



Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Leading up to Christmas is always such an exciting time for our pupils with so many activities in place. This year the Helen Allison School are delighted to be able to run our Christmas concert again and welcome our parents back into the school to watch. This is such a wonderful experience for our pupils and I am sure you are so proud of their achievements.

We were also able to offer all our pupils the opportunity to have a Christmas meal in our hall for both the school and Hub, for the first time in 3 years. This can be such a challenge for our pupils due to the noise and high arousal environment, but all pupils were amazing and it was great to see all them enjoying the experience.

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our parents evening and the feedback was very positive, especially from our sleep station. I hope many of you have seen the rewards and are enjoying more restful nights. Our pupils have had such a fantastic term and I very much look forward to seeing them progress in 2023.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

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.

Halloween in the Canteen

Back in October (we know, it feels like forever ago!), our amazing catering team put on a fantastic Halloween lunch for staff and students. There were Hocus Pocus Hotdogs, Screaming Sweetcorn, Petrified Potato Wedges, Toxic Waste Jelly and Spook-tacular Cup Cakes. These went down a treat with everyone and the canteen looked fantastic. Thank you ladies!



Warwick Class Treat

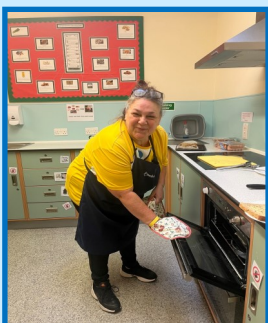
Warwick class had an awesome time at Gravity trampoline park followed by a tasty McDonalds as a reward for all their hard work.

This trip also involved some learning. All the students had to independently order and pay for their food. They then got to all sit down together for a restaurant experience.



Children in Need

On Friday 18th November it was the return of The Big Staff Breakfast in order to raise money for Children in Need. During the week, students from around the school compiled a shopping list of items they required for the breakfast and then took a trip to the local Morrisons to request donations. Morrison's donated all of the items required which was fantastic and meant every penny raised went to Children In Need. Over £100 was raised so a huge achievement and some very full bellies! A huge thank you to Morrison's in Gravesend for the donations and to our lovely teaching assistants who organised it all!



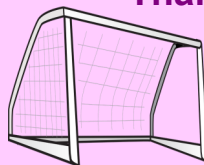
Religious Education

As part of their RE lessons, Warwick class visited St John The Baptist Church.

They have been learning about different places of worship, thinking about how people feel and why these buildings are special to them.



Thank you PRB Estates!



The school football team attended the latest tournament at Long Lane FC. They were sporting the schools new football kit, kindly sponsored by PRB Estates Ltd. The team did really well again, drawing 4 of their 5 matches and scoring a number of goals in the process.



Curly's Farm



This term has been a hard one for students who visit Curly's Farm. They have had a tough but enjoyable time working with the animals and learning that the farm continues running through all seasons. They have had the opportunity this term to work with the Dexter Cows, Pigs, and the Alpacas. On one memorable session, after they had helped with feeding and cleaning the paddocks out, they were given the chance to walk the pigs around the grassland. Students have also learnt that the pigs cannot eat beans without them being soaked in water for 24hrs as the pigs would not be able to digest them properly.

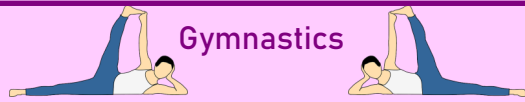


For Remembrance Day Group 2 made Poppy art using Egg boxes and paint and a poppy picture

Christmas Table Decorations



The students also made Christmas table decorations using plants and leaves, they did a wonderful job and the decorations looked amazing.



Gymnastics



During our PE lessons this term pupils have been making use of our brand-new gymnastics' equipment. This has allowed them to be more creative and challenged during their lessons.

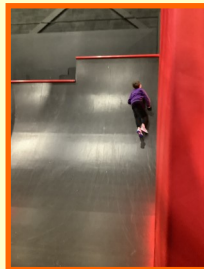
Yummy!



Matthew at the Hub has been participating in weekly cooking lessons. He has been making a mixture of both sweet and savoury treats to take home and enjoy.



Ninja Warrior



Warwick class and Group 2 worked hard in lessons all term so as a treat they took a trip to Ninja Warrior. They would all like to say thank you to the PTA for the gift!

Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 14th December, staff and students at both sites enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner together. We had the option of the classic turkey and Christmas pudding or brie and mushroom wellington and chocolate sponge. Thank you to our wonderful kitchen team for the delicious dinner! And thank you to all who helped on the day!



At the beginning of December, two of our students volunteered to go with our site operative Nigel to choose a Christmas tree for the school hall. They enjoyed looking around all the decorations at the garden centre too. Thank you Nigel, Elliot and Rex!

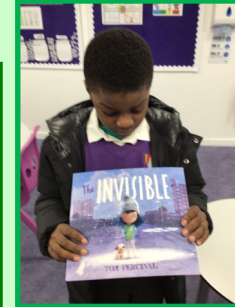


In November, to raise money for the Royal British Legion, staff and students bought poppies. In total we raised £17.59 for the charity. Thank you to all who donated!

