

# Holmleigh Primary School



## Newsletter

May 2023

Issue 3



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy term in school with trips to Turkey, class assemblies and Year 6 and Year 2 completing their SAT. Children and teachers worked hard to complete these statutory summative tests and we look forward to sharing the outcomes with you shortly.

Next half term, Year 1 will have their phonics screening tests and Year 4 will have their Multiplication Tables Check.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Miss Boateng**

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

#### Coronation Celebration

The children took part in a fantastic Coronation tea party. Thank you very much to Friends Of Holmleigh and parents for your generous donations. Chef Darwing made a special cake for us and the dancers put on a special show for us.



#### Quiz Night

If you weren't at the Friends Of Holmleigh's quiz night on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, you missed out an evening of laughter, teamwork and the occasional bit of brain gym. The questions ranged from: naming the Caribbean island which gained independence on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1962, to identifying the number of bones in an adult human skeleton.

There was even a 'name that tune' round, which was Mr Alex's specialist topic. Ms Karima was particularly lucky on the night; not only did her team come first, but she also won prizes from the raffle. The prizes were great.

A huge thank you to the businesses who donated the raffle prizes: Spence Bakery, The Little Wine Shop, Shine Holistic, Rio Cinema and Whole Foods.



## **Read Every Day**

We've been doing a lot of work on reading for pleasure, developing reading stamina and increasing reading diversity.

The more reading children do, the more quickly they will develop as readers, so it's important that children get into good daily reading routines.

'I like reading because it's fun and gives you something to do.'  
Zac Year 4

'Reading gives you a great imagination.' Luke Year 4

I like reading because it gives me a good imagination and inspires me.' Nia Year 3.

'Reading is magical because when you're reading, it's like you're going to magical places.' Rasharn Year 5

The strategy of '**pause, prompt, praise**' is helpful when listening to children read: pausing to let them work out words if they get stuck, providing a prompt or 'clue' to help (but not giving the answer), and praising them when they concentrate and problem-solve.

We are in the process of implementing a new reading programme called Destination Reader in KS2. We've had some training from consultants from Hackney Education and we're already starting to notice children using the learning behaviours in their lessons.

Here are some Destination Reader learning behaviour stems that you could try at home with your child during or after reading.

### **Support**

That's a good way to think about it

Would you like to offer an opinion?

### **Active listening**

Can you explain further?

Tell me more...

## **Class assemblies**

### **Year 2**

Year two's assembly was based on the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. The story is about the friendship between a boy and a penguin. The story begins when the penguin turns up at the boy's house.

The boy presumes that he is lost and sets off on a quest to help the penguin get home. The boy reads that penguins are from the South Pole and so together they set out across the sea through challenging bad weather. Before the story ends, the boy discovers that friendship is the most valuable find of all.

The children performed their own versions of the story. They also shared interesting facts about penguins and penguin habitats they had researched. They ended the assembly with a song about penguins. Well done to the teachers and children for a wonderful assembly.

### **Reception class**

Reception class' assembly was based on a Unicorn Theatre production of a storybook called 'Wild', written by Emily Hughes.

The children have been engaging in drama and art activities that explored key themes, ideas and characters from the story.

Their excellent performance told the story of Wild, a young girl who lives in the woods with the animals who teach her everything she needs to survive. She loves her life and is happy in the embrace of nature.

However, when a psychiatrist (doctor) finds her, captures her and takes her home, things go terribly wrong. The psychiatrist assumes that because Wild is human, she wants to live like he does: wear clothes, eat with a knife and fork and learn how to speak. He does everything he can to change her, but his efforts are futile.

The message at the heart of the story is that people are different and need and want different things. It is about seeing things from someone else's perspective and accepting people for who they are rather than trying to change them into something they are not.

## Games Night

Parents and children enjoyed playing some of their favourite games together at the Friends of Holmleigh games night. Thank you David and your wonderful team for organising this. The children had a lot of fun, learned how to play new games and some even won trophies.

