



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 20

11th February 2022

What's Been Going On This Term?

As there is now only one week left of this half term, we thought we should give you a flavour of what has been going on in school over the last few weeks.



In **Year 6** the children have been looking at adaption and evolution in their science lessons and have produced some magnificent writing about Charles Darwin's adventures on the HMS Beagle. They have also been focusing on Ummah, in their RE lessons, and using this to discuss what it means to be part of a community.

The text the children have been reading over the last few weeks is Catherine Rundell's version of the The Jungle Book, entitled 'Into The Jungle'. They have been focusing on how inference can be used to depict how character's think and feel; and using this knowledge to develop their reading and analytical skills.

Next week the children will be going on their 3-day residential visit to Robinwood. Here they will complete 15 activities centred on collaboration and team work; and there is no doubt that they are beginning to get very excited about this.

You may noticed the children In **Year 5** came into school this week (on Monday) dressed as detectives. This was part of their literacy work on 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', in which they examined different sources of evidence that could be linked to various characters in the story, to determine 'who dunnit' (and what had been happening at Baskerville Hall). They really enjoyed entering 'the crime scene' and piecing together all of the information to solve the crime.



They have also been carrying out investigations in science into which materials would be best for manufacturing a lunchbox – to keep the contents either hot or cold. They now know which materials are the most effective insulators – and can explain what it is about these materials that make them better than others.

Next week they will be having a Holi celebration – to consolidate everything they have learnt in their RE lessons this half term.



The children in **Year 4** have been reading 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' this half term and have been using this book to write a guide on how to defeat a mythical creature. They are hoping to complete these information texts (guides) today.

In science, the children have been focusing on The Water Cycle and carrying out experiments to explore changes of state – and the effect heat has on various substances (including chocolate).

They will be able to utilise some of this knowledge when they go on a geography field trip in Liverpool – to study and compare the Liverpool City Region with the area that surrounds our school. Whilst they are there, they will visit the Museum of Liverpool and go on a ferry to look at the waterfront buildings (and human features) from a different perspective. They will compare aerial photographs with maps, and carry out some sketches of the key features they find.

The children in **Year 3** really enjoyed their topic week on volcanoes – focusing on how these are formed and where these are located around the world (both on land and under water).



In English they are using this knowledge to write an information leaflet to share this knowledge with the other children in school. They are incredibly proud of these – and have taken great pride in their presentation as well as what they have written.

The children have also been exploring their feelings and have been posting messages about what they are most proud of; as well as reporting anything that makes them feel sad or worried. They have started to record ideas and suggestions on how to improve their mental health and well-being in their 'My Wellbeing Challenge Booklets'.

Last week the children spent two days in Delamere Forest – on their residential visit. They started with a long walk through the forest (looking at maps and matching this information with the signs around Blackmere Moss). They then went on a habitat walk – to look for evidence of various animals that lived in the forest – and took part in a survival skills session (which involved them learning how to get down a steep slope safely, how to build a fire and a den, and how to cross a stream (without falling in)). Before they came back to school they also managed to have a camp fire, play a variety of games, worked in teams to build dens and used the things they could find to create pieces of environmental art. Some of these pieces of art were amazing!



Last week the children in **Year 2** went to Kenyon Hall Farm where they learnt all about the crops that were being grown there (on a guided tour of the farm). The

highlight was definitely the tractor ride – when the whole class fitted on the back of the trailer and got towed around the farm behind the tractor. They were very surprised at how big the farm was.

In English the children have been reading 'The Bog Baby' and have used this to write their own stories (and instructions). They are becoming very talented writers and it would not surprise us if at least one of them went on to be an author in the future! The children are becoming more adept at solving calculations and problems involving multiplication too – as they are working incredibly hard in their maths lessons.

In RE they have been learning about Christianity – looking back at the various characters in the nativity story and how they would have felt at various key stages in the Christmas Story.

The children in **The Fawns** have produced some wonderful water art – using different colours, materials and brush strokes (exploring how these materials can be used in different ways).



They have also been exploring a different feeling each week – and completing a feelings journal every Friday.

The children are also proving themselves to be great team players – as they have been involved in a series of team building activities (and just get better and better at these).

The book they have been focusing on is 'The River' – and talking about different places they have visited (inspired by this story). They have discussed all of the things that they can see in the illustrations of this wonderful book; and used their imagination to share what it would be like to be there.



In **Year 1** the children have been taking part in lots of role play activities, as detective mice, and have used these experiences to write letters – pretending to be the main character in the book that they have been reading, who is called Hermelin.

