

Holmleigh Primary School



December 2021

Issue 65



Newsletter

Head Teacher's introduction

Welcome to our December 2021 Newsletter. This term has seen us gradually opening up our provision following the difficult days adapting to Covid-19. We are really hopeful that we will be able to fully resume the enrichment activities that have always given such extra value to Holmleigh children and families. This term has seen some exciting projects which you can read about in this newsletter.

In September we welcomed back Ms Innie who returned three days a week teaching Class 1 following the birth of her daughter Lyra. She is sharing the class with Ms Doreen.



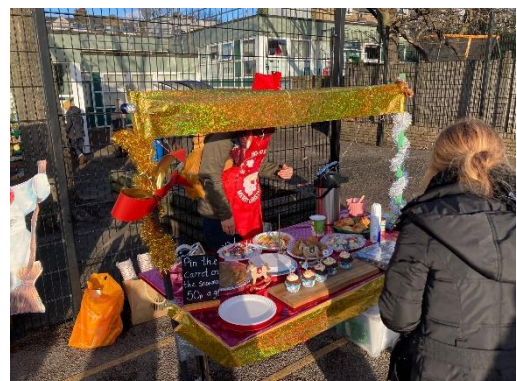
Look who came to our Winter Fair!



Richard Mathewson continues in Class 3 (or Team 3!), with Ms Esma due to return after the Spring Half-Term. Unfortunately, Ms Gaylor has been away on long term sickness leave, but we are very hopeful that she will be well enough to return in the near future. Mrs Keogh has also been away; again we look forward to her full return to work soon.

As you know we decided this year to stage our Winter Fair and Christmas Concert as outdoor events. Both events were a great success, and raised a brilliant £1450 for School Funds. This is our best ever total! We also raised money for two charities, SHELTER and ABCD (Alone Behind Closed Doors.) As always we relied on the support of Friends of Holmleigh parent group, who organised a

great team of volunteers to support these events. Friends of Holmleigh have met several times this term in good numbers and shown a real willingness to support the school in any way possible, so do look out for next term's meetings. The school is currently recruiting parents to train as Reading Volunteers, who will stay for 30 minutes some mornings after dropping off their children to work with our Supported Reading groups. (If interested let the School Office know). We are also grateful for offers from parents to help with some after school activities, details of which we will finalise at the beginning of next term. In the meantime, thank you all for



the continued support you give to the school in our efforts to provide the best for Holmleigh children. Everyone on the staff joins me in wishing you an enjoyable winter break, a lovely Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Sadly I have to inform you that several colleagues will be leaving Holmleigh at the end of this term. Ms Monica, Ms Toyin, Ms Raj, Ms Debbie (Y5) and Ms Bozena have been wonderful colleagues over many years, and contributed so much to the education of generations of Holmleigh children. We give them our heartfelt thanks and will miss them greatly. We wish them all the best for the future.

Here is some news about this term from classes 1-6. Ms Angie has sent an Early Years newsletter separately with lots of information about Nursery and Reception.

Year 1 have been learning how to write stories like the 'Tiger That Came to Tea' and 'Not Now Bernard'. We had a great tea party to celebrate in Allen's Gardens. We learnt about some local spoken word poets and had a go at doing it ourselves. We also had a great time learning about lists and signs in Morrisons. We took part in a drama



workshop about our dream library. We also made jam sandwiches and learnt how to write instructions.

In Mathematics, we have learnt about subtraction and addition. In Science, we learnt about the human body and our five senses. We did a smell

test - the class had to guess what they smelt which was very entertaining. We made some fun guitars and found out how sound travels to our ears. We also learnt about the seasons. Thank you so much to the adults who have been helping us reading the books we send home.



Year 2 This term, Y2 has been full of learning and fun. We've learnt about fables and traditional tales in literacy. The children were taught different fables from all the world and had the opportunity to dramatise an Anansi tale, and write their own versions of 'The Ant and the Grasshopper'. In maths, they learnt how to recognise different coins, know how to solve number calculations and apply the knowledge to real life situations. Science was all about materials. Y2 looked for different materials in the local area and investigated what materials were used for, and why the material would be suit a particular purpose. In the run up to Christmas, the children have loved preparing arts and crafts for the winter fair. They recycled glass jars to make lamps and candy cane holders. They also used homemade playdoh to make Christmas tree decorations. As well as this, they loved baking delicious biscuits and Christmas cake pops! It's been really busy in Year 2 this half term and were looking forward to an amazing new year, full of new learning.

Team 3 have made a good start to their time in Key Stage 2. In Maths, we have been developing our skills using a scheme of work called White Rose, which is very visual and the questions are varied to help gain a depth of understanding. In Literacy, we have been improving our knowledge of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. These skills helped us to produce some excellent acrostic poems. We also learnt about following and writing instructions, which included Mr Richard playing the role of a robot, picking up butter with his hands, and even responding to the instruction 'put on plate' by putting a plate on his head! We have also been doing lots of drama in our 'Story Seekers' project with The National Theatre, which is helping us to become better storytellers. It is particularly pleasing to see the excellent start Team 3 have made with Accelerated Reader with a high proportion of the class achieving their targets and developing a love of reading.



