

## A Message From The Head



Teacher, Grace Mullally



Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you at one of the most wonderful times of the year – the festive season is upon us! It has been a fantastic term at Hillingdon Manor School, as you will see from our half termly newsletter which is full of updates about what has been taking place across the school. I recognise the importance of delivering a highly specialist education to our pupils, whilst also growing and developing them as individuals with the skills, knowledge and experience to be successful in life. For this reason, enrichment activities are encouraged and promoted across the school.

This half term we acknowledged Remembrance Day, with pupils demonstrating kindness and respect, as well as celebrations such as Children in Need. Days such as these are important to teach our pupils about the world around them and how they can contribute towards supporting those in need. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed these moments of celebration and reflection.

This term we also recognised Anti-Bullying Week, with activities taking place across the school to teach our pupils about why it is important to be kind to others. This included guidance from our Pupil Voice Group, who led an initiative to create Anti-Bullying posters for display across the school. A fantastic example of pupil leadership and promotion of kindness and respect.

This month we have celebrated the festive season, which started a little early with a visit from the Pantomime in November. The Pantomime was very much enjoyed by our pupils who really loved the interaction of cheering and booing throughout the performance. Certainly one to remember! We also had our Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, alongside our Annual Christmas Market Day. These events were very much enjoyed by the whole school community, with pupils and staff showing off their favourite Christmas attire! Our Christmas Market Day was a real success and is always an excellent opportunity for our pupils to develop and strengthen a range of skills for life. It was great to see lots of parents and carers with us too, and I thank you, as always, for your support.

I continue to have great pride in Hillingdon Manor School, our wonderful pupils and our dedicated staff. It is an honour to walk the corridors daily and witness first hand the fantastic learning taking place in each and every classroom. We really are an incredible community, here at HMS.

I wish you a very happy and restful festive break over the Christmas holiday. A polite reminder that we have a Staff INSET Day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, and therefore we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026!

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year for 2026!

# Feature - Christmas Market Day



On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual Christmas Market Day, where pupils in their class teams put on stalls to sell items that they have made during lessons and in preparation for Market Day celebrations. Pupils created a range of items, including Christmas decorations, pieces of art, treat bags, and chocolate hampers. Some pupils also ran stools of 'Guess The Number of Sweets in the Jar' and decorate your own snowflake. We had hot dogs on sale, accompanied with onions, cranberry sauce and stuffing (so Christmassy!), as well as music and entertainment from a large number of pupils across the school. There was singing and dancing for all to enjoy! Thank you so much to all of the parents and carers who joined us for Market Day, and supporting your children and others across the school. Everyone had a great day, and we are definitely ready for Christmas now!



## Christmas Jumper Day 2025

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day 2025! The Christmas Jumpers on display were amazing, full of festive joy and very impressive! Our staff got involved too and showed off their festive knitwear! We even saw some Christmas Jumpers from our visiting parents and carers for Christmas Market Day – truly in the Christmas spirit! It was a great Christmas Jumper Day 2025 – thank you to everyone for getting involved!



Christmas Jumper  
Day 2025

at Hillingdon Manor School





# HMS News and Updates



## Pantomime Visit 2025 - Little Red Riding Hood

At the end of November, we welcomed Little Red Riding Hood to Hillingdon Manor School for a Pantomime performance, for a number of our pupils.

Pantomime is a Christmas tradition, which encourages interaction between the audience and the performers. Pupils had an excellent time and really enjoyed the festive fun, singing and storytelling. It really got everyone in the festive spirit!

Our pupils had a great time – “oh yes they did!”



## Jack Petchey 2025 Winners Announced

On Monday 10th November, we announced the Jack Petchey Winners for 2025! These were Nihal K, Oscar B, Haron M and our staff winner was Mick P. It was an excellent celebration of pupil success in a whole school assembly! The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and motivate young people across London and Essex by providing exciting projects and programmes for them to get involved in. They also recognise the outstanding achievements of today's young people by awarding them for their hard work and positive impact in their community. We are very proud of the winners!



## Halloween Celebration

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, just before we broke up for half term, HMS pupils and staff had a Halloween Celebration in the Hall. There were games such as bobbing apples and eat the donut from the string, face painting, dressing up and dancing. Everyone had a great time!



