



## Newsletter February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are already half way through this academic year and it is wonderful to see our pupils making such progress with their learning. I am delighted to inform you that we have had a new Interactive Sensory Projector installed in our hall, which pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of using and this will further support their learning across the curriculum.

As we finish this term, we have had a very busy week with the focus being on Mental health and well-being as well as Safer Internet Day. Pupils have been fully engaged and enjoying their learning experiences, which have included; looking at ways in which we can protect our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing when using social media, identifying problems with social media and finding possible solutions and discussing the positive effects of stepping away from online gaming.

I am sure our pupils will enjoy sharing their new knowledge and understanding of keeping safe online with you. The school sends out weekly information to parents to support with online safety, but if you feel you would like further advice in this area, please don't hesitate to contact the school and the appropriate Designated Safeguard Lead will contact you.

Have a wonderful Half Term break and we all look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

*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.

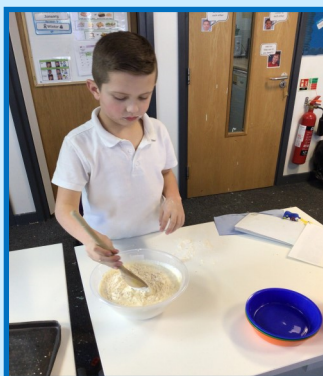


## Bug Hotel



This term, the students in Hever 1 have been learning about animals and their habitats during their science lessons. They decided that they wanted to make a microhabitat for a small animal, so they made bug hotels! They collected leaves and sticks, and soil from outside so that they could make a comfy environment for some of the insects that are living on the school grounds.

## Religious Education



In RE, Hever 2 are learning about Easter celebrations in different cultures. They made and then enjoyed eating matzo bread which is an unleavened flatbread that is part of Jewish cuisine and forms an integral element of the Passover festival.

## Watercolour artwork



## Thank you Wickes!

Thank you to Wickes Gravesend for choosing our school for their community support scheme this month, and donating £100.00 worth of good to us!

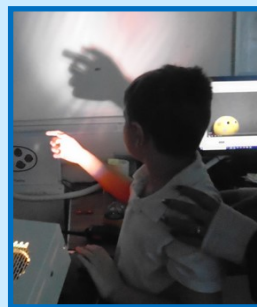
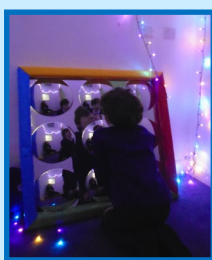
Site team member Nigel Sargeant and work experience student Callum collected 10 bags of wood bark chippings using the donation which will be used in the flower beds and borders around the school and Hub.

# Wickes

## Let's do it right



## Rufus Class



Rufus class have had another fantastic term, filled with lots of learning and lots of fun! They have been investigating with torches, as well as continuing to develop their phonics knowledge and their understanding of numbers. They also had a very successful trip to a local soft play centre. The highlight of the term for the staff has been seeing the class eating their lunch together in the canteen and really enjoying breakfast club with Gemma. Attention Autism sessions with Chloe have been a great success as well. Well done on a fantastic term Rufus Class!



## British Museum



Warwick class had a trip to The British Museum, London. In History, they have been learning about the Shang Dynasty and Chinese civilisation. Whilst at the museum, the students found some interesting artefacts and behaved impeccably.



## Sensory Exploration



This term, Corfe and Camber have done some lovely sensory work, experimenting with different textures and materials. They have been using bread and various different spreads to explore the feel, taste and look of these items.

## Emil Nolde



This term, students at the Hub have been looking at the Abstract Expressionist Artist Emil Nolde. They have been learning new watercolour techniques and have then had to copy one of Emil Nolde's watercolour paintings. We think the paintings they have created look excellent!

## Exploring together



This term we have begun a new session called exploring together that is run by Gemma, our Occupational Therapy Assistant and Ashleigh, our Assistant Psychologist. The session supports our students regulation through sensory experiences by exploring different textures, smells, taste and sound. It has also allowed the students to build on other social skills, like turn taking, sharing and other interactions.

This term, the students have been working hard within their Independent Living lessons. Warwick class asked if they could decide what to make for this term and the other classes have joined in. They decided to make pizza based which they could then freeze to finish during their next lessons. As well as this, some students have been making their own snacks using the sandwich toaster. Also some of our students have been tasked with making both hot and cold drinks, making and decorating biscuits, and they even made some cakes. Well done everyone for your hard work this term!



### Visit To The Valley

The school were lucky enough to take the football team and Hub sports students to the home of Charlton Athletic. The children were given a guided tour of the stadium including the manager's office, changing rooms, the pitch and the directors' seats. It was fantastic to see all the different areas and parts of a football stadium and all the staff roles needed to keep it running and open for business.



### Football Competition

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February our football team attended another South London League day. The team had 4 matches throughout the day and did so well, winning all 4 matches to take home their leagues winners medals. What a team!

## Independent Living Skills



During this term, students have been encouraged to work to develop their independent living skills. As well as making some delicious treats, some students have been learning how to do things such as use the washing machine, load the dishwasher, hoover and sweep the floors.

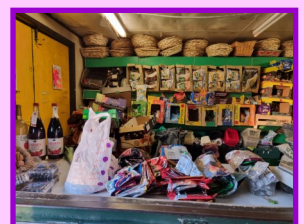
## Terracycle

A lot of day to day packaging we use is not recyclable in our home recycling bin, however different charities collect certain items to help raise money.

This term, Group 2 and Rufus class have been collecting various items and donating these to Hewitt's Farm in Orpington for recycling. Hewitt's farm donate to both Marie Curie and another charity designated to helping the homeless.

The items included were crisp packets and blister packets but the farm collect so many other things including used stamps, egg boxes and wash pod plastic bags.

A massive well done to these 2 classes for helping to support these very deserving charities!



Here are some photos of the boys in Hever 2 enjoying a sensory foot spa. The spa is filled with water beads and felt very relaxing for the students.





## Dates for the diary



13th February 2023  
Half Term Begins

27th –31st March 2023  
Autism Acceptance Week

20th February 2023  
Term 4 Begins

3rd April 2023  
Half Term Begins

28th February 2023  
Parents Evening School

17th April 2023  
Term 5 Begins

2nd March 2023  
World Book Day

1st May 2023  
Bank Holiday

2nd March 2023  
Parents Evening Hub

8th May 2023  
Bank Holiday

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.

Koji, our Hub rabbit has been having a little holiday this term. He is staying with another rabbit to build on his socialisation skills. Koji is having a brilliant time and we will receive progress photos after half term.

What did the volcano say to his mother?

I lava you.



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