

HM& Newsletter

Term: Spring 1

Message from Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another half term at Hillingdon Manor School, it is wonderful to reflect on the energy, creativity, and dedication that have been at the heart of this term's achievements.

Our after-school clubs have continued to thrive, bringing joy and enrichment to our pupils. Movie Club, Art Club, and Football Club have provided pupils with opportunities to explore their interests, express their creativity, and enjoy a sense of camaraderie and competition. This term, we also embraced the vibrant celebration of Chinese New Year, which saw our pupils engaging in exciting activities such as mask-making, colouring, and even creating an awe-inspiring dragon. These moments exemplify our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.

Children's Mental Health Week was a significant focus for us, as we integrated activities into form time to help pupils explore and develop strategies to support their mental wellbeing. Prioritising positive mental health remains a cornerstone of our ethos, and it is heartening to see our pupils engaging so thoughtfully in these discussions. Creative Arts Week was another highlight, with pupils expressing their talents through stunning self-portrait sculptures that reflected their individuality and artistic vision. On the sports front, our pupils have made us immensely proud, demonstrating perseverance and teamwork in inter-school football, table cricket, and bowling competitions. Their achievements are a true testament to their dedication and sportsmanship.

Behind the scenes, our staff have been equally industrious, engaging in a wide array of CPD sessions to enhance their expertise and ensure we continue delivering the highest standards of SEN education. This commitment to professional growth underscores our shared vision of providing the very best for our pupils. Reading has also been a priority this term, with efforts across the school to cultivate a love of books and literacy. We encourage you to continue this focus at home by making reading a shared and enjoyable experience.

I'd also like to draw attention to the regular updates on Safer Internet Day, shared via Class Dojo and our website. Keeping our pupils safe online is a shared responsibility, and we deeply appreciate your partnership in promoting these vital messages at home.

As always, I want to thank you, our parents and carers, for your unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we create an environment where our pupils can thrive.

Wishing all our pupils and families a restful and enjoyable half term break. We are looking forward to Spring term 2 and the brighter warmer days returning!

Best Wishes,
Grace

Events at HMS this term



Creative art week



Creative arts week took inspiration from Antony Gormley's field works, every student in the school was offered the opportunity to make a mini sculpture of themselves. Students used clay to create the display. Once the whole piece has been collated it, it will be on display in X.

A small group also had a go at making his iconic piece The Angel of the North, this piece was made out of junk materials and will be 6ft tall when finished.



After school clubs

A big thank you goes out to all the dedicated staff that make after school clubs fun and exciting for our students.

The Movie club has shown lots of different films where students can enjoy a film in a more therapeutic setting than visiting the cinema.



Art club has been developing creative skills, through using different mediums, these are very hands on and interactive sessions where messy hands is encouraged



Football club has started and we are lucky enough to be joined by Craig the Brentford football team coach, who has been honing the skills of all who play.

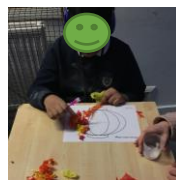


Chinese New Year



As January came to an end we celebrated the Chinese New Year, with classes joining in the fun. Some classes tried different foods, while others took part in fun activities. The students of 3D made an amazing dragon that they danced with.

2025 is the year of the snake, In Chinese zodiac, the snake is associated with wisdom, charm, elegance, and transformation. People born in the Year of the Snake are believed to be intuitive, strategic, and intelligent.



Children's Mental Health Week



This year the theme for children's mental health week is "Know yourself, Grow yourself. The theme is about empowering young people to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them, so they can build resilience, grow and develop. This sits strongly with what we embedded daily throughout the learning at HMS.

Students have practiced lazy eight breathing techniques and taken part in decompressing yoga sessions. The website www.place2be.org.uk has lots of useful tips and information to support young people's mental health

Out and about and more events

Football Tournament



KS 3

The team played in their second tournament as part of the Middlesex FA SEN league; while they're still developing their skills, they are becoming a more cohesive team and playing well. They took their defeat with good grace and showed great sportsmanship by congratulating the winning team.

As a team, they understand where they need to improve and are working towards this.



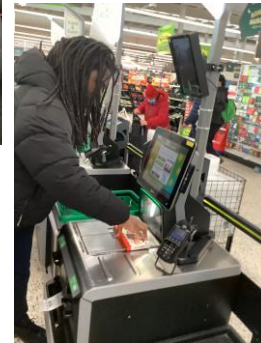
KS 4

The team is full of enthusiastic players who have developed their football skills to a good level, this was evident throughout the tournament as they won all of their matches and remained humble. The lads offered advice to other teams and interacted well with their unfamiliar peers.



Out in The Community

The Out in The Community learning has begun for some classes, students have been developing their independent skills by visiting local supermarkets. Students have also practised their road skills in real life situations, using different types of crossings and understanding where and when it is safe to cross the road. For some students using public transport has been a focus of these trips for many of our students.



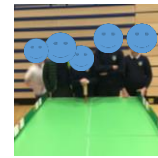
EVENTS

Thames valley adventure playground

This half term, students from Key Stage 3 had the opportunity to visit Thames Valley Adventure Playground, where they experienced a variety of fun and engaging activities that promoted adventure, therapy, and education through play. Activities included outdoor play on various equipment, exploring the sensory room, enjoying the indoor soft play area, riding go-karts, and participating in games together. The students had an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Table cricket competition

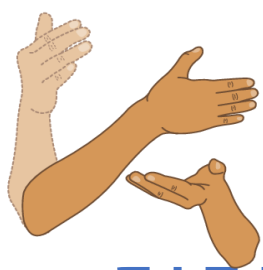
Table cricket is a game of strategy and skill that is played on a table tennis table by teams of six with disabilities. We have participated in this new competition, the students involved really enjoyed learning about a new sport.



Bowling Tournament

A team of students attended a bowling competition, they placed 5th place out of 28 teams, Jacob who won a special award for scoring the most strikes.





Continuing on ...



Dates for the Diary

February 2025



- Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - Half term
- 24th February – Stand up to bullying day

March 2025

- 3rd–7th March - National Career's Week
- 6th March - World book day
- 7th-16th March – STEM focus week
- 21st March - Red nose day
- 27th March - Spring Market Day
- 28th March - Mother's day afternoon tea

April 2025

- 2nd April - World Autism Awareness Day
- Friday 4th April (13:00 finish)- Wednesday 23rd

April- Half -term

Ideas for fun and free half term activities



Fun Ideas for Half Term

- * Cuddle up and read a book
- * Enjoy a Scavenger Hunt
- * Plan a trip for when you can
- * Play a board game
- * Go on a nature trek
- * Look at a map and learn the capital cities of Europe
- * Make up a dance routine to a favourite song
- * Make a time capsule
- * Enjoy a game of cards
- * Build a den
- * Paint a picture
- * Go for family walk
- * Bake a cake



Reading for leisure



This term we have been prompting reading for fun, this has been done via many different forms of text that pique our young peoples interest these have ranged from magazines, newspapers , recipe books and comics.

We encourage our young people to continue to build on this skill during the half term , we look forward to seeing your pictures on Class Dojo.

