

# Holmleigh Primary School



February 2023  
Issue 1



## Newsletter

Welcome to our very first edition for 2023.

We have welcomed the term with some exciting activities which you can read all about in this newsletter. I want to extend my gratitude to you all for your support and understanding during the industrial strike and to thank you for your generous donations for our earthquake appeal.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing you all on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Miss Boateng**

### What's been going on this half term?

## Number Day 2023

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, we took part in the mega maths fundraising day to support the NSPCC's services such as Speak out Stay safe and Childline. Some of us dressed up in digits and took part in maths activities and games.



### Safer Internet Day 2023



Each year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores a new issue or theme, which is impacting the lives of young people in the UK.

This year, the theme is all about putting children and young people's voices at the forefront of the campaign, encouraging them to help shape the future of online safety support.

During our whole school assembly and classroom discussions we talked about keeping safe online. Children designed posters about online safety.

Safer Internet Day resource pack for parents and carers which is available here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers/about-safer-internet-day-2023>

### SEAL

#### Going for Goals/Motivation

In our weekly assemblies, we've been reflecting our strengths as learners and how we learn effectively. We have also been working on our character strengths using Amazing People Schools.

## Holmleigh Film Night



On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, the school hall was transformed into a cinema.

Children brought along their cushions and beanbags and enjoyed the BFG whilst munching on popcorn.

It was a great night for all.

## Drama workshops

Years 1-6 enjoyed drama workshops from the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy



## Morning Exercise

Join us for our morning wake up shake up session in the playground.

It's great way to start the day.

Summer and her mum Rose have been leading the sessions this week. They are doing a great job!



Marching on the spot for 30 secs

20 star jumps

10 squat jumps

20 hamstring curls

20 arm circles

Cobra

Hug a tree

Star of the world

## Class Assembly

### Year 3

The topic for the assembly was: 'Where does our food come from?'

All food makes a journey from where it is grown or produced to our plates. How far food has travelled is known as its **food miles**. The class reflected on how food miles affects our planet.

We should be aiming for a few miles as possible. Choosing foods with fewer food miles helps reduce pollution and protect our planet.



## What's happening next half term?

21 <sup>st</sup> February	Pancake day fundraising event
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Healthy Relationships workshops from Young Hackney
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	World Book Day
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 assembly at 10am
13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Science Week
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Red Nose Day
20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Kench Hill (Year 6)
27 March – 2 April 2023	World Autism Acceptance Week
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Spring Day

### Attendance

Our school attendance figure for this half term is 93.9%. Our target is 95%. Let's aim for a big increase next half term – we need every family's help to do this

The attendance trophy goes to **Reception** for this half term. Well done Year!

### Punctuality

A reminder that the school gates open at 8.50am and all children should be in the playground ready for the morning exercise, Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their children arrive at school on time. We need your support with this too!

### Medical Appointments during the school day

Please tell the Main Reception Office in good time if there is a medical appointment your child needs to attend. We will record it in the register.

## Lost Property

The lost property box is full to the brim, please ensure that all items of clothing, lunchboxes and book bags are clearly labelled with your child's name.

## NEWS FROM YEARS 1-6

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

Year 1 have had a great term developing and learning new things.

In **Literacy**, as you know we have been learning how to write sentences and stories using our key text 'Handa's Surprise'. We first read and learnt about repetitive stories and how they hook the reader. We then had a go at performing one of the stories with masks and props. It was lots of fun! We have made lots of progress and have really been working on remembering to use our non-negotiables, which are Capital letters, Finger spaces and Full stops.



Capital letters



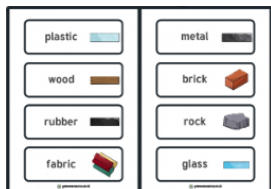
Finger spaces



Full stops

In **Mathematics**, we have been learning about number bonds to help with our addition and subtraction facts. This term we have really focused on using concrete objects such as cubes, dienes and bead strings to support our learning. We also learnt the days of the week, months of the year and how to tell the time using a clock. We looked at o'clock times and half-past times. Please help test your children's knowledge at home so that they do not forget. We also had Number Day this half term where we did many different number activities and dressed up in our favourite number. What a fun day!

In **Science** this term, we have been learning about Materials. We first identified the common materials we know and then distinguished between an object and a material. We then looked at the properties of a material and was able to describe whether it was 'soft, or 'smooth' etc. and group them based on their properties. We also carried out an experiment to see which materials were waterproof and best suited for an umbrella. We can now describe why some materials suit certain objects better than others do. We have become great scientist!



