

Newsletter

March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another successful term with pupils so engaged in all the different activities and lessons. My highlight has to be joining our pupils to experience a space dome and watching shooting stars fly past us, while being educated about our solar system.

It was wonderful to hear about our football team doing so well in the recent tournament and it filled me with such pride to hear that when playing a team who wasn't as strong, our pupils helped their opponents to improve their confidence. This really highlights what amazing pupils we have at the Helen Allison School.

We have some wonderful days planned next term, including the Kings Coronation, Family Fun Day and our residential trip. I wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday and we look forward in welcoming our pupils back to school on Monday 17th April.

Kind regards

Adam

Principal



British Values

The various activities highlighted in this newsletter are an example of just some of the diverse learning opportunities that are undertaken by our students. Many of these activities take place within the local community as well as at school for real opportunities to explore these values in order to support students to understand the needs of others in a wider context. Helen Allison School teaches students by planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. British values embedded within this curriculum and these values are defined as: Democracy, Rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter we would like to hear from you. If you would like to contribute to the next Newsletter, please let Francesca Shaxted have your article.

World Book Day 2023

On Thursday 2nd March the school celebrated World Book Day. Students and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and took part in different activities in their classes. Students at the school were encouraged to design a new book cover of their own choice or from the author's visit. Lots of classes took the opportunity to develop reading for pleasure and listened or read books and stories that they enjoyed. At the Hub the students began their Read for Good readathon, raising money to get books for children in hospital and also books for the school.



Stargazers



This term Warwick class have been looking at all things stars and space! They made Paper Mache moons in art and used Modroc to mould and create texture and craters. They also recreated images of the solar system using powder paint and chalk bomb explosion techniques. Within their science lessons they have been having fun using Jaffa cakes to represent the phases and cycles of the moon. And if that all wasn't exciting enough, the school received a visit from the planetarium roadshow! The dome is filled with incredible images and videos with rockets planets and shooting stars moving all around you! Warwick class loved it and have had an excellent term!



Thank You Reliance Fish Restaurant!

The PFA held a wonderful fundraising evening with the kind support of Jack Kamenou, owner of Reliance Fish Restaurant in Gravesend. The restaurant regularly holds tribute nights, and on 18th February, "Freddie Mercury" entertained staff, friends and families of the Helen Allison School, and helped up to raise an outstanding £1,003.00! Keep your eyes out for details of future events.





RUFUS CLASS



Rufus class have had a very busy term across all their subjects. They had lots of fun finding natural materials in the conservation area this term.

They have also investigated forces by seeing which objects would float or sink and were building with magnetic tiles. In Geography this term, the students have been learning about the different climates around the world, different ways of getting to a holiday, as well as exploring maps.

The class have been enjoying a wide variety of sensory activities, including massages, messy play and water play. A highlight of the term is the Rufus breakfast club, where the students (and staff!) enjoy sitting down together. The class have really been developing their independence skills by selecting their own breakfast and utensils and then pouring their own drinks/cereal and buttering their own toast or crumpets.



Autism Acceptance Week

During Autism Acceptance week great discussions were enabled by Warwick class regarding what neurodiversity meant to them. They explored how differences were evident in all of us and this included different communication profiles, sensory profiles, masking, thoughts and feelings of ourselves and others and how our brain structures may also be different. The pupils demonstrated great insight and maturity and could reflect on their own diagnoses and what autism meant to them. Excellent work Warwick class!



Games



During PE lessons this term, Leeds class have been working in teams using a range of equipment to create their own games.



Creative Media

This term, some of the Creative Media classes have been diving even deeper into the world of "Dungeons & Dragons". After learning the rules of the game and playing out a simple adventure last term, this term they have all been working hard to build characters (creating backstories, 3D models, and detailed ability sheets) and create a fantasy adventure of their own (thinking about locations, quest items, and designing maps). When their unique adventures are finished, Harry will cherry-pick the best pieces of each one and mould them into a MEGA ADVENTURE for everyone to roleplay adventure through!



