



## Newsletter

March 2023

Issue 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy half term of immersive learning with lots of great activities, trips, class assemblies and fundraising. Thank you for your support and understanding with the strikes and your kind words of encouragement.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all on 17<sup>th</sup> April. **Miss Boateng**

### THANK YOU MS AYDEMIR

We want to say a huge thank you and all the very best to Ms Aydemir who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Miss Aydemir has been at Holmleigh for 20 years and has contributed so much to the education of generations of Holmleigh children. She will be greatly missed by us all. Mr Tiago Fragaso, the new SENDCo will be taking over from her. Mr Fragaso has already met many of the Holmleigh children and some parents too.



# What's been going on this half term?

## World Book Day

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body – **Joseph Addison.**

We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters and getting stuck into our favourite books. We shared some of our favourite books and our favourite places to read during our whole school assembly with Miss Gaylor.

“My favourite place to read is under my bed because I have a bunkbed!” Zane

“I like reading on the train.” Miss Angie

“I enjoy reading history books and self-help books.” Miss Karima

Each child received a £1 book token for specially produced books which only cost £1. Children were also able to use their tokens towards books. The closing date for using the vouchers was 26<sup>th</sup> March so I hope that you got to use them.



## STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Week

We have had a very fun week celebrating STEM week which started with an assembly from Miss Rose. STEM week takes place annually and is aimed at promoting all the sciences in exciting and interactive ways. We learned about connections (theme of the week) and how interlinked everything is.

We had science workshops and challenges in the school hall for children and parents. “I enjoyed making a triangle pyramid with the paper cups.” Aniesa Year 6.

It was a fun way to learn about the importance of science in our everyday lives.

Thank you to everybody who has helped and been part of this, particularly Miss Rose, our Science Lead.



## CLASS ASSEMBLY

### Year 6

Team 6's assembly was all about International Women's Day. International Women's Day takes place every year on 8<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate women and learn more about equality. The children did their own research and created posters on inspirational female role models including: Amanda Gorman, Michelle Obama, Megan Rapinoe and Yusra Mardini. They also learned a poem celebrating women for International Women's Day. Here are a few lines:

Today is a celebration for women all around the world  
Ladies who've dared to dream big, ever since they were little girls.

For the diversity and talent that lie within a feminine heart  
For the courage and determination that prevents us falling apart.

Don't let anybody tell you that there are set paths for you to follow  
As a little girl with a passion, is an inspiring woman of tomorrow.



### Red Nose Day

As always, the school participated in this national fund raising event. Children brought in contributions for the appeal and we dressed up in our most vibrant outfits. The day was great fun and a great learning experience for all. We raised £100. Thank you for your contributions.



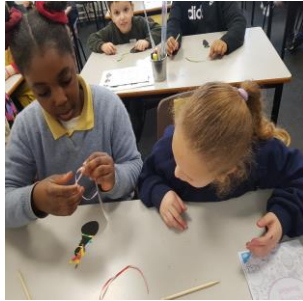


## Spring Day



We had a full day of creativity on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. In mixed EYFS, KS1 and KS2 groups, children travelled to different classes to do arts and crafts activities. The activities included: paper cup bunny eggs, Easter egg sand decoration and Easter egg scratch art.

My favourite activity was:



## Music Assemblies

On 21<sup>st</sup> March, **Year 3** performed a piece all about the waltz and a rhythm being three beats in a bar. They sang the song 'My favourite notes' about the names of the notes and how long they last to the tune of 'My favourite things' from the Sound of Music. They played percussion instruments in time to the beat and some on xylophones with a melody that fitted in with it. The performance was excellent!

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, it was the turn of **KS1** to show off their musicality! They sang in different styles and moods ranging from gentle to marching to the rap style. The **KS2** choir sang some songs that they have been learning this term from musicals to pop.



## Kench Hill

Year 6 spent a week in Kent enjoying the great outdoors, strengthening their resilience muscles, building their communication skills, having a great deal of fun and making wonderful memories.

‘The best part of Kench Hill was staying in a room with my best friends, doing archery and going to the beach.’ **Bobby.**

A massive thank you to the adults who helped to make the trip enjoyable for year 6!



## Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools



We had our first in a series of ‘**drop in**’ coffee mornings with Sorch, our CAMHS worker. It’s a space to meet and talk about how we can best support you. The session was around helping children to manage their well-being, emotions and behaviour and how to help them to cope with the stresses of life.

Sorch is at Holmleigh every other Tuesday. She’s back on 18<sup>th</sup> April. She’ll hold a coffee morning from 9.15- 10.30.

## World Autism Acceptance Week

27<sup>th</sup> March- 2<sup>ND</sup> April 2023



The theme for this year is COLOUR.

