



Newsletter



Spring Term 2023



A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

Holmwood School is 'Special School of the Year' for the North of England.

Holmwood School has achieved the Attachment and Trauma Sensitive School Award.

We are also working with Teesside University to support new teachers to become the best they can be.

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.

Mr Ley



Class Dojo

We would like to thank you all for using Class Dojo, it's a wonderful resource for school, parents/carers and pupils. Please get in contact if you can't access this service.

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 95.3%. This is low for our school. Please ensure your child is in school everyday.

We would like to congratulate the 21 pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this term.

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



Summer Term Dates

Monday 17 April 2023 to
Friday 26 May 2023

Monday 05 June 2023 to
Friday 14 July 2023

There is a Bank Holiday on Monday 01 May 2023 and Monday 08 May 2023

There is a Professional Development Day on Friday 23 June 2023

Mrs Rollinson and Mrs Lees' Class

We have had a very busy time this half term leading up to the Easter break! We have been learning about plants and have grown our own herbs to eat. We have made a class display of fruit trees and printed our own leaves for the trees and added blossom and fruit. We visited Dorman Museum, The Cenotaph and Albert Park as part of our History topic about 'Local Historical Landmarks'.

The children have also enjoyed a visit from ZooLab. The children were able to handle and learn about various creatures. They have also had visits from a puppet theatre; taken part in Wilderness activities such as team-building, making a shelter and how to make a fire. The children have enjoyed our topics in Science, History and Art this half term, especially growing their own plants and finding out how to eat healthily.

M & M Productions have visited us in the lead up to Easter with a performance of 'The Hobbit'. The children really enjoy these live performances and love to join in with the singing and dancing.

We enjoyed learning our Easter songs and performing them alongside the choir in St. Cuthbert's Village Hall in Marton.

Hope you have a great Easter

Mrs Ahmad's Class

Spring Term has been very creative and productive for our class! We have really enjoyed learning about the Normans and the Saxons. We made our own Norman and Saxon shields. We really enjoyed making our own swords that included intricate detail on the handles.

We have enjoyed learning about 'Water and the Water Cycle' this half term - knowing where our water comes from and its importance to our world.

In PE, we have been learning how to catch and throw different sized balls. We have enjoyed playing Leg Cricket, Rounders as well as lots of other games!

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. This half term we have also had a very interesting visit from some friends at ZooLab!

We are so pleased with all the pupils and their great efforts towards their SATs preparation and their general positive attitude. Have a lovely Easter break!

Miss Randle's Class

What a great term we have had. Our topics this term have been 'The Vikings' and 'Space'.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our class book 'The Viking Boy', the children were captivated and always wanted to read more. We focused on non-fiction texts and short stories for our 'Space' topic.

Science this term has been very interesting, we have learned about the stages of human growth, the characteristics of humans and DNA. We researched our solar system and came to the realisation we are so small in our solar system, hopefully more gets discovered in our life time!

In our Art/DT lessons we have made Viking ships and the planets, we pulled together as a team to make a wonderful display for the whole school to see.

The children learned new skills in badminton and also fielding and batting during PE this term. We have had many exciting opportunities this term, ZooLab, M&M Productions and a puppet show.

We enjoyed taking part in the Easter concert in the church.

Next term we are delving into the life of Captain Cook.

Have a wonderful Easter break!

Mr Cairnes' Class

It has been a busy but enjoyable term.

This term, we have been finding out about The Romans and The Aztecs. Creating our own Aztec art, telling the time with Aztec sunstones. The children have explored various Roman and Aztec gods whilst creating their own. The children really enjoyed making their own timelines – even saying they were 'inspiring.'

We explored a day in the life of a Roman soldier. They also enjoyed exploring Roman ruins.

In Science, we have also explored sound – making lots of it – using our string telephones and then making our own soundproof boxes.

We have had visits from ZooLab, a magician, pantomimes and of course our Easter Celebration. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed support for the children.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Mrs Cairns' Class

In Year 2 we have had a wonderful Spring Term. We have enjoyed lots of fun activities and events this term including Chinese New Year, NSPCC Number Day, Wilderness Experience, Red Nose Day, World Book Day, a visit from ZooLab, a visit from Thomas Wolfe the magician, our Easter church service, 'The Hobbit' performance by M&M Productions, not to mention our fantastic trips to Hardwick Park and Tweddle Farm! We have also been lucky enough to welcome the Living Eggs into our school. This gave the children the opportunity to watch the eggs hatch and experience the growth of the chicks.

Our topic in the first Spring half term was all about the continent of Africa. We developed our knowledge of the seven continents and five oceans and compared the country of Kenya to our local area of Middlesbrough. We even went on a virtual safari, exploring various places in Africa and we were lucky to see a variety of African animals in their natural habitats. The second half term allowed the children to learn all about Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We used a variety of non-fiction and fiction texts to help us understand these key events in history and from this we were able to create some wonderful writing. As part of our DT lessons, the children have designed and created some wonderful space rockets.

Our topics in the Summer Term include learning about plants and the seaside. The children will have the opportunity to put their gardening skills to good use when we grow our own vegetables. We will be taking a trip to Saltburn beach to compare the seaside in the past and present.

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 Horne's Class

We have had a fun and busy half term in Y3/4. We have enjoyed learning about the world around us, looking at plants and how they grow. In Science we made our very own crazy cress heads and we planted sunflowers.

We have been very lucky to visit Butterfly World where not only did we see butterflies but we also saw fish, reptiles and meercats!

