



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Generosity and Respect**

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, families, to an exciting new term at Holmer! After the Christmas break, it's heartening to see the children's bright smiles and boundless energy filling the school once more. Despite another flood testing our resilience, we rallied together in true Holmer style, united and secure in the knowledge that nothing could hold us back. The laughter ringing through the playground and the joyful chatter in the classrooms are a testament to our community's unyielding spirit. This month, as we focus on generosity and respect, we are reminded of how these values shape not just our actions, but our ability to face challenges with kindness and determination. Here's to a term full of growth, learning, and shared successes!

Pet-free premises

Whilst we love our furry four-legged friends at Holmer, this is just a polite reminder that, for safety reasons, under no circumstances must they come onto school premises - this includes being carried under arms. Many thanks for your cooperation.

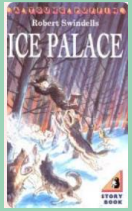


Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: **What types of weather do you like and why?** Take a moment to discuss how this might look different to different people. We would love to hear their thoughts!

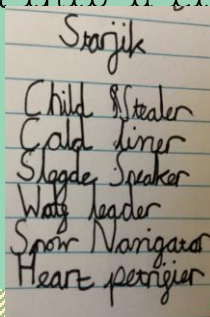
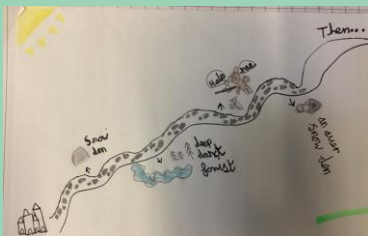


Inspiring us all to create a better world

Year 3 - We are thoroughly enjoying our new 'Power of Reading' text - The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells. We keep being left on a cliffhanger eager to find out what happens next in Ivan's adventure. Will he find and rescue his brother? Will he be attacked by wolves? Will he defeat the evil Starjik? We are always left wanting more!



Over the last few weeks, we have enjoyed drawing maps to show Ivan's journey so far and have been exploring emotions and feelings through drama. We also created kennings which we turned into a class performance.



Computing and All Things Digital @ Holmer

Holmer has made a 'banging' start to the year! To begin the New Year, we have met with our link school, Hira Foundation School in Karachi, Pakistan. The focus of our interactions has been Global Goal 15 - Life on Land. This huge remit is about sustaining, supporting, protecting and developing Life on Land - which also includes us as humans. One pupil, who is a Digital Leader, stated that 'we have had a wonderful time talking to Pakistan'. The dedication these pupils and families has shone is inspiring! Arriving at school for 8am due to the difference in time, pupils become 'surrogate parents and wayward uncles' (self labelled) not only delivering breakfast (toast and jam) to these hardcore individuals but also taking part in discussions around Christmas, courage - what it is and how we show it as well as question and answer session around general, everyday life.

Being a Digital Leader, according to one pupil, is 'a privilege and an honor,' considering the huge E-safety area of remaining safe and online Safety. Realising that the internet can be a wonderful and inspiring place, but also a dangerous place is very important for all individuals to realise.

We are so lucky at Holmer with an iPad per pupil in most year groups, something that some school do not have. This term, Computing is all about Coding! Sometimes coding can be hard, but when you succeed, it is an amazing feeling! Look at this small snapshot of coding outcomes!



Years 5 and 6 Shine at Young Voices Concert

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 were brimming with excitement as they embarked on the journey to the BP Pulse Arena for the spectacular Young Voices concert. The coach buzzed with chatter as we anticipated the adventure ahead, and as we approached the venue, gasps of awe rippled through the group. Stepping inside, we were overwhelmed by the sheer size of the arena - a space filled with endless possibilities and the promise of an unforgettable day.

The rehearsals were truly something to behold, as over 5,500 children from schools across the country joined together to sing as one. The sound was breathtaking, and it was incredible to be part of such a massive choir. The children were thrilled to rehearse alongside professional performers, whose energy and talent added an extra spark to the day. From street dancers to backing bands, the stage was alive with inspiration, and every moment built excitement for what was to come.