We celebrated our differences and learned that our brains are different too. We learned what autism means and that each autistic person is different. We also learned that autistic people have different strengths and may need support in different areas. In class we created posters about ourselves, we took part in some learning scenarios and talked about how we can be better classmates and support our autistic classmates.

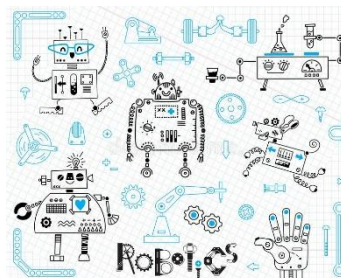
## ESASMUS ROBOTICS TRIP TO MURCIA

By Kenji and Lukas

As part of the Erasmus Robotics project, Miss Ercan, Miss Angie, Mr Ward, Luca, Kai-Ryan and us (Lukas and Kenji) went to Murcia in Spain for a whole week. We left London on 5<sup>th</sup> March and got back on 11<sup>th</sup> March. We met our host families at the airport and went to their homes. Kai and I went bowling with our host families and then I went to Kai's home for the week. On the first day when we went to school, we had a massive crowd following us wherever we went. It was quite overwhelming. Our host families were really kind and it was extremely hot every day. I really enjoyed the trip.

### **Kenji**

After we met our host families, Luca and I went to a festival and played football. On the first day at school, we did some robotics and then we had lunch. It was interesting being in a different school. On the third day, the groups from Lithuania and Turkey joined us. On the fourth day, there was a robotics competition and we won! We had a massive party with all of the students from the school. There was plenty to eat and drink. Our host families were really kind to us and looked after us well. I really enjoyed it and had lots of fun. It was interesting spending time with Spanish children. **Lukas**





## **Attendance**

Our school attendance figure for this half term is 94.2%. 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 class for this half term. This is the second time in a row. Well done Reception!



## **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.

## What's happening next term?

Date	Event
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Oliver Twist production in school
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Friends of Holmleigh's Quiz Night (7pm)
Week beginning Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May- Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 ( Year 2) Test period
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May- Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 ( Year 6) Test period
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Friends of Holmleigh's Games Night ( 4pm-6.30pm)
Week beginning Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June- Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Multiplication Tables Check ( Year 4)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET DAY  This will replace Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sports Day
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Holmleigh's Got Talent (2pm)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Parents' Evening (Years 1-6)  School finishes at 1.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair



## Class Assemblies

Class assemblies will take place at 10.00am

Date	Class
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4

## Hackney Music Festival

The festival will take place at Round Chapel Performance Arts Centre, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0LY. Parents are welcome to attend the performances.

Date	Class
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Instrumental (4.30-6.00pm)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 2 ( 10.45)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 3-6 ( 4pm)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception ( 11.30)

## Holmleigh Parents' Choir

Want to boost your energy and improve your wellbieng?

Why not sign up for our **Parents' Choir** with Miss Kate.

Starting on: **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April** Time: **3.45pm** Place: **Year 6 classroom**

Sign up and make a donation at the school office.

### **5 Reasons Singing is Good for You**

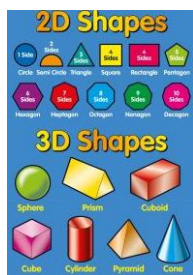
- Singing makes you feel better
- Singing helps you beat stress and relax
- Singing helps improve memory
- Singing lets you express yourself
- Singing boosts your confidence
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## NEWS FROM YEARS 1-6

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.

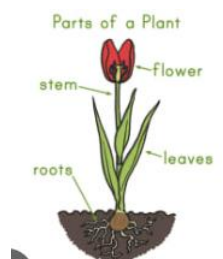
### Year 1

In **Literacy** this term, we have focused on retelling stories, writing letters and instructions using our key text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We first used role-play to immerse ourselves into the familiar story. We used masks and real props to help us make the story come alive. Then we focused on learning how to write instructions using time connectives and imperative verbs (also known as bossy words). It was great fun writing instructions on how to catch a porridge thief! We have also worked hard to improve our handwriting and letter formation.



In **Maths** this term, we have been learning about 2D shapes and 3D shapes. We were able to match the shapes to their names and describe their properties. We know that 3D shapes have faces, edges and vertices! This term we were introduced to multiplication and division through repeated addition and sharing. We found some of it tricky but we are getting better with practice. We used our counting skills to begin to develop understating of grouping and used concrete objects to support us with this. We have also practiced measuring objects using informal units such a cubes and paper clips. We have learnt so much this term!

