



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Courage**

September 2024

It has been a joy to welcome the children back to school, each one looking so smart in their uniforms as they arrived in the unpredictable autumn weather. The school has been filled with energy as pupils shared their news and eagerly began learning in their new classes. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude they've shown, embodying our school vision of *Inspiring us all to create a better world*. Just as 'you are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world,' we believe our children bring hope, kindness, and inspiration to everything they do.

A special welcome goes to our new children, who have already become valued members of the Holmer family. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, and we look forward to working together to shape a brighter future for all.

Road Safety!

A concerned community member has kindly raised an important safety issue regarding some of our older pupils behaving boisterously near the main road. While we know this is unintentional, there's a risk that someone could accidentally be pushed into traffic. We therefore ask parents to remind their children about road safety and the importance of being mindful when walking in groups. Let's work together to ensure everyone stays safe as they travel to and from school. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: **Why is it important to say please and thank you?** Take a moment to discuss this with your child – we would love to hear their thoughts!



Inspiring us all to create a better world

Year 3's have been loving our first Power of Reading text this term! We have been reading *Gorilla* by Anthony Browne. Lessons have involved responding to his amazing illustrations, writing letters to Hannah's grandparents in role as her, using drama methods such as hot-seating and plenty of Voice21 oracy work about the text. We have written a recount of Hannah's night which we titled 'A Night to Remember' and tried to include some direct speech. Next week we shall be illustrating and writing a sequel for the book which we shall make into a class book. Please ask us about it as we are thoroughly enjoying it!



Flooding update

Following the recent flooding of the Year 3/4 block, which unfortunately also affected our beloved EYFS area, we wanted to update you on our progress. As you know, the damage was significant, but we are thrilled to share that over the weekend, our dedicated staff donned their wellies and got straight to work. Thanks to their incredible efforts, we were able to reopen on Monday with no disruption to the children's learning. We couldn't be prouder of how the pupils have taken everything in their stride, settling into their new classrooms with ease. Repair work is already underway, and we will, of course, keep you informed as soon as we have more news. A huge thank you to both staff and students for their resilience and positivity—together, we've turned a challenging situation into a symbol of hope!



Shining Leaders: Pupils Making a Difference!

Our Pupil Leadership Committees are truly shining examples of how young people can make a difference in our world! From the Worship Committee, Social Justice Committee, and Eco Committee to the Sports Leaders, Peer Mentors, Digital Leaders, Story Tellers, and Pupil Council, each group works tirelessly to spread kindness, take action on important issues, and foster a sense of community. Their dedication and enthusiasm make our school a brighter, more welcoming place. We warmly welcome all new pupils to these committees and are excited to see the incredible impact they'll make throughout the year! We can't wait for future updates!



Holmer Church of England Academy



Is your child starting school in September 2025?

We would love to meet you!



To book a visit please email
admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk
or telephone 01432 273301

Open Morning Thursday 10th October at 10am
Open Evening Thursday 10th October at 6pm
Open Morning Wednesday 6th November at 10am

Open Days

Do you know anyone who is looking for a primary school place for their child starting next September? If so, we would love to meet them at one of our upcoming Open Days:

10/10/24 10am

10/10/24 6pm

06/11/24 10am

Do spread the word and let people know to arrange visits by contacting our school office at 01432 27301 or via email: admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @HolmerAcademy where you can see photos of your children's learning and other exciting activities which take place during the school day!



Website:
www.holmeracademy.co.uk



Contact:
01432 273301



Email:
Admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk

Year 2

In Year 2, we have had a fantastic start to our art lessons this year, with the children exploring the use of charcoal and pastels to create different textures. They have been experimenting with charcoal to make bold, expressive lines and learning how to smudge and blend it for softer effects. Alongside this, they have used pastels to add vibrant pops of colour, discovering how the combination of both mediums can bring depth and contrast to their artwork.

They have been using their Voice 21 skills to discuss what they like about each other's work and offering thoughtful suggestions on how to enhance their pieces.

Great work Year 2!



Year 1

Welcome to Year 1! The children have had an amazing start to the year and have settled in so well to the routines of Year 1. We are very pleased to welcome to the Year 1 family, our new teacher, Miss McColl in 1PM, and two new pupils in 1P, this term. In Literacy, the children are engaging with a wonderfully emotional book, *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. The events in the book have provided the children with a rich range of language around feelings and emotions, and we are so pleased to hear the children use their fantastic vocal skills when talking about the little, lost alien in the story. The pictures below show creatures that the children have made to befriend Beegu, to help to cheer her up.



