

Holmleigh Primary School

Newsletter



AUTUMN 2019
Issue 59



Head Teacher's Update

The first term of the school year 2019-20 has been full of activity as always. Our new children in Reception and Nursery have settled very well and now feel very much part of the Holmleigh family. As well as the daily menu of lessons in the classroom we have held two celebration events. Our **Harvest Festival** included a collection for the Walthamstow Homeless Food Kitchen, and a visit from



its founder and manager who was interviewed by the children. **Black History Month** was supported by Young Hackney who provided two young people to carry out workshops in several classes. These resulted in presentations for our annual BHM Assembly. The children have enjoyed a range of educational visits out of school and some great activities in school. The **Unicorn Theatre** partnership in particular will greatly enhance our children's language skills, involving as it does workshops, reading and performance.

As always we would like to thank parents for all the work you do to support your child's education. Home reading remains the highest priority, with **Bug Club and Accelerated Reader** providing great motivation for the children. Homework, times tables and spellings are also hugely important. We thank you also for the contributions you make towards the cost of clubs and other activities; as you know without your financial support we would be unable to afford many of the activities that we currently offer to Holmleigh children.

With the Christmas period rapidly approaching we would like to remind you that this Christmas our **Winter Fair** on **December 13th** will be focused on 'upcycling, i.e. making new things from old. Hopefully many of you have been busy making items to sell. Remember also that we would love to sell homemade goodies made by the many brilliant cooks amongst our families! This year we have also set the children a 'Junior Bake Off' challenge. If they bake any cakes, bread, biscuits or baked savouries or desserts they will be entered into a special prize competition judged by enthusiastic bakers on the Holmleigh Staff.

Friends of Holmleigh Quiz Night takes place this Thursday 21st November. If you haven't already bought tickets just turn up on the night – tickets are £5 each, 7pm start. Our **Christmas performance** this year will as always feature all the children in the school. We are performing a nativity, and shows will take place on Tuesday December 17th at 2pm and 4pm. This year we are also taking all the children to the pantomime at the **Tower Theatre** in Stoke Newington. The panto is **Dick Whittington** and tickets are £6 per child. We will also enjoy our big **Christmas Party** on December 18th, for which your help will be much appreciated. Term ends at 1.30 on Thursday December 19th.

Kevin Ward Head Teacher



Year 6 Y6 are working hard in all subjects. They have written their autobiographies, studied the Victorians, performed a music concert, been to the cinema as part of the Into Film Festival and enjoyed an art appreciation session with Magic Mat from Magic Lantern. They also had a session (as did Year 5) about the Georgian era food habits and preferences, given by the curator of the John Wesley Museum. In addition, 10 children took part in a music concert at the Hackney Empire as part of an orchestra led by famous South African trumpet player Claude Deppa. The girl's and boy's football teams attended the England v Montenegro international football match at Wembley (amongst a total of 137 people from Holmleigh including staff and parents!). In December six children from Year 6 will be visiting Estonia for a week as part of our Erasmus Plus partnership. They will be staying with families and taking part in a week long 'upcycling project'.

Year 5 Year 5 has had a fantastic start to the new academic year. In English we read the fabulous 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom.' We loved it! We planned and wrote diary entries and letters from the different character's points of view, exploring in depth all aspects of the book. Thank you Mrs Keogh for choosing a great read! In science we have been studying Properties of Materials: Reversible and Irreversible Changes. We did various experiments in class but the most exciting - and delicious - was making bread and smoothies. Really highlighting irreversible changes. In Maths we started the year with place value and roman numerals. We quickly moved on to addition and subtraction using the horizontal and vertical expanded method. We are enjoying using larger numbers and using our brains! During Black History Month in October we did workshops with Lisa – a person from Hackney Youth. In the workshops we studied self-esteem and embracing difference. Our contribution to the assembly was on black hairstyles.