In **Reading**, we have been using Bug Club to help with our reading in the morning. We also read every day first thing in the morning and have Story time at the end of the day where our teachers read aloud to us. We love listening to stories. We want to thank all the adults who have been spending time reading books with us at home and helping us





do our homework. It really does help us to learn more and grow. We cannot wait to see what the next term will be like but we know it will be full of learning and fun!

## YEAR 2

In Year 2, we have been investigating Our Local Area for geography. We looked at maps of our local area, investigated the services near our school and designed our own symbols to be used on a map to show the services in our area.

Scientific inventors and inventions has been our science topic for this half term. We've found out about different pioneers, such as Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first female doctor in Great Britain and Jane Colden, who is a famous Botanist. We learnt how scientists can change the world around them and influence others.

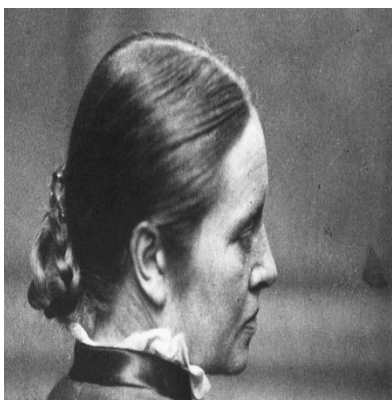
The children wrote some fantastic fantasy stories in Literacy, which were based on the stories 'The Dragon Machine' and 'George and The Dragon'. The children used similes to make their writing descriptive and interesting to read. Year 2 are using Emile Education online to continue to learn the multiplication tables and improve their spelling.



Using magnifying glasses to study plants



Year 2 Investigating Our Local Area in geography.



Elizabeth Garret Anderson



Jane Colden

### YEAR 3

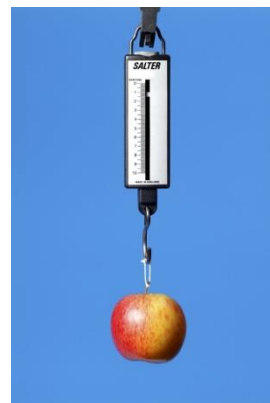
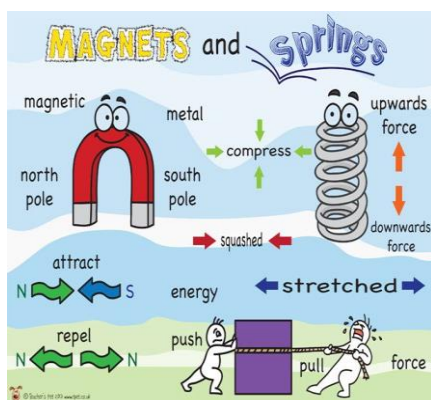
We have had a very busy term in Year 3! In Maths we have been learning about multiplication and have been practising the written method to multiply bigger numbers. We have also been working hard on learning our times tables.

In Literacy, we have been doing some descriptive writing based on the book, 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. We wrote our own versions of funny tricks that Mr and Mrs Twit played on each other! These are now displayed in our classroom.



We have been learning about where our food comes from in Geography and all about food miles. We found out that lots of types of food have to travel very long distances to get to our plate – which isn't particularly good for our environment.

In Science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We have been experimenting using force meters to measure the force needed to pull objects across different surfaces. We have also been using magnets to identify different magnetic materials.



We also reached our 500 points target on the class chart, and got to enjoy playing with our toys and electronic devices in class as a treat! Our next goal is to reach 1000 points!

## YEAR 4

Year 4 are working hard in Maths looking at measuring accurately, calculating the perimeter of shapes, solving measurement problems and naming and describing the properties of 3D shapes.

There is a year 4 Emile Times Table MTC class competition running this half term and currently Julia has not only completed the most tests but has the high score whilst Muna has made the most progress.

In Literacy we have learnt about metaphors and have read, discussed and written some fantastic poems. We are now reading the amazing book: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Through the book we will look at using a range of conjunctions and refine our paragraphing skills. We are learning/revising the year 3 and 4 spellings this term and we are using Emile to help us with this and to become more confident spellers. Muna is currently our champion speller (Emile).

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February we went to the British Library and enjoyed a writing workshop and we looked at some of the books in their *Treasures of the British Library* gallery. It provided the class with a great opportunity to gain confidence in drafting and editing their own work.

