

# Holmwood School/ Newsletter



**Autumn Term 2022**  
**Have a Brilliant Winter Holiday!**



## A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

As 2022 ends, we are hoping that 2023 is even better.

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. Once again, thank you.

Please remember to call 01642 819157 during the holidays for 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 significantly lower than past years. 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 2023.

## Christmas Gifts

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

All of our children at Holmwood School have received several gifts from various charities and organisations and some toys that were purchased over the year.



## Spring Term Dates

Tuesday 03 January 2023 to  
Friday 17 February 2023

Monday 27 February 2023 to  
Friday 31 March 2023

### **Miss Horne's Class**

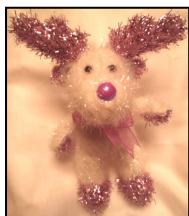
We have had a great half term. The children have worked incredibly hard and really impressed us with their learning. The children have enjoyed reading, solving problems and learning about our topic 'What makes the World angry?' We have explored volcanos, earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes. The children made their own volcanoes and even made them explode!

Our class were given the opportunity to enjoy a Winter Wonderland themed outdoor learning experience which they all enjoyed. We made hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows! We have also had visits from ZooLab, Virtual Reality, two shows by M&M Productions and a Halloween disco. We also visited The Arc in Stockton to see 'The Snow Queen' panto.

The build up to Christmas is always an exciting time in school, with Christmas lunch, disco/party and our Carol concerts.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes from Miss Horne's Class!



### **Mrs Ahmad's Class**

Autumn Term has been really productive for our class! The children have settled into Year 6 and are showing fantastic progress.

Our first half term Learning Challenge was "What was life like during World War 2?" We enjoyed learning about how and why the Second World War began, The Battle of Britain and The Holocaust. Our trip to Eden Camp was such a great follow up to everything we had been learning about.

The second half term our topic was "How can we stay healthy?" It was particularly interesting learning about our major organs and what they do. We have also learnt how precious our body is and what we need to do to stay healthy.

We really enjoyed our learning experiences from ZooLab, Virtual Reality, Simon Murray and the Winter Wilderness workshop. Our weekly Yoga sessions with Mrs Anderson have helped us feel calm and relaxed.

School has been like a Winter Wonderland with lots of creative activities and festive excitement! We enjoyed the Winter Walk at Cherry Hill Nursery.

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

### **Mrs Bourne's Class**

Once again, we have had a busy yet successful start to the school year. All of the children, both old and new, are making fantastic progress academically, socially and emotionally.

Our new phonics scheme, Sounds Write, has been a big hit with the children and we are already seeing the positive impact it is having on their reading and writing.

Our topics this term were 'All About Me' and 'Colour'. We have explored our local area, found out where we are in the UK, discovered our senses, tracked changes in the weather as we move from one month to the next and investigated the use of colour in many different ways.

The children are benefitting from our weekly Yoga sessions with Mrs Anderson. They love receiving the snuggly blanket during relaxation or being selected to be the special helper!

The countdown to Christmas has been an exciting one! We have had Christmas lunch, a Winter Wonderland Walk at Cherry Hill Nursery, our party and the fabulous show 'The Toys Are Back in Town'. Of course, there was our incredible performance of 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel'. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as the children enjoyed being a part of it!

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you back in the New Year!

### **Mrs Callaghan's Class**

Autumn Term has been productive for our class. The children have settled into Year 5 and we are proud of the progress they have made.

Our first half term topic was 'Victorians' and we have all thoroughly enjoyed researching about the life of a child in Victorian Britain, writing stories and making toys eg peg dolls and trying on Victorian clothes.

The second half term was 'The Rainforest'. This was particularly interesting. We enjoyed looking at different layers of the Rainforest and the species that live amongst them. We also enjoyed getting our hearts racing trying to survive a 'Bush Tucker trial'.

As a reward for all the children's hard work, we ended the term with a well-deserved trip to the movies to see 'Sing 2' and had a McDonald's for lunch. We had a day dedicated to outdoor winter crafts, which involved making mud faces and having our own campfire. In the New Year we will start our new topic of 'Vikings' followed by 'Space'.

Until then, have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Miss Randle's Class

We have had a great half term. The children have worked incredibly hard and have progressed in all subject areas. The children have enjoyed reading, solving problems and learning about our topic 'The Rainforest'. We have explored animals, plants and other living things in the Rainforests. The layers, life cycles and why Rainforests are so important. The children have put together great PowerPoint presentations, gathering all of their research over the past seven weeks, and presenting them to the class.

Our class were given the opportunity to go horse riding. The children have enjoyed going and they have taken pride in learning to ride and take care of a horse.

We have experienced lots this half term from ZooLab, Virtual Reality, Wilderness Ways, a cinema trip and also a live theatre panto at The Arc in Stockton - **Oh yes we did!**

The build up to Christmas is always an exciting time in school, with Christmas lunch, discos and our Carol concerts.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Mr Cairnes' Class

The Autumn Term has been a wonderful first term in Year 4 and the children have settled in really well.

Over the term the children have enjoyed learning about 'Rivers and Mountains' and 'Where in the World?' – linking this to the World Cup in History and Geography; in Science, we have looked at changing states and keeping our bodies healthy.