Year 4 Year 4 have been studying the ancient Egyptians and have had two exciting trips: Decoding tomb paintings at The British Museum and The Tutankhamun Exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery. We loved seeing all of Tutankhamun's treasures which, after this world tour, will be permanently housed in Egypt. We looked out for Tut's sandals which have his enemies on the soles so that, when he walked, he was always treading on his foes. This half term we will be producing our own pop-up



book on ancient Egypt and will use these fantastic experiences to help us. In science we will be learning about electricity and in ICT we will be creating an educational game using Scratch. Last half term as part of our science topic we visited the Natural History Museum and became Dino Scientists for the day. We studied fossils, paying particular attention to teeth, to determine the diet of the dinosaur. We wore science lab coats for the session and were armed with clip boards.

Year 3 We have had a great first term in Year 3! We have been learning how to make our writing really interesting and exciting to read, through the use of adjectives and adverbs. We have now started to learn how to write a good set of instructions and made our own tasty cheese sandwiches. In maths we have been focusing on using the column method to add and subtract numbers. We learnt about light and shadow in Science, and had the chance to make our own shadow puppets. We used torches to see what happened to the shadows when the torches were moved closer or further away. We are now learning about Rocks and soils, and really enjoyed our trip to Chislehurst caves! We have also had a great start to Accelerated Reader, the class have been doing really well in their quizzes. A big well done to all the children who have reached their targets this term!

Year 2 This has been a great first term of the school year for class 2. At the beginning of term, we visited London Zoo to attend the London Zoo's anniversary celebrations and we had a fantastic time spotting all the different animals. As part of Black History Month we learnt about 'Anansi The Spider'. We wrote stories, learnt a song and saw a play about the trickster spider. As part of our history studies, we visited The Museum of London to see The Great Fire of London Exhibition. There we saw relics and artefacts from the time of The Great Fire, which we really enjoyed. In class, we have been practicing our maths skills. We have been improving our reading and writing, as well as learning new skills in PE and gymnastics. We're really looking forward to the last few weeks and all the Christmas activities.



Year 1 Year 1 have settled in very well. In literacy, we 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. We also had a great time learning about lists and signs in Morrisons. Then we learnt about Anansi the Spider and had a great time going around London and seeing a live production at the Unicorn Theatre. The children's behavior was



impeccable. Now, we are making jam sandwiches and learning how to write instructions. In Mathematics, we have learnt about subtraction, addition and now we focusing on to multiplication and after that will be division. 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 also made some fun guitars and learnt how sound travels to our ears. Thank you so much to the adults who have been spending time reading the books we send home and who have started Bug Club with their children. It is much appreciated!

Reception Class This term Reception class visited Woodberry Wetlands in Stamford Hill. The children were excited about going there and they all had a great time exploring a variety of minibeasts. The Reception class have also been exploring a range of 2D shapes; the children matched different shaped objects such as a clock face for a circle, and pizza shape for a triangle. Reception class have started learning phonics Phase 2 sounds. They are really excited to learn these sounds and are trying hard to say the sounds and form all the letters. Reception class are excited and looking forward to learning a range of new concepts this term.



Nursery The children have settled well into nursery life. They are forming good relationships with each other and practitioners. A big thank you to all parents for their support during settling in time.



During Harvest, the nursery focused on apples following a particular child's interest and enjoyed making apple juice using a juicer! This was developed further through a song learnt with Miss Kate about 'Apple crumble'

We have started getting out and about in our community and on Tuesday we had our first visit to the library. We are learning how to keep safe and to observe traffic signals when out and about.



SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 th Nov – 7 th December 2019	Yr6	Visit to Estonia (6 children)
13 th December 2019	Whole School	Upcycling Winter fair 2-4pm Help needed
12 th and 19 th December	Whole School	Dick Whittington Panto Tower Theatre £6 per child.
16 th December	Yr 2 and 3	Big Top Christmas party
17 th December	All SCHOOL	Christmas Nativity Show 2pm and 5pm Tickets £3
18 th December	All SCHOOL	Christmas party 12.15 pm Help needed
19 th December	All SCHOOL	End of term 1.30pm
Tuesday 7 th January 2020	All SCHOOL	Start of Spring Term 2020



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