

# Holmwood School Newsletter



**Autumn Term 2025  
Have a Brilliant Winter Holiday!**



## A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

As we approach the end of 2025, I am filled with hope that 2026 will bring even more wonderful experiences for our school community.

This past term has been incredibly busy, but in such positive ways. We've been thrilled to see our pupil numbers grow and our dedicated staff have put in tremendous effort to ensure that every child receives a wonderful education.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers for your support, whether it's ensuring your child wears the school uniform, assisting with their homework or sharing your positive comments about our school. Your involvement is invaluable.

As we head into the holiday season, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year. If you have any concerns during the holidays, please do not hesitate to call 01642 819157. You can leave a message and I'll make sure to get back to you promptly.

Thank you once again for being such an integral part of our school family.

Warm regards  
Dennis Ley



## Improving Attendance

Holmwood School is focusing 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 2026.

## Spring Term Dates

Monday 05 January 2026 to  
Friday 20 February 2026

Monday 02 March 2026 to  
Thursday 02 April 2026

**Please note that on Friday 23 January 2026 the school will be closing at 1.00pm for essential maintenance.**

**Please note that on Thursday 19 & Friday 20 March 2026 the school will be closed for essential training.**



## Mr Ford's Class

Once again, we have had a very busy term. Everybody has been working so hard and making great progress. Confidence has really improved and everyone is willing to ask and answer questions and read aloud in class. Our 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 waterscape pictures which will be proudly displayed in the hall in the New Year.

Recently, we had our Wilderness session. We used teamwork to solve puzzles to unlock a prize of some delicious marshmallows and then toasted them! Our class enjoyed our visit to the cinema to see 'Sonic 3' and had the opportunity to watch a production of 'Sleeping Beauty' in school.

We have all enjoyed our Christmas activities, including a trip to The Little Theatre to see 'Goldilocks And The Three Bears', our wonderful Christmas Carol concert, Christmas lunch, a special visitor, our party and making our Christmas cards and calendars.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our Christmas Carol concert and also throughout the year. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



## Mr Cairnes' Class

We have had a truly wonderful half term, filled with exciting learning and unforgettable experiences. The children were captivated by the fantastic performance from M & M Productions and thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the cinema, which added a magical touch to the week!

In the classroom, we delved into a variety of fascinating topics; from uncovering the fierce world of 'The Vikings' to discovering the vibrant layers of 'The Rainforest' and journeying through the mysteries of the Solar System.

This half term has been brimming with curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Mrs Bourne's Class

It has been a lovely but very busy Autumn Term in the Support Centre, we are incredibly proud of how hard the children have been working and loving their learning.

All of the children are making excellent progress in their daily Sounds-Write phonics sessions and have been able to transfer these skills when preparing their published work. This half term, the children have focused on a character description, based on the book 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes.

The focus in Maths for some children this term has been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and comparing groups up to 10 using less and greater than.

In History, we travelled back in time, looking at toys past and present. In DT we supported this learning by creating finger and hand puppets.

Our Science focus was everyday materials; the children enjoyed investigating objects made from metal, plastic, wood and glass.

To celebrate all the hard work and effort, we have enjoyed trips to the cinema, theatre and Go Climb at Billingham Forum.

A great big thank you to the children for working incredibly hard in rehearsals for our Christmas production "Baarmy Bethlehem". We are sure you will agree it was totally fabulous!



## 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 II?". We thoroughly enjoyed exploring this subject and showed great understanding and empathy.

The second half term was "Will Our Water Last Forever?". The pupils loved learning about where our water comes from and where our main source of water is. It was great to learn about the River Tees and the history of our local area.

We really enjoyed our wider learning experiences which have included Animals About Town; Scooter Fit; a trip to Eden Camp; performances from M & M Productions; Go Climb at Billingham Forum; visits from the Wilderness team and ZooLab; trips to the cinema (amazing new chairs!), The Arc at Stockton and a visit to the theatre to see a Panto.... Oh yes we did! (Thank you Rotarians!).