'It felt really good playing. It doesn't normally happen Is it going to happen next week? Ziyad Year 5.'

'I really enjoyed the competitive aspect of it. I got to play with the children and the adults. It was fun.' Umair.

'I learned how to play backgammon'. Harvey Year 5

Did you know that playing board games stimulates the areas of the brain responsible for memory formation and complex thought processes?

In addition, playing board games teaches children about teamwork, patience, and how to win and lose gracefully.





### **Talks from PC Gemma Jackson**

As part of PSHE, Year 5 and 6 have had some sessions with PC Gemma Jackson, our Safer Schools Liaison officer.

Gemma tackled questions about anti-social behaviour, race, crime and online safety. She gave the children some very information about keeping safe.

The children were engaged throughout their sessions and are looking forward to her visiting again next term to do some transition sessions.



### **Robotics Trip to Usak**

During the week of May 21st - 28<sup>th</sup>, Holmleigh teachers and five children visited Usak in Turkey to take part in the final visit of our Erasmus Plus Robotics Project. The children, all from Year 5, stayed with Turkish host families, attending our partner school and taking part in Robotics lessons and a brilliant STEAM festival (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths).

The group also enjoyed sightseeing in the city of Usak and a fantastic visit to the unique 'cotton castle' landscape and Roman remains at nearby Pamakkule.

The project, including our partner schools from Turkey, Lithuania and Spain, has been of great educational and social benefit for Holmleigh children, and its legacy will ensure that Robotics and STEAM education remains an exciting part of our provision.



### Children's Day Celebration in Turkey

Every year, children in Turkey celebrate National Sovereignty and Children's Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

For many years now, children from Holmleigh Primary school have represented the United Kingdom at the 23<sup>rd</sup> April Children's Day International Dance Festival in Turkey. This year, children from Year 5 and 6 travelled to Istanbul with Ms Ercan, Ms Doreen and Mr Ward. The children stayed with Turkish families, enjoyed being pupils in a Turkish school and performed a Scottish dance in front of millions of people through live TV. They were exceptional and we were all very proud of them.



Turkey was a fun and a new experience for me and I'm glad I could share it with some of my friends.

I think what I enjoyed most about the trip was when we finished the dance festival and the shopping at the end.

The dance festival because that was the whole reason to go. I had missed some clubs, rehearsed twice a week and it was also why we went there. (our theme was Scottish dancing); The shopping because there were lots of nice things to buy and you can even bargain!

Overall, Turkey was BRILLIANT!!! **Kenji Year 5**

I had a lovely experience in Turkey without my parents. We did lots of things in Turkey.

We went to MiniTurk (a place where everything was mini). We went on a boat on the Bosphorus. During the past three days we bought food and lots of presents.

We also visited Aya Sofia and saw the Blue Mosque. During that period, we also did some rehearsing as well as having fun.

When the big day arrived, I was really excited. More than 20,000 people were watching us and more watching on their Tv's. I think we smashed it – do you think so too? **Essa Year 5**

We gathered at school to take a picture and waited for everyone and then we set off. We got to the airport and waited for our flight at 11.25.

We got on the aeroplane successfully. We stopped at Istanbul Turkish Airport and left to go to the GONEN Hotel. **Daniel Year 5**

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

### **Attendance**

At Holmleigh Primary School, we recognise the role parents and carers have to play in supporting and encouraging good attendance and punctuality.

Regular attendance is an important factor in a child's academic success. When pupils are frequently absent, it is difficult for them to keep up with their school work and this could affect their life chances. For this reason, we take school attendance very seriously.

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important that you contact the school on the first day of the absence to inform us of the reasons. If this continues for more than one day, you should make contact with the school on a daily basis to keep us updated.

The attendance trophy goes to **Reception** class AGAIN!!

### **Punctuality**

#### **Every Day Counts and being on time means not missing out**

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.

Coming to school on time every day helps your child to be ready for learning and not miss learning opportunities.

#### **If your child arrives late for class:**

They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.

