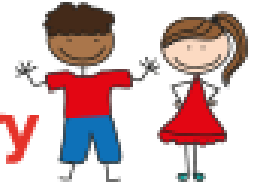


NOVEMBER 2025



# Holmesdale Community Infant School and Nursery



HOLMESDALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## TAKE A PEEK

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Yr 2 – Language/Reading/Phonics Workshop
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
Flu Programme for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2  
Open Morning for Prospective Parents
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
Nursery Nativity  
Open Doors
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
Open Doors  
Reception Nativity  
Christmas Jumper Day and Lunch
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception Nativity
- Wed 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Yr 1/Yr 2 Nativity
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
End Of Term – School Closes 1.30pm



## A MESSAGE FROM MRS MULLARKEY

Dear Families,

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which highlights the excellent learning that has taken place over the past few weeks. Thank you to our dedicated staff for providing such engaging learning opportunities, and to all of you for your continued support.

I am also grateful to everyone who helped make our Winter Fair such a success. Your contributions, whether of time or donations, were appreciated greatly. The event was full of community spirit and festive cheer, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there.

Christmas preparations are well underway, with the children practising their songs enthusiastically for this year's performances. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing these special moments together.

With warmest regards,  
S. Mullarkey



# FRIENDSHIP Week



The theme for the Week was 'Power for Good'. We thought about how our words can be powerful and how we can use them positively. Children from Reigate Priory School visited us and read us the book 'Words and your Heart'.



We had an 'Odd Socks' day and took part in activities to help us learn how to be a good friend. What a busy week!



# YR 2 CHOIR

We have loved meeting our new choir and are impressed by their enthusiasm. This term, they have been busy learning a range of songs and have already performed to their peers in assembly. We are now preparing for our upcoming Christmas performances and can't wait to showcase their talents!

We welcome any Year 2 children who would like to join us. Lunchtime sessions take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Foxes and Owls classroom.

## LET'S SING

Some of our choir joined together with other schools in the academy for an evening of song. They sang beautifully and made us very proud!



# THE POWER OF READING

Books are more than just words on a page - they open doors to knowledge, growth, and success! Reading enriches children's learning, development, and well-being, igniting curiosity and helping them grow into confident, lifelong learners. Here are a few ways reading makes a difference.



## Language and Literacy Skills

Reading builds vocabulary, language development and sentence structures, strengthens listening skills and lays foundations for reading and writing skills.

## Cognitive Development

Reading boosts imagination and creativity, supports problem-solving and critical thinking and helps children learn about the world around them.



## Emotional and Mental Wellbeing

Reading with your child creates a sense of security, reduces stress and supports mental health.

## Social Skills

Reading introduces children to different characters and perspectives, encourages empathy and builds social awareness.



## Academic Benefits

Reading improves concentration and focus, which leads to academic success as well as a lifelong love of reading.



**Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.**



*Emilie Buchwald*



**A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.**



*OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)*

WELCOME TO EYFS  
NOVEMBER 2025

# NURSERY AND RECEPTION



Nursery had a “*sense-ational*” November! Children used their creativity and physical skills to make rockets, set off on a listening walk, designed their own instruments for a lively Nursery orchestra, and enjoyed both tasting and smelling challenges as part of our senses theme.





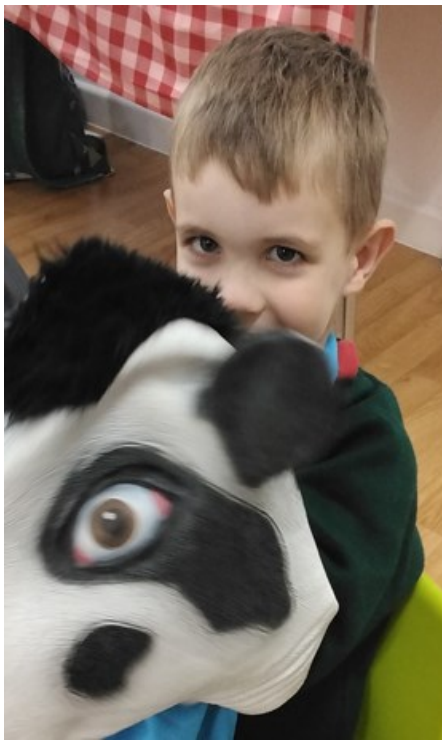
WELCOME TO EYFS  
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# NURSERY AND RECEPTION



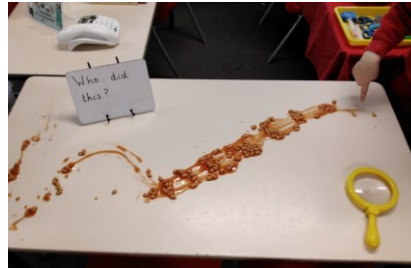
Our children in reception have been enjoying traditional tales this term, retelling stories and acting them out in our role-play areas. They have created their own characters and settings, put on wonderful puppet shows, and took part in an engaging 'Bake Me a Fairytale' workshop, which brought the magic of storytelling to life.



