



# Newsletter



Spring Term 2026



## A Message from Mr Ley - Headteacher

Holmwood School has been honoured once again as the Special School of the Year for the North of England, achieving this remarkable recognition for the fourth year in a row. This accolade highlights the dedication and hard work of both our pupils and staff.

The Spring Term is always a particularly busy period for our pupils, who have successfully completed a significant amount of work during this time. We are incredibly proud of the excellent progress our students have made in their learning journeys.

This achievement would not have been possible without your ongoing support, for which we are immensely grateful.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community and helping us reach new heights.

*Mr Ley*



## Mrs Rollinson's Class

We've had a fantastic term in our class, filled with engaging learning experiences and memorable trips. During the first half of the term, we explored the lives of the Anglo-Saxons. The children thoroughly enjoyed researching different aspects of Anglo-Saxon life and used their findings to create impressive display boards. A highlight of this topic was our visit to Murton Park, where we stepped back in time. During the trip, we dressed in traditional tunics, made our own candles and even practised defending our settlement using spears and shields.

As we approached Easter, our focus shifted to rivers. We took inspiration from 'A River' by Marc Martin to write our own creative adaptations. To bring our learning to life, we also enjoyed a wonderful trip along the River Tees aboard the Teesside Princess, making it a truly memorable end to a brilliant term!

We also had some fantastic visitors and experiences in school this term. We took part in an exciting session with 'Messy Science', where we explored Science in a fun and hands-on way!

To add even more adventure to our term, we welcomed The Wilderness Team, where we took part in an exciting mountain rescue scenario. The children showed great teamwork and problem-solving skills as they worked together to complete the challenge.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter holiday.



## **Mrs Ahmad's Class**

Spring Term has been very creative and productive for our class! We have really enjoyed learning about The Normans in Spring Term 1. The pupils enjoyed learning about battles, weapons and castles. We planned, designed and then made a castle. The final results were fantastic. In Spring Term 2 we learnt about how we can stay healthy, we know what our bodies need and what we need to do to keep them healthy.

Our Year 6 pupils had an amazing experience at Newby Wiske Hall, taking part in new activities and staying away from home for 2 nights! They thoroughly enjoyed it and demonstrated excellent behaviour and resilience.

We have enjoyed our visits from the Wilderness Team and M&M Productions.

Our trip to Monk Farm was enjoyable – it was great to have a nice day out as a reward for all the excellent work and behaviour!

We are so pleased with all the pupils and their great efforts towards learning and their general positive attitude towards preparation for SATs.

Keep up the amazing work everyone! Have a lovely Easter break!

## **Mrs Cairns' Class**

In Year 3 we have had a wonderful Spring Term. We have enjoyed lots of fun activities and events such as Red Nose Day, World Book Day, Shrove Tuesday, a visit from 'Messy Science', performances from Lempen Puppets and M&M Productions, a visit from The Wilderness Team and our recent trip to Newham Grange Farm.

The children have had a wonderful Spring Term learning about the Ancient Egyptians and what life was like in comparison to life now. The class have all produced some impressive writing and Maths work in addition to working hard on developing their social and emotional skills.

In the Summer Term we will be learning all about 'Plants' and 'Greece'. The children continue to impress their teachers with their hard work 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**

This term has been busy and exciting. We have had lots of wonderful experiences from Lempen Puppets, Doctor Dolittle Productions as well as some wonderful educational visits to Captain Cook's Museum, Captain Cook's Monument and Tweddle Farm; where the children experienced feeding and petting different animals.

The children have blown us away with some fantastic work in English and Maths as well as their Foundation subjects. The children have written letters and diary entries based on Captain James Cook's voyages. We have explored some lovely stories including 'The Crows Tale'.

Some of the Year 5 children were very fortunate to join the Year 6 children on their residential and really pushed themselves to have the best experiences and have undoubtedly made lasting memories.

The children really enjoyed their Easter Celebrations. A huge thank you for taking the time to come and celebrate with us.

We wish you all a Happy Easter!



## **Mrs McNeill's Class**

Goodness! Where did that half-term go?

Our class have managed to cram in so much learning and fun in the shortest term!

The English narrative was 'The River Challenge', written by Bear Grylls. This was followed by the children creating their own text/story. They have even been in the 'hot seat' as one of their characters when we did our own version of 'BBC News'! Some of the children have even tried to use cursive writing in their handwriting.

In Maths, the children have smashed fractions, shape, money, column addition/subtraction and times tables 2-12.

The class have shown great resilience, with even more children going on class trips. As part of our Geography topic, we sailed on the Teesside Princess to Preston Park.

All that's left is to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Keep safe and we'll see you all in the Summer Term.

