

# Holmleigh Primary School

## Newsletter



SPRING 2019  
Issue 57



### Head Teacher's Update

#### MEMORIAL TO CLAIRE GRAY



It is with great regret that I must report the sad news of the death of one of our teachers, Claire Gray. Claire was taken ill suddenly and died in hospital on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Claire had worked at Holmleigh for eight years as Reception Class teacher. As well as being much loved and highly valued by the Holmleigh community, she was very active in the National Education Union. She supported the black teachers lobby and was part of the NEU women's TUC delegation. Claire loved music and was part of two choirs. She taught in Sunday School and loved to promote dance and physical activity. She was constantly on the go, yet remained calm and patient always. She loved her work and will be sadly missed. A large number of Holmleigh staff attended her funeral, as well as a number of parents and children. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family. We have decided to place a permanent memorial to Claire within the school grounds. A bench with a plaque seems to

be a popular idea, as well as an annual prize for performing arts.

**If you wish to contribute towards this please donate either cash or cheque via the School Office.**

**Kevin Ward Head Teacher**



## Year 6

### ERASMUS PLUS 2019

**Our Trip to Greece** Hi my name is Alara and I went to Greece with 3 other classmates; Joe, Jack and Jasmine. This trip was part of the ERASMUS+ project. We stayed in Mandra, Athens with our host families. My host family had a daughter called Dimitra and she was extremely kind to me. Dimitra went to a school in Athens called 'The First Gymnasium of Mandra'. This was also the school that took us on our trips.

The trip to Greece meant a lot to me because I loved



going to all the different trips and meeting new people. I am writing about our first day with the school and our



third day. On our first day we were welcomed by the school and everybody was so kind to us (we were the smallest). The older pupils even had a sort of festival to welcome us and danced to traditional Greek songs. The younger pupils had a choir and sung Greek songs (I didn't understand what they were saying). All the countries were brought to the stage and given presents! They were all so kind to us. On the third day we went to a wrestling centre and was taught wrestling by two wrestling instructors who had competed in the Olympics!! There are two types of wrestling – Greco-Roman and Freestyle. We had partners to practice certain moves on. You could even have a match with the instructors (I did). I really enjoyed the lesson and learnt facts I didn't know before about the Wrestling Championships.

My favourite trip was going to the Acropolis because it was very factual. One of the things I learnt was that there used to be a huge statue of Athena in the Acropolis but it was stolen by the Romans and the location of this ancient statue is still a mystery to this very day. I loved this trip and would recommend others to participate in projects like this.

### My Trip To Greece

Hi my name is Joe. Like my fellow classmates (Jack, Jasmine and Alara) I went to Greece as part of the Erasmus + project. This is a short text on our time there. To get there we endured a tedious plane ride that lasted 4 hours and 15 minutes (ish). We met our host families at a train station in Mandra (a town on the outskirts of Athens). **Sunday:** The host families were extremely kind and on the first day we all met up at my host family's house. My host girl was Chrysa. She was hilarious and spoke English like it was her first





language. **Monday:** The arrival of the countries was celebrated by some superb traditional Greek dancing and prizes were given to us and our host families. **Tuesday:** We travelled to the Acropolis which sat on the highest hill in Athens. We clambered up the Acropolis hill on a rough, stone path. Once we were at the top we bought refreshing drinks but were halted by security as you weren't allowed to bring food or drink onto the site of the Acropolis. When we were on top of the hill the view was picturesque. We walked through the columns of the Parthenon. We learned that the marble above the Parthenon's huge columns were taken by a Scottish ambassador called Lord Elgin and kept in the British Museum.

After this we travelled down the hill and had lunch at a restaurant. We had souvlaki, a delectable meat and vegetable wrap that is an Athenian tradition. We wolfed it down and travelled back to the school. My favourite trip in Greece was the memorable visit to Olympia. It was breath taking to walk through the site where the original Olympic games took place.



### Greece trip

Hi! My name is Jasmine and I took part in the ERASMUS+ trip to Mandra in Greece with three other pupils from my class; Jack, Joe and Alara. We all stayed with host families who were very hospitable towards us. I stayed with a twelve-year-old girl called Sofia who was an only child. Her mother was called Helen and her father was called Aris. They were

always checking if I was ok or if I needed anything and they took me out to restaurants, shopping malls and much more! Additionally, the family knew how Alara and I were good friends and they arranged for us to see each other almost every day! On the night of our arrival, I went to the girl who was hosting Alara, Dimitra's house and we went to bed at around 2:00 in the morning!

While in Greece, as well as looking at ancient ruins and museums, we got to go shopping as well! There were a lot of souvenir shops and shopping centres and, like Sofia had told me, most Greek people LOVE shopping! When going to shopping centres in Greece, even at 10:00 at night, the shopping centres are still quite crowded! The food in Greece is amazing. We went to a restaurant in Athens and had souvlaki which is a wrap with yoghurt, chicken and salad inside and I really enjoyed it! On the Friday night before leaving Greece, the local school which we had been going to, gave us a farewell celebration and there was delicious Greek food, traditional Greek dancing and it was a great way to end our trip to Greece! I will always remember the trip to Greece and keep in contact with Sofia.