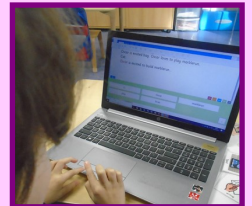


12 books of Christmas

As part of our Christmas festivities, each class have been given the '12 books of Christmas' Advent Calendar. Each day a student is chosen to unwrap a book to share with the class and add to the class collection. The PFA have kindly donated £150 towards to cost of the books, with the aim being to expose students to a wider range of authors and text whilst supporting their reading for pleasure in school.



Rufus Class



Rufus class have had a busy term with lots of fun learning taking place. They have been investigating shapes and finding them in a variety of different materials and using mathematical vocabulary to describe their features. They have also been working hard on their phonics, as well as using programmes on the laptop to help with sentence structure. The class had fun investigating sound around the school and were able to identify lots of different sound sources. There was also a very exciting trip to McDonalds where the students were so well behaved and really enjoyed their special lunch.

Monarchy



In Art/Topic Hever 2 have been learning about 'Magnificent Monarchs.'

The students used clay to create 2D models and used templates of past monarchs to help.



Science



Hever classes 1 and 2 joined together this term to observe some animals in a pet shop. Their Science topic is 'Animals including humans', and the children were able to talk about the different animals that they had seen and they needed different environments to keep them alive. They understood that fish needed to live in water while other animals only lived on land. They also noticed that some of the animals needed special light and heat lamps in their environments.

Anti-Bullying Week

For Anti-bullying Week Group 2 at the Hub worked through some bullying scenarios and they also looked at the different roles of bullying...



The Group also made a video about a cyber-bully, making a fake online account for a class peer, and how the bully was posting horrible things on the fake account about their class who they did not like. This made the peer upset and scared of what their class peers would think of them.



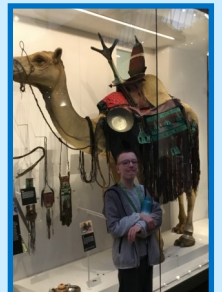
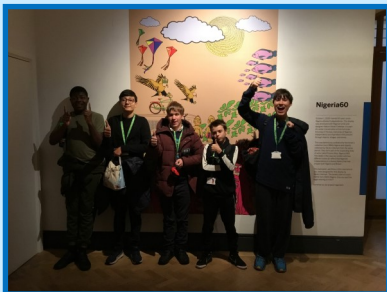
This term some of the students doing the Arts Award have been exploring the Artist Edvard Munch and his painting entitled the 'Scream'. The students have been learning to use new materials like Oil Pastels and they had to draw their own image.

Christmas Concert



On the last day of term, students from both sites performed in the Christmas Concert. This year's theme was "Christmas Number one's". We had a fantastic performance of "Jingle Bells" from Matthew on the keyboard, a lovely rendition of "Merry Christmas Everyone" from some of the hub students. Thank you to everyone who was involved and attended, but a huge thanks to Cyril, our music teacher, for arranging another fantastic concert!

Horniman Museum



As part of their PSHE lessons, two groups went to visit the Horniman Museum. They visited the World Gallery for the Exhibition Nigeria 60. Whilst they were there, they witnessed a performance artist act out the behaviour of animals which was a first for some students.

The Hub Horticulture Group



The students at the Hub have been working really hard this half term. They have been making a 'Lasagne bed' which is a way to make our own compost for growing vegetables and flowers.

The students layered compostable materials like newspaper, cardboard, leaves, and grass clippings and used straw from Curly's Farm. By the spring, worms and microorganisms will have decomposed the materials and mean it would have changed into a rich, nutrient-dense soil of its own.

Buddhism



At the Hub, some of the students have been studying Buddhism in their PSHE lessons. As part of this, a Tibetan Monk came along to speak to the students. Students gave him a basket of food to thank him for coming.

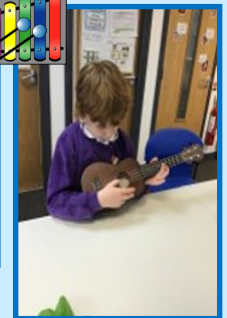
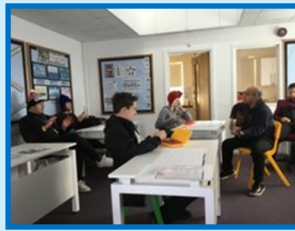


As part of the PTA trips, some of the students from the hub went to see Aladdin in the pantomime at Gravesend. They were lucky enough to personally meet some cast members after the show too.

This term, Dylan has been learning some carpentry skills during his construction lessons. Here he is making a knight on a horse. Great work Dylan!



Music



It has been an exciting term for the Music department.

The new Music Lab at the Hub opened and students have been taking advantage of the new space to play electric guitars, the electric bass, the drums and keyboards. It is great to see the students enjoying the room. The members of the Ukulele group have made great progress too!

At the main school, the students continue to develop their skills: singing, playing different instruments and learning about different styles of music.



Dates for the diary



19th December 2022
Inset Day

13th February 2023
Half Term Begins

20th December 2022
Half Term Begins

20th February 2023
Term 4 Begins

2nd January 2023
Bank Holiday

28th February 2023
Parents Evening School

3rd January 2023
Term 3 Begins

2nd March 2023
World Book Day

6th—10th February 2023
Children's Mental Health
Week

2nd March 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 and some step by step guides can be provided.



What do reindeers hang on their Christmas tree's?

Horn-aments!



What kind of photos do elves take?

Elf-ies.



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



Adam



Lisa



Francesca



Chelsea