We have managed to squeeze a couple of trips into our busy schedule. We enjoyed climbing Roseberry Topping and watching 'Bad Guys' at the cinema.

In the New Year we will start our new topic of 'Living Things and Their Habitats' as well as 'The Romans'.

Until then, have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!



### Mrs Wake and Miss Kelly's Class

We have had a busy Autumn Term in our Y2 class and the children have settled in really well.

In the first term our topic was 'Why was the Great Fire of London so Great?' The children were excellent investigators and enjoyed finding out historical facts about a significant event from a long time ago. They looked at historical differences between London now and London in 1666. We enjoyed reading a range of non-fiction books and stories about the Great Fire and enjoyed acting out how it would have been to have lived through the Great Fire through the Now Press Play activity. We also made our own Tudor Houses in Design and Technology which we burnt in the school fire pit.

After half term we have been learning about 'How will 5 a day help me to be healthy?' This was a Science based topic and we have learnt a lot about healthy eating and the foods we need to eat less of. We have read and written our own non-fiction information about different fruits and vegetables.

When we return in the New Year, we will find out about contrasting geographical environments and 'Where would you prefer to live: England or Africa?'.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing the children back in the New Year.

### Mr Ford's Class

Once again we have had a busy term. Everybody has been working so hard and making great progress. Reading ages have really improved and just about everyone is willing to read to the whole class off the interactive whiteboard. Our topic this term was 'Our Bodies' and we have been looking at what makes a healthy diet and how micro-organisms can be both good and bad.

We have had so many different experiences including Virtual Reality, looking at animals of the world in ZooLab, where we got to hold different animals. Recently, we had our Wilderness session, making clay reindeers, enjoying toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate. In school we have seen the pantomimes 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'Cinderella'. We visited The Little Theatre to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which was a present from The Rotary Club. Our last week was so busy with Christmas activities including Christmas lunch, our party and on the last day we saw the fantastic 'The Toys Are Back in Town' show.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our Christmas Carol Concert. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.





### **Mrs Kearney's class**

What an amazingly busy and successful first term we have had! The children are making amazing progress with the new Sounds Write phonics syllabus and learning lots of number problems with 'Ten Town'.

Our topics this term have been 'Emotions' and 'Colours' where the children have loved exploring all about themselves and others.

We have had our first class trip to the cinema, which was super fun, and everyone had a lovely time.

Over the last few weeks, we have been busy creating lovely Christmas gifts, cards and calendars for the New Year. We have been busy practising all of the songs for 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' and produced an amazing nativity performance!

From myself, and the Reception/Year 1 Team, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and amazing New Year. We cannot wait to see all of the children back after Christmas.

### **Mrs Cairns' Class**

Wow! We cannot quite believe this is the end of our Autumn Term! The children have settled in their class very well and have shown great resilience in adjusting to slightly more formal learning in Year 2. The children have worked extremely hard both academically, socially and emotionally and they are making pleasing progress.

Our first topic of the Autumn Term was, 'Why was the Great Fire of London so great? This allowed the children to become immersed in the history of the fire and to compare past and present London. As part of our history topic, we have enjoyed numerous role-play activities and we have developed our writing skills. We also had the opportunity to make our own Tudor houses as part of our Design and Technology project and we re-enacted the fire using our school fire pit.

Our second topic of the Autumn Term was 'How will 5 a day help me to be healthy?' The children enjoyed learning about how to keep ourselves healthy, including healthy eating, exercising and hygiene. The last few weeks leading up to Christmas have been very exciting and fun-filled! We have enjoyed Christmas jumper day, our Christmas party, Christmas lunch, a performance from 'The Toys Are Back in Town' and our Christingle. We would also like to congratulate the children on their wonderful Nativity performance – it was magical!

From all of Mrs Cairns' class, we wish you a lovely Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Mrs Lees and Mrs Rollinson's Class**

This has been a very interesting and exciting half term for Mrs Lees and Mrs Rollinson's class in Year 3. The children started the half term with dressing up in Halloween costumes and taking part in some scary and exciting activities. They also made 3D fireworks, exploding firework pictures and they remembered the 'stay safe' rules around this exciting time. Also, in November we remembered Remembrance Day and the children made poppy wreaths and wrote a short prayer of thanks on a cross.

the children were asked 'What do they want to share in our News Letter for this half term?' they replied that they wanted to share some of the activities that they have really enjoyed, such as ZooLab with all the wonderful animals that they could see and touch; The Dorman's Museum to see the fossils, rocks and crystals; making a clay volcano and watching it erupt in Science for our topic of 'What makes the Earth Angry?'; the two M&M Productions and recently we enjoyed some outdoor activities through Wilderness Ways. We look forward to starting our new topic in the New Year 'The Egyptians' when the children will make a Tutankhamen mask and we will visit our local Museum again to see an Egyptian exhibition.

The children are currently enjoying a whole host of exciting Christmas activities including our annual Play 'Angel Express', Christmas lunch, a disco/party and a visit from Santa himself!

The children and staff from our class wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas and a happy New Year' and we look forward to seeing all the children in the New Year, refreshed and ready for some new learning together. Have a great time!

Best Wishes from Mrs Lees and Mrs Rollinson's class



*We wish you all a  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.  
Thank You for all your support  
from  
The Staff at Holmwood School*