For black History Month, Team 3 focused on the Windrush Generation. We improved our understanding of the Caribbean and Britain's history in the region before learning about the horrific way this generation were treated when they arrived in Britain, despite playing a key role in helping to rebuild Britain following World War II. We also thoroughly enjoyed cooking and eating Jamaican patties in our classroom! We have also just enjoyed a trip to the Hackney Museum to see and interact with their exhibition 'Being African in Hackney: 1960-2020s'.

You may have also noticed that Team 3 created an anti-bullying protest march around the school, and it continued into the playground after school. The

theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week was 'One Kind Word', so our team also went out into the playground to share compliments with other classes. There were some fantastic posters created for this, with some even used around the rest of the school to help drive awareness.

We were also extremely lucky to have a workshop and photoshoot recently with the National Literacy Trust, The Face and Burberry, supported by Marcus Rashford. Not only did the children love this inspirational experience, it will also help the school to revamp our school library! We can't wait to see the resulting pictures from this project and share them with you.



Year 4 This term has been exciting and children have been incredibly busy with learning. **Maths Units** covered include: place value and rounding to 10, 100 and 1000, addition and subtraction (both

mental and written methods), multiplication and division, and measurement including length and perimeter.

Through the fictional text, 'Varjak Paw' the children have developed a range of **literacy skills** that have helped them in their writing of a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts types. We have been focusing on spelling, punctuation and grammar skills throughout the term and setting appropriate homework to consolidate the learning in class.

At Holmleigh Primary we teach reading through **Guided Reading**. Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves a teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and can read similar levels of texts.

The text is easy enough for students to read with your skilful support; it offers challenges and opportunities for problem solving, but is easy enough for students to read with some fluency.

How you can help your child at home Reading: Please encourage your child to read as much as possible at home and try to ask them questions about what they are reading. The children will be taking home a book of their choice for independent reading. They should write in their reading record each time they read their book and include comments about what they like about the characters and story, or maybe a key fact, if they are reading a non-fiction book! Parents and carers are encouraged to comment and sign these.



In science the children have been learning about electricity and covered the following areas

Electricity identify common appliances that run on electricity • construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers • identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery • recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit • recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

We have also been learning about animals (including humans),

This term in History the children have been learning about the Romans. The children focussed on the people, places and events of the Romans in Britain. The children tested the reliability of sources and discovered what it was like for people in Britain during the rise of the Roman Empire.

We enjoyed a virtual visit to the British Museum where the children explored the theme of Roman Britain and the treasure challenge. What a fun and interesting experience. The children really enjoyed this!

Year 5 Year 5 have had a great term and really enjoyed our learning. In **Maths** the children have made lots of progress in Number and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction units.

In **Literacy** we have done some great story writing, some historical work about Windrush Stories and the Great Underground Railroad for Black History Month. We studied Charles Dickens' 'Oliver Twist'. We worked really hard at our reading and used the Accelerated Reader programme to track our progress. We have a good number of Word Millionaires!

In our Science lessons we learnt about the Properties of Materials and the Solar System.

In **History** we have especially enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greeks; about daily life, The Olympics, the Gods, and how the Greeks influenced modern life. We even learned about some philosophers, and did some philosophy activities ourselves!

In **P.E** we have learnt how to play Rounders properly and also a game called 'Catch Ball', which is a bit like Netball. We also did some fitness training. We always warm up properly and use this session as an anatomy lesson on how the body works. Some children even led the workout sessions.

We loved our **Music** lessons with Ms Kate, and we performed two songs at the Christmas Concert. Mr Ward said that we were a very musical class and confident performers!

We have also had lessons in **Geography, Spanish, Religious Education and Personal and Social and Health Education**. What a busy term!

For the Winter Fair we made class calendars for 2022 which sold very well.

Year 3 and Year 6's project with the National Literacy Trust

Last month, Years 3 and 6 got to take part in an exciting project with the National Literacy Trust, Burberry and Marcus Rashford. We had two days of workshops. On the first day, we received a special message from Marcus Rashford encouraging us to dream big and to remember that we are champions. We were then given some paper to draw our dreams on. We had to really use our imaginations to make our dreams even bigger. My dream was to be an actress and I had the power to teleport people into the television with me. After drawing we were able to paint our dreams onto card.



On the second day, some of us were given the chance to have a photo shoot with Burberry. I was one of them. I felt so privileged. The photographers wanted Talia, Akila and me to pretend that we were a girl band. We even got to wear Burberry skirts, trousers and scarves. It was so much fun. We were also interviewed about how books make us feel. I said that books make me feel special. It was

such an exciting project and we were even gifted the Marcus Rashford book *You are a Champion*. I hope you enjoyed reading my article. By Tahiyah Malik



Here we are in Year 6 reading our Marcus Rashford books. Very inspiring!