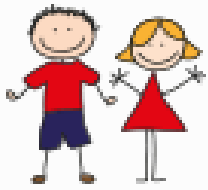
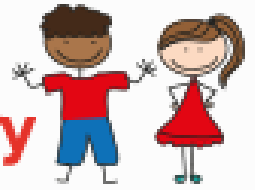


FEBRUARY 2024



**Holmesdale Community
Infant School and Nursery**



TAKE A PEEK

PAGE 2	Message from Mrs Mullarkey
PAGES 3 /6	Feature Articles
PAGES 7/8	EYFS News
PAGES 9/10	Year 1 News
PAGES 11/12	Year 2 News
PAGE 13	Sports Round

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- ❖ **World Book Day:** Thursday 7th March
- ❖ **Year 1 trip to Leeds Castle, Kent:**
Tuesday 19th March – Hedgehogs & Otters
Wednesday 20th March – Owls & Dragonflies
- ❖ **Open Doors:** Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March
- ❖ **Easter Break:** school and nursery close at 1.30pm on 28th March

A MESSAGE FROM MRS MULLARKEY



Dear Families

Well, we have had a fabulous February!

A special thanks to Mrs. Samuel for leading on Children's Mental Health Week. We had a variety of activities, workshops and lots of opportunities for the children to explore and understand their feelings. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to support this special week.

Please take time to read Mrs. Hughes' page on internet safety. You will find information to support you in building your child's knowledge and resilience and helping them to develop their ability to stay safe online. I would also urge you to answer the questionnaire, as this will help us to understand how we can support you best. Thanks to you for your support and the amazing staff team for all they do.

With best wishes
S. Mullarkey

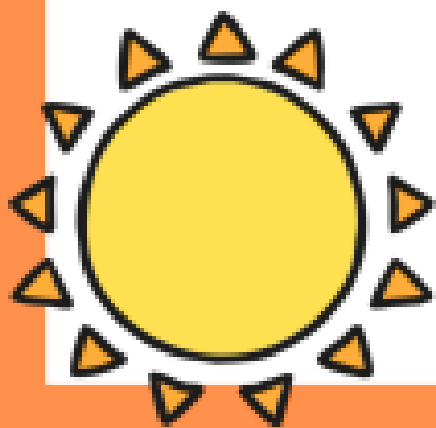


Children's Mental Health Week

We had a fabulous 'Feeling Good' week learning about how to stay happy and healthy. The whole school enjoyed reading the book 'The Magical Yet' during our 'Terrific Trios' and 'Super Squares' session – a time for children to spend time with children from other year groups to form friendships and learn from each other. The children also designed their own 'Yet Pets'.



Year 1 took part in Gardening Workshops, planting their own sunflower seeds and learning how nature can have a positive impact on our well-being.



Year 2 took part in jiu jitsu workshops, learning how exercise can make us feel healthy and strong.

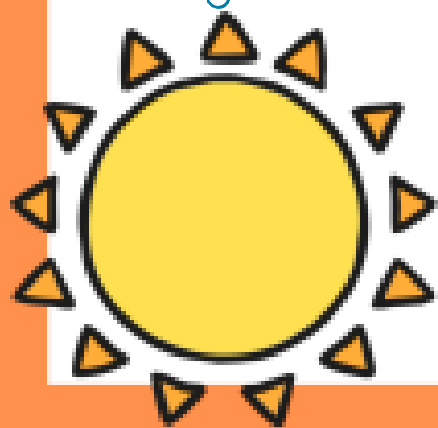


On Friday the children wore their own clothes to school in a 'Dress to Express' day. They all looked wonderful.

We had a visit from DJ Amber who demonstrated how to mix records and told us about the music that has inspired her to become a D.J. We then celebrated by having our own discos!



A huge thank you to all the fantastic volunteers who kindly ran our workshops.



Safer Internet Day 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday 6th February we joined schools across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2024. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

This year the campaign focused on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline

In school, we had an assembly where we looked at ways in which technology has changed over the last thirty years. We talked about changes that we might encounter online e.g. characters changing within a game or new pop-up ads appearing when we open a game online. We discussed the fact that change can be a good thing, but that change can also make us feel worried or uncomfortable. Children were reminded that if they come across changes online that make them feel worried or uncomfortable then they should let a 'trusted adult' at home or school know about this.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We would be delighted if you could support us by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: www.saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents . Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please speak with your child's class teacher, myself or Mrs Mullarkey, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We would also like to take this opportunity to find out a bit more about how we can support you with supporting your child when using the internet. Please use [this link](#) to complete an anonymous questionnaire to share your thoughts on internet safety.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hughes
Computing Lead





Squirrels:
Ryszard and Grace



Woodpeckers:
Rafferty and Lottie



Falcons:
Sophie and Vinnie



Owls:
Somi and Tristram



Otters:
Millie and Bassam



Hedgehogs:
Cody and Eloise



Dragonflies:
Felix and Riley

WELCOME TO EYFS
FEBRUARY 2024

NURSERY AND RECEPTION



Nursery enjoyed celebrating the Luna New Year by dancing under a Chinese lion's head and playing instruments loudly! We painted the lion's head from our observations and had fun in our Chinese restaurant.



