

Newsletter

April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The learning that has occurred this term has been truly amazing and inspirational. The students had the opportunity to experience science in many formats during Science Week. This included a CSI workshop in the school where they were able to put on their white suits and use the clues to solve the crimes. The whole week showed science in action and the students learnt some real skills to take back to their classrooms.

As we move from Winter into Spring it is important to celebrate change and what a wonderful thing the seasons are. The students and staff have been hard at work planting flowers and bulbs which are finally breaking through the beds at this time of year, creating a beautiful and colourful display.

We look forward to welcoming the students on Tuesday 19th April for our summer term. Lets see what this change in season has to offer. Have a lovely half term!

Simon
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 2022

On Thursday 3rd March students and staff celebrated World Book Day by coming to school dressed as a character from their favourite books. As well as this, we varied it up with some classes who were asked to come to school wearing a particular colour.



We had so many fantastic characters arrive at school on that day. Mr Men, The Three Little Pigs, the whole crew from Peter Pan, an Oompa Loompa with Mr Willy Wonka and many more.

True Crime Museum



As part of Science Week in March, Group 1 took a visit to the True Crime Museum in Hastings. This was a lovely day out and they got to see lots of crime artefacts. They looked into how forensic breakthroughs have led to the conviction of many criminals and the part that science plays within that. And to make the day even better, the sun was shining!

Ukraine Collection



As we are now all aware, the Ukraine is facing a massive humanitarian crisis due to the war with Russia. Debbie and Lauren, two of our fantastic teaching assistants put out an appeal earlier in the term for donations to send to Ukraine to help those in need. We received a fantastic response from parents, carers & staff and wish to thank all those who donated for their huge generosity!



To infinity and beyond.....



At the beginning of this term, Rochester class made rockets from paper mâché. They had to then paint these with their chosen designs and make sure they looked ready to fly. After they were painted and ready to go, the students walked down to the local park to test these using some science. They used a chemical reaction with Cola and Mentos to see if these would take off. They only managed to launch a little but the students had great fun making these and testing them.



Helen Allison FC

This term our football team attended another football festival and had some great success. Their steady improvement over the year has been there for all to see and on this occasion, the team's efforts meant that they won all 3 of their matches resulting in winning their league. They have worked so hard over the year and this has paid off! Well done to the whole squad!!



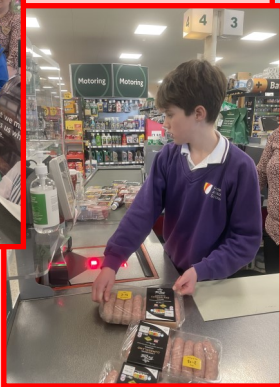
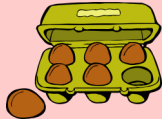
Curly's Farm



This half term the students from the Hub have worked hard and had some fun with all of the animals on their weekly farm trips. They have been feeding the geese and cows, walking the goats and even grooming the Highland Bull. As part of science week in the middle of March, the students also incorporated their trips with some science experiments. They made parachutes for their eggs to see if they could lower the gravitational pull and stop the egg from cracking.

Red Nose Day

This year for Red Nose Day the staff and students wore something red or fun to raise money for Comic Relief. We had lots of lovely red outfits throughout the school and Rufus class came in dressed in their pyjamas! In order to raise even more money for this fantastic cause, Warwick class had the fantastic idea of cooking staff a breakfast for a small charge. They started by writing letters to local businesses and shops asking for donations of breakfast items for the cause. Within a few days we had been inundated with fantastic donations from these businesses. Our local Costcutters donated bacon and eggs which were collected by two of Warwick class students. Morrisons in Gravesend then donated sausages, bread, bacon and sauces and the lovely lady even let our students scan some items which they absolutely loved! Our local Tesco Express then donated 3 big bags full of items which Elliot from Scotney class went to collect. We noticed that with the huge number of donations we had received we would need more bread and some juice to wash the breakfast's down with. Thomas in Hever class went to Morrisons on a trip to get these items and waited in a huge queue very patiently and represented the school perfectly!

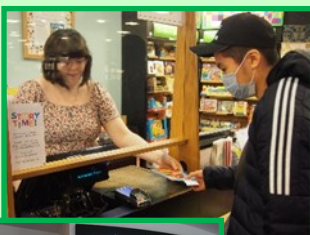


After all these donations, staff flocked to the food technology room on Friday morning to purchase their bacon, sausage and egg sandwiches. We all had very full bellies after that!!! The breakfast alone raised £115!

In total the school raised over £220 for Comic Relief this year! Thank you to all the local businesses for their generous donations and thank you to everyone within school for their hard work to make this all happen!

World Book Day Vouchers

As part of World Book Day, each student was given a book voucher to use to purchase a book of their choice. Group 4 at the hub used this as a great opportunity to visit Bluewater Shopping Centre. They went into Waterstones book shop and had a look for a book that would interest them. They then had to go to the till and purchase these themselves using their vouchers. They all did extremely well and came out with a brand new book! Well done Group 4!!!



Science workshop

To celebrate Science Week this year, students at both the school and the Hub took part in a CSI workshop. The students had a variety of tasks to complete revolving around science and how important this is when solving a crime.

Firstly they examined fingerprints and how these are made. They took their own fingerprints and then examined how these looked under a magnifying glass.