School has been like a 'Winter Wonderland' with lots of creative activities and festive excitement! This year's Christmas Concert was truly amazing. The songs certainly were "Groovin"

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

## Mrs Kearney's Class

We have had the most amazing and productive term in Mrs Kearney's class. I am so proud of how much effort each child has put into everything that we have done this term.

Every child is making amazing progress within their phonics sessions and we have so many who can now read! This half term we have focused on 'Africa' and reading 'Handa's Surprise'. The children have rewritten the story and enjoyed re-enacting it through dramatic performances.

Our Science focus was 'Everyday Materials', the children enjoyed investigating objects made from metal, plastic, wood and glass. It has been lovely to see each of the children using their brains scientifically to achieve their Science goals!

This term we have enjoyed trips to the cinema and theatre. I have been so impressed with how the children have handled themselves outside of school and represented Holmwood School in such an amazing way!

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas and New Year and can't wait to welcome you back in 2026!



## Mrs Cairns' Class

Wow! What an amazing Autumn Term we have had in Year 3! Autumn Term is always jam-packed and we have learned so much! Our topic in Autumn Term 1 was 'Who First Lived In Britain?'. The children showed such a keen interest in learning about the history of 'The Stone Age' and created some beautiful pieces of writing. In Autumn Term 2, our topic was 'What makes the Earth angry?'. The children were fascinated when learning about volcanoes in Geography!

As a class, we have had the pleasure of working with our friends at ZooLab, Animals About Town, Scoot Fit, Wilderness and M & M Productions. In addition to this, the children have enjoyed a trip to the cinema, several discos within school and successful performances for Harvest and Christmas.

During this term the children have tried their very best in all areas of Maths. We have explored place value, addition and subtraction and shape.

Our topics after the Christmas break include 'Why Do So Many People Go To The Mediterranean For Their Holidays?' and 'How Far Can You Throw Your Shadow?'

We would like to thank you all for your support so far this year and we would like to wish you a safe and Happy Christmas. Please feel free to keep us updated over the festive period on Class Dojo. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!





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

As the children settled into Year 5, we have been incredibly proud of their progress. Our first half term topic focused on 'The Rainforest'. The pupils particularly enjoyed exploring the different layers of 'The Rainforest' and learning about the variety of species that thrive there. Their excitement peaked when they participated in a thrilling 'Bush Tucker' trial!

In the second half term, the pupils really enjoyed our topic on 'The Victorians', especially learning about the life of a child in Victorian Britain.

As an end of term treat, the children went to the cinema to see 'How To Train Your Dragon' and we also went to Beamish Museum. We enjoyed our Wilderness outdoor lesson which included finding clues in the wooded area and enjoying a cosy campfire.

In the New Year, we are looking forward to beginning our new topics on 'The Vikings' and later 'Space'. Until then, we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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



### **Mrs McNeill's Class**

What an amazing start we have had to this long term!

The children have truly come together as a "class family", showing incredible resilience and teamwork. They have excelled in their studies, explored traditional narratives, mastered their times tables and are advancing in both subtraction and addition.

Their curiosity has taken them on exciting adventures, learning about different biomes and even digging for Roman artifacts, with the thrilling discovery of some odd, ancient findings!

As we wrap up with the holiday season approaching, I want to wish everyone a very Merry and safe Christmas. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing all of you again next year!



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

We have had a fantastic Autumn Term in our class. We began the term exploring 'Why Were The Romans So Powerful?'; learning about the invasions of the Romans in Britain and the impact it had on our country. We enjoyed writing letters in role as Roman soldiers, telling our families back home about the hardships we faced and what it was like to live in a Roman fort.

Following half term, we have been learning about the city of London, exploring the human and physical features of the city and comparing the features we found to those in towns and villages. We made some amazing London models whilst learning about the city's famous landmarks.

We have been busy earning lots of Dojo points in class to achieve our own individual rewards and also working together to achieve whole class rewards. We recently reached 1,000 Dojo points, which was rewarded with a Christmas movie and pyjama day in class and getting cosy with the beanbags and blankets to watch 'The Polar Express.'

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the term and wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas break!