# Year 1 News

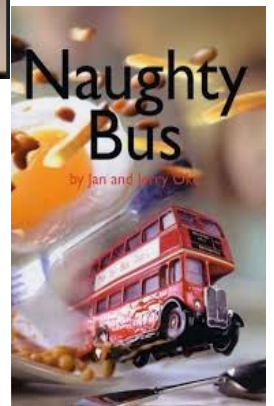
Welcome to Year 1

Oh no! Someone left a mess in the Year 1 classrooms. Who could have done this?



We decided to look for clues. We found some tracks...

A naughty bus had visited our classrooms!

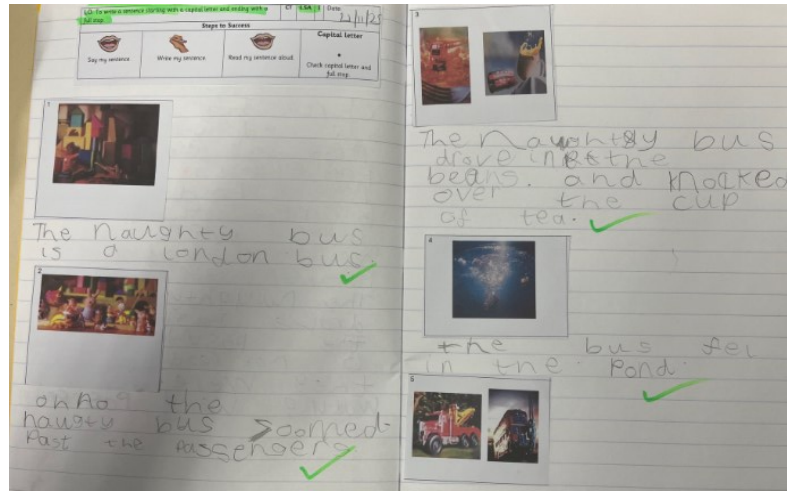
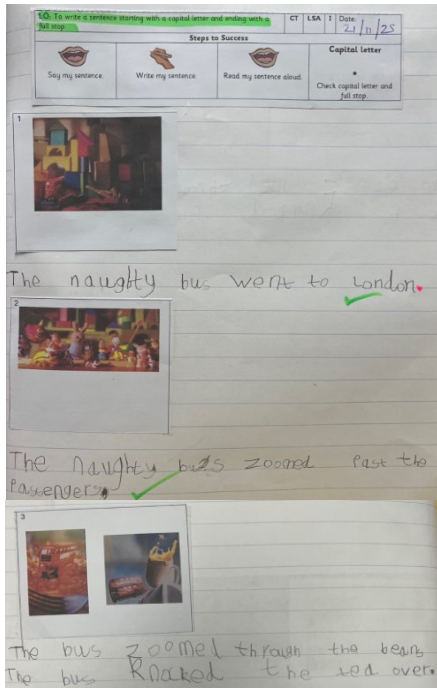


We have enjoyed going on bus adventures.

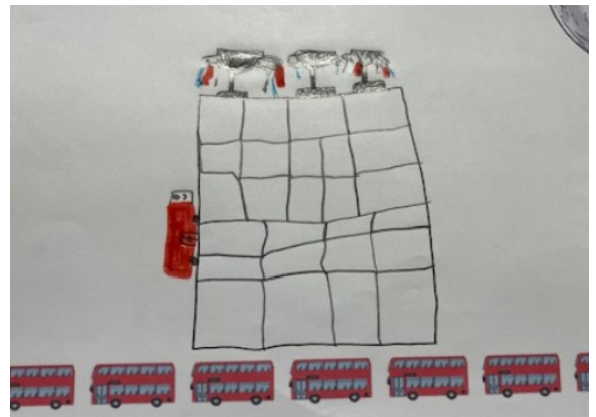
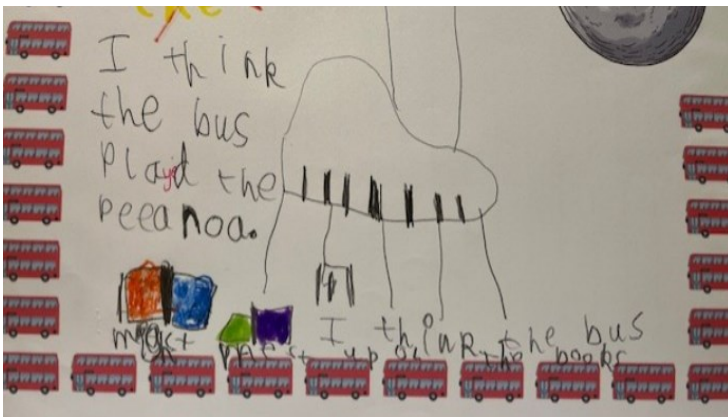


# Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1



We think the bus has been visiting our school at night-time.  
What could he have been up to?



