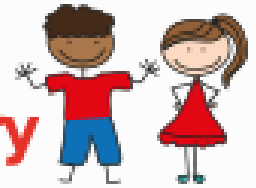


January 2025



Holmesdale Community Infant School and Nursery



HOLMESDALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January



TAKE A PEEK

PAGE 2	Message from Mrs Mullarkey
PAGE 3 - 7	Feature Article
PAGE 8/9	EYFS News
PAGE 10/11	Year 1 News
PAGE 12/13	Year 2 News
PAGE 14	Sports Round

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- **Wednesday 5th & 6th February** – Parents Consultation Evening - All Years
(NB. Bookings close Tuesday 4th 3pm)
- **Friday 7th February** – Feeling Good
- **Friday 14th February** – Inset Day
 - **Monday 17th – Friday 21st February** Half Term Break
- **Wednesday 26th February** - Internet Safety Workshop

A MESSAGE FROM MRS MULLARKEY



Dear Families

As January wraps up, I want to celebrate the fantastic learning behaviours and enthusiasm we've seen from the children this month. Their determination and positive attitudes have been inspiring, and we're so proud of their efforts in tackling new challenges with confidence. Thank you to the staff team for supporting the children each day.

A huge thank you to our parents and volunteers for your incredible support—from helping with design technology projects to joining reading activities. Your involvement enriches the children's experiences and strengthens our school community.

A highlight this month has been welcoming Lottie, our new Pets as Therapy dog. She's already brought joy to the children, especially during her library visits as a very attentive story-time listener! We're thrilled to have her as part of our school family.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and here's to another month of growth and learning ahead.

With best wishes
S. Mullarkey



Author of The Month

This month, our chosen author is Eva Wong Nava who has written an engaging story about Chinese New Year. The children have really enjoyed learning all about family traditions and celebrations, as well as the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac which are beautifully illustrated throughout the book.

We contacted the author to share the children's passion for her picture book. She was delighted to hear about the children's creative decorations and love of adjectives in their own writing!

In February we will be exploring *'The Big Bright Feelings'* collection written by Tom Percival and raising awareness of children's mental health through discussion and story.

Thank you once again to our team of volunteers for their time supporting in our library. Happy reading Holmesdale!



INTERNET SAFETY

At Holmesdale, Internet Safety or E-Safety makes up a large proportion of our computing curriculum. It is a thread that runs throughout all the learning we do around computing and the use of digital technology.

From Nursery all the way through to Year 2 our children are taught the school's SMART rules. These are a set of rules which the children are expected to follow when using digital technology in school. Children are taught the meaning and the importance of these rules and how they are used to keep the children safe when going online. Below you can see our school SMART rules:



OTHER THEMES OF INTERNET SAFETY WHICH WE COVER IN SCHOOL:

- The importance of keeping personal information private online, including password
- Ownership of work e.g. when I upload my work online it is no longer mine and is accessible to others
- Online content- what is a reliable source online? We teach children that anyone can add content online and it is not necessarily verified.
- Bullying- children are taught the importance of being kind to others online and what to do if they come across bullying online.

INTERNET SAFETY



Do you have a set of rules at home which support safe use of the internet?



Does your child know what to do if they come across something online that worries them or makes them upset?

USEFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS TO SUPPORT INTERNET SAFETY AT HOME:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://internetmatters.org/resources/guide-to-encourage-kids-to-share-their-digital-lives>

Click on the 'download tips' button for some useful discussion points you may like to use at home.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

The NSPCC offers lots of useful tips and advice for 'age appropriate' conversations about online safety

How to create an environment for kids to talk

1 Talk early and often

- Talk with children from an early age to make it easier to maintain good communication
- Have bitesized conversations that are relevant to them



2 Choose the right time

- Choose to talk when you are due to spend some time together, like over a meal or during their bedtime routine
- Bring digital experience into normal, everyday conversations