Website:
www.holmeracademy.co.uk



Contact:
01432 273301



Email:
Admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk

Year R

In EYFS this month, we have been overwhelmed with pride at the children's ability to adapt to their new learning environment. The children have been modelling our Holmer values of courage and kindness as they explore their classrooms and build relationships with their peers. The children have embraced our school routines and given 100% to every task they have encountered, using Voice21 at every opportunity.



Year 4

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in Year 4! We enjoyed thinking about our wellbeing in the first few days and took part in activities to maintain a positive mental health through our SMILE acronym.

We have jumped straight into our new learning and impressed the adults with our work. Our literacy book, 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett, has us absolutely hooked and fully engaged in talking, researching and writing about wolves. I think it is fair to say, that everyone in Year 4 is now an expert on all things wolf – from habitats to diets and appearance – and we used our knowledge to produce very informative leaflets. What brilliant artwork we created too!



Website:
www.holmeracademy.co.uk



Contact:
01432 273301



Email:
Admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk

Year 5

At Holmer Academy, Year 5 has been diving into the captivating world of *The Promise* by Nicola Davies, a beautifully illustrated story that stirs the imagination. Through drama, visualisation, and book talk, the children have been exploring the book's profound themes, thinking as both readers and writers. Writing in role has helped them delve into the characters' emotions, which is paving the way for some truly powerful setting descriptions. The creativity flowing through the classroom is inspiring, and we can't wait to see their final pieces—packed with vivid imagery and gripping detail that brings the story's landscape to life!



Year 6



Year 6 have been enthusiastically exploring the Battle of Britain, learning about the causes of WWII and forming their own opinions on key events. They've had thoughtful discussions on whether they would have supported the RAF or the Luftwaffe during the conflict, sparking lots of interest and debate.

In creative arts, the children have been perfecting their Stomp Clap Stomp body percussion routines. Their performances were a hit, with pupils proudly showing off their rhythm and teamwork to classmates. This month's value, courage, has been demonstrated brilliantly in the swimming pool, as pupils showed bravery and confidence in developing their aquatic skills.

Outside of school, we've been celebrating students' amazing achievements in gymnastics, dance, and swimming. Well done, Year 6!



This month our Christian value has been **COURAGE** We show this through our service to others and through our courageous advocacy.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

TALK TOGETHER about Courage

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela

		A	P	P	B	E	D				
	F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	F	H	
	B	I	G	M	I	M	L	R	O	T	
U	A	X	N	E	L	E	X	O	S	A	U
Q	R	K	I	V	I	J	T	N	A	I	G
C	M	B	L	H	S	Z	Y	S	J	L	S
P	O	N	S	S	T	R	U	C	K	O	C
Y	U	U	M	D	I	V	A	D	L	G	Z
H	R	I	R	J	N	W	T	D	M	V	K
	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	G	
	C	E	D	O	G	E	N	O	T	S	
		F	A	R	E	E	B				



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17

QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

ARMOUR	BOY	DAVID
COURAGE	FOREHEAD	GIANT
GOLIATH	GOD	ISRAELITE
PHILISTINE	SHIELD	SLING
SOLDIER	STONE	STRUCK



October 2024	Event
Friday 4th	2P Class Worship
Thursday 10th	Open Morning 10am
Thursday 10th	Open Evening 6pm
Friday 11th	Y6 WWII Day
Tuesday 15th	Harvest Festivals (pupils only)
Friday 18 th	5PH Class Assembly
Tuesday 22nd	Parents' Evening 3:30 - 6pm
Weds 23rd and Thurs 24th	Y3 Stone Age workshops
Wednesday 23rd	Y4 Prayer workshop at Cathedral
Thursday 24th	Parents' Evening 5:30-8pm
Friday 25 th	School closes for half term



November 2024	
Monday 4 th	School reopens
Wednesday 6th	Open Morning 10am
Thursday 7th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Friday 8th	4P Class Worship
Tuesday 12th	YR trip to small breeds farm
Wednesday 13th	Year 5 I Sing Pop concert
Friday 15 th	Children in Need Day
Monday 18th	Y2 visit to Holmer Church
Wednesday 20th	Y1 Phonics Meeting
Thursday 21st	Parents' Wellbeing Workshops
Friday 22nd	4R Class Worship
Friday 29th	6TP Class Worship

"You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world."