

Holmwood School Newsletter



Autumn Term 2021
Have a Brilliant Winter Holiday!



A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

As 2021 ends, we are hoping that 2022 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 in a school 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.

Please remember to call 01642 819157 during the holidays if you have any concerns.

Please leave a message and I will get back to you 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 96.7%. We hope pupils will be fit and healthy in the New Year.

We would like to congratulate the 34 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 2022.

Christmas Gifts

We are very grateful for the wonderful donations from M & S, ASDA, Tesco, TFM Radio, Ellen Timney Foundation, Vision Education and the Salvation Army Gift Appeal.

All of our children at Holmwood School have received several gifts. Some children have received gifts from charities and organisations and some from companies that have donated gifts to the school over the year.



Miss Kazeminia's Class

We have had a great start together in Year 3 at Holmwood! All of the children have transitioned well into Key Stage 2 and have formed great relationships with their new peers and adults. We started the year off with our first topic of 'Who First Lived in Britain?' and enjoyed going back in time and becoming hunter-gatherers in the Stone Age! We learnt about extinct animals and explored reasons why animals become endangered. We really wish Woolly Mammoths were still around but we enjoyed looking at their fossils instead and how fossils were formed.

In the second Autumn half-term topic, we have been learning about 'Natural Disasters'. The children have loved this topic and it has been a great stimulus for writing and learning lots of new vocabulary! We have learnt about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis form. We made our own volcano models from clay and learnt about a very famous volcano that erupted a long time ago in Pompeii.

When we return in the New Year our topics will be 'How were the Pyramids built?' and 'How did the Blossom become an Apple?' Until then we wish you all a Merry Christmas from Holmwood!

Mrs Ahmad's Class

Autumn Term has been really productive for our class! The children have settled into Year 4 and are really beginning to show their true potential towards their academic progress.

Our first half term topic was 'How do we get Rivers and Mountains?' We enjoyed learning about river formation, world rivers and world mountains!

The second half term was 'Why were the Romans so Powerful?' We really enjoyed looking at what we have that is influenced from the Romans. We have produced some lovely writing and beautiful art work.

We really enjoyed our learning experiences from ZooLab, VR, Simon Murray and the Wilderness Woodland Craft!

Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to an exciting Spring Term!



Mrs Bourne's Class

What a wonderful, yet busy, first term we have had in the Support Centre. The children, who were with us in the Summer Term, have done a fantastic job of helping our new children settle into a new environment with new routines. It has been so lovely to see how supportive and encouraging they can be of each other.

We have been doing lots of work around building resilience, independence and developing a love of learning, through both play-based activities and focus tasks. We are seeing the children being more able to talk to each other to solve problems, whilst also taking account of the feelings of others. It is great to see the children putting into action the strategies that we are giving them.

The children had an amazing time when we visited Stewart Park and hunted for signs of Autumn!

As we come to the end of term, we have lots of exciting activities planned, including a trip to the cinema. The children worked so hard for this well-deserved treat and counted down the days!

Next term we will be learning about animals and finding out about the different ways in which scientists group them. We will also explore how toys have changed over the years.



Mrs Callaghan & Miss Horne's Class

Autumn Term has been really productive for our class! The children have settled into Year 6 and we are really proud of how far they have come already.

Our first half term topic was 'WW2' and we have all thoroughly enjoyed researching about the life of a child in wartime, writing stories, making models of bomb shelters and trying on gas masks.

The second half term was 'My Body, Your Body, Everybody'. This was particularly interesting! We really enjoyed looking at how our bodies work and focused on healthy diets. We really enjoyed getting our hearts racing, making them work harder through sport and monitoring our pulse.

As a reward for all the children's hard work we ended the term with a well-deserved trip to the theatre to see 'Peter Pan'. We also had a day dedicated to outdoor winter crafts, which involved making wreaths and having our own camp fire.

In the New Year we will start our new topic of 'Saxons and Normans' followed by 'Exploring the World'. Until then, have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

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'. The toys they played with and the difference of school back then and now was very fascinating.

We have also been learning about Rainforests across our curriculum; 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 went to Chester Zoo, virtually of course, and saw some of the animals of the Rainforest.

In English, we have been working on word classes and punctuation, making sure we insert them into our descriptions; 'The Punctuation Rap' has really helped the children. The reading ages of the children are always improving, which helps them in all areas of the curriculum. We have created stories and poems, which the children have planned, written and delivered to their classmates using the 'Talk for Writing' frame work.

Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing have been fun in Maths; we have looked at lots of strategies to help us find the answers. We had fun being shoppers and shopkeepers when learning about money.

The children have enjoyed experiences this term such as travelling the world through a VR headset and having wilderness training outside in all weathers. We cannot wait for more exciting things to come next half term with our topic 'The Vikings'.

As Christmas approaches the children will be participating in lots of festive activities. We will be doing fun, creative crafts, having a boogie at the disco and eating lots of traditional foods.

We would love to see what the children get up to over the holiday on Class Dojo.

We wish you a happy and safe Christmas!



