

Holmleigh Primary School

Newsletter



January 2019
Issue 56



Head Teacher's Update The first edition of 2019 comes to you as the Spring Term kicks into full gear with lots going on. The Christmas period was full of excitement, including our whole school performances of '**A Christmas Carol**'. Happy New Year to you all, and a busy one to look forward to. Already we have had **citizenship and health projects** into school. Classes have been out on a number of trips. As a school we have continued to reach out to organisations that can benefit the children. Hopefully you will have seen our **HENI Talks** film on You Tube – if not search You Tube '**Heni Talks Making Making**'. We have begun an after school **Science Club** and are trying to start a Monday breakfast club (8-9am) for **Fencing**. (Ask office if interested.) We have just been notified that our bid for a garden design and growing project through **Trees for Cities (Edible Playgrounds)** has been accepted. This award will result in £30,000 worth of work to our Garden House garden – a complete re-design including building, planting, greenhouse, tools, etc., and 1 year's support including training and lessons for all classes. This work is all done by the funding organization and will give an amazing boost to our food and health and wellbeing offer.



I am also delighted to inform you that a law firm, **Allen and Overy**, have agreed to fund the school with £5000 for technology equipment and resources. We have decided to create 2 small ICT suites in the school, and probably to purchase some tablets for classrooms, as well as covering installation costs. A huge thank you to **Allen and Overy** for this generous donation.

Another great boost has been the fundraising carried out by parent Sarah Stock who set up a Just Giving page for the **School Football Team**

and training. She has raised £900 so far which will be used to buy new kit and training equipment. Thank you Sarah! Thanks are also due to our coaches Fin, Karima and Vin for their regular weekly sessions. The team has enjoyed some recent success in games against Sir Thomas Abney and Betty Laward. They are here pictured in their (soon to be renewed) school kit. Mr Fin has also arranged a generous kit sponsorship from **C and S Builders** in Stamford Hill. Huge thanks to them and well done Mr Fin!

This term the **Erasmus+ trip to Greece** will take place, including 4 pupils from Year 6 and 3 teachers. As last year, we have been invited to take part in the **23rd April Children's Day Dance Festival**, in **Samsun and Ankara in Turkey**. Already 15 children from Years 5 and 6 have begun to learn traditional English folk dances in preparation for this.

We have recently begun to monitor air quality in the school grounds, and are in the final stages of agreeing the **installation of solar panels** on the roof of the school. **The Garden House**, which we are setting up for a broad range of wellbeing activities, will be up and running within a few weeks.

As always we thank you for the support you give to the school. Our aim is to give Holmleigh

children a high quality education full of inspiration, enrichment and fun. Your contribution as parents is crucial to this aim; as we say, team work makes the dream work!

Kevin Ward Head Teacher

Class Six Keeping Fit By Zeren, Edith and Zulaikha (Class Six)

In the new year, Class Six have begun morning exercise sessions. We can be seen keeping fit and healthy every morning in the playground or in class. Our exercises include: star jumps, planks, high knees, fast feet (sprinting on the spot), hug a tree and star of the world to name a few. 'I really enjoy exercise as it wakes us up in the morning and keeps me fit and healthy.

Also, I know that if I forget to do it at home, I can rely on doing it at school,' said Elizabeth, 11. Miss Boateng, teacher and instructor of exercise, said, 'Exercise is important for our wellbeing. It keeps us happy and healthy.' It's not only Class Six that has started exercising daily. Mr. Fin, a few parents and a local policeman have even joined in the fun! Research

shows that children should ideally do one hour of mildly strenuous exercise per day. Adults should do an ideal two and a half hours of exercise every day. Around the world, only 20.6% of adults reach this goal and only one in three children get their recommended amount of exercise. Are you part of that 20%? Are you part of the one in your three? Do you exercise?



Year 5 In English last term Year 5 concentrated on poetry. We went to Abney Park for inspiration on angels, nature, trees, leaves and being outside with the elements.

We honed our knowledge of the ancient Greeks with Homer and the Greek myths and legends. In Maths we concentrated on addition and subtraction. The Christmas madness crept up on us early as many of the

class were involved in the play – a Dickens classic, 'A Christmas Carol' – and that old adage practice makes perfect, swept us through December. The play, the Christmas Fair and Christmas jumper day were amazing events and very successful. Well worth the effort - a big thank you to Mr Ward!! We have started the New Year and this term with enthusiasm and a whole new set of resolutions. We are looking forward to an exciting term.

