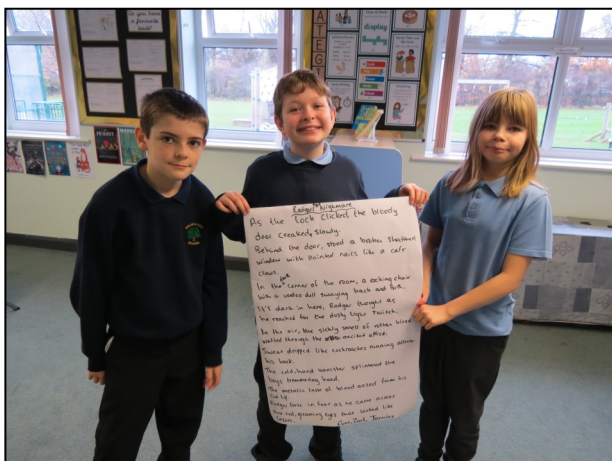
During Spring Term pupils are always very busy and a lot of work is completed. Pupils' progress in school is excellent and we are all very proud of this.

Our current attendance is at 97.5%. This is one of the highest percentages in all of Middlesbrough, but we would like to be the best.

Thank you for all your support and understanding when during the Lockdown and isolations. It has been a difficult time but Holmwood School stayed opened for all children.

Have a Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone after the holidays.

Mr Ley



Class Dojo

Thank you to all the parents and carers for using Class Dojo, it is a wonderful resource for school, parents/carers and pupils.

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 97.5%.

We would like to congratulate the 31 pupils who have had 100% attendance this term.

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



Summer Term Dates

Monday 12 April 2021 to
Friday 28 May 2021

Monday 07 June 2021 to
Friday 16 July 2021

There is a Bank Holiday on Monday 3 May 2021

There may be Professional Development Days in June and July. We will inform you of any dates as and when they have been arranged.

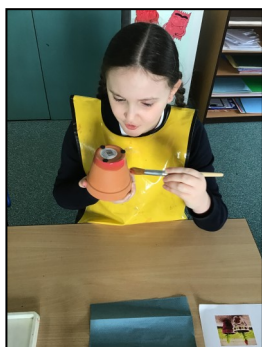
Miss Kearney's Class

What a wonderful Spring Term we have had! The children have settled in well and we have been doing lots of exciting things including planting our very own beanstalk! A highlight of the term was our class trip to the cinema to see 'How to Train Your Dragon, The Hidden World'. The children had a fantastic time!

This term we have started our new topic 'Minibeasts'. The children will get the opportunity to learn about different creatures and the habitats they live in. Alongside this topic, we will be taking part in Forest School. In Forest School we will be looking at how to build shelters, searching for minibeasts, making bug hotels and cooking on a camp fire - we can't wait!

Our Curriculum

At Holmwood School, we plan our school curriculum with the intention of promoting learning and personal growth and development for all pupils regardless of their starting point, ability or specific need. We want children to grow into positive, responsible pupils, who can work and co-operate with others, while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their true potential.



*And to the
Pupils, Parents, Carers and
Friends
of Holmwood School,
Thank You for all your support
from
The Staff at Holmwood School.*

Our Curriculum Intent is:

To provide a broad and varied curriculum, which has its roots based on our school values of achievement, progress, kindness, respect and promoting inclusion and acceptance of all.

To support all children to achieve a significant progress in their standard of Literacy and Numeracy skills through specific teaching and application of these skills to learning across the curriculum.

To ensure staffing has maximum impact on the learning alongside a commitment to the vision and values of the school.

To provide a challenging, broad and engaging curriculum which is planned to enable children to build on previous learning and secure strong foundations for future learning.

To inspire children to want to learn more and to enjoy learning through the use of challenges that are relevant to the pupils we teach and engage them in the learning process.

To extend learning beyond the classroom through the effective use of resources including the school grounds and local area and through planned use of visits and visitors.

To promote effective learning habits including resilience, teamwork, creativity, empathy and reflectiveness.

To promote a sense of community for the children with the school, parents/carers, agencies, schools and the wider community.

To prepare our pupils for life in modern British Society by fostering in them attitudes and qualities which enable them to become confident, caring, respectful and responsible citizens.

Mrs Lees and Miss Kelly's Class

As always, it has been a successful and hard-working term. Our Class Dojo page is a fantastic way to share with you all the lovely work the children are doing and seeing their achievements. The children are eager to earn 'Dojo' points and we are proud of their commitment to this.

