

Newsletter

February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that the end of this term actually marks the half way point in our academic year. We have been fortunate that the absences that have struck other schools seem to have had a minimal impact at our school This is really important for our young people as continuity and predictability are so important to them.

As I write this, the school is at the end of a week dedicated to staying safe online culminating in a presentation by pupils of their work. There are such varied pieces of amazing work, from video talking heads, art and even poetry. It is so important that our children understand how to be safe whilst interacting in the digital space and I believe this week has helped them to embed good digital habits. I am sure they would be happy to discuss their new knowledge at home, you never know what you might learn!

Have a lovely half term break and I look forward to see all the pupils on Monday 21st February!

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.

Supporting other Charities

This term, students in Group 4 have visited Gravesend Town Centre and supported other charities. They visited the RSPCA charity shop and spoke to the man in the shop about what they do. The students were given free colouring in magazines too which meant they could read more about what they do to support animals.



Inspector Jackson!



Jackson from Hever class has been working on his inference skills in his role as detective, finding clues in scenes to answer 'why' and 'how do you know' questions.



Scenery Painting



During this term, Rochester class took a trip to Shorne country park. They all took pictures of the scenery around them and then completed some lovely art work with these pictures. They painted pictures of what they had seen on their trip and then described this to one another.



Helen Allison FC strikes again!



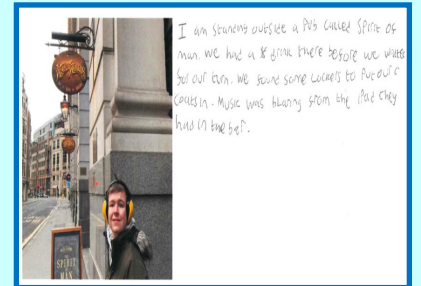
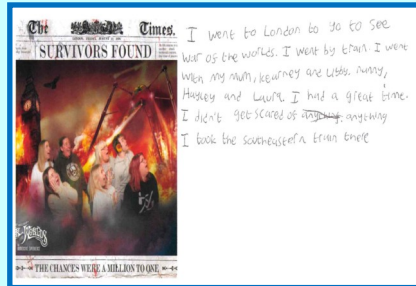
A number of the school's football team attended a South London Special Schools Football Festival on the 2nd February. They arrived in high spirits after recent successes in other events and were keen to improve on their last performance in this competition. They certainly did that, putting in 4 fantastic performances scoring more goals and winning a match against strong opposition. The team are steadily improving and it is great to see so many of our pupils keen to play football and represent the school. Well done all those who took part and keep up the hard work and positive attitude to improving.

The NAS is 60!

In January the National Autistic Society is celebrating 60 years! That's 60 years of changing attitudes and transforming lives, meaning there's plenty to celebrate. As part of this celebration, students at Helen Allison School worked hard to bake and decorate 200 anniversary cupcakes. They worked together to make the delicious butter icing and top these with personalised NAS cake toppers. Here's to many more years!



Speaking and Listening



As part of their English speaking and listening lessons this term, students at the hub have been talking to their peers about a variety of things. Daniel brought in a dinosaur from home and spoke to his class about this. Zakk went on an exciting theatre trip with his family recently and was also keen to share this with his class. Zakk's piece of work above says the following, "I went to London to go to see War of the Worlds. I went by train. I went with my mum and my family. I had a great time. I didn't get scared of anything. I took the Southeastern Train" - Fantastic work!

Potion Bottles



As part of their DT lessons this term, Warwick class had to research a variety of different bottle types and discuss their features and benefits. With this new found knowledge in mind, they set about making their very own potion bottles. Their research enabled them to choose the appropriate bottle style and type for their specific potion in mind. They thoroughly enjoyed these lessons and it was great to see how much knowledge they found. Great work Warwick class!!!

Table Cricket

On the 20th January we welcomed Brian Gasking, from the English Cricket Board and Lord's Taverners into school. Brian came in to deliver table cricket for a number of our classes. Throughout the morning pupils had the opportunity to learn the sport and play class games within their PE lesson. It was a great success with a good number of pupils demonstrating a natural aptitude for what is a fantastic targets game.