Our 'Wilderness' afternoon promoted team building, we learnt how to build shelters with bamboo & tarpaulin. After collecting dry grass & sticks together we could light the fire, this resulted in delicious treats of hot chocolate & marshmallows.

Our 'Sounds Write' phonics sessions are a great success and we are extremely proud of the progress they have made.

To celebrate the successes this term we are lucky to have M & M Productions and a special Easter celebration at the local church.

Well done everyone!



Mrs Bourne's Class

We have had a fun and busy time in the Support Centre!

In Science we have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs and if they still exist today. We were lucky enough to enjoy two trips to help us find our answers.

Kirkleatham Hall Museum provided a fantastic hands on learning experience, the children loved the dinosaur dig followed by a dinosaur hunt in the gardens.

Teessaurus Park was a wonderful opportunity for a walk of discovery in the fresh air and we all got to see the colourful dinosaurs in all their glory. It was fun challenging the children to name and identify the features of the dinosaurs they had been learning about.

Our 'Wilderness' afternoon promoted team building, we learnt how to build shelters with bamboo & tarpaulin. After collecting dry grass & sticks together to make a fire we had hot chocolate & toasted marshmallows.

We continue our love of reading, learning about nouns, verbs, adjectives and noun phrases. We could identify them in our favourite books. Our world book day was a success with everyone dressing up as their favourite book characters.

Our History topic this term has been centred around old-fashioned toys, we compared old with new and got the chance to make our own Victorian toy called a thaumatrope.

Our 'Sounds Write' phonics sessions are a wonderful success, all children in the support centre are now readers and we are extremely proud of the progress they have made.

To celebrate the successes this term we enjoyed the reward of a visit to Gabrielle's Ice cream parlour.

Well done everyone!



Mrs Wake and Miss Kelly's Class

We had a fantastic start to the Spring Term. The children have enjoyed learning about contrasting geographical environments and 'Where would you prefer to live: England or Africa?'

We learnt about the seven continents of the world and compared England with Kenya. We found out about the animals, textiles and the landscapes of Africa and created wonderful African inspired artwork and stories. Currently, we have been learning about 'Why were James Cook and Neil Armstrong very brave people?'

We have been researching the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. We discovered what made these people great explorers and find out about the world and beyond. The children have also had other exciting opportunities in school by being involved in whole school events such as Zoolab, Wilderness workshops, World Book Day, theatre productions and fundraising events eg Red Nose Day, NSPCC Number Day etc.

We are looking forward to next term and learning about our new topics about 'How can I grow my own salad?' and 'Why do we like to be beside the seaside?'

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.



Mrs Callaghan's Class

We have had a busy term! We hope you have enjoyed seeing our photographs and fabulous work this year on Class Dojo!

It has been a brilliant way of communicating with you all, and we would like to say thank you for all your support.

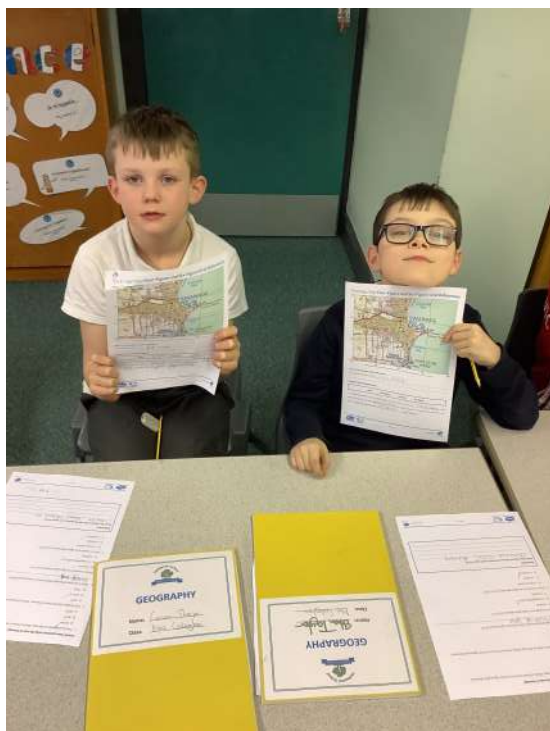
Our Science topics this term were the Human Body and the Solar System. We looked at the stages from baby to old age and how the body changes. We also looked at the life cycle of a chicken and the children have now experienced the hatching of chicks in school.

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

Our class reading this term was the 'The Devil and his Boy', which everyone enjoyed and 'Thor', which linked in with our topic of 'The Vikings'.

We had an amazing visit from ZooLab, a play from M & M Productions and a fantastic eco-friendly puppet show. Then to finish this term, everyone has enjoyed the Easter Singalong at St Cuthbert's Church.

We wish you all a Happy Easter.



Mr Ford's Class

It has been a busy term and we have continued to work hard for SATs. Class reading has improved and everyone will now read aloud from the class whiteboard, showing real confidence.

This term, we have been finding out about the Saxons and the Normans and the great leaders and battles. We have also looked at the history of castles. We found out about early castles called Motte and Baileys, built from wood and later castles which were stone built. We have investigated the different parts of the castles and their uses.

Our last topic this term was 'Water all around us' 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 uses. We also know that some countries do not have the same rainfall as our country or even clean water. We have some brilliant posters on display, showing why we should save water.

We have had visits from ZooLab, puppet shows, pantomimes and of course our Easter Celebration. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed support for the children. We wish everyone a Happy Easter!





*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 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.