**My Trip To Greece** Hi my name is Jack and like Joe, Alara and Jasmine I went to Greece for the Erasmus + project. This is a short piece of text about one of the things we did there. To get there we endured a tedious plane journey of four hours and a bit (emphasis on the bit).

We met our host families at a train station in Mandra (a town on the outskirts of Athens). We spent Sunday with our host families. On Monday we had the welcoming at the school and on Tuesday we went to the Acropolis. On Wednesday we went to a stadium where we tried some wrestling and on Thursday we went to Olympia. On the last day of the trip we went to where the very first Olympic Games were held. It took a long two and a half drive to Olympia where we saw the temple of Zeus which was destroyed in the year 393 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Theodosius. We saw where the Olympic flame is lit every year and even raced on the ancient two-hundred metre track I came fourth! (There were teenagers). We went to the museum and saw many famous artifacts and statues in it. My favorite statue was one of Hermes (who they believed was the god of theft and travel) holding a young infant. It was an amazing trip and I hope that I have the chance to go again. **Jack Year 6**



**Year 5** Year 5 have been really busy working hard on our current topics. In Maths we are grappling with fractions, decimals and percentages and doing really well. In Literacy over the past month we have been writing extended adventure and fantasy stories. We have completed our study of the Ancient Greeks in history and moved on to our Geography topic about the United Kingdom. In Science we have gone celestial and are all systems go with our study of the Earth in Space. On top of all this we are performing raps about ourselves in a music assembly this week! We are very proud of our 3 Junior Road Safety Officers – Iris, Chidera and Tammy, who are working hard to promote safer travel to school. We also have 7 children who are practising really hard to be ready to travel to Turkey over Easter for the 23<sup>rd</sup> April Children's Dance Festival in Samsun and Ankara. We have held 2 toast mornings to fundraise for this, and on Thursday the whole Turkey dance group are doing a sponsored walk to Alexandra Palace. We have some great trips and activities planned as well. At the end of April we will go to the Royal Academy and we have also booked some workshops about the history of food. We wish you all a happy holiday!

## Year 4

## Year 3



learning about money by  
finding the difference  
investigating using magnets  
materials that are magnetic

Year 3 have been very busy working hard and learning lots of new things. In Literacy we have been writing reports about our favourite animals. We used the internet, magazines and lots of non-fiction books to find information.



In Maths we have been adding and between money amounts. We have been and springs in Science. We found lots of and some that are not. We also got to use



forcemeters to measure the weight of objects. We really enjoyed our recent trip to the British Museum for our topic of the Anglo Saxons in History. It was fascinating to see the artefacts that were found on the burial ship in Sutton Hoo. We explored the materials they were made of and what they were used for. We are now looking forward to the Easter holidays and can't wait for Spring day in school!

**Year 2** This has been another busy term in Year 2. We visited The British Museum to learn more about where we live, as part of our geography lessons. Whilst there, we drew pictures of the artefacts and wrote where in the world they were found. In Science, we have been learning about The Human Body and how the different systems in our bodies work, for instance, the digestive system and the circulatory system. We wrote recounts, information texts and humorous poems in Literacy, and we're continuing to improve our maths skills. We enjoyed a fantastic Easter Party that was kindly organised by 'Variety – The Children's Charity'. There was an entertainer and lots of party treats. It was great fun!!!



Year 2 at The British Museum.

**Year 1** Year One have been very busy. They have helped Constable Woods, a police woman, capture Goldilocks and punish her for her crimes of porridge theft – without their wanted posters, letters and instructions on how to capture a porridge thief then we may not have gotten to the bottom of this ridiculous crime. In Maths we have been on various hunts to look for 2d and 3d shapes – we found lots. In Science, our research of animals led us to Allan's Garden where we saw a rather cheeky squirrel. However, most of the class squealed with joy and scared it away. In History we had the pleasure of interviewing our very own Mr Ward who taught the class what it was like to grow up in the 60s – the children were inquisitive, excited and listened to everything. Then we learnt all about different people who have helped changed our lives for the better: Emmeline Pankhurst, Neil Armstrong and William Caxton are just a few of the amazing people we have studied. We have also been to the British Museum and created some beautiful prints and we also got a free book each when we went to Stoke Newington Bookshop.



## Reception Class and Nursery

### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please check for updates as dates may change or new events/trips may be added)

25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Yr4	British Museum Trip
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Yr 1	Science Museum
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Yr6	Lea Valley Indoor Athletics
01 <sup>st</sup> February 2019	Yr 2	The Florence Nightingale Museum
04 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	All SCHOOL	Jack and the Beanstalk performance In school £3 per child
05 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	All SCHOOL	Safer Internet Day
15 <sup>th</sup> February	All SCHOOL	Spring Half Term



23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb-March 2nd	Y6 Group	Trip to Athens Greece - Erasmus + Project Think, Act, Make a Better World
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	All SCHOOL	Open Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	ALL	Young Hackney Healthy Living workshop School Hall 3.45-5pm
05 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	All SCHOOL	Close for Easter
16 <sup>th</sup> April– 26 <sup>th</sup> April	A group of 15 children Y5/Y6	Turkey trip – 23 <sup>rd</sup> April Children's Day International Festival of Folk Dance.
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	All SCHOOL	Open Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – SUMMER TERM

### 23 NISAN (April) Visit to TURKEY 2019

We are working hard in preparation for our visit to this year's Children's Day festival in Turkey. We are taking 15 children from Y5/6, with three teachers. We have previously attended twice, in 2016 and 2018.