# HMS News and Updates



## Green Careers Week

At Hillingdon Manor School, we believe that every small action can make a big difference when it comes to protecting our planet. And, because actions speak louder than words, the pupils, led by the outdoor learning team, have taken part in a range of educational activities linked to the Green Careers Week (3rd -8th November 2025), a themed week promoted and implemented annually in the school's careers programme. Some pupils have composted leaves to re-use them as fertiliser, some have planted tomato seeds so that, later on in the academic year, the Garden Café department can use the 'taste-the-difference' tomatoes as ingredients for the delicious school lunch menu, making any native Italians envy and crave for them on their dinner plates! All in all, a whole school proactive participation for the 'Future is Green' economy.



## Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we acknowledged Remembrance Day across the school through a range of activities. Some classes watched the live national presentation, featuring footage of current service people and Prince William. A large number of pupils also acknowledged the one-minute silence, with some standing to show their respect to fallen soldiers. It was a sobering moment, and we are proud of how our pupils behaved during this very important day.



## Anti-Bullying Week 2025

Anti-Bullying Week took place between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. During the week pupils took part in a range of activities to promote Anti-Bullying – including in class tasks, poster creation and Pupil Voice leadership.

It was excellent to see our pupils recognising how important it is to be kind and respectful to others. Our Anti-Bullying initiatives ensures we create a safe and happy learning environment for all pupils.





# HMS News and Updates



## Pupil Voice Updates

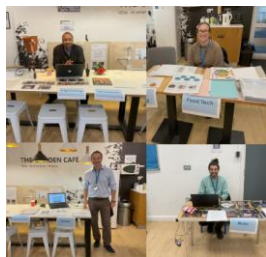
On Tuesday 14th October, pupils took to the polls to vote for the Pupil Voice Group for 2025/2026. Pupils were very sensible and respectful during the voting process. At HMS, we believe in teaching our pupils about the British Values, with democracy being one of them. On Wednesday 22nd October, we announced our newly elected Pupil Voice Group. After campaigns to secure election, our new group were presented with their certificates and medals, signifying their role as representatives for the whole student body, in sharing feedback, helping to organise activities and supporting others. Our Pupil Voice Group have been meeting to discuss their priorities for the year ahead, and they have been incredible! Pupils are sharing their ideas and what they want to see at HMS, as well as leading initiatives during Anti-Bullying Week.



## Careers & Options Fair

On Thursday 23rd October, we held our Careers and Options Fair, where parents and carers, and pupils in key Stage 4 or 5, were invited to discuss their subject options, careers, and their potential next steps. As well as a number of our dedicated staff and Subject Leaders, we also had representatives from several external organisations including Harrow College, Green Corridor and Syon Manor College. The feedback received from pupils and their parents and carers was very positive and we look forward to supporting pupils with their next steps, be it their option subjects or

transitioning to a new setting.



## Children in Need 2025

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we celebrated Children in Need at Hillingdon Manor School. Pupils came to school in their pyjamas or something yellow, and we held a bake sale at both sites. All of this was to raise money for an excellent cause. This year we raised an amazing £145 due to the generosity of parents/carers and staff, and we can't thank you enough! We think you are all totally SPOTACULAR!



# HMS News and Updates



## Santa Visits HMS

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, we welcomed Santa and his little helpers to HMS for a day of festive fun! All classes across the school, from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5, visited Santa and his elves during what was a fantastic day. The Grinch also made a naughty appearance and surprised the pupils with his cheeky approach to Christmas. Pupils loved the day, getting to meet Santa in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to Toni S in 4H for arranging this wonderful experience for our pupils before they broke up from school for the festive holidays! HoHoHo!



## 'Oh Christmas Tree Oh Christmas Tree'



Christmas arrived at Hillingdon Manor School in the form of the Pupil Voice Group being asked to decorate the trees in Reception of both The Manor and The Courtyard sites – a Christmas tradition for our pupil leaders.

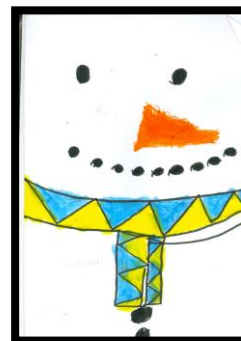
As festive music played in the background – with classics such as 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' – pupils in the Pupil Voice Group donned the tree with baubles featuring pupil photos, tinsel, Christmas lights and other decorations.

