



# Newsletter



Spring Term 2024



## A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

Holmwood School is Special School of the Year for the North of England for the second year in a row.

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

Thank you to everyone for using Class Dojo, it is a wonderful resource for school, parents/carers and pupils. Please get in contact if you can't access this service.

## Summer Term Dates

Monday 08 April 2024 to  
Friday 24 May 2024

Monday 03 June 2024 to  
Friday 19 July 2024

**Bank Holiday Monday 06 May 2024**

There will be 5 Professional Development Days in the Summer Term.

## 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 94.2%. This is low for our school. Please ensure your child is in school everyday.

We would like to congratulate the 20 pupils who have had 100% attendance this term.

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

## Mrs Kearney's Class

Our class have loved learning about Dinosaurs and Traditional Tales over the Spring Term.

We have been palaeontologists and explored dinosaur fossils, learnt what the word 'extinct' means and designed our very own dinosaur. The children have developed their listening skills and following instructions on our amazing school trip to Kirkleatham Museum. The children made their very own fossil, they were 'raw-some'!

The children in Mrs Kearney's class have all focussed their efforts on developing their creative minds, retelling and acting out scenes from different Traditional Tales and sequencing scenes from stories in order using 'story vocabulary' like beginning, middle and end. Their dramatic streaks have really shone through.

All of the teachers are so proud of each child for their effort towards their work, their attitudes to each other and their resilience that they are constantly building.

We hope you have the most amazing Easter break and can't wait to dive back into learning about 'Animals' and 'The United Kingdom' over the Summer Term.

Hope you all have a lovely Easter Holiday.

### **Mrs Rollinson's Class**

We have had a busy, fun and successful term in Year 3. We began the term exploring the question "Who were the Ancient Egyptians?", where the children enjoyed learning about the importance of the River Nile, how the pyramids were built and what happened during the mummification process – we especially enjoyed the gory bits! We cracked codes written in hieroglyphs and wrote our own names using the Ancient Egyptian symbols.

During the second half of the term, the children have been investigating the question "Why do so many people choose to go to the Mediterranean for their holiday?". We have participated in lots of map work to locate the Mediterranean and to discover which countries make up this area of the world. We have explored the climate and how this affects what fruits and vegetables can be grown there and we especially enjoyed tasting lots of Mediterranean foods! After our taste test, we were challenged to apply our learning about nutrition in Science to design our own Mediterranean salad with ingredients from each of the main food groups.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. It has been wonderful to see so many of our children reading at home!

Have 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 Normans and the Saxons. We made our own Norman and Saxon castles observing the differences.

The pupils had an amazing experience at Kingswood! Many taking part in new activities, some they have never tried before!

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.

Weekly Yoga sessions with Mrs Anderson have been great for mind and body. We have enjoyed the Lempen Puppets and of course The Wilderness Outdoors session.

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 Aztecs' and 'London'.

We have thoroughly enjoyed looking at non-fiction factual texts looking at the life of an Aztec. The children were captivated and always wanted to read more.

Science this term has been very interesting, we have looked at 'Electricity'. We have understood and created our own electrical circuits.

In our Art/DT lessons we have made our London Landmarks. We pulled together as a team to make a wonderful display for the whole school to see.

The children learned new skills in badminton, working on hand-eye coordination this term. We have had many exciting opportunities this term, learning new skills in Wilderness Outdoors, reviewing M&M Productions and watching a puppet show.

We looked forward to ending the term with an Easter concert in the church.

Next term we are delving into 'The Life of the Romans'.

Have a wonderful Easter break!

### **Mr Cairnes' Class**

This term, we have been learning about The Aztecs. We were able to identify where they ruled, what food they ate and how crime and punishment worked. The children enjoyed making their own Aztec masks.

We explored all about London, including stories based around the Royal Family and performed a small play for each other. The children made their own London landmarks and explored why they are significant.

We have had visits from puppet shows, pantomimes the Wilderness Outdoors 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

We have had a wonderful Spring Term. We have enjoyed lots of fun activities and events this term including Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, World Maths Day, Wilderness Outdoor experience, Red Nose Day, World Book Day, a visit from Lempen Puppet Company, our Easter church service, 'The Secret Garden' production by M&M productions, not to mention our fantastic trip to Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum!

The topics we have focussed on this Spring Term have been Science based and we started the term by learning how to stay healthy through healthy eating, exercise and good hygiene. The children enjoyed learning about how to make healthier choices and learnt some new exercises along the way! Our second topic was about 'Growing Plants' and 'The Lifecycles of Plants'. The children became budding gardeners and carried out an experiment to help them understand what conditions plants need to grow.

Our topics in the Summer Term include learning about the brave voyages of Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus and the local seaside and how it was in the past in comparison to now. The children will have the opportunity to try space food and find out what life was like during both voyages, discussing similarities and differences. We will also be taking a trip to Saltburn beach and a trip to Tweddle Farm to support our understanding of habitats.

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.

We have enjoyed learning all about the Mediterranean. We went on a virtual holiday to Spain with our very own passports and we created travel guides and wrote postcards to family and friends.

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 'Sounds-Write' phonics sessions are a wonderful success, we are extremely proud of the progress they have made which has been evident in their fantastic Independent Writing books.

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

Well done everyone!

## Mrs Bourne's Class

Even though it has been a short term, we have managed to squeeze in a lot of learning and fun!

The children's favourite topic has undoubtedly been 'Are Dinosaurs Alive Today?'. To answer the question, we became scientists and looked at the different ways that animals are classified. The children amazed us every step of the way with their knowledge of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians! They applied what they had discovered to the world of dinosaurs and concluded that dinosaurs are not alive today. They were very surprised to find out that birds are the closest animal group to dinosaurs!

As well as our trip to Teessaurus we have had some exciting visitors in school including The Lempen Puppeteers, M&M Productions and the Wilderness Outdoors team. The Support Centre children always participate with great enthusiasm!

We are all so proud of how well our new children have settled in this term, which is largely down to the wonderful role models that our more established children have become.

The Support Centre Team wish all of our children and families a fantastic Easter break, as we look forward to an amazing Summer Term!

## Mrs Callaghan's Class

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

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 watched a video of one hatching - it was amazing!

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

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

We had an amazing visit from ZooLab, a play from M&M Productions and a fantastic 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 continuing to work hard for SATs. Class reading has improved and everyone will now read something from the class board, 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 made some brilliant posters, showing why we should save water.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter!

## Mrs McNeill's Class

Well, what an amazing Spring Term we have had!

Y3 children really made the most of the 2 short half terms and have blown me away with being more independent in their learning. As a result of their positive attitude they have celebrated even more success in their reading, writing, and number.

They have explored 'How were the pyramids built?' and 'Why do so many people from the UK go on holiday to the Mediterranean?', incorporating their ICT, Art and DT skills to create work.

For each new topic, the children have displayed their new vocabulary on the class Vocab Ninja display and can say with ease the meaning of the new vocabulary.

At Holmwood, the children continue to build on their social skills through amazing activities such as Wilderness Outdoors, Lempen puppet show, a trip to Preston Park and a train ride to Saltburn to sketch local landmarks.

For the last week the children are hoping to have made it to their Silver Award, which is achieved through 'good behaviour'. Every child can earn a golden token to put in the jar to meet the target. The children have asked for a movie afternoon in their PJ's, with treats. So, fingers crossed everyone!

We would like to wish you a safe holiday!