This year the festival is being held in Samsun, Turkey's 6<sup>th</sup> largest city located on the Black Sea coast, as well as in Ankara. We are very excited to be taking part again as previous involvements were a great experience for our children.

## **ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AT HOLMLEIGH SCHOOL**

As you will know a hugely important part of the Holmleigh mission is to provide the widest range of enrichment activity as possible for our children. We do this because we want children to learn about the world inside and outside the classroom. We want them to have fun, and to be fascinated and inspired. We want them to become lifelong learners through the joy of discovery. We also know that this enrichment enables our children to achieve to a high standard.

I have listed here some of the additional activity that has taken place in the last 4 months. I am sure that you will agree that it demonstrates our commitment to a broad and balanced inspiring curriculum!

**Into Film festival Haymarket Leicester Square - Explorers and Ourselves Natural History Museum - Weekly Fencing and Tai Kwon Do lessons - Y3/4/5 Weekly swimming - The Nutcracker performance in school - Wallace Collection visit - Rainbow Sentences Parent workshop - Victorian style Winter Fair - A Christmas Carol – Whole school performances - Living Nativity – London Zoo - Ice Skating - Turkish Shadow puppets performance - Christmas Jumper day - Coram's Fields Big Top Party - Shrek's adventure – South Bank - INSET DAY - Mad Science after school club – Parent run print making club - Fencing Club breakfast session - Supported Reading training - Olympics movie for Erasmus + - Friends of Holmleigh Jumble sales - UCL Engineers workshop - SRE Puberty lessons – Tower of London/Tower Bridge visits - Citizenship Project Hackney Museum - STEM workshops British Museum - Science Museum materials - Parent run Cookery Club - Toast mornings fundraisers - Bric-a-brac and book sale – Turkey trip fundraiser - Science museum – Wonderlab - Safer Internet Day - Hygiene sessions - British Museum Anglo Saxons - Keats House - Poet in School Y6 Keats Project - World Book Day - Book Bus on site - Canoeing and Biking - British Museum – Cultures - Waterstones visit – Speech Bubbles open sessions for parents - Reception Dental Screening - Height and weight survey - Engineers workshop on wind power - Comic Relief Wacky Wardrobe Day - Magic Lantern Film Project – Making Magic - Science Museum - Erasmus + Visit to Greece - Speech Bubbles Drama Project - School Photographer - Football v Sir Thomas Abney – Wear a hat for brain trauma research – Royal Institution visit – Preparation for Dance Project visit to Turkey Sewing Club – Football Clubs – Nature Club – Reading Club – Art Club – Guitar lessons**

## **World Autism Awareness Week**



World Autism Awareness week takes place across the globe on 1-7 April 2019. This year, we held an assembly to celebrate how unique each and every person at Holmleigh Primary School is. We then explored some ideas on the similarities and differences that we have in order to have a better understanding of people with Autism. Children were introduced to a young boy called Bradely and Trummies characters. If you want to find out more on Autism and learn more about helping friends or family you may have with autism, visit the National Autistic Society's website. There you will find a wealth of information and more on Trummies!

### **Launch of new Hackney National Autistic Society Branch**

Hackney is setting up their own autistic group, **Hackney's NAS (National Autistic Society)**. Their first meeting is taking place during the National Autism Awareness Week, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. However, if you are interested in taking part or finding out more, simply call Lucy on 07937 472 977 or email [hackney.group@nas.org.uk](mailto:hackney.group@nas.org.uk)

### **Autism Parent Information Sessions**

Monthly session at Specialist CAMHS takes place first Friday of the month from 9:30-11:30.

The topics scheduled are as follow:

Friday 5th April - Managing Sleep Difficulties

Friday 3rd May - Supporting Sibling Relationships in the context of ASD

Friday 7th June - Managing Puberty and Social Functioning

Friday 5th July - Parenting Stress: A Mindfulness Approach

Friday 2nd August - Developing Independence skills

Friday 6th September - Managing Arguments and Miscommunications

Friday 4th October - Managing School and ASD

Friday 1st November - Anxiety and Anger Management

Friday 6th December - Dealing with demands

These sessions are facilitated by Psychology and Occupational Therapy with Guest Speakers from Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology and other Hackney specific support services.

If you need more information or clarification on any of the above topics, please call school and ask for me, Ms Aydemir (SENCo), or email me on

[Zubeyde.aydemir@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:Zubeyde.aydemir@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk)



*Holmleigh Primary School*