WELCOME TO EYFS
FEBRUARY 2024

NURSERY AND RECEPTION



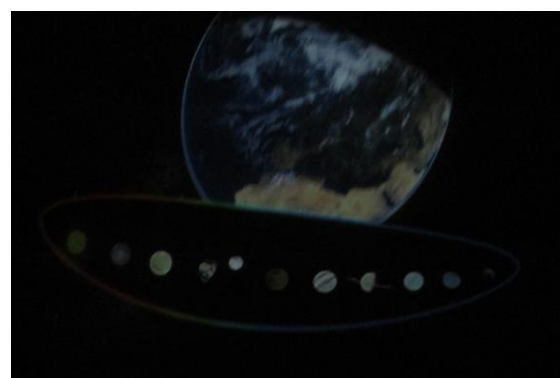
We really enjoyed learning about the Luna New Year. We tried a fortune cookie and noodles and had our very own dragon dance!



We enjoyed being creative and made concertina dragons, hats and paper lanterns



We have enjoyed starting our Space topic. We had a visit from a space dome and travelled into space!



Year 1 News

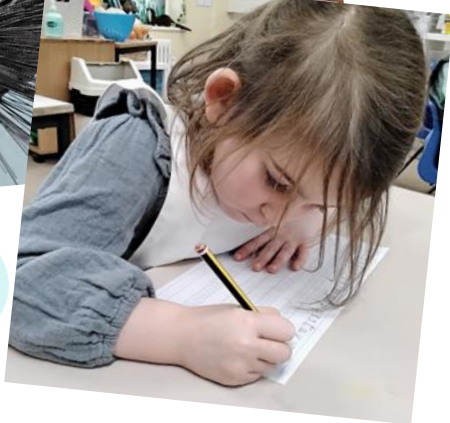
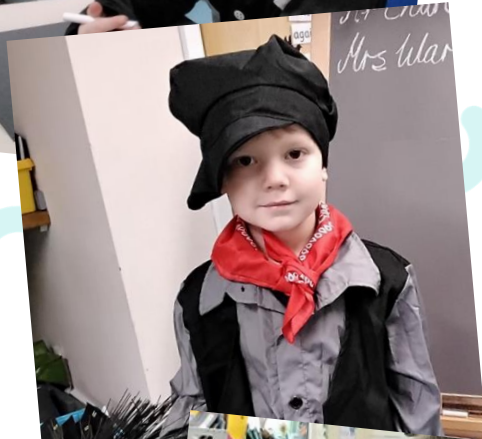
Welcome to Year 1

Victorian Day

One cold Wednesday morning, the sound of the school bell could be heard echoing across four schoolrooms as we rolled back the years to experience school life in the Victorian era. Following a formal class register by surname, children collected their pieces of chalk and prayer books in preparation for lessons in the 3 R's.

Strict rules were adhered to at all times and a rigorous routine of hand inspections, hymns and chanted spellings commenced.

Outside on the playground, boys and girls were separately permitted to engage in traditional games in their respective yards, as they pondered a life of domestic chores, outdoor toilets, woodwork and needlework in the absence of modern technology.



Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1

Children were then briskly marched in single file for a drill session in rows, before lessons in Geography and observational drawing to round off the morning.

As the lights were turned back on, rich discussions could be heard about their immersive experience and how it had differed greatly to school life at Holmesdale!

Children reflected on the punishments that would have been used in Victorian times - from writing hundreds of lines, to back straighteners, finger fidgets and the dreaded wooden cane.

*'Good, better, best,
Never let it rest,
'Til your good is better,
And your better, best.'*

What a day to remember bringing our history topic to life! A heartfelt thank you to you all for providing some inspired and creative costumes, and a special mention to Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre for loaning us a variety of authentic, domestic Victorian artefacts for the children to explore.



WELCOME TO

YEAR 2 NEWS

HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

YEAR 2 NEWS

In Year 2, we have been making pizzas as part of our 'Healthy Living' topic. We were able to design our own pizza and our own pizza box.

We had fun mixing the dough and creating the pizza, then we added our own toppings. What delicious pizzas they were!



WELCOME TO

YEAR 2 NEWS

HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

YEAR 2 NEWS

We have been learning about Paul Cezanne, a French artist who painted still life paintings. His most famous paintings are of fruit.

We looked at some of his paintings and then recreated our own version using different mediums including, chalk and crayon.



SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES ►

During Feeling Good Week, Year 2 were given the opportunity to try a new sport called Jiu Jitsu.

The children were shown various techniques by two qualified instructors and they had a wonderful time.



Keep an eye out in next month's newsletter where we'll be delving into the upcoming Paris Olympics, learning more about it, and discovering how you can get involved.

TIME TO
CELEBRATE



Do you have a sporting achievement you'd like to share? Have you completed your first length of a pool, or learned to ride a bike? Send us a photo and a bit of text and we'll feature you in next month's newsletter.

Info@holmesdale.surrey.sch.uk