

Holmwood School / Newsletter



Autumn Term 2024
Have a Brilliant Winter Holiday!



A Message from OFSTED

OFSTED visited us in October.

They said that Holmwood School is:-

- **Outstanding in Quality of Education**
- **Outstanding in Behaviour and Attitude**
- **Outstanding in Personal Development**
- **Outstanding in Leadership**

They reported:-

“Pupils are extremely well supported at Holmwood School. The school has high expectations for what pupils can achieve. They receive an exceptional quality of education.

Staff, led by inspirational leaders, have created a nurturing learning environment. They ensure that the school consistently focusses on meeting the individual needs of pupils. This means that pupils progress through the curriculum well.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. Staff have a deep understanding of pupils' personal and social needs. Staff expertly respond to pupils and support them to independently manage their behaviour. Pupils' attitudes to learning and attendance consistently demonstrate significant improvements from their starting points at the school.

Pupils' personal development is prioritised. The school creatively supports pupils to develop more broadly. They rapidly develop their abilities to be confident and independent. Pupils feel calm and safe in the school. This ensures that they can learn well and feel settled in education.”

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 39 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 2025.

Spring Term Dates

Monday 06 January 2025 to
Friday 21 February 2025

Monday 03 March 2025 to
Friday 11 April 2025

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.

Please note that the school will be closed on Thursday 23 January and Friday 24 January 2025 for essential training.



Miss Horne's Class

The Autumn Term has been exceptionally productive for our class. The children have settled into Year 4 beautifully and are demonstrating remarkable progress across all areas of learning. In the first half of the term, we delved into the fascinating world of 'The Romans' and in the second half-term we explored 'The Wonders of Rivers and Mountains'.

Our wider learning experiences have been truly delightful, including a performance by M & M Productions, visits from the Wilderness team, a Virtual Reality workshop and ZooLab. We went to the cinema, enjoyed a pantomime at the theatre and had an exciting end-of-term trip to Fun Shack.

Looking ahead, when we return in the New Year, our topic will be 'Anglo Saxons'.

Have a fantastic Christmas; we look forward to an invigorating Spring Term!



Mr Ford's Class

This term has been an incredibly busy and productive time for everyone. The hard work and dedication of all has led to significant progress, especially in reading; their confidence in reading aloud has noticeably improved. It's heartening to see everyone eager to read from the interactive whiteboard in front of the entire class. Our central theme this term was 'Water All Around Us', during which we explored rivers across the globe. We have learned the different parts of a river, from the source to the river mouth and understand how the water cycle works, including how rain is formed. This exploration has also highlighted the vital importance of water and its various uses, as well as teaching us about the disparity in rainfall and access to clean water in different countries. The creative posters we made helped us understand why it's essential to conserve water.

Our term was filled with enriching experiences, such as Virtual Reality sessions and the delight of interacting with animals during ZooLab, where we even had the opportunity to hold some creatures. Our Wilderness sessions provided an exciting challenge, teaching us survival skills in cold environments and rewarding us with toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate! We also enjoyed several captivating shows, including 'Sleeping Beauty,' 'The Railway Children,' and 'Beauty and the Beast'. The final weeks of term were bustling with Christmas festivities, featuring a delightful Christmas Lunch, a visit from a special guest, our class party and creating Christmas cards/calendars. We are grateful to everyone who supported our Christmas Carol Concert. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday season.

Mrs Bourne's Class

This Autumn Term in the Support Centre it has been both wonderful and bustling with activity and we couldn't be more proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm for learning. The children have consistently enjoyed their daily Sounds-Write phonics sessions, effectively applying these skills while preparing their Published Work. This half-term, the children focused on recounting a visit from ZooLab and recently crafted a short narrative inspired by the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'.

In Maths, our young learners have been exploring different concepts; some children worked with part-whole models, comparisons using 'fewer' and 'more', and number lines up to 10, while others focused on ordering numbers within 100, addition and subtraction bonds within 20 and understanding fact families of 20.

Our History lessons took us on a journey back in time to discover 'The Gunpowder Plot'. The children were very creative when making a Guy Fawkes figure and some fantastic fireworks. In Science, the focus was on everyday materials, with the children investigating objects made from metal, plastic, wood and glass.

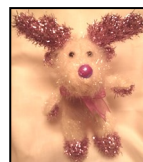
To celebrate everyone's hard work and dedication, we enjoyed exciting trips to the cinema and Go Climb at Billingham Forum. A huge thank you goes to the children for their tremendous effort in rehearsals for our Christmas production of 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. It was truly fabulous and we are sure you will agree. We wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Mr Cairnes' Class

Wow! What a fantastic start to Year 4! The children are all finding their feet and are throwing themselves into their work making excellent progress and challenging themselves further.

This term, we have had lots of fun exploring our topics 'The Romans' and 'Where in the World?'. The children have been able to visit Roman ruins as well as taste lots of different foods from around the world. As well as this, we have had the pleasure of welcoming lots of visitors this term and the children have been able to explore the world through a Virtual Reality session, animals from around the world, different theatre production companies and an outdoor wilderness lesson.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Mrs Ahmad's Class

The Autumn Term has proven to be an exceptionally productive period for our class! The children have settled wonderfully into Years 5 and 6, demonstrating remarkable progress in their learning journey.

