



# Newsletter



Spring Term 2025



## A Message from Mr Ley- Headteacher

Holmwood School has once again been recognised as the Special School of the Year for the North of England, marking the third consecutive year it has achieved this honour.

Additionally, Holmwood received an 'Outstanding' rating in all areas from OFSTED and has been identified as a Leading School by Challenge Partners.

The Spring Term is always a particularly busy period for our pupils, with a significant amount of work being successfully completed.

We are extremely proud of the excellent progress our pupils have made in school. This achievement would not have been possible without your continued support, for which we are immensely grateful.

*Mr Ley*



## Summer Term Dates

Monday 28 April 2025 to

Friday 23 May 2025

Monday 02 June 2025 to

Friday 18 July 2025

**There is a Bank Holiday on Monday 05 May 2025**

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 94.5%. This is low for our school. Please ensure your child is in school everyday.

We would like to congratulate the 12 pupils who have had 100% attendance this year.

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

## Mrs McNeill's Class

This term the boys have gelled in becoming a class family. They still try their best to become the very best version of themselves, using the class rules and remembering what it means to use kind hands, kind thoughts and kind words, whilst showing tolerance, respects and understanding each other.

Topics covered so far have included: Who were the Ancient Egyptians? Why do so many people from the UK choose the Mediterranean to go to for their holidays? Measures, Place Value, adjectives, Non-Fiction and Narratives.

As a class we have been fortunate enough to go on two trips. The first was to Saltburn on the train to look at landmarks, and the second trip was to the Meze Taverna to experience Greek food, as part of our Mediterranean topic. The budget wouldn't stretch to actually visiting Greece but maybe next year Mr Ley?

With only a week left until we break up for the Easter break, the boys are learning the Easter story and fingers crossed they will have enough time to craft an Easter gift to keep.

Can I just thank you for your continual support of your child this term, and wish you all a very Happy Easter!

## **Mrs Ahmad's Class**

During the Spring Term, our class has embarked on a wonderfully creative and productive journey! The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the topic of The Americas, engaging in thoughtful comparisons and contrasts across this fascinating region.

An unforgettable highlight for our Year 6 pupils was their visit to Kingswood, where they eagerly participated in a variety of new activities, many of which they had never tried before.

This half term, we also delved into the captivating world of life cycles, where the students had fun sharing baby photos and playing an entertaining game of "guess who."

Additionally, we were delighted to welcome The Animals Around Town to our school, offering the children a unique opportunity to learn about animal needs and behaviour. Our pupils exhibited such gentle care, enthusiastically grooming and assisting in looking after the animals.

We are immensely proud of all the pupils for their diligent efforts and the wonderful positivity they have shown towards their learning.

Wishing everyone a lovely Easter break!

## **Mrs Cairns' Class**

In Year 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, a dance session, Chinese New Year, NSPCC Number Day, a visit from Messy Science, Shrove Tuesday, a performance from Lempen Puppets and M and M Productions, a visit from Animals About Town and our recent trip to Locomotion. 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.

The children have had a wonderful Spring Term learning about significant individuals in history such as Captain Cook and George Stephenson. In Science we have been learning about living things and their habitats which will help us when we take our trip to the farm next term. In Geography we have focussed on directions and map making; something the children thoroughly enjoyed. The class have all produced some impressive writing and maths work in addition to working hard on developing their social and emotional skills.

## **Mrs Cairns' cont..**

In the Summer Term we will be learning all about the seaside and what it was like when our grandparents were little. 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.

## **Mr Cairnes' Class**

The Spring Term has been wonderfully creative and productive for our class!

We've embarked on exciting adventures through our History and Geography lessons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed delving into the lives of the Anglo-Saxons, as well as enriching their knowledge about rivers and mountains.

Our educational visit to Roseberry Topping was a highlight, where we explored whether it is a hill or a mountain.

Additionally, our trip to Preston Park provided an immersive experience to examine the plant life near the river and understand why the River Tees holds significance for us. In Science, our exploration of electricity sparked curiosity as the children learned to create circuits, culminating in the construction of their very own steady hand games.

A memorable visit from Animals Around Town introduced us to the fascinating world of animal needs and behaviours, with the children even having the opportunity to construct shelters for our animal friends.

As we wrap up this enriching term, we wish everyone a lovely Easter break!



## Miss Horne's Class

The Spring Term has been a wonderfully exciting and productive time for our class. We have thoroughly enjoyed delving into the fascinating history of London and the Anglo-Saxons. One of the highlights was our educational visit to the Life Centre, where we explored the wonders of astrology, participated in various science activities, and even had the chance to visit a model space station! The children also had a delightful class trip to Whitby, where we visited the home of Dracula, closely tying in with our story focus for this term. The children have been incredibly engaged with this topic.

In Science, we had fun learning about electricity and creating circuits. We even designed and built our own steady hand games, which was a big hit with everyone. Our passion for animals was sparked when Animals Around Town visited our school. The children loved learning about animal needs and behaviours and were thrilled to have the chance to build animal shelters.