They also took prints of their feet and looked at how even shoes can leave behind an identifiable print.

After lunch, the Hub students visited the main school site as there was an investigation to complete. The students were told how important it was to ensure the crime scene was kept sterile and were given hazmat suits to wear! They then entered the hall and had to examine the crime scene and determine whodunit!



Litter Picking

This term, Rochester class have been helping to keep the local community clean and tidy during their nature session with the Occupational Therapy Assistant. They have been collecting lots of litter around the school and then sorting this via whether it is recyclable or not. Great job Rochester class!

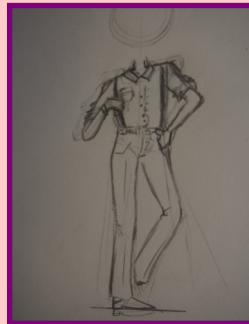
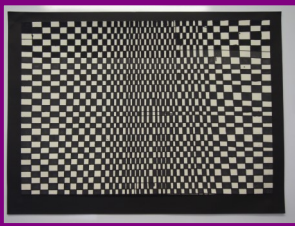
Congratulations Nikki!

One Monday in March, our lovely Art Teacher and form tutor at the Hub Nikki was not in school. This was for a very exciting reason! Nikki was awarded with 2 awards for her contribution to Arts and Education and Skills by Princess Anne herself! We are super proud of Nikki....and super jealous that she got to meet a Royal. Congratulations from everyone at Helen Allison!



Textile Exploration

In art this term, Group 1 have been exploring textiles. Callum made a landscape Textile wall hanging which was excellent and showed lots of variety. As well as this, Anara and Carmen have been exploring fashion design and designing their own cosplay style outfits.



Fossils



This term, Warwick class have been looking at fossils and how these are produced. The whole class then made salt dough and created their very own fossils. They did extremely well to produce such realistic fossils and had lots of fun making these. Great work Warwick!!!



CPR Training

Group 4 have been learning about First Aid this term and how important this can be. They have learnt many skills so far but this time they have been focussing on CPR first aid. They have learnt the correct way to perform this as well as when is the appropriate time to perform this. They worked very hard and showed a very good understanding!



Food Safari



This term Corfe class have been exploring new foods through play. They have been making faces with foods as well as recognising the different textures that come with them. They have had lots of fun with this and even more fun trying these different foods! Well done Corfe Class!



Mother's Day Giftshop



On Thursday 24th March, some of our students were able to choose a gift for their mum or special person in their life. They got to pick between perfume, chocolates, candles and many other exciting goodies. They then coloured in a lovely card and had the job of hiding these until Mothering Sunday. They all really enjoyed this little activity and there were some lovely gifts to choose from. A big thank you to the PTFA for their help in organising the Mother's Day Shop.



Dexter diaries:



This term Dexter has had a great time. He has been socialising with many of the students around the school and even got to dress up as Captain Hook for world Book Day!!!

As you may be aware Dexter will be going on Paw-ternity leave as his owner Emily (Speech and Language Therapist) will be on maternity leave from Easter. We know Dexter will really miss all the attention but hope it reassures students that he will be back next April.

SPRING Word Search

Search for the twelve Spring themed words below.



- | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| APRIL | BUTTERFLY | RAINBOW |
| BIRDS | FLOWERS | SPRING |
| BLOOM | GARDEN | SUNSHINE |
| BUNNY | MAY | WARM |

Thank You Lloyds Bank!



Ric Gosal and his team from Lloyds Bank kindly gave up their time for a day during the February half term to paint the dining room at the school.

Their hard work has made an huge difference to the look of the dining room.

We are all delighted with the results!

Thank you so much to Ric and his team.



Dates for the diary



19th April 2022
Start of Term 5

2nd & 3rd June 2022
Bank Holiday

10th-13th May 2022
Mental Health Awareness
Week

13th-17th June 2022
Art Week

27th May 2022
Last day of Term 5

27th July 2022
Inset Day

My Child At School

The school have now moved to a new home/school communication portal called MCAS (My Child At School). A leaflet was sent home via the student's bags on how to access MCAS. If you have any trouble setting up your account, please contact Lynn Wells (Wed-Fri) or Francesca Shaxted (Mon-Tue).

WELCOME TO THE HELEN ALLISON SCHOOL!



Coral

Teaching
Assistant



Julie

Teaching
Assistant



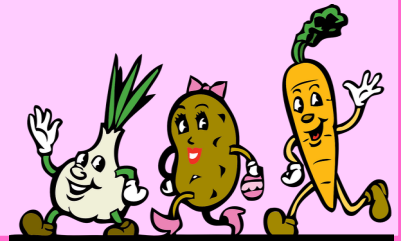
Lara

Teaching
Assistant

This term we welcomed some new faces. Say hello to our new members of staff!

New Menu's

The lovely catering team have prepared fresh new menu's for the next term. These have been sent out on MCAS for you to see. We have also prepared visual supports for the students return.



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 useful.



Gravesend & Meopham Rotary Club

Back in November, The Gravesend and Meopham Rotary Club visited the main school site and planted over 1000 Purple for Polio bulbs . Now that the sun is coming out, so are these beautiful crocuses! Coincidentally, the flowers are in the traditional Helen Allison School purple and have really brightened the entrance! Once again, Thank you to Gravesend & Meopham Rotary Club.