For the first half-term, our Learning Challenge centred around the theme 'Were the Vikings really Vicious?' This ignited our curiosity about how the Vikings invaded Britain, providing a fascinating exploration into history. In the second half-term, we delved into the intriguing topic 'What are the secrets of The Rainforest?' We discovered the significant role The Rainforest plays in our planet's ecosystem, which the children found really interesting.

Our wider learning experiences were further enriched this term with a host of exciting activities, including a captivating performance by M & M Productions, engaging visits from the Wilderness team, an immersive VR experience, and a memorable session from ZooLab. The children also enjoyed a thrilling visit to the cinema and a delightful trip to the local garden centre to see real reindeer!



With school transformed into a Winter Wonderland, the festive atmosphere was filled with creative activities and excitement. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and eagerly anticipate an exciting Spring Term ahead.



Mrs Cairns' Class

We have had a wonderful start to the year and it has been truly heartening to see the children in Year 2 working so diligently. They have been making pleasing progress and we are very proud of their achievements so far. Our first topic for the Autumn Term was 'Why was the Great Fire of London so Great?' This topic allowed the children to immerse themselves in the history of the fire and draw comparisons between past and present London. Next, we explored 'Where would you prefer to live: England or Africa?' Through this, the children expanded their knowledge of the seven continents and five oceans, while comparing the country of Kenya to our local area of Middlesbrough.

In addition to our academic pursuits, our class has been fortunate enough to enjoy a trip to the cinema. We've also been entertained by several performances from M & M Productions and had visits from our friends at ZooLab and the Wilderness team. The last few weeks leading up to Christmas have been filled with excitement and fun! A special congratulation goes to the children for their wonderful Nativity performance – well done everyone!

Looking ahead, following our Christmas break, our new topic in Spring Term will be 'How will 5 a day help me to be healthy?'

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

Mrs Callaghan's Class

The Autumn Term has been a very productive period for our class, as the children have settled beautifully into Year 5 and we are immensely proud of their progress.

We began the term exploring the fascinating topic of 'Victorians', where we delved into the daily life of a child in Victorian Britain. The students wrote captivating stories, crafted peg dolls and wore Victorian clothes. In the second half-term, our topic was the wonders of 'Space', a theme that captured everyone's imagination. We explored the various planets, created imaginative aliens, and had a blast designing, building and racing rockets.

As a reward for the children's hard work, we concluded the term with a much-deserved trip to the cinema to watch 'Eagle Huntress', and also squeezed in an extra fun trip to 'Inflate Space'. We dedicated a special day to outdoor winter crafts, where we made quirky mud faces and enjoyed a cosy campfire.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we will embark on thrilling new topics, starting with 'The Vikings' and followed by 'The Rainforest'. Until then, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Mrs Kearney's Class

Mrs Kearney's Class has settled remarkably well into life at Holmwood and we couldn't be more proud of their progress and achievements. In the Autumn Term, we began with the topic of 'Feelings', where the children engaged in discussions about their families, painted self-portraits and talked about what makes them happy and sad. Our topic book was 'The Colour Monster' and it helped the children to understanding different emotions and communicating about how they feel.

Our second topic was 'Colours' and we explored delightful books like 'Elmer', 'The Rainbow Fish' and 'The Day The Crayons Quit'. These stories helped the children enhance their inference skills through reciprocal reading and they have also started learning different phonics sounds with the Sounds-Write programme. A highlight of the term was our cinema trip, where the children demonstrated exceptional behaviour by adhering to all rules and expectations, an achievement that made us extremely proud.

Art skills were a focus as well, with the children using paints, glue, glitter, and sequins to create wonderful crafts. They are excited to bring their Christmas creations home to share with you! The teachers would like to commend everyone for their marvellous performance in the nativity play; their singing was absolutely fantastic. We are thrilled with our start to the year and are looking forward to our next exciting topic 'Dinosaurs' when we return in the New Year. We know the children will absolutely love it! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Mrs Rollinson's Class

We have had a really busy time in Year 3/4 this term. The children have been learning about 'The Romans' and 'Where in the World'. During our topic of 'What Made the Roman's so Powerful?'; We looked at various texts and retrieved a lot of information which we have used in our writing.

The children had an enjoyable but messy time making Roman roads out of biscuits and custard!

In Maths, the focus has been on times tables and the children are becoming more confident with applying different strategies when working though number problems.

We have been really lucky to experience a Virtual Reality session and ZooLab workshop in school, as well as a cinema trip to see 'Robot Dreams' and watching performances from visiting theatre groups.

The run up to Christmas is always bustling with excitement, with Christmas lunch, Christmas party and a visit from an extra special person!

On behalf of all the staff and children of Year 3/4, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs McNeill's Class

In our Year 3 Class, the boys have come together beautifully, forming a wonderful class family. They have warmly welcomed new students from other schools and are actively teaching one another the importance of using kind hands, kind thoughts and, kind words.

So far, the topics we have covered include 'Where do We Live?', 'The Stone Age', 'Natural Disasters', 'Guy Fawkes', 'Remembrance Day' and 'The History of Christmas'. We've had exciting trips that relate to these subjects, including our fascinating exploration of the River Tees at Preston Park and environmentally friendly Christmas activities at Hardwick Park.

As we approach the end of term, the boys worked diligently on their Nativity rehearsals. We are sure you all enjoyed the performance!

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your continuous support of your child this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



*We wish you all a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year.*

*Thank You for all your support
from
The Staff at Holmwood School.*