They don't have the social time to settle into class.

It can be embarrassing for them.

They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

#### **What you can do?**

Have a regular routine for the start of each day.

Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.

Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

### **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**

So that we can return lost property, please make sure that every item of clothing, coats, bags & water bottles has your child's name clearly written on it

### **What's happening next half term?**

Date	Event
Week beginning Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June- Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Multiplication Tables Check ( Year 4)
Week beginning 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening Tests
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET DAY (School closed)
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

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

## **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.

A letter will be sent home next half term including more information.

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



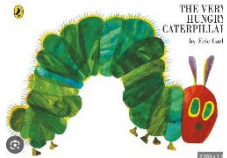
## NEWS FROM YEARS 1-6

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 learning about Fiction and Non-Fiction writing. We looked at books that had facts and information, headings, captions and real photographs. We used this to help us write our own reports about caterpillars and butterflies. This was inspired by our core text, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We also wrote our own stories using this text and focused on including adjectives and expanded noun phrases in our work. We have also worked hard to improve our story writing and remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.



In **Mathematics** this term, we have been learning about multiplication, division and fractions. We were able to recognise the multiply and divide symbols in number sentences and then we even started on word problems. We had to read the questions and work out what it was asking us to do. We learnt to multiply by grouping and divide by sharing. It was tricky at first, but we got there in the end. We have also looked at fractions and understood the roles of the numerator and the denominator. We were able to find half of a shape and a quarter of a shape. We even made sandwiches and cut them in halves and quarters to help us with our learning. It was yummy!



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 looked at the differences between plants and trees. We learnt the features and function of both and then compared them. We now know that roots anchor a plant and help it to absorb water and nutrients.



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. We have really been focusing on reading alien words as our Phonics Screening Test is taking place week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June. The teachers in year 1 are sending home phonics words every day. Please help us to read at home so that we can do well our very best!



This term we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III. We had a tea party in school and dressed up in our best clothes. Thank you to the parents of Holmleigh who provided lots of yummy treats for us to enjoy!



## Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been focussed on preparing for the end of Key Stage 1 SATs tests. There were 4 tests: two reading papers and two Maths papers. The reading paper test the children's reading comprehension. The maths papers mental maths and problem solving skills. The children took their tests in small groups and had the whole of May to complete them. The children worked really hard to learn the skills needed to complete the tests. Well done to all the children in Year 2 for their hard work and determination to do well.

We have also started learning about Quest stories this half term. We have read the book 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and wrote our own fantastic versions of the story. In fact, one retelling of the story, written by Tise, was the basis for the Year 2 assembly on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The children learned facts about penguins and the North Pole and learned how to perform a funny song about penguins.

The Science topic for this half term was 'Growing Plants'. We planted vegetable seeds that germinated in the school greenhouse. The seedlings were then planted in a plant box in the school garden. When the vegetables are fully grown, we will enjoy the 'fruits' of our labour by sampling our home-grown vegetables. At the start of the next half of the summer term, we will visit Kew Gardens to see the amazing plants and flowers that are grown there. We are looking forward to our class trip.



## Year 3

This term in Year 3 we have been learning how to write newspaper reports. We've been looking at lots of newspapers and identifying all the features. We then wrote our own newspaper reports based on the Iron Man, 'The Monstrous Metal Giant!'.

In Maths, we have been learning about measuring length and perimeter. We had a go at measuring lots of objects around the classroom and the school using rulers, measuring tape and meter sticks! We then learnt how to calculate the perimeter of a shape.

In Geography our topic has been 'Weather around the world', where we have been looking at the climates in different parts of the world. We each got to choose a country and did some research on the weather and climate of our chosen country. We even got to act as travel agents to find people suitable holidays!

