



Newsletter



Spring Term 2022



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.

Thank you for all your support. Please remember to complete and return your Parent and Carers' questionnaire.

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

Mr Ley



Class Dojo

Thank you for using Class Dojo, it is a wonderful resource for school and helps us keep in touch with 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 96.4%. This is good, but we would like to be the best.

We would like to congratulate the 19 pupils who have had 100% attendance this term.

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



Summer Term Dates

Monday 25 April 2022 to
Friday 27 May 2022

Monday 06 June 2022 to
Friday 22 July 2022

There is a Bank Holiday on Monday 02 May 2022

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

Mrs Rollinson and Miss Kelly's Class

We have had an exciting time in the run up to the Easter holidays, learning all about life during Aztec times. We have designed and made some fantastic head-dresses, masks and Aztec patterns using different methods of printing. In English we wrote explanation texts about human sacrifices – some of the facts were pretty gruesome! We also designed our own Aztec gods and wrote fact-files about them.

We really enjoyed having the Living Eggs in school and loved watching the eggs hatch into chicks and seeing them grow. We were also very lucky to have a visit from some dinosaurs and learned lots of interesting facts!

The children all loved our Science Week where we carried out lots of fun experiments! We made rice dance, created our own lava lamps and powered an electric circuit using lemons!

Next term we look forward to learning all about London in the run up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We wish all the children and their families a safe and happy Easter!

Mrs Ahmad's Class

Spring Term has been very creative and productive for our class! We have really enjoyed learning about the Romans and the Aztecs. We made our own Roman shields and pots as well as some very colourful Aztec masks and head-dresses!

In PE, we have been learning how to catch and throw a ball. We have played tennis, cricket and badminton.

The arrival of the Living Eggs allowed us to watch the eggs hatch into baby chicks and grow until they were returned to the farm. We had a very interesting visit from some Dinosaurs! It was Roarsome!!! We learnt how and why they lived!

We have so much to look forward to in the Summer Term including a school celebration for the Platinum Jubilee!!

Miss Randle's Class

We have done so much in this last term! The children enjoyed our topics 'The Vikings' and 'Space'.

We have read some great books as a class, the children particularly enjoyed 'The Viking Boy' - they just wanted to keep reading! The children had the opportunity to do woodwork and make a Viking long ship; they designed it and learnt new skills with lots of different tools.

In our 'Space' topic, we have studied our Solar System, made aliens and used different ways to make rockets take off. We have used many non-fiction books to find key facts about space and recorded them in many different ways.

The children really enjoyed going swimming every day for a whole week; they all progressed and became confident in the water.

M&M Productions have been in to deliver some great plays and pantos, the children always enjoy them. A dinosaur came to visit and a 'Make Your Own Puppet Show' was interesting to watch and the children took part in a wilderness workshop, toasting marshmallows and making things from nature.

We are ending the term doing an Easter egg decorating competition called 'The Great Eggscape'. The children had to disguise an egg that could escape from the farm!



Mrs Cairns' Class

In Year 1 & 2 we have had a wonderful Spring Term. We have enjoyed lots of fun activities and events such as Red Nose Day, World Book Day, Science Week, Jurassic Ark Encounters, Forest School and our recent trip to Newham Grange Farm. We have also been lucky enough to welcome the Living Eggs in to our school. This gave the children the opportunity to watch the eggs hatch and experience the growth of the chicks. This supported our Science topic of 'Offspring and Life Cycles'.

Our topic in Spring Term 1 was all about Neil Armstrong and the children enjoyed learning about space and what it would be like to be an astronaut. The children produced some wonderful space rockets as part of our DT lessons and they are now proudly displayed in our Assembly Hall. Spring Term 2 allowed the children to develop their knowledge of the seven continents and five oceans. We focussed on learning about the continent of Africa and we compared the country of Kenya to our local area of Middlesbrough.

Our topics in the Summer Term include learning about growing and staying healthy. The children will have the opportunity to put their gardening skills to good use when we grow our own vegetables! The children continue to impress their teachers with their hard work and determination and they are doing incredibly well in all areas of learning.

Thank you for your continued support this year and please continue to contribute to and view our Class DoJo page. Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to an exciting Summer Term.



Miss Kazeminia's Class

We have had a fun and interesting Spring Term in Year 3. During our first topic we learnt all about 'Ancient Egypt', how the pyramids were built and who the pharaohs were. We especially enjoyed learning about the mummification process, what happened to people's organs when they died and the Egyptians beliefs about the afterlife.

Our second topic has been about 'Plants'. We have carried out investigations to find out what plants and seeds need to grow well and how a plant grows from a seed. We particularly enjoyed the link from this topic to the book '*James and the Giant Peach*' by Roald Dahl and using the characters from the story to develop our descriptive writing skills.

When we return after Easter our topics will be 'Who were the Ancient Greeks?' and 'Why do so many people from the UK choose to go to the Mediterranean for their holidays?' Until then we wish you all a Happy Easter from Holmwood!



Mrs Bourne's Class

Spring Term has been a very busy one for the Support Centre, with the arrival of several new children. Our current children have welcomed them with open arms, helping them to settle in and adapt to new routines and expectations. Well done everyone!