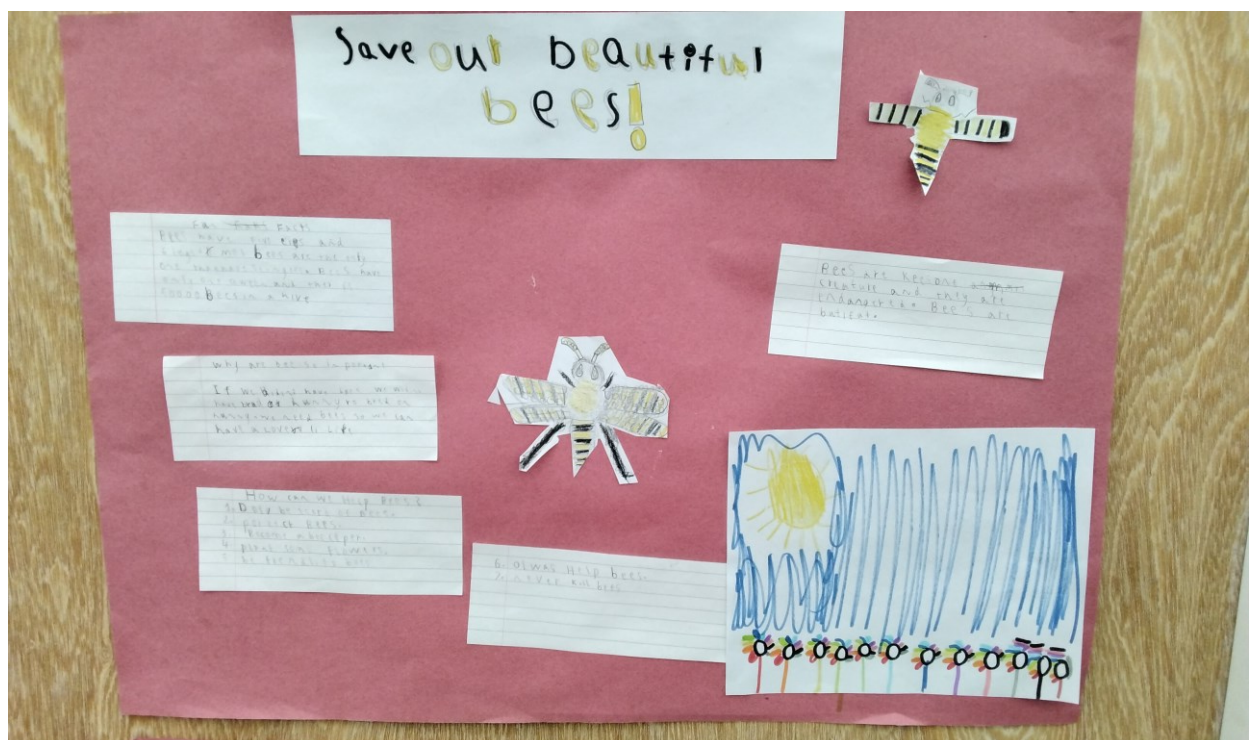
WELCOME TO  
**YEAR 2 NEWS**  
HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

Year 2 have been practising our art skills. We created an observational drawing of our toys, using texture and tone.



WELCOME TO  
**YEAR 2 NEWS**  
HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

We have been finding out about endangered animals and created posters to persuade people to look after bees and elephants.



# SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES ►

## Let's practise a skill for the month: CO-ORDINATION

### Why is it important?

Co-ordination helps with everyday tasks like; dressing, writing and climbing.

It helps to support confidence in movement

Co-ordination boosts brain-body connections

### Can you try these activities at home to help work on your co-ordination?

#### 1. Beanbag Challenges

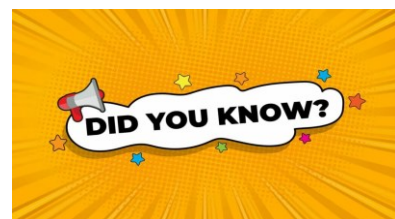
- Balance on your head and walk
- Toss and catch with two hands
- Pass behind your back or under your knees
- Slide the beanbag along the floor and chase it

#### 2. Balloon Skills

- Keep the balloon in the air
- Tap with right hand, then left hand
- Tap with a knee, elbow, or foot
- Walk and keep balance while tapping

#### 3. Rhythm & Clapping Patterns

- Clap-clap-stamp
- Clap high, clap low
- Copy the teacher's clapping pattern
- Use music and change speed (slow → fast)



What is a runners favourite subject?  
Jog-raphy!!

Sleep makes you stronger - your muscles grow and repair when you're asleep!