VOLUNTEER READERS WANTED We are seeking parents and carers to volunteer to read with Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 children. This work is normally done between 9-9.30 am so if you can spare this time on a regular basis even for a day or two per week please contact Ms Zubeyde Aydemir via the School Office or Email her at zaydemir@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk.

Year 4 During the Christmas holidays many children in year 4 produced excellent science projects which they proudly presented to the class. We had everything from poems, posters, quizzes, Eric the Ear models and leaflets. We are continuing our sound topic in class this half term. Twelve pupils have already met their half term reading target and so were clearly reading during the holidays which is great to see.

Our geography topic focuses on physical geography and we shall be learning about the continents, mountain ranges, rivers and oceans of the world. The children were particularly excited about exploring our planet through Google Earth.



In literacy we have started reading the awesome book *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo and we shall be using the text to develop our grammar skills and to

Year 4 learning about sound in science



inspire us to write our own stories.

In maths we have learnt about 3D shapes and their nets and will be looking at sequences and data handling this half term. A

key focus in year four is times tables and it is vital that all children master these facts - so thanks to all the parents who have been practising these facts with their children. This half term we are learning the 8x table but your child must also practise the: 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x and 10x regularly.

In RE we are learning about Buddhism. In PE we are continuing with Tae-kwon-do and Mr Ward is taking year 4 for Games sessions.

Year 3

As always we have had a very busy and motivating school term in Year 3. In Literacy we wrote our own list poems and poems about 'Ourselves', where we included things that we like and dislike. In Maths we learnt how to use the column method to solve multiplication sums. We are continuing to work very hard on learning all our times tables. We had a fantastic trip to the Chislehurst caves, which was linked to our Science topic of 'Rocks, fossils, and soils', as well as our History topic of 'The Stone Age'. We had a walk around the cave with our lanterns and learnt lots of fascinating facts about different types of rocks and fossils. We also really enjoyed being part of the Christmas performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. It was great acting as Victorian school children and learning the brilliant songs. We are all set



and ready to learn lots of new things this Spring term! In Literacy we are currently writing recounts of diary entries and in Maths we have started working on division. We have started our new topic of Light and Shadow in Science and we are learning about weather around the world in Geography. By the way we hope you like the pictures of some of our Y3 Fabulous Baker Boys!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great first term and we are now really geared up for the New Year. We went on some great trips in Term 1 and we had a fantastic time at Christmas, especially the shows and the party! Since coming back to school we have worked hard in our lessons. Soon we will go to the Florence Nightingale Museum, as we have been learning about her in our History lessons. At the Museum we will learn more about the nursing profession and also meet the great lady herself! In Science we will be learning about living things and their habitats. Of course we will also be concentrating every day on our Literacy and Numeracy skills. We know that this is going to be a great Spring Term.

Year 1 Last term was a lot of fun! The children wore beautiful winter hats and some of them wore lovely Christmas jumpers. We enjoyed taking part in 'A Christmas Carol' but the class didn't much like that horrible woman who kept shouting at them! Thank goodness she's gone. Year one's stall at the winter fair did amazingly well thanks to Miss Srur and made over £100 all on its own. Thanks Miss Srur! In English this term



Year 1 have been concentrating on repetitive stories and have read 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti



Plain' and 'Handa's Surprise'. They are now writing their own repetitive stories about animals and are learning how to use adjectives and verbs. Our new topic in Maths is measurement. As a way of using our new skills in weighing objects and measuring liquid, we made pancakes. They were yummy. We are currently learning about money and learning what

each coin represents. The shop was a great way to see what the children already knew and they had lots of fun too. In Science the class have been getting hands on with different materials and learning their properties. Soon we will be going to the Science Museum to learn even more. January has already been full of laughs and fun and we have so much more to look forward to. **Our pictures show us measuring pancake ingredients, doing PE, and playing in our shop!**



Sensational Superheroes



Reception Class and Nursery

In Reception the children have been learning about Deep and Dark and Dazzling. They are reading books on this topic, as well as acting, dancing, and playing games. Since January they have been learning all about sensational superheroes!