By the end of the afternoon, the trees were looking amazing, and will welcome our visitors to Reception for the month of December!



## Christmas Card Competition News

Every year, Outcomes First Group hold an annual Christmas Card Competition across all of their schools, of which Hillingdon Manor are a part. Over 300 entries were submitted, and we are thrilled to announce that Corina-Rose in 3C came in 3rd place, following a round of votes from staff across all schools. We are extremely proud of Corina-Rose – we think the Christmas card design is brilliant. Who doesn't love a snowman? Corina-Rose also received a voucher to say a big 'well done'!





# HMS News and Updates



## OFG Acknowledge One Of Our Own!

You may have seen on Class Dojo that Outcomes First Group recognised Mick Precht in their weekly Bulletin, for his fantastic organisation of a staff wellbeing event. The Advent Spiral was very much enjoyed by all members of staff. A moment of reflection at the start of Advent.

### Hillingdon Manor Light the Way

Outdoor Education Leader, Mick Precht, organised a beautiful and symbolic Winter Spiral for the Hillingdon Manor team to mark the start of Advent.

Each colleague lit a candle and observed a moment of silent reflection, before brightening the path for the next team member.

Head Teacher, Grace Mullally, shared *"The event was a celebration of quiet confidence, of carrying light in darkness and sharing that light with others. We recognise the importance of taking a moment on the lead up to what can be the busiest time of year for many, and we're so grateful to Mick for arranging this."*



## Christmas Dinner? Yes Please!

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, our wonderful Food Tech Team, including Clair F, Tracey M and Riz A, cooked and roasted the most delicious Christmas Dinner we have ever had at HMS! It featured fresh vegetables, Yorkshire puddings and stuffing! We even had a choice of puddings, served with warm custard – absolutely scrumptious! We raised over £565 for The Salvation Army too! What is your favourite part of the Christmas Dinner?



CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY 2025



## Pupil Voice Visit Local Care Home

Our Pupil Voice Group visited the local care home on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December to spread some Christmas joy. Donning their Christmas hats, they handed out handmade Christmas cards to the residents and sang Christmas carols, putting a smile on their faces in time for Christmas celebrations. Events such as these teach our pupils compassion, kindness and respect for others – and they demonstrated these values brilliantly during the visit. Well done to the Pupil Voice Group for sharing some Christmas joy with older members of our community





# Reminders & Dates



## Dates for your Diary

### January

5<sup>th</sup> – INSET Day (no pupils in school)

6<sup>th</sup> – First Day back for pupils

– WELCOME –  
BACK TO SCHOOL

12<sup>th</sup> – Energy Saving Week



29<sup>th</sup> – Chinese New Year



### February



9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Children's Mental Health Week

11<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day



16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – February Half Term



## Ideas for Fun & Free Christmas Activities

### Christmas Movies

Watch Christmas Movies with the family, tucked under a blanket! Which will you choose 'Home Alone' or 'Elf'?

### Christmas Baking

Bake some Christmas cookies in the shape of Christmas Trees or Santa Clause. Chocolate chips anyone?

### Sing Some Carols

Choose and sing some carols together at home.

### Christmas Quiz

Find a Christmas Quiz online and do this as a group - see who has the more festive knowledge!

### Christmas Lights Walk Tour

Walk around your local area, exploring the local light displays on houses - magical!

### Spend Time With Family

Invite the family round for some festive fun

### Christmas Crafts

Make something Christmas related - be it homemade Christmas cards or a jar for a candle.

### Go For A Walk

Wrap up warm and head out for a festive walk. Enjoy nature and taking in some views!

### Stargazing on a Clear Winter Night

Winter offers the clearest skies for stargazing. Go outside when it is dark, look up and see how many stars you can count!

## Reading



Please see below a link to a website where you can read books online. It has hundreds of books for all ages that are free to read online or very cheap to download.

There are some classics and also a selection of more modern books.

[Online Reading Books for Free - ReadAnyBook](https://www.readanybook.com/)



Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year