In the Spring Term, our first topic was **'Who were the Ancient Egyptians?'** We learned about what life was like for the ancient Egyptians, what happened to them when they died and the different gods that they worshipped. The children continued to develop their Art and Design skills by creating a canopic jar, clay mummy and their very own death mask! The children worked hard to write their name and messages in hieroglyphics and created their own bookmark on papyrus.

After the half term, we learned about **'How does the blossom become an apple?'** This was a Science-based topic and the children have enjoyed creating their own blossom picture, planting fruit seeds and making a fruit salad. In English, we focussed on imaginary worlds and we have enjoyed reading 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl. In Mathematics, the children have worked hard on measures and exploring how to identify parts of a whole as a fraction.



Have a lovely Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the Summer Term.

Miss Randle's Class

We have been working extremely hard and definitely deserve an Easter break, we have been having so much fun with our topics 'Ancient Greeks' and 'CSI'.

In the first, half term we designed and created our own Parthenon; used clay to create a Greek vase and we even tasted some Greek style delicacies. The children thought it was great fun dressing up in togas and using theatrical masks to act out the story of Baucis, Philemon, Zeus and Hermes.

We all became CSI Investigators, wearing white coats and our own personally designed ID badges. How exciting to discover that an alien crash landed into the classroom!! We used our scientific skills of filtering, sieving and magnetising to find out what our 'Alien' looked like and where it came from.

Our class story of 'Planet Omar: Incredible Rescue Mission' was exciting and we explored many different writing techniques such as instructions to inform, emails to persuade and our own fictional rescue mission narrative. We have discussed and enjoyed learning about the similarities and differences between different cultures.

In Maths we have been working on fractions, decimals and percentages of amounts and shapes; sometimes we found this very challenging but have all enjoyed success.

We learned about the meaning and story behind Easter. It was fun to create some arts and crafts to bring home.

When we return in the Summer Term, the children will be delving into local history including local landmarks and Captain Cook and his travels.

We wish you all a Happy Easter!

Mrs Cairns' Class

What a wonderful term we have had in Reception and Year 1! In our first half term, our topic was **'How have things changed since my parents were little?'**. In Literacy we read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts that have supported our understanding of families and the history of toys from when our parents were little.

In the second half term, we learned about **'How are the characters feeling?'**. During this topic we enjoyed exploring our feelings and emotions. We read many traditional tales and discussed how the characters were feeling. We enjoyed acting out the stories using puppets, masks and our 'Now Press Play' headphones. During this topic, we also had to become detectives to work out who 'stole' our Easter eggs. Using our listening and speaking skills, we searched our classroom for evidence that lead us to the culprit!

In Numeracy, we have focussed a lot on counting, addition, subtraction, money and shape.

Other fun celebrations the children have enjoyed this term include Pancake Day, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, World Book Day and Easter. The children have worked so hard this half term and we are very proud of the progress they are making.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break.



Miss Kazeminia's Class

As usual we have been busy in Year 4 with lots of exciting learning. During the first half term our topic was the Aztecs and what a great topic it was! The children really became absorbed in the topic and were keen to find out how and why the Aztecs built the city of Tenochtitlan and how it grew into a powerful empire. They were engrossed by the human sacrifices to the Aztec gods, Aztec beliefs and rituals, their weapons and warrior facts and were fascinated to learn about the fall of the Aztecs through the invasion by the Spanish.



Our second topic was much closer to home as we learnt about why the River Tees is so important to Middlesbrough. The children were amazed to discover that Middlesbrough first began as a farm of just 25 people and that one of the reasons it was able to grow and thrive was due to its close proximity to the River Tees. We found out about how useful the river was for transporting goods to and from all around the world, the steel works and the different parts of the river from the source to the mouth. The children have worked so hard and I am very impressed by how much interest they have shown and how much knowledge, vocabulary and facts they have absorbed.

As a reward for all of their hard work, we celebrated on the last week with some Easter fun and activities which I know all of the children enjoyed.

As always, thank you for your continued support and communication. Wishing everyone a happy and well deserved Easter break!

Mrs Bourne's Class

What a busy Spring Term we have had in the Support Centre! We have welcomed some new children into our class and they have all settled in wonderfully. Our children who have been with us for a while have shown great maturity and kindness in helping the new children to adjust to a change in surroundings and routines. Well done everybody, we are super proud of all of you!