In science, the children have been focusing on animals and this week had 'The Reptile Man' come to visit them, who brought into school a wide variety of unusual animals – including a skink, an african bullfrog, a boa constrictor, a tarantula, two tortoises and a corn snake.

Next week, they will be focusing on Weather and Seasons during their geography topic week – and learning how to present weather reports and demonstrate their excellent geography skills (recalling what they can remember about the UK).

In **Reception** the children have been trying different foods as part of their learning about Chinese New Year. They have also been focusing on people who help us – and have enjoyed having different visitors come to talk to them about their jobs.



The children also enjoyed their special Mental Health Awareness Assembly with Mrs Vogt-Johnston this week – in which they listened to a story about a girl who never made mistakes and had a little dance.

Two Reminders:

We will be celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday 3rd March. On this day the children are invited to come into school dressed as a book character (and to bring in their favourite book).



As it is **Comic Relief** on Friday 18th March – we will be selling the official red noses as soon as we return to school after half term. These are priced at £1.50 each.

We will also be inviting the children to come to school dressed as a superhero on **Red Nose Day**. Alternatively they may choose to wear something red – or do something whacky with their hair! We will invite the children to make a £1 donation to Comic Relief on Friday 18th March too.



School Council

Our school councillors have been very busy this week.

First of all, they have been introducing new books from the 'No Outsiders' scheme to the other children in their class. The aim of this scheme is to ensure that pupils are happy and excited about living and learning in a community full of difference and diversity. It also emphasises that everyone is welcome at Halton Lodge Primary School; and that there are 'No Outsiders'!



The school councillors have also been helping to place the bags of unwanted clothes into the recycling bin – which is situated next to the bike store.

We would like to say a huge "Thank you!" to those people who have recycled their unwanted clothes. Due to the recycling bin now being full we have arranged for the company to collect the clothes so that more clothes can be recycled. Thank you once again for your support... and if



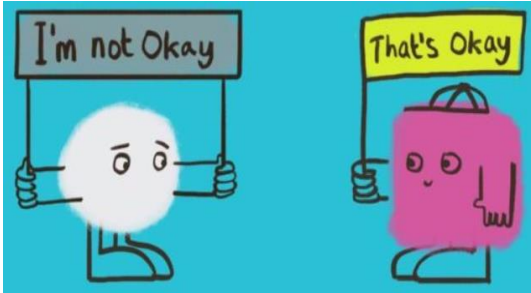
you have any unwanted clothes at home, please hold on to these for a few more days (until the clothes bank has been emptied) then consider bringing them into school in a bag.

Family Learning – Child Wellbeing

Would you like to have the opportunity to work with your child in school?

Our school has booked the Family Learning tutors from Halton Borough Council – who were last in school running the ‘Fun With Forces’ Science Workshop - to run a three week ‘**Child Wellbeing**’ course for KS1 & KS2 families in school on **Wednesday 9th, 16th and 23rd March** from **9.00–11.00 am**.

During this time you will meet other parents/guardians/grandparents to celebrate the importance of good mental health. Refreshments will also be provided.



Activities will include:

- Making a worry box
- Mindful colouring
- Talking about feelings and emotions

Simply complete the slip below and return it to school to book your place.

I would like to attend the three week ‘**Child Wellbeing**’ course for parents/guardians/grandparents of KS1 & KS2 children.

Parent’s Name: _____

Child’s/Children’s name(s): _____

Child’s/Children’s Year Group(s): _____



Mother’s Day Surprise Room

If your child/children took part in the Christmas Surprise Room, then you may also wish for them to take part in this year’s Mother’s Day Surprise Room that will be taking place on Thursday 24th March. If you do, please complete the form below and return it to school - with the correct money in a sealed envelope - by Friday 18th February.

Alternatively, write all of the information requested below on the front of an envelope - that includes the correct money – and hand this in at the school office. This will help us to ensure that we have time to purchase the correct number of gifts over the half term holiday and make sure that no-one is disappointed on the day.

Thank you in advance - your support is very much appreciated! *Our Surprise Room days are costed to simply cover the cost of the running the event – and do not generate any income for the school. The aim is to provide a wonderful experience for the children and help our families to avoid feeling the need to spend a large amount of money (unless they really want to do so). Hopefully being presented with a carefully chosen gift will make you feel extra special and appreciated too!*

2022 Mother’s Day Surprise Room



Child(ren)’s name.....

Class(es).....

	Price	Quantity	Total
Gift for mum	£2.50		
Gift for grandma	£2.50		

I have enclosed a total of £.....

These gifts are for:

Please write the names clearly - as you would like them to appear on the label.