Mrs Rollinson & Miss Kelly's Class

The children have enjoyed the topics taught this term and have produced work to be proud of.

In the first half term our topic was 'How do we get Rivers and Mountains?' The children learnt about the journey of a river and river uses. They researched different rivers around the world and produced amazing fact files about them, which are proudly displayed on our classroom wall! We also explored the history of the River Tees and Middlesbrough.

In the second half term, our theme was 'Why were the Romans so Powerful?' The children enjoyed interactive learning through Now, Press, Play. Through this, they were able to immerse themselves into the life of Roman Britain, which was very exciting. We have researched and gathered information from a range of sources about Julius Caesar and Boudicca. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic especially when making a model of a Roman chariot and catapult!

Have a very Merry Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.

Mr Ford's Class

It has been such a busy term. For our first topic, we have been learning about 'The Victorian Era' and what it was like to live in those times. We looked at the differences between the rich and poor. We especially enjoyed our class text, 'Street Child'. Our second topic was 'The Rainforest' and we have been learning about animal adaptation and the layers of The Rainforest. We have been looking at the different animals that live in The Rainforest and made a fantastic display in Art, which is really colourful. In Science, we have learnt about animal adaptation and 'Life Cycles'. For Geography, we have been learning about European countries and their capital cities.

We have worked hard in English and produced some excellent independent play-scripts after reading play-scripts in groups. We also wrote fantastic introductions to a scary story. In Maths, both groups have continued to work hard and there are some good skills emerging.

During the term, we welcomed two new pupils, James and Leon. Both have settled in well and made lots of friends. We had a class trip to Go Climb, at Billingham Forum which was a fantastic experience. Everyone really enjoyed it and the children were polite to staff and waited for their turns patiently.

Recently we had a production of 'Snow White' by M & M Productions. Once again the children loved it, **OH YES THEY DID!**

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

Mrs Kearney's Class

We have thoroughly enjoyed our first term as Year 1. We have been extremely busy exploring our emotions, focusing on the book 'The Colour Monster.' The children have loved listening to the stories about the monsters, and thinking of things that can make their own emotions change. We have observed such a difference in the children being able to talk about how they are feeling – which is a huge positive improvement.

We have been looking at colours for Autumn. We have been on a leaf hunt and made leaf kababs, developing fine motor skills and listening to instructions. We have learnt about the different seasons and created gorgeous artwork to depict a tree as the seasons change. Now that the children can read the numbers from 0-10, and some children even further, we have been looking at different strategies to aid our addition skills.

Next term we will be looking at animals and their habitats and also traditional tales. We will learn a story through 'Talk for Writing' and will show it on Class Dojo.

The team and I all hope you love the Christmas crafts the children have created over the last couple of weeks. We hope you have the most magical Christmas and look forward to seeing all of the children back in the New Year!

Mrs Cairns' Class

Wow – what an amazing Autumn Term we have had in Years 1 & 2! The children had a slightly unconventional start to the year as we had to share a classroom with our lovely friends in Mrs Mansbridge's class. Eventually our new furniture arrived and we have now settled well into our classroom. The children have managed all of these changes well and we are very proud of their resilience.

Autumn Term is always jam-packed and we have learned so much! Our topic in Autumn Term was 'Why was the Great Fire of London so Great?'. The children showed such a keen interest in learning about the history of the Great Fire of London and enjoyed looking at the landmarks in London as part of our Geography lessons. In the second Autumn Term our topic was 'Why is Science so exciting?' The children became scientists and carried out lots of experiments based on the story 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. They have been able to make predictions and record their findings.

Our topics after the Christmas break include; 'Why was Neil Armstrong a brave person?' and 'Where would you rather live - Nairobi or Middlesbrough?'. We would like to thank you all for your support so far this year. We wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Mrs Mansbridge's Class

It has been an exciting term in Year 2. Together we have enjoyed working through the curriculum, developing our phonics knowledge and applying this in our writing.

Maths has given us the opportunity to use multiplication and division skills to help us with money.

Our Science topic 'Why is Science so exciting?' brought lots of exciting discussion when the children predicted how to make the best firework in a jar. The children became true scientists when they took part in practical experiments and offered further suggestions to improve the experiment.

In Geography, we have focused on cities in line with our earlier topic 'The Great Fire of London', we have recently looked at aerial views of places, the children are finding this really interesting and have been able to add landmarks to familiar settings.

We enjoyed a visit from a puppet show production and the children were able to see animals made from recyclable materials. To further support the use of re-cycled materials, the children have been using their skills to make a toy car in Design and Technology. They all enjoyed using tools and creating their designs with some support.

Next term, in our Science topic we will be investigating and researching 'Living, Dead or Never Alive'.

We will also be asking the question, 'Why was Neil Armstrong a brave person?' and the children will explore facts around space.

The teachers in Year 2 hope you have a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back in the New year.

*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.*

SPRING TERM DATES

Tuesday 04 January 2022 to
Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 28 February 2022 to
Friday 8 April 2022

PD Day on Monday 14 February 2021