Author Visit



On 27th February the school and Hub were lucky enough to have a visit from Chris Connaughton, an author and storyteller. Each class had a session with him, listening to stories such as The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk to the Myth of Perseus and Medusa. The students from all classes were encouraged to take part to join in with their class story and some followed on the story with activities in their own lessons.

May the force be with you!

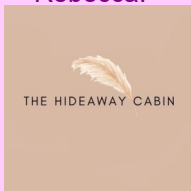


Hever 2 have been having fun this term exploring forces. We have tested different surfaces, looking at the resistance different textures and items created, explored the power of magnets and made a pringle cannon!



Thank you to The Hideaway Cabin!

Rebecca Delvin, who owns the hideaway cabin health and beauty treatment salon, raised an amazing £324 for the School PFA over Christmas with her 'find the winning bauble game' on the cabin's ceiling. Thank you for your continued support Rebecca!



Reflections



During their science lessons this term, Leeds class have been looking at reflection and how source of light can help us to see reflected objects. They went into the playground with various objects to look at how they would reflect or block the sunlight.

Curly's Farm

The Curly's Farm Group have been having fun and learning new skills this term. They have worked with the Pigmy Goat's a lot and have been feeding them and making their homes nice and warm as many of them are ready to have babies.



The students have also been giving the goats their vaccinations this is a new skill the students have learnt and they are quite confident doing this.



They also learnt about where all the products come from to make pancakes – flour comes from wheat which is grown on farms, eggs come from chickens and milk comes from cows.



'For Science Week' the Students pretended to be Pigs and used their noses to 'guess what the food was'. Students and staff wore blindfolds (or face masks in this instant) and smelt different types of food and then wrote down what their guess's were.



Fun fact - Pigs have lots of glands in their snouts (noses) which give them an incredible sense of smell.



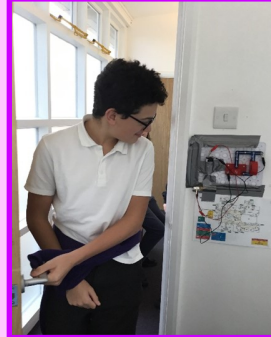
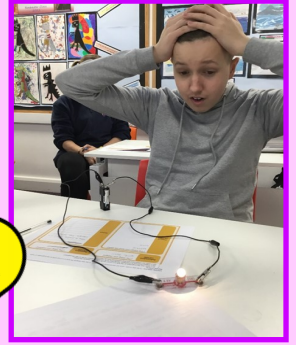
Our Assistant Psychologist, Ashleigh, is one of the Top 10 UK's biggest Disney fans! After over 1500 entries, only 10 people were selected as finalists who will be heading out on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday to Disneyland Paris, Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and onboard the Disney WISH during the Easter break. Ashleigh will take part in 10 amazing challenges to complete for the coveted title of UK's Biggest Disney Fan.

COMIC RELIEF

RED NOSE DAY



For Red Nose day this year, staff and students at Helen Allison gathered together to wear red and join in for lots of fun activities. We had dance classes, face painting, a games room, a wonderful bake sale and more. It was enjoyed by all and we raised a total of £133. Well done to everyone at Helen Allison! School!



This term within their science lessons, Rochester class have been looking at electricity. They have been building and creating their own circuits and been amazed at the results they have achieved. Excellent work Rochester class.

Wilderness Wednesdays



During Wilderness Wednesday sessions this term, the students have been working on their fine motor skills to make model hedgehogs. They used materials that they found in the conservation area to create the spines of their hedgehogs to make them even more realistic.



Helen Allison FC



Our school football team entered new territory this term, playing in the Medway Youth Games event held at Strood Sports Centre. They had a fun morning of skills & drills and then matches in the afternoon. They managed to come away with 3rd place which is a great achievement for their first attempt.

Thank you!

This term the school have received donations in memory of Mr John Brooks, whose grandson formerly attended our school.