In Science we have been learning about plants. Some of the things we have been learning about include; the life cycle of a flowering plant, types of seed dispersal and photosynthesis. We also really enjoyed our recent trip to the Science Museum where we got to visit the Wonderlab exhibition. We had a fantastic time having a go at testing out Science





## Year 4

This half term Year 4 have enjoyed an exciting trip to Kidzania where we experienced lots of different careers and activities which included: delivering parcels, flying a plane (BA simulator), floristry, becoming a DJ and becoming a vet. The children earned Kidzos which they were able to use to pay for activities and they even got to purchase something from the shop.

In Maths we have been looking at multiplication and division (mental and written methods), solving problems and understanding fractions. It is getting close to the National MTC test so we are also practising our times tables.

In Literacy we have learnt about newspapers and news articles. The children have written some fantastic articles about the King's coronation and we have turned fairy tales into news stories. We have also imagined what would be in an article if aliens invaded Holmleigh Primary School.

In Science we have learnt about sound and how we hear. We have thought about how sound travels, which animal has the best hearing (a moth) and how we can muffle sound.

In Geography we have looked at the physical geography of North and South America and the UK with a focus on the UK's rivers and mountains.

In RE we have learnt about Christianity with Miss Siddiqui and in Art we have completed some amazing mosaics.



## Year 5

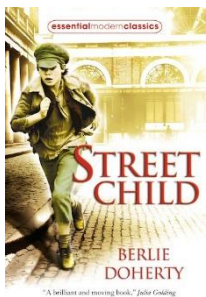
In Science we have been learning about Earth and Space. Did you know that over 70% of the Earth's surface is water? Over 7 billion people live on Earth and there are 195 countries.



How many countries can you name? Do you know their capital cities?

In Maths we have been learning about ratio and proportion. Ratio and proportion is an area in Maths which deals with the relationship between two or more quantities. In Year 2 there are 18 boys and 12 girls. The ratio of boys to girls is 18:12

This term in Literacy our work has been based around a book by Berlie Doherty called Street Child. Set in the second half of the nineteenth century, Street child tells the story of a boy called Jim who, after a series of misfortunes, spends time in the workhouse as a child labourer and lives on the streets. The book is based on the true story of an orphan whose plight inspired Doctor Barnardo to try to help street children, and led to the founding of his children's homes.



Exploring the novel enabled the children to discuss challenging themes including cruelty, injustice, resilience and humanity. It also enabled the children to develop an understanding of issues such as poverty and child labour.



In PE we played rounders and dodgeball which we really enjoyed.

In ICT we worked on writing our own Blogs. We did some research on blogs and then wrote our own based on a topic of our choice. We presented our blogs to the rest of the class.



## Year 6

### Hoorah, SATs Are Over

By Saul

We (Year 6) did SATs during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May. Unlike previous years, the tests started on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> due to King Charles' Coronation which meant that we got to have a day off school.

Our first test was the SPaG test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and then on the next day, we did the English reading paper, followed by three Maths papers on the Thursday and Friday.

Before the tests, most of us thought that the reading paper would be the most challenging and it proved to be the case.

Lots of us felt that the SATs would be hard, as we had to have extra Maths lessons Ms Kashka, Maths tutorials with Ms Ercan and comprehension boosters with Mr Richard.

We also had after school booster sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays with Ms Ercan, Ms Karen, Mr Richard and Ms Boateng

My favourite test was the SPAG test because the questions were mainly multiple choice.

After the last test on Friday, we went to Springboard Park for a picnic.

Year 2 also had SATs in reading and Maths and they finished theirs on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

We have all being working very hard and definitely deserve our half term break.

Here are some examples of the types of questions we had to answer.

**2** Draw a line to match each word to the correct suffix.  
Use each suffix only once.

Word	Suffix
accomplish	ful
forgive	ment
joy	ish
tool	ness

**15**  $60 \div (30 - 24) =$

1 mark

**30** Look at page 10.  
What impressions do you get of Em Sharp at this point in the extract?  
Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence

2 marks

**16**

potatoes £1.50 per kg  
carrots £1.80 per kg

Jack buys  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kg of potatoes and  $\frac{1}{2}$  kg of carrots.  
How much change does he get from £5?

Show your method

£

2 marks