3 Open up and share too

- Model the behaviour you want them to show by sharing about your day
- Be open and encouraging to make them feel supported



4 Create a safe space for your child

- Ask open-ended questions
- Ensure that your child feels listened to rather than cornered
- When they start talking, hold off with questions and really listen
- Be prepared, calm and patient with them

What to talk about

Online reputation

- Understanding how online activity creates a 'digital footprint' that lasts forever
- Being a [good digital citizen](#) e.g. treating people like you would face to face
- Thinking before posting

Critical thinking

- Making them aware that some people hide behind fake profiles
- [Being critical about what they see online as not everything is true](#)
- Agreeing digital boundaries to allow them freedom to make informed decisions

Resolving online issues

- Tools and strategies to deal with issues they may face online such as cyberbullying or seeing inappropriate content
- Where & how to [report an issue](#) – encouraging them to speak to an adult



Personal safety

- Keeping info private on devices and apps they use with [privacy settings](#)
- What a secure social media profile looks like
- Create strong passwords for every online account

Best of the net

- What they enjoy most about their favourite apps or sites
- The coolest [sites and apps](#) among their group of friends
- Talking about things online you can enjoy together and ways to stay involved in their digital world

Free tools to promote conversations

Digital Matters

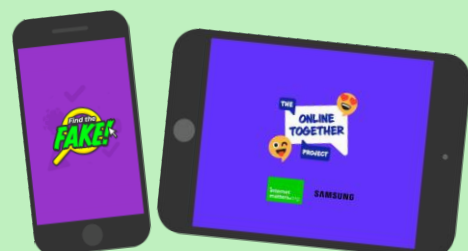
Use the Once Upon Online storytelling activities to discuss how children can get help and from where, along with how to manage different aspects of their online lives.

The Online Together Project

This interactive quiz provides guidance on how to talk about tough issues like gender stereotypes and online safety

Find the Fake

Discuss what misinformation online looks like and what children can do to make sure they think critically about what they see online.



WELCOME TO EYFS
JANUARY 2025

NURSERY AND RECEPTION



Nursery have been learning all about winter. We had a great time in the Woodland, we have been for winter walks and we made ice sculptures and watched them melt! We also learnt about the Polar regions and learnt lots of facts about penguins and polar bears.



WELCOME TO EYFS
JANUARY 2025

NURSERY AND RECEPTION



This month we explored winter! We went on a winter walk to see what signs of winter we could spot and engaged in some science experiments containing ice.



We have also been learning about Asia. We have compared some countries and features between Asia and England.

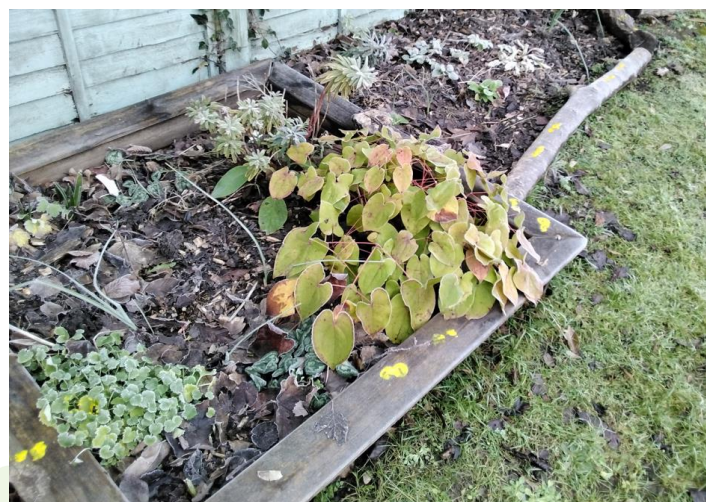


We have enjoyed learning about Lunar New Year and engaging in some traditional activities.

Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1

One cold morning we arrived at school and were very surprised to find a parachute in our garden area. We were even more mystified when we discovered little, yellow footprints...



We followed the footprints, but they disappeared...We decided to try and solve the mystery.

Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1

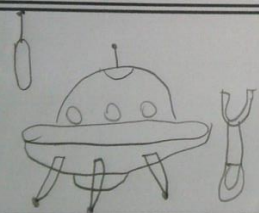
We asked if anyone had seen or knew anything about the parachute. Miss Yeates told us that she had seen some video footage of a small, yellow, friendly-looking creature named Beegu!

We were worried about Beegu so decided to create posters to put up around the school to explain to people what they should do if they came across this shy alien.

Dear Beegu, Here is some advice for you. I hope it helps.



Eat some food because you might feel hungry.



Fix your space ^{ship} so so you can go home.



Cuddle and squeeze a teddy because it will make you feel better.

Then we had a letter from Beegu telling us that she was lost and lonely and asking for advice. We wrote letters back and hope she found our top tips helpful.

Help to find Beegu!



Give Beegu a drink of water.



Give Beegu a teddy!



Look after Beegu and Read a book!

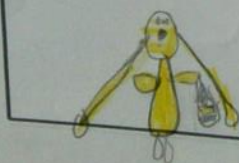
Help find Beegu!



Give Beegu a drink a some food because she might be hungry or thirsty.



Wrap Beegu up because she might be cold.



Give Beegu a book for ^{her} her to read. because she might calm down.

WELCOME TO

YEAR 2 NEWS

HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

In Year 2 we have been looking at different scientists and how they changed the world of medicine. Whilst looking at Louis Pasteur we carried out some investigations to see how germs spread and the importance of using soap when washing our hands.

Investigation 1: We took two pieces of bread, one was put straight into a bag, the second one was touched by everyone in the class.

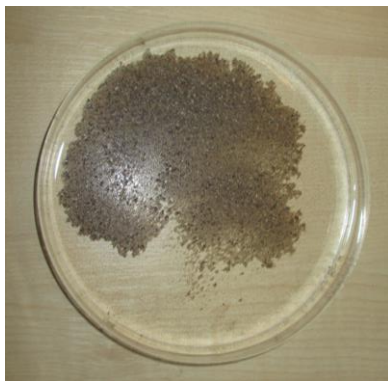


After a week the bread that was touched had started to go mouldy and the bread that had not was still clean.



After a few weeks the bread that was touched was very mouldy.

Investigation 2: We wanted to find out how important soap is when washing our hands



We put some water and pepper into a petri dish. The surface of the water represented our hands, and the pepper represented the germs. We put our finger into the water and nothing happened.



We then put some soap onto our finger and put the finger into the dish. The pepper very quickly moved away from the soap.

WELCOME TO

YEAR 2 NEWS

HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

In outdoor learning we have started our orienteering and map skills.

We have been learning about money in maths and had to find our way to the correct cone for the coin we were given.

It was harder than we thought, especially when we went to a second coin and turned our map upside down by mistake!



SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES >

Holmesdale Challenge

Challenge 1

Equipment

- Football
- Cones
- Stopwatch

ACTIVE
challenge



How fast can you dribble the ball through the cones and back to the start?

Challenge: Can you do the same back through the cones?

GET INVOLVED!

TRY ONE OF MISS GOODING'S ACTIVE CHALLENGES.

Each challenge can be completed at home, at the park and with friends and family. Have fun and enjoy.

Holmesdale Challenge

Challenge 2

Equipment

- Bouncy ball



How many bounces can you do in one minute?

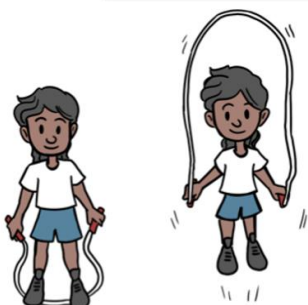
Challenge: How many bounces can you do when you alternate catching hands?

Holmesdale Challenge

Challenge 3

Equipment

- Skipping Ropes
- Stopwatch



How many skips can you do in 1 minute?

GIVE IT
A TRY