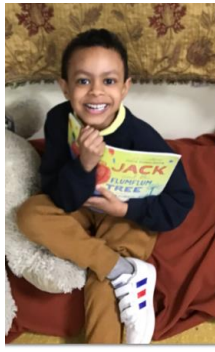
In **Science** this term, we have been learning about Plants. We first identified what a plant is the different features of a plant and their functions. We looked at garden plants, wild plants, and their differences. Then we made observations of growing plants by planting some of our own and watching how they change over time. This was fun as we were able to do our own investigation. We also had STEM week where we had to present our learning to the rest of the school and create an activity for others to take part in during the science fair!



s sat	t tap	p pan	n nose	m mat	a ant	e egg	i ink	o otter
g goat	d dog	ck click	r run	h hat	u up	ai rain	ee knee	igh light
b bus	f farm	l lolly	j jam	v van	oa boat	oo cook	oo boot	ar star
w wish	x axe	y yell	z zap	qu quill	or fork	ur burn	ow now	oi boil
ch chin	sh ship	th think	th the	ng sing	ear near	air stair	ure sure	er write

In **Reading**, we have been using Bug Club to help with our reading during phonics. 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. This term we had World Book Day where we spent the whole day picking and choosing our favourite books and reading them. We even dressed up as our favourite story characters! The

whole school had a helpful assembly that gave us some great tips on how to pick out new books to read. 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 our **Literacy** lessons, Year 2 read lots of poetry about the senses. After listening to some fantastic poems by Pie Corbett, Year 2 recited and performed poetry about the senses from memory, before writing their own poems about the senses.

Year 2 have continued to improve their **Maths** skills by recalling the number facts to 20, knowing how to divide and multiply using the 2x, 5x and 10x multiplication tables and using different strategies for finding change and solving word problems. During the first half of Summer term, Year 2 have SAT's assessments to complete at school and have been practising in preparation for them.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, Year 2 visited The Florence Nightingale Museum as part of our **History** topic. Whilst there, they were hosted by Florence Nightingale and had the pleasure of learning all about her life and achievements from her own mouth! Year 2 explored the different zones of the Florence Nightingale Museum, learning about Florence's home life, what the conditions and medical supplies were like when she worked in the military hospital and who her family were. Year 2 even saw Florence Nightingale's pet owl 'Athena', which had been stuffed and was on display at the museum.





## Year 3

In **Literacy** this half term we have been writing calligrams and shape poems. A calligram is a word or piece of text in which the design and layout of the letters creates a visual image related to the meaning of the words themselves. We really enjoyed writing shape poems about spring. We then performed our poems to the class and made sure to use loud clear voices, expression and actions whilst performing.

In **Maths** we have been learning about money. We have been counting money, using coins to make different amounts and have been adding money amounts together. We are now also working on finding change.



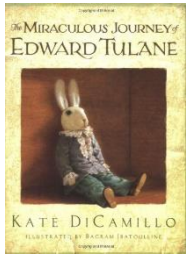
Our topic for **Science** has been 'Animals including humans'. We have been learning about nutrition and how to stay healthy. We learnt about the 5 food groups and the 7 types of nutrients. We found out that there are three different types of skeletons that animals can have; endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. We also looked at the human skeleton (which is an endoskeleton) and muscles. We even made our very own scientific models showing how arm muscles work.

In **History** we have been continuing with our topic on the Stone Age to the Iron Age. In class we created some Stonehenge art work using pastels and black sugar paper. It is believed that work started on the Stonehenge around 5000 year ago, and the final changes were made in the early bronze age.



## Year 4

In **Maths** we have been focusing on multiplication and division looking at mental strategies and written strategies. We are learning how to use these strategies to solve word problems. We are continuing to master all the times tables and, after half term, we will be entering an MTC Emile National Competition to help us hone our skills.



In **Literacy** we have revisited the 100 year 3,4 statutory spellings using Emile and other online spelling games to support this. Next term we will be looking at prefixes and suffixes - their meanings and how they affect the root word.

We read the amazing book The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and we wrote our own short stories. To help us improve our writing we learnt about coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. We also focused on how to paragraph and the important rules around setting out dialogue.

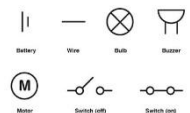


We are now moving onto newspapers. Watch this space as year 4 will be producing their own newspapers to sell.

In **Geography**, we have been learning about the globe, lines of latitude and longitude and climate zones as well as the different continents. We will continue with this topic after Easter and then we'll start our history topic: Roman Britain.



In **Science** we have explored electricity and how electricity is made. We have learnt how to make circuits using various components. We looked at conductors and insulators and we made our own switches. We are taking part in The Great Battery Hunt and will be recycling our batteries after the holiday. Our next topic will be Sound.