The children in both classes have dressed as superheroes and in Nursery used the superhero castle to re-enact superhero

stories. The children watched video clips to understand how Peter Parker actually became Spiderman! Lots of new words were shared such as transform, protects, swings, saves, and a class rhythmic poem was created. The mini project was explored in different areas of the curriculum; children looked for spiders and solved problems involving counting spider's legs. In Reception right now Batman is a favourite. The children are enjoying playing batman games but they are also learning about bats!!



Later this term Reception are going on some visits. The first one will be the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green. They will also visit the London Transport Museum later on.

The children in Reception and Nursery are always busy; and this term is no exception!! With the introduction of new mini projects the children are learning new concepts all the time.

Construction zone, launch pad and teeth!

A construction zone was set up in Nursery after consultation with a small group of children following the observation of a child's interest in building a track which he said was 'a construction'. The construction zone enabled children to discuss safety and protective clothing on a building site. The link to superheroes continued to progress as children built walls to make enclosures for Superheroes.





All the children are exploring mark making on a variety of different surfaces. Some are practicing writing their names and others are beginning to write random letters alongside recognisable pictures. **The Launch Pad** has started in the nursery and children are learning new concepts with the help of CONCEPT CAT. Concept cat is a friendly, clever cat who visits the nursery weekly to share stories with the children.

Finally, Sandra the special dental nurse came to visit the children in the nursery with her friend Chicco, who taught the children how to brush their teeth. Every child will eventually be given a dental pack and a chart to complete at home in order to get a special dental sticker. Chicco taught the children new words and spoke about 3 important things to remember; brush, spit and **DONT RINSE!**

Our next mini project will be all about being Earth explorers!



CINDERELLA at the TOWER THEATRE Stoke Newington We have enjoyed a number of theatre visits this academic year already and this visit to our new local theatre was a real treat. The panto was brilliant and the children from Classes 6, 5 and 1, who all paired up together, really loved it. They even got to meet and chat with the actors at the end. If you haven't looked yet check out the program for this new theatre. It's only down the road!!

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
(Please check for updates as dates may change or new events/trips may be added)		
25 th January 2019	Yr4	British Museum Trip
28 th January 2019	Yr 1	Science Museum
28 th January 2019	Yr6	Lea Valley Indoor Athletics
01 st February 2019	Yr 2	The Florence Nightingale Museum
04 th February 2019	All SCHOOL	Jack and the Beanstalk performance In school £3 per child
05 th February 2019	All SCHOOL	Safer Internet Day
15 th February	All SCHOOL	Spring Half Term
23 rd Feb-March 2nd	Y6 Group	Trip to Athens Greece - Erasmus + Project Think, Act, Make a Better World
25 th February 2019	All SCHOOL	Open Monday 25 th February
25 th March 2019	ALL	Young Hackney Healthy Living workshop School Hall 3.45-5pm
05 th April 2019	All SCHOOL	Close for Easter
16 th April– 26 th April	A group of 15 children Y5/Y6	Turkey trip – 23 rd April Children's Day International Festival of Folk Dance.
23 rd April 2019	All SCHOOL	Open Monday 23 rd April – SUMMER TERM

Football News!

HOLMLEIGH HOTSHOTS RATTLE RIVALS

The results for the match played on Friday 18th January was truly unforgettable! The score was a worthy 9 - 3 to Holmleigh. The match, which was played against Sir Thomas Abney (neighbouring school), opened up more opportunities for previously shy players. Players who were new to the squad played tremendously and despite the fact that 5 players could not attend the match, we won. Sami from year 6 scored 5 goals and Ebe, also from year 6 scored 4 goals. We know that goals cannot be scored without help, so Mr Finn (team coach) is proud of the whole team.

Mr Finn is so proud of the team that, he has given the team the opportunity to choose a new kit and training tracksuits. Decisions will be made soon. The team have also got a new club photo.

Thank you to all the reserves and substitutes who supported the team throughout the game. Thank you to Sarah, who has helped to raise over £900 for sports gear, footballs and team kits.

We hope to see the new players growing in confidence and making it to the top and an exciting year for the Holmleigh Football Club.

Joe Glynn