As well as developing our Reading, Writing and Maths skills, we have had a big focus this term on improving our personal, social and emotional development. The children have been learning how to problem solve, build relationships, self-regulate, recognise their strengths and account for the needs of others. They have impressed us all with how far they have come!

There have been lots of exciting activities across school this term, such as Forest School, Jurassic Ark, Science Week, Maths Week and the arrival of the Living Eggs. We hope you have enjoyed seeing all of these wonderful opportunities on Class Dojo!

The Support Centre team would like to thank all of our wonderful families for their continued support and wish you all a fantastic Easter break!



Mrs Mansbridge's Class

We have had a busy term in Year 2. Phonics has been a strong focus and we have been applying this in our writing. World Book Day was a success with all children coming into school as a favourite character from a book.

Maths has given us the opportunity to explore measurement, we have engaged in a lot of practical activities and hands on experiences.

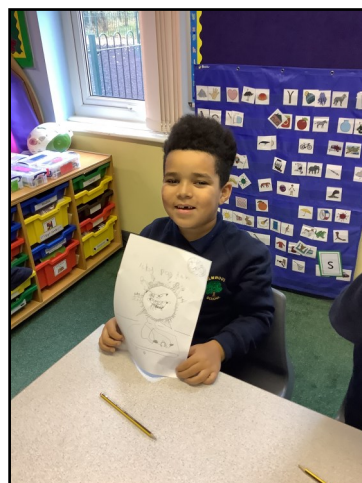
Our Science topic was 'Why was Neil Armstrong a brave person?' We explored his early life and his famous first steps on The Moon. We made rockets out of recyclable materials.

In Geography, we have focused on Continents of the World, we now have knowledge of finding information in an atlas and which countries belong to each continent.

We also had chicks hatching in school, the children were very excited about this and became experts on life cycles.

Next term, our Science topic will be 'What do plants need to grow?' We will be investigating planting and looking at how vegetables grow.

The teachers in Year 2 hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to the children returning to school eager to start the new term!



Mrs Callaghan and Miss Horne's Class

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

Our most recent topic was 'Water', 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 even made it rain! 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.

We had a fantastic trip to Kingswood, where the children were all amazing and blew us away with their resilience and enthusiasm at trying new things. 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 brilliant way of communicating with you all, and we would like to say thank you for all your support.

We are looking forward to the Summer Term. Happy Easter everyone!



Mr Ford's Class

As usual, we have had a busy term. We hope you have enjoyed being kept up to date, seeing our photographs on Class Dojo and showing you 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.

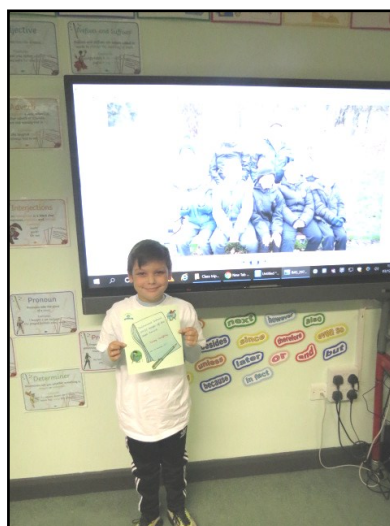
Our Science topics this term were 'The Human Body' and 'The Solar System'. We looked at the stages from baby to old age and how the body changes. We also looked at the life cycle of a sunflower and the children couldn't believe the sunflower could turn its head towards the sun!

We have looked at the planets of the Solar System and researched the history of space exploration. We have created planets and space shuttles in our art lesson and made a fantastic display in class.

Our class reading this term was 'The Iron Man', which everyone enjoyed, and 'The Viking Boy', which linked in really well with our topic of The Vikings.

We had an amazing visit from a dinosaur, a play from M and M Productions and a fantastic eco-friendly puppet making class. Then to finish this term, everyone has enjoyed the swimming sessions!

We wish you all a Happy Easter.



Mrs Kearney's Class

What a fantastic term we have had in Year 1! This term our topic was 'Traditional Tales'. The children have learnt six different traditional tales including 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. Within our English lesson, the children have taken part in Talk for Writing, learning all different signs to retell the story, as well as using their imagination with Now Press Play to put themselves in the stories.

The children participated in an exciting Science Week where they all took on the role of 'The Three Little Pigs' and built houses from straw, wood and bricks. We used a fan to see which would be blown down by the 'Big Bad Wolf'. We have also looked at the life cycle of a chick and a frog. The children all tried holding or stroking the chicks and observed frogspawn turning into tadpoles.

This term we have been focussing on 'Measure' in Maths. Looking at how tall the children are compared to other animals and turning themselves into human scales to weigh different objects in the classroom. We have also experienced a session of Forest Schools. The children learnt all of the safety requirements for lighting and being near a fire, and toasted marshmallows - yum!

Next term we will be looking at The Queen and The Royal Family, ready for the Jubilee and then focussing on our favourite author Julia Donaldson.

*And to the
Pupils, Parents, Carers & 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 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.