In **RE** we have learnt about Buddhism and we now learning about Christianity.

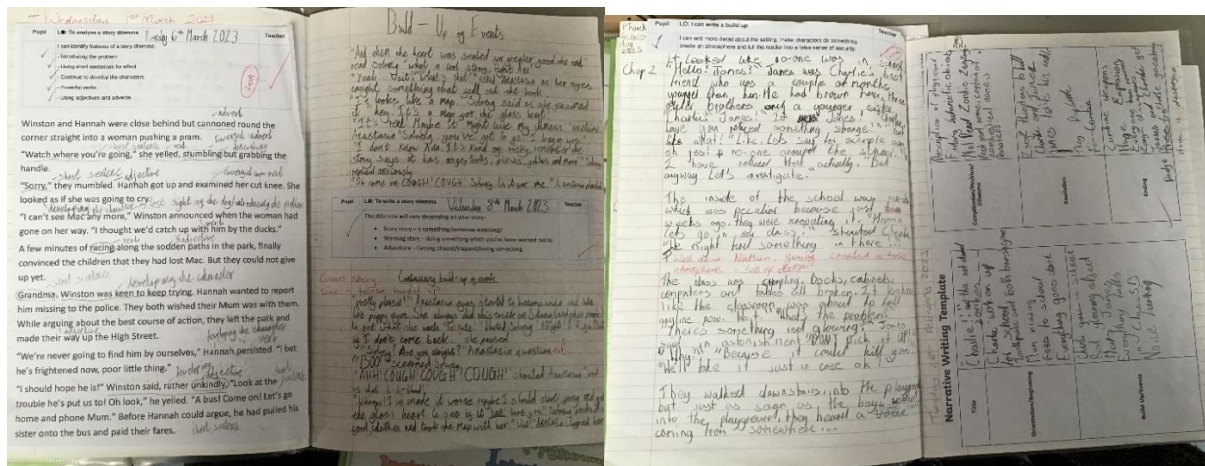
## Year 5

This term in **Maths** we are learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and we are now learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions.

In **Science** we are studying the life cycles of animals.

Two of our year 5 children recently travelled to Spain for a week as part of an Erasmus+ STEM via ROBOTICS Project and after Easter five children will travel to Istanbul to take part in Turkey's annual 23<sup>rd</sup> April Children Day dance Festival.

In **Literacy** we have been working on our new unit of Narrative writing. We have looked at how to write different parts of a story and what makes a story interesting. We looked at what to include in the opening, the build-up, dilemma, events, resolution and the ending. To help us with this, we looked at Mac's short adventure which helped us in planning and writing our own stories. The children produced some amazing stories.



In **PE** we have been playing Bash ball.

In **ICT** we have been using Emile to support us in our Literacy and Maths. This has helped children with their spelling and their Maths fluency.

Please do support your children in using this programme at home.

We also use Accelerated reader where children take quizzes on books that they have read to check understanding. Children should be reading for at least 30 minutes every day which improves brain connectivity, increases vocabulary and reading comprehension. Please do sign up to Accelerated Reader where you can check on your child's progress.



## Year 6

Whilst the second half of Spring Term has largely been focused on preparing the children for their SATs, we've also managed to fit in a great deal beyond. Team Six loved their trip to Tower Bridge and the workshop has set us up nicely for our Young City Poets poems on this fantastic structure. We also had an incredible experience at Kench Hill that you've all no doubt heard a great deal about.

In **Literacy**, our poetry skills have been developing nicely and we are looking forward to having a professional poet come in for a workshop that will help the children to refine their poems ahead of hopefully being chosen to be published in the book created by The National Literacy Trust.

In **Maths**, we have been focusing on fractions and algebra and will now concentrate our efforts on any areas many children might still be struggling with ahead of their SATs papers.

In Reading, it's been all about reading comprehension and helping the children to obtain and hone their skills in things like retrieval, decoding, summarizing and inference ahead of the SATs.

**PSHE** – We have been having some fantastic conversations in class about many forms of prejudice based on 'The Heartstone Odyssey' book we have been reading together and have lots more planned for this fantastic project.

**Spanish** – Team Six have been focusing on hobbies, and school objects/subjects.

**P.E.** – We have been focusing on throwing, running and jumping skills as part of our Athletics unit.

**ICT** – The class have been developing their skills with Microsoft Office tools such as Word by writing up their biographies and adding pictures. We are now using this information to create PowerPoint presentations on their chosen hero.

Please support the children as much as you can in preparing for the SATs, whether that be by ensuring they get a regular ten hours of sleep, doing homework or even extra practice at home. It's not long to go now and we need to make sure they are prepared and subsequently more at ease with the idea of doing their SATs papers.