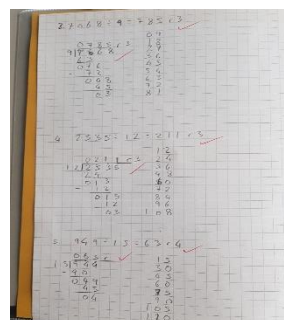
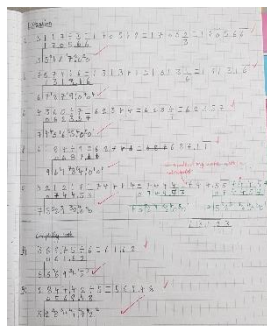
In science we have been exploring electricity. We have learnt that 20,000 tonnes of batteries end up in landfill sites in the UK each year and so each pupil has a Big Battery Hunt Box to help their family and friends and neighbours recycle their batteries.



Safer Internet Day Session

## YEAR 5

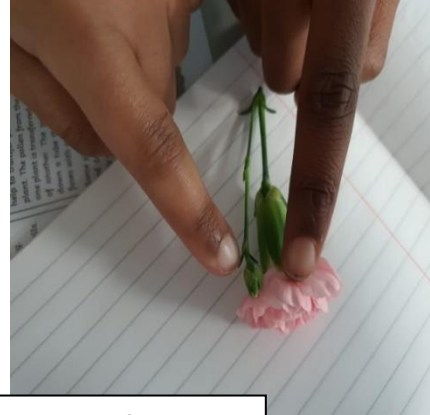
Year 5 have been working hard in Maths and have completed their Multiplication and Division Unit successfully. The class are very hard working and we are pleased with their overall progress.





Our next unit will be Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, which we are really looking forward to.

In Science we are studying the Life Cycles of Plants Unit. This is a great unit for the Spring Term, and we will soon be able to start planting some seeds for the school garden.

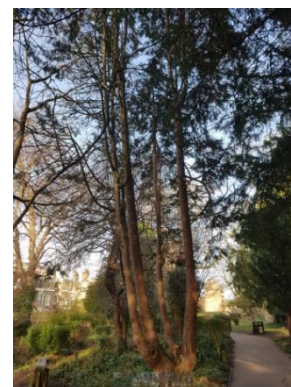


**Identifying and labelling different parts of a plant**

In R.E. we are studying Sikhism, and in PSHE our topic is 'Aiming High'. As always we are following the Holmleigh Way and doing our best to learn as much as we can every day, and to be a good friend to our classmates.

In Literacy our topic is Poetry. We have been creating spine poems and looking at the different techniques that poets use such as similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia and rhyme.

We also visited Allen's Gardens where students looked for inspiration to write their own poems about nature. We will be continuing this in lesson where students can share the poems they have written with the class.



In ICT we have started a unit on Tessellations. Children have been researching the work of Maurits Cornelis Escher who is one of the world's most famous graphic artists. We have looked at his works on tessellations to help us come up with our own tessellations in the ICT suite.

In PE we are playing Netball. Students have been practising the chest pass, bounce pass, overhead pass and shoulder pass.



## **YEAR 6**

So far this term, the children have had workshops on body image, the dangers of smoking/alcohol and drama from visitors outside of the school.

In Literacy, we've been writing biographies on our heroes (mine is on Muhammad Ali) and continuing to revise grammar ahead of the SATS.

In Maths, the children have been introduced to White Rose to revise multiplication and division as it can help to give a greater depth of understanding as well as provide some alternative methods.

In Reading, the children have been encouraged to reach their termly targets as quickly as possible, with some even achieving this on their first day back after the holidays. Well done to all those who have reached their targets!

Other subjects:

Science – we've continued learning about the human body regarding keeping healthy (diet/food groups, exercise, the heart, circulatory system etc.).

History – the children have been learning about World War II, covering aspects such as timelines of main events, evacuations, rationing and women's roles in fighting the war and keeping the country running.

Geography – the children have been looking at ocean life (the amazing plants and animals living in the ocean).

PSHE – Miss Boateng has been teaching the children using Amazing People Schools and Spark Resilience.

Spanish – 'Sexto' have been learning about winter clothing and Hobbies in Spanish.

Music – the class have been learning how to compose in groups using the stimuli of photographs of extreme weather conditions.

Art/D&T – Team 6 have been designing and creating their own models of rollercoasters and the results are looking fantastic!

P.E. – We have been continuing to learn about Netball and are now playing matches against each other whilst trying to follow some of the more complex rules.

ICT – The class have been developing their skills with Microsoft Office tools such as Word by recording and saving information for their biographies, and we are now writing up those biographies.

The months ahead will see an increased focus on SATS preparation, including the addition of SATS booster sessions after school on Wednesdays to allow children access to more focused and detailed help in smaller groups. We will also be taking part in an exciting project with the National Literacy Trust called 'Young City Poets' that will include a visit to a famous London landmark and a workshop with a professional poet.