In Art, we have been exceptionally creative, crafting Anglo-Saxon brooches and producing artwork inspired by the renowned artist Andy Warhol. Using chalk and shadows, we also created breathtaking Fire of London art pieces.

## Mr Ford's Class

As the term comes to a close, I wish everyone a lovely Easter break, and I look forward to seeing you all in the summer term!

It has been a busy term and we have been continuing to work hard for SATS. Class reading has improved and everyone will now read something from the class board, showing real confidence. Our visit to Kingswood Residential Centre was fantastic! All of our pupils will have made happy memories of our time there.

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 that early castles were called Motte and Baileys, built from wood and later castles were stone built. We have investigated the different parts of the castles and their uses. Our second 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 also learned how famous scientists such as Jenner, Pasteur and Fleming have helped us.

## Mr Ford's cont...

We have had visits from puppet shows, pantomimes, the wilderness adventures team and of course our Easter Celebration. The Animals Around Town came to school for a visit and the children loved learning about their needs and animal behaviours. The pupils have shown such gentle care to groom and help look after the animals. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed support for the children. We wish everyone a Happy Easter!

## Mrs Bourne's Class

This half term at Holmwood has been packed with fun and exciting activities. We've been delighted to welcome six new pupils to the Support Centre, and they are settling in remarkably well, quickly adapting to Holmwood's routines and expectations. In English, the children took great pride in their published work, having chosen the beloved book 'Frank and Bert' as a foundation for their own writing endeavours. The Frank and Bert series has captured the children's imagination, inspiring them to develop their own ideas and sparking their enthusiasm to try their hand at becoming authors!

To complement our science curriculum on the 'Classification of Animals', we embarked on a delightful visit to Big Sheep, Little Cow. Here, we encountered a diverse array of animals and even had the chance to feed the lambs. The children were captivated by the experience and enjoyed playing in both the indoor and outdoor areas. The day was filled with laughter, especially during the exciting tractor barrel ride that concluded our visit.

At Holmwood School, we are fortunate to have a variety of visitors who enrich our learning experiences. This half-term, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Lempen Puppeteers, M&M Productions, the Wilderness team, and the unforgettable Silly Science professor, all of whom added wonderful dimensions to our learning journey.

As we look forward to the Summer Term, we are eager to embrace plenty of outdoor learning and play. Wishing you all a joyful and safe Easter break!







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

This term has been incredibly busy and filled with exciting activities! We hope you've enjoyed staying up-to-date with our progress through the photographs and updates on Class Dojo. It's been a fantastic way for us to communicate with you, and we're truly grateful for your continued support.

In Science, we've explored fascinating topics like 'Habitats' and 'Life Cycles'. The children learned about the different stages from infancy to old age and how our bodies change over time. We also studied the life cycle of a chicken and even watched a video of one hatching, which was truly amazing!

Our history lessons took us back to the era of 'The Vikings'. The children loved re-enacting a battle scene and were creative in art lessons; crafting fabulous shields and swords that made a fantastic display in our classroom. Our class readings included 'The Bonebreaker', which everyone enjoyed, and 'Thor', which tied in perfectly with our Viking topic.

To wrap up the term, everyone had a wonderful time at the Easter Singalong at St Cuthbert's Church. We wish you all a very Happy Easter!



### **Mrs Kearney's Class**

This half-term has truly been transformative for the children in Mrs Kearney's class. With a solid grasp of school expectations and their learning, they have excelled during their lessons.

In English, the children have diligently explored a variety of traditional tales, reading numerous stories and re-enacting them in class. They have also engaged in 'Now Press Play', immersing themselves in the roles of the characters from these tales. In Science, the children have astounded us with their ability to recall information about animals. They can categorise different animals, identify their features, and have created impressive drawings of animals for our 'Proud Wall'. We were also thrilled to have a visit from Animals About Town, who brought farm animals into Holmwood School! The children enjoyed brushing them, learning their names, and even teaching the dog the command to "sit".

This half-term has also been enriched by exciting visits from the Lempen Puppeteers, M&M Productions, the Wilderness team, and the Silly Science professor. These visitors have contributed greatly to expanding our knowledge at Holmwood.

As we approach the Summer Term, we eagerly anticipate new topics exploring the questions 'How do you get to the moon?' and 'Why do we need people to help us?'.

We wish everyone a happy and safe Easter break and look forward to the lovely weather in the Summer Term.

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

We have had a fantastic half-term in Year 3/4 learning about Rivers and Mountains. We have explored river poetry and stories, created our own amazing river settings in art and made our own water cycles. We are currently using Talk for Writing to learn the story 'A River' by Marc Martin and writing our own adaptations of the text.

We recently enjoyed a visit from 'Animals Around Town', where we learned how to care for and groom the animals and created our own guinea pig shelters, which the animals loved! It was lovely to see how kind and caring all of the children were towards the animals.

In Science, our Year 4's have been exploring electricity. They have loved using the circuit equipment to make a bulb light up and were fascinated when we made our own human circuit! The Year 3's in our class have been learning about the different types of rocks and were really interested in how fossils are formed.

After Easter we are looking forward to learning all about our capital city, London. We wish you all a safe and happy Easter break.