States of Matter



This term, Warwick class has had a fun time investigating States of Matter. They carried out many experiments to investigate freezing, melting, evaporating and condensing. Unfortunately, some of the chocolate that they were melting accidentally ended up in their mouths!

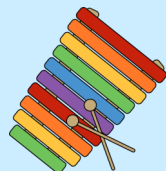
Hoover Skills

Life skills are very important to learn and this term students in Group 4 have been learning how to hoover and tidy up correctly. The learners also had to do an online live lessons identifying the correct items for hoovering and what you would hoover up.



Just Beat It!

The students in Hever class explored songs and poems about places this term. They created accompaniments and sound pictures to reflect sounds in their local environment. Here they are practicing creating different drone effects, matching the effect to the words.



How are sounds produced and classified? The students in Leeds class explored timbre and structure through musical conversations in music from around the world. Here they are practicing different parts to play together in a performance.



This term Rufus class learnt to play a nursery rhythm using graphic notation



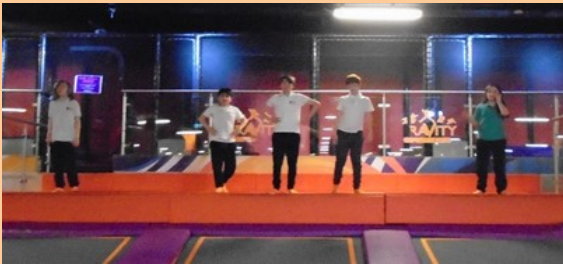
School Council

This term the school council focused their meeting around gaining opinions from their peers. They were looking to gain ideas for Science week which the school celebrated this term. They gathered many thoughts for fun ways to recognise how important science is in our every day lives.



Gravity

During this term Warwick class we're lucky enough to go on a super fun offsite visit to Gravity in Bluewater. They got to let off some steam and have a bounce. This was great for peer bonding and enabled plenty of communication throughout the session. Great job Warwick class!



Reading Corner

During this term, many of our students have gone on exciting offsite visits. Warwick class visited the local library and learnt how it is important to be quiet. They all got to look at the wide range of books libraries have on offer.



Dexter diaries:



Dexter has recently been having weekly visits from Kai and George in Warwick class. They have been teaching him new tricks such as standing on his hind legs. Dexter also tried on some winter attire, though he preferred to chew the ear muffs rather than wear them.



Mandir

As part of their RE topic on Hinduism, Rufus class enjoyed a trip to a local temple (Mandir). Everyone enjoyed the trip and the people they met were very welcoming giving them all a gift of fruit. We saw lots of different Hindu gods and the Mandir was decorated in lovely bright colours. The pupils in Rufus class were able to ask sensible questions and remembered the names of some Hindu gods.





Dates for the diary



21st February 2022
Start of Term 4

18th April 2022
Bank Holiday

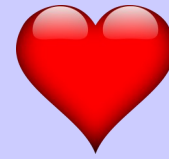
3rd March 2022
World Book Day

19th April 2022
Start of Term 5

4th April 2022
Half Term

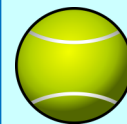
2nd May 2022
Bank Holiday

Not including this one, there are 5 love hearts hidden in this newsletter in time for Valentine's Day. Can you find them all?



PE Kits

We would like to remind all parents and careers that our pupils require a PE kit in school at all times. This is a valuable part of the school uniform that pupils could use for a variety of physical activities and therefore to have access to this on a daily basis is of great benefit. If you have any old PE kits that no longer fit your child, we are in need of some donations for our lost property box. If you would like to donate these to us we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you.



WELCOME TO THE HELEN ALLISON SCHOOL!



Ross
Teacher



Sam
Teacher



Tilly
Teaching Assistant

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

Getting to know Ross!

This term, Rochester class have welcomed their new teacher. Angela who was their teacher has welcomed her first child this term so a huge congratulations goes to her! In her absence, our newest member of the Helen Allison team Ross has stepped in and the students have shown just how incredible they are by making him feel so welcome. Excellent Rochester Class!



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.



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).