

Newsletter

May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the summer term, I have reflected on the amazing work and experiences our young people have been engaged in. At one end of the school, we are lucky to have new pupils start, whilst at the other end of the school, pupils are completing exams and preparing to leave us for new placements. It really is a busy time at the school and hub.

Today our students celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with traditional garden parties at both the school and the hub. It is a great way to bring together the different classes and celebrate 70 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. We hope the children will appreciate the small souvenir keyring they have all been gifted and it will be reminder of this momentous event.

Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all next 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.

Triumph for Helen Allison!

On 27th April, the football team attended the final round of fixtures in the South London Schools League, which they have been competing in all year. It was a tough day with close games and some brilliant wins alongside close loses. We are so proud to report that when the results were collated from all of the years events, our team came out on top in their division and brought home the trophy. So a massive well done to all the pupils who represented the school throughout the year as together they have achieved great things on and off the pitch.



Stop Motion

This term, some of our primary classes have been working with Harry, our Creative Media teacher, on stop motion animations. Stop motion is the process of taking lots of photos with slight differences between them and putting them all together to create an animation (like Wallace and Gromit!). After just one lesson on this, Rex from Hever class went home and made his very own 3 minute long video which is absolutely fantastic. All the students who have worked on this over the term have really enjoyed making their very own animations and have had fun thinking about each individual movement of items to make them flow at the end. Well done everyone!



Tudors

This term, Leeds class have been learning all about the Tudors. As part of this topic, they took a visit to Hever Castle which was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's second wife. They really enjoyed the trip and it helped to expand their learning and knowledge. Great job Leeds Class!!!!



Yoga with Jenny

As always, this term Jenny has been working with each class to take some much needed time out to stretch and relax both their bodies and mind. Here are some lovely photos of Chester from Leeds class taking part. He has been excellent in copying all of the moves independently.



Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of Mental Health Awareness week in May, staff and students at Helen Allison took part in many fun activities designed to help boost mood and open up discussions. This year's theme was loneliness, something which everyone has experienced at one point or another, especially over the last couple of years. During the course of the week there were a variety of different activities including tea and cake afternoons, mini golf, yoga and gardening. On the last day of the week, the school invited a petting zoo to visit us and talk to the students about their amazing animals. Students from both of our sites got to meet and feed a huge variety of animals including goats, chickens, snakes and even bearded dragons.



Water Play

This term we have been greeted by a variety of different weather days. On one of the hotter days, Corfe class got to enjoy some water play outside in the playgrounds. They loved using different tools and equipment to move water around and splash each other. It was of course even funnier splashing the staff!



Rufus Class

Rufus Class have been so busy this term that it was difficult to choose just one thing to tell you all about! Within English lessons the students have been practicing their syllables and using clapping to count how many syllables are in each word. Here is a photo of Tyler putting this into practice. Within their PE lessons, the boys have been practicing hitting a tennis ball into a net to work on their target practice. Ronnie, one of our new students, is pictured below showing off this new skill perfectly. Well done Ronnie and welcome to Helen Allison!





Wildwood Conservation Trust



As part of developing their social skills, Corfe class have been taking part in lots of offsite visits this term. These have included trips to the local shops, the local park and the most excitingly, a trip to Wildwood Conservation Trust in Herne Bay. The students had to overcome some big changes to their normal routine and also deal with the torrential rain that was happening on that day and they coped wonderfully. During their visit they got to look at various animals including wolves, foxes and badgers and even walked across the rope bridge over the bear's enclosure. The students had such a fantastic day and showed how independent and resilient they are. Well done Corfe Class!!!

I spy with my little eye...

Elliot from Scotney class was lucky enough to go on an offsite visit around the local area recently. Elliot and Mandy walked up to the windmill by Meopham Green and had a checklist of things to spot along the way. The weather was lovely and they managed to tick off everything on their list. Well done Elliot!



Welcome to the Helen Allison School Camber Class.

This term we have had a brand new classroom created for our very youngest students at Helen Allison. One of our new students absolutely loves glamour and make up so has been very keen to give some of the staff one of her glamorous makeovers. Gemma and Chelsea were very willing volunteers for this and they both looked wonderful after, complete with lots of glitter and sparkle. Thank you Make Up Artist Honor!



Science

This term, Hever class have been experimenting with disclosing tablets in science. Disclosing tablets are used to show areas of the teeth where food and germs may be hiding. This then helped the class to notice where they may need to pay closer attention to when cleaning. The boys then used toothpaste and mouthwash to give their teeth a really good clean. They also looked into what makes healthy teeth and gums and how important it is to clean our teeth twice a day.





Kent Life



Windsor and Rochester have been studying ancient Greek warriors for history this term and as part of this they paid a visit to Kent Life to take part in a Greek workshop. During this visit they learnt about different types of weapons and equipment that were used back then. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Hoplites - the armour, weapons and conflict tactics of ancient Sparta and Athens and they even got to practice with their very own safe swords and shields. As Kent Life is also a farm they were lucky enough to see lots of animals during their visit and even got to stroke them.