These donations will be used to improve our outdoor facilities.

Industrial Revolution



As part of their History Lessons, Rochester class have been looking at the industrial revolution. They went on two offsite trips this term to support their learning. One visit was to the Guildhall Museum in Rochester and the other being the Transport Museum in London. They have really enjoyed the topic and especially enjoyed going offsite.



Travel Training

This term Group 2 have been concentrating on travel training in their life skills lessons. They travelled to Bluewater to catch the bus to Gravesend, the students enjoyed this experience. They had time to look around ASDA before traveling back to the Hub.



As part of Children's Mental Health Week back in February, classes took part in various activities away from the conventional learning and more targeted towards mental health and wellbeing. Rochester class enjoyed using the schools new interactive wall to play a team game.



Mother's and Other's Day

On Friday 17th March, the PFA held their Mother's and Others day gift shop at the school and the hub. It was wonderful to see the students shopping for a special gift for a significant person in their lives, and they really put thought and effort into making sure they chose the right items! The event raised a fantastic £100.00 which will go towards enhancing the everyday school lives of all our students.



The PFA would like to thank everyone involved in making the day run smoothly, and to all the parents for their continued support of our fundraising efforts!



Work Experience



Naoise, Dylan and Jamie have started work experience this term. They are working at Gillingham Street Angels in Chatham. Gillingham Street Angels is a charity that helps the homeless and those in need through food banks and charity shops, where the proceeds fund the food banks. In the charity shops they offer free second-hand school uniforms for all, and the shops sell furniture, electricals and bric a brac.



The students work in the shop doing a variety of tasks from cleaning/dusting furniture to filling the shelves with bric a brac, DVD's and books. They have also hung and tidied up the school uniforms and worked in the warehouse sorting items that can be sold or those that are too damaged to be sold.

Helen Allison School

PFA Family Quiz Night

7pm Friday 28th April 2023

Hosted by Quizmaster John Webster!

Teams of up to 8 Adults

Adults £5.00 entry

Under 16s Free

Bring your
own drinks
& snacks

Doors open—Helen Allison
School Hall—7pm for a 7.30pm
start.

Please contact Rachel Forshaw
on 01474 814878

rachel.forshaw@nas.org.uk

to reserve a table & send cash
payment to the office in an en-
velope marked Quiz Night to
purchase tickets.

01474 814878.

Tickets will also be sold on the
door, subject to availability.

Fantastic Prizes!



Raffle and interval games on
the night! Don't forget your
£1.00 coins



Dates for the diary



3rd April 2023
Half Term Begins

29th May 2023
Bank Holiday

17th April 2023
Term 5 Begins

30th May—5th June 2023
Half Term

19th April 2023
Wear a Hat Day

6th June 2023
Inset Day

28th April 2023
PFA Quiz Night

7th June 2023
Term 6 Begins

1st May 2023
Bank Holiday

19th-23rd June 2023
D&T Week

8th May 2023
Bank Holiday

27th June 2023
Parents Evening: School

16th May 2023
Dinosaur Day

29th June 2023
Parents Evening: Hub

my **child** at **school.com** ✓

The school have now moved to a new home/school communication portal called MCAS (My Child At School). This portal should be used for all communication to staff. You can also view your child's attendance, update their records and pay pocket or dinner money via this portal.

Please contact Francesca or Lynn if you have any problems with this system as step by step guides can be provided.

If you have any concerns around your child's computer or internet use please don't hesitate to ask us for help, guidance or support. Contact the school on 01474 814878 and ask to speak to a safeguarding officer. The Helen Allison School website has all of our safeguarding information as well as Internet Safeguarding links you might find useful.

Safeguarding Team

The following staff are our school safeguarding team. If you have a concern or wish to speak to one of them, please call the school and we will put you in touch.



Magdalena
Lead DSL



Lisa
Deputy DSL



Chelsea
Behaviour



Adam
Deputy DSL



Francesca
Attendance and Welfare



Natasha
Financial Support