## Mr Ford's Class

It has been a busy term with the children continuing to work hard for SATs. Class reading has improved and everyone will now read something from the class board, showing real confidence.

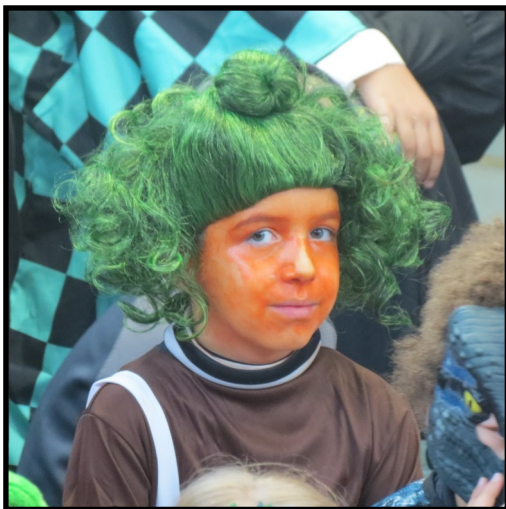
This term, we have been finding out about the Saxons and the Normans and the great leaders and battles, especially the Battle of Hastings. We have also looked at the history of castles. We found out about early castles called Motte and Baileys, built from wood and later castles which were stone built.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

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 learned about famous people such as Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur and Alexander Fleming. Our class have researched why we need nutrients to stay healthy and fight disease and also which foods have these nutrients.

Our Year 6 (along with a few Year 5 guests) had a fantastic time at Newby Wiske Hall for our two-night residential. It was a great experience and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and made memories that will last a long time.

We have had visits from puppet shows, pantomimes, the Wilderness Team 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 Bourne's Class

It has been a fun packed half-term. We have welcomed new pupils into the Support Centre, they are settling in well, responding to Holmwood's routines and expectations.

In English the children have been particularly proud of their published work, having chosen the book 'Peace at Last' to base their writing on. The children enjoyed adapting their own version of this popular story.

To support our Science work 'Plant Investigation and Habitats' we enjoyed a visit to Newham Grange Farm, where we were able to meet a variety of animals and had the opportunity to pet the guinea pigs and explore the various habitats that plants and animals need to survive. It was exciting playing in the indoor role play areas.

At Holmwood School, we are lucky enough to welcome visitors to enhance our knowledge and support our learning. This half-term we have had the pleasure of visits from the Lempen Puppeteers, Doctor Dolittle, M&M Productions, the Wilderness Team and the Silly Science Professor!

As we head towards the Summer Term, we are looking forward to lots of outdoor learning and play and another visit to the farm to compare the habitats during different seasons.

We wish you all a happy and safe Easter break.



## Mrs Callaghan's Class

We have had a busy Spring Term! We hope you have enjoyed being kept up to date, seeing your child's fabulous work and photographs on Class Dojo. It is 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 'Habitats' and 'Life Cycles'. 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!

The first topic we explored was 'Planets of the Solar System' and we researched the history of space exploration. We have created planets and shuttles in our Art lesson and made a fantastic display in class.

We have looked at and researched the history of 'The Vikings'. We have re-enacted a battle scene and made some fabulous shields & swords in our Art lesson to produce a fantastic display in class.

Our class reading this term was 'The Bonebreaker' and 'Thor' which both 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 interactive lesson with Animals Around Town; to finish this term, everyone has enjoyed the Easter Assembly at St Cuthbert's Church.

We wish you all a Happy Easter.



## Mrs Kearney's Class

Our topic has been all about 'Healthy Eating' and 'Instructions'. The children have loved participating in PE and discovering different physical activities, eg gymnastics, football and tennis. The children have produced an independent piece of writing, showcasing their English skills through writing instructions on how to make a jam sandwich. They all work extremely hard and have their work displayed in the classroom.

Over the last term, the Year 1 and 2 team have been so proud of the progress with the children's phonics. We now have so many children achieving a reading age and also writing sentences in their Sounds-Write books!

We have been very fortunate to have many fun activities and events within school over this term. The children loved watching The Lempen Puppets and M&M Productions, exploring Science through 'Messy Science' and helping to bring awareness to Red Nose Day and World Book Day.

In the Summer Term, the children will be focusing on 'Neil Armstrong and Space' followed by 'The Seaside'. We are very excited to start these topics and help the children have more knowledge about the world around them.

I am so proud of how far the children have all come on over the last two terms

Have a lovely Easter, from Mrs Kearney and the Year 1 and 2 Team



### Summer Term Dates

Monday 20 April 2026 to  
Friday 22 May 2026

Monday 01 June 2026 to  
Friday 10 July 2026

There is a Bank Holiday on Monday 04 May 2026