Reggie Record:



The Therapy team are delighted to congratulate Emily on the birth of her son Finley and to welcome Reggie to the Therapy team! Reggie is covering Dexter's Pawternity leave and has proved a very popular new member of the team. His calm but playful nature has already had a positive impact for many of our students! Reggie is enjoying being a working dog enormously and is looking forward to continuing his role for the foreseeable future, with huge thanks to Julie, the school's Business & Finance Manager, for sharing him with us all.



Art and Nature



This term Hever class have been studying nature and creating art using a variety of mediums. These have included coloured pencils, pens and special shading pencils. They have been learning about creating pictures and drawings using shading techniques to create the illusion of shadows. They all really enjoyed learning, trying out their new learnt skills and produced some brilliant artwork based on the nature they had seen around them.

Conservation Area



This term, Rochester class have been helping to plant some new fruit bushes in the conservation area ready for the summer.

Warwick Class



Term 5 has been such a busy one for Warwick Class with just so much to tell you all about. They have continued to enjoy their offsite trips and this term has been a busy one for those. They have included visiting local country parks and playgrounds, as well as a zoo, shops, restaurants and the Gravity Trampoline Park. Linked to their topic of The Tudors, they also visited Hever Castle and had a fantastic time exploring the castle, the mazes and the playgrounds! It just so happened that this visit took place on the anniversary of Anne Boleyn's death so the students had a very rare opportunity to see the Prayer Book that she took to her execution, exactly 486 years ago! There has been a lot of investigations going on in Science around light, shadows and the size of shadows. The English theme this term, poetry, has resulted in the amazing poems being writing by the students.

Cobham Mausoleum

As well as visiting Hever Castle this term, Leeds class were also fortunate enough to visit another historical site which is situated right on our doorstep. Cobham Mausoleum is situated within Cobham woods which is directly next to Ranscombe Country Park. Both of these are lovely walks through ancient woodland which is also home to wild cattle. The students really enjoyed the afternoon trip and expanded their knowledge on historic buildings.



Paper Art



Over the duration of the last couple of terms Group 4 has been working on animal collages using many bits of coloured paper to create an overall picture. Alex chose to do his collage based on a photo of a cat. He used lots of small bits of coloured paper to do this ensuring to colour match as closely as possible. Kevin chose to do his collage of a bear using various different shades of brown to show depth and shading. As well as these fabulous pieces of artwork, Alex also completed a paper weaving project this term, which has helped with his motor skills. He had to carefully measure and cut out the strips of paper to do this and then feed these through each other using an 'up and over, under and over' technique. Fabulous work boys!

OT Top Tip: Kitchen scraps to healthy snacks!



Gardening has so many therapeutic benefits, from developing fine motor skills to practicing mindfulness and improving physical fitness.

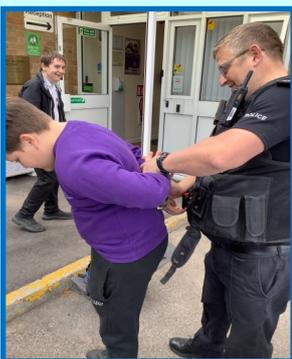
In Wilderness Wednesday sessions, led by our Occupational Therapy Assistant, our students have been learning to garden in a sustainable way by planting kitchen scraps to grow vegetables like potatoes, onions and lettuces.

Check out this video to find out how: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnBV6X1Ph0&ab_channel=SelfSufficientMe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnBV6X1Ph0&ab_channel=SelfSufficientMe

Why don't you try at home and send us some photos? 😊

Stop! You're under arrest!



During this term, the students in Leeds class were fortunate enough to be visited by a real police officer, Archie's dad! After visiting a nearby school for their careers day, Archie's dad decided to pay a visit here at Helen Allison to continue his talk. Leeds class were able to ask him lots of questions about his job and uniform as well as seeing the police car, complete with blue lights on! Unfortunately for both Archie and Nick, they became the testers to show off the handcuffs, much to Dewi's amusement!



Tennis Practice



Every term, various students from both the Hub and the Main School visit Meopham Tennis Club to practice their skills. This term, students from the hub were practicing their ball skills and control. They were tasked with weaving in and out of cones all whilst still maintaining their ball on their racket. They concentrated really hard and the weather stayed bright and sunny for their visit. Well done boys!



Dates for the diary



2nd & 3rd June
Bank Holiday

6th—8th July
Camping Trip

6th June
Term 6 Begins

22nd July
Family Fun Day

13th June—17th June
Art Week

27th July
Summer Holidays

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!



Lakvir
Teaching
Assistant



Chloe
Speech and
Language Therapist

Goodbye and Goodluck!



Kerry
PBS Team



Chantell
Student Service
Coordinator

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.

Jubilee Visit

During the last week of term, the queen took time out of her very busy schedule to visit the students at Helen Allison School. Thank you Your Majesty!