This term, we have been finding out all about animals and how scientists classify them by their features and what they eat. We looked at what features an animal needs to have to be classified as a bird, a fish, a mammal, a reptile or an amphibian. Some of us were very surprised to find out that we are mammals! We explored what foods herbivores, carnivores and omnivores eat.

This term we have also spent a lot of time developing our personal, social and emotional skills, with a particular focus on 'using our words' to communicate our needs effectively and to solve problems. We love finishing off our day by reflecting on the positive things we have done, awarding 'Proud Points' and 'Kindness Points' on Class Dojo.

We are all looking forward to a sunnier Summer Term, with lots more exciting learning opportunities. Watch out for more updates on Class Dojo. We hope you and your families have a fabulous Easter break. Please stay safe.



Mrs Mansbridge's Class

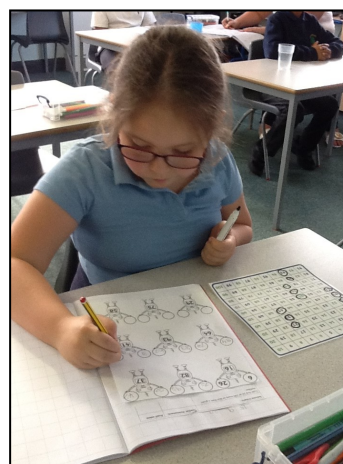
This term has been very settled for the staff and children at Holmwood. We are so happy to be in contact with so many parents via Class Dojo and the effort shown on the Remote Learning Platform, showing school and home supporting each other through difficult times. We enjoy sharing pictures of our successes and the children share their reading at home achievements. The children have enjoyed earning 'Dojo' points, which they can then spend on delicious treats on a Friday. The teachers also get a chance to earn points which the children find fun!

We discovered some interesting facts during our topic "Who was the lady with the lamp?" The children really got into character when using 'Now, Press, Play' and they showed respect for the impact Florence Nightingale had during The Crimean War.

The children found Science so exciting this term, our focus was "Living, dead or never alive". We looked at materials and objects in and around the classroom, also focusing on the nature around us.

We enjoyed sharing our favourite books and looking at different authors.

We are really looking forward to continuing with our exciting new topics. We hope you all have a lovely Easter break!



Mrs Callaghan's Class

Last term, we learnt about the Saxons and the Normans and the great leaders and battles that took place in this time. We looked at the history of castles. We also designed and built our own castles. We all became knights and really enjoyed taking part in a jousting tournament and finished the topic off with a Saxon feast!

Our most recent topic was 'Water' and we have learnt all about tsunamis, life under the sea and different oceans around the globe. We have discovered exactly how the water cycle works and how rain forms. We have also learnt that some countries do not have access to clean water. We had a great Geography lesson where we designed and built our own 'tsunami proof' houses and simulated a giant wave to see whose house could withstand the disaster.



Even though we have had an unusual start to the year, we have still been very busy. We hope you have enjoyed all of our updates on Class Dojo, showing you all the great fun we have been having! It has been a great way of communicating with you all, and we would like to say thank you for all your support.

We are having regular PE sessions with our class outside and we had some fantastic fun in the snow. We are looking forward to the Summer Term.

Happy Easter everyone, stay safe.

Mr Ford's Class

It's been very different in many ways this year, however, as usual we have had a very busy term. We hope you have enjoyed being kept up to date and seeing our photographs on Class Dojo, showing you all our fabulous work this year! It has been a brilliant way of communicating with you all, and we would like to say thank you for all your support.

This term, as well as focusing on Reading, we have been finding out about the Saxons and the Normans and their great leaders and battles. We have also looked at the history of castles. We found out about early castles called Motte and Bailey, built from wood and later castles which were built of stone. We have investigated the different parts of the castles and their uses, like the murder hole that was used to drop boiling oil on invaders, and the arrow slits that were used to fire arrows through when the castle was under attack.

Our last topic this term was Rivers and we have been looking at rivers of the world. We can now name all the parts of a river from the source to the river mouth. We have discovered exactly how the water cycle works and how we get rain. We know why water is so important to us and have been looking at its many uses. We also know that some countries don't have the same rainfall as our country or even clean water!

We have continued to play outside within our 'Bubbles' and had fantastic fun on sledges in the snow! We are looking forward to the Summer Term and we will be having some fun activities to finish the year. Watch out for more updates on Class Dojo. We wish you all a Happy Easter. Enjoy those eggs!

Please stay safe.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

On Tuesday 13 April the photographer will be in school to take class and group photographs.