

HMS Newsletter

Term: AUTUMN I

Message From Head of School



Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw the first half-term of the academic year to a close, I would like to start by acknowledging our pupils and how well they have settled back into school life and their routines. Often, September can be the most challenging month for our pupils, especially after a long summer break and the seasons changing. However, they have coped with it marvellously.

The weeks have flown by, and we have seen lots of wonderful events and celebrations for National Awareness Days. Our Pupil Voice has been busy welcoming visitors from Outcomes First Group and external visitors such as Danny Beales, our Local MP. I would also like to mention our recent Options Evening event, which saw a great turnout of parents. The event was a success for all, and it is getting better by the year, with more external representatives sharing knowledge of other education provisions for Further Education planning.

We have had yet another fantastic Pupil Progress Day. Staff spent the day meeting with families to celebrate the success of our young pupils and discuss future focus areas for progress planning to meet EHCP outcomes. Thank you to everybody who attended in person. It takes a team around the young person to achieve success.

Finally, we have a busy second half-term in store. I want to take this opportunity to remind all of you of our events, details of which can be found on your Class Dojo account, with particular reference to Thursday, 12th December, when we will be hosting our Christmas Market Day. The students have spent the last few weeks working tirelessly to prepare handmade crafts to sell at the event. This event is the definition of independent skills from start to end. Our pupils are involved with the ordering process, the product design, the marketing, the costs, and the physical selling of the products. If you take a moment to reflect with me, that level of acquired independence is where we want our pupils to be before they leave us. So please join us in supporting the event by giving our pupils an opportunity to experience real-life sales experiences where they are required to apply social communication skills, including persuasive language, along with financial understanding and practising transactional exchange and with the added bonus of getting ahead of your festive shopping tasks!

I wish you all a restful October half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 4th November, ready to continue on our journey of success!

Best wishes

Grace

Events at HMS this term



Thanks to our staff team

As we begin the new academic year, students helped celebrate and recognise the support provided by the staff team. Our students showed their appreciation over two days during this half term. The first celebration was on the 27th of September, when students demonstrated their gratitude for the TAs within our school community, where TAs received a token of appreciation ([National TA Appreciation Day](#)). On 4th October, our students celebrated again, on [Teacher Appreciation Day](#).



Focus month

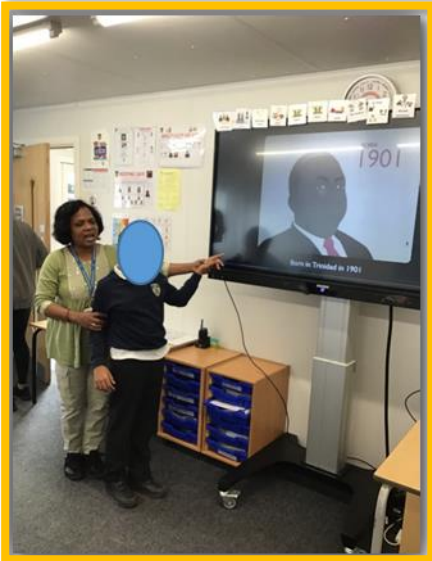
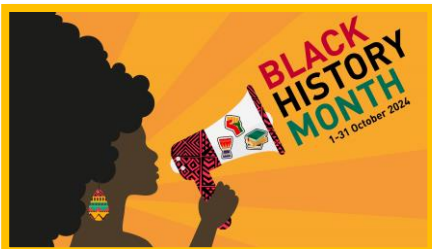
Throughout October, our school has been honouring and celebrating [Black History Month](#) through a variety of engaging activities and lessons. Students across the school have created a display board to commemorate this important month, soon to be showcased at the entrance of our school.

Additionally, an [interactive drum workshop](#) was held, allowing students to immerse themselves in the musical rhythms and traditions that are deeply rooted in black history. This lively event offered an opportunity for the students to actively partake in the celebration of Black History Month.

BHM Activities List:

- Each class allocated is allocated a personality to research and discuss.
- Karaoke on Black Musicians
- BHM Key Stage Assemblies Drumming Workshop,

Made by 3B Class



Out and about and more events

Work experience at the farm



This half term students in KS5 have begun work experience at the Heathrow special needs farm. Some of the skills students are working on include, developing independence, working as a team and following instructions and time management.

HALLOWEEN AND AUTISM

TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE THE HOLIDAY MORE FUN FOR A CHILD ON THE SPECTRUM.



PRACTICE TRICK OR TREATING

Children with autism often do best when something is familiar. Repetition and rehearsal are crucial to the success of therapy, especially ABA.

BE "SENSORY WISE" IN CHOOSING A COSTUME

Once a costume is selected, practice putting it on to see if there are any modifications that can be made to make it more comfortable from a sensory standpoint!



KEEP GOALS IN MIND

Trick or treating provides lots of opportunities to practice skills in a new setting and with new people. If you knock on 20 doors, that's 20 opportunities to practice responding!

TRY NEW FOODS

Candy companies know what they're doing. Every package is designed to entice the eye, and the flavors are created to make you crave more. While your dentist may disagree, this is a great time to encourage your child to at least take a bite and try a variety of foods they likely won't encounter for another 365 days.



ENJOY THE "OTHER" STUFF

Halloween doesn't need to be all about trick or treating and candy. Just walking the neighborhood and labeling the decorations you see, visiting a pumpkin patch, or accompanying siblings can be beneficial activities.

School celebration plan

Diwali - 25th October: Dress up in traditional clothes worn for Diwali. Story of Rama and Sita: Making divas in class and further tailored activities.



Ways to Make Diwali Celebration Sensory-Friendly



Take time to prepare

Gather in a small group



Have electric lights



Take breaks



Have a sensory-friendly fireworks show





Continuing on ...



Dates for the Diary

November 2024



Monday 4th - Return to school for students
Spooky Afternoon(Halloween)

Tuesday 5th - Guy Fawkes

Monday 11th - Friday 15th - Anti-bullying week

Friday 15th - Children in Need Day; wear your
pyjamas to school day and cake
sale (£1 donation)

December 2024

Tuesday 10th - Human Rights Day

Thursday 12th - Christmas Market Day

Thursday 19th - Festive celebrations AM,
Christmas silent disco PM

Friday 20th - Last day of term 1 pm finish/
Christmas Jumper Day/
Winter Choir

Halloween spooky afternoon - 4th November:

- Decorate classroom doors for Halloween, Students dress up
- Disco in the hall, Trick or treat

Guy Fawkes Night - 5th November:

- Bonfire in the forest school, Hamburgers (+vegetarian options)
- Story of Guy Fawkes, Students to write a dream or wish to throw it into the fire

Reading



As part of our commitment

to promote reading, this year,

too, we will make a few reading recommendations.

Below is a link to a free e-book website that you can

use with your children at home:

<https://monkeypen.com/pages/free-childrens-books>

BELOW ARE SOME OF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THIS PLATFORM

Please click on the images to go straight to the books!