After a quick packed tea break and several(!) trips to the toilets, we eagerly awaited the arrival of parents. There was much craning of necks and pointing as we tried to spot Holmer families in the growing crowd. Then, the lights dimmed, and the concert began! It was sensational. We sang, we danced, and we waved our flashing lights, all while being filmed by Young Voices' special crew. The setlist had something for everyone - from Bob Marley and Whitney Houston to Katy Perry and Benson Boone - creating a joyous, unforgettable atmosphere.

As the concert came to an end, we boarded the coach for the journey home, tired but still full of adrenaline. A huge thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and made this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible! It's a memory we'll treasure forever.



Year 2

In Year 2, we have especially enjoyed our PE lessons this half term, where we have been developing new skills through our dance and fitness topics. During our fitness unit, we are learning how to use skipping ropes, which is both challenging and lots of fun! We practised with individual skipping ropes and worked together as a team to use large skipping ropes too. How exciting!

In our dance unit, we are exploring how to move to a beat and how to embody different animals through movement. A highlight was a visit from Nicola's School of Dance, where we were introduced to dances from around the world. We then used all the skills we had learnt to create our own movements and shared them with our classmates.

January has been energetic and creative, and the children have really enjoyed discovering new ways to use their bodies and express themselves through movement. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and skills grow!



Year 1



January has seen us begin to enjoy a book called, *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen. It prompted us to find out about hats, so we have studied different hats from around the world. We were inspired to design our own hats. As you can see, we have invented some particularly useful hats! Both classes have performed class assemblies this month. The assemblies looked at the values of Respect and Generosity, and the children did a wonderful job of telling us all about these values, and how to demonstrate them in school and at home. The children learned a poem to say aloud on stage, called *Water* by Shirley Hughes. We are so proud of their confident speaking and their super singing. Please note: Swimming fortnight for IPM begins on 03.02.25, and IP will swim from 24.02.25.



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Megan Baker House provides Conductive Education sessions weekly for children within Herefordshire, Shropshire and Gloucestershire. We are now able to provide intensive sessions for children within the school holidays allowing children to attend 3,4 or 5 days a week.

What does Conductive Education offer a child?

Conductive education (CE) is a holistic integrated pedagogical/educational system, which enables children to overcome the challenges they may face. Possible challenges:-

Increased tone in limbs (and trunk)

Hypermobility in upper limbs

Co-ordination, control and fluency of movements

Linking gross and fine movements

Strength and stamina

Hand/feet- eye co-ordination

Social and communication skills

Poor perception, proprioception, spatial awareness, attention span

Lack of self-esteem/confidence

Needs support in daily living activities (toileting, dressing/undressing, eating/drinking)

Low tone in limbs

Symmetry and posture

Balance

Walking pattern

Fine Manipulation

Handwriting difficulties

Cost of Sessions:-

Free initial consultation

First three sessions **free of charge**

1 hour session is £22 per session

1.5 hour session is £26 per session

2 hour sessions is £35 per session

If you would like more information or for your child to be given this opportunity, then please contact sue@meganbakerhouse.org.uk or call MBH [01531 633840](tel:01531633840)

Year R

In EYFS this Spring term we are looking at our new topic 'Celebration and festivals'. Our Power Of Reading book focus is 'Happy Birthday Maisy' which has linked wonderfully to our topic. We are also celebrating Chinese New Year on Wednesday 29th January, giving the children an opportunity to try different foods linked to the festival and understand the meaning behind the celebration. In our science topic the children have started to plant cress during their forest school sessions and are keeping a close eye on the changes to the plant. What an exciting term ahead!



Year 4

Year 4 have, once again, had the pleasure of a trip to our beautiful cathedral. This time, we took part in workshops to learn all about the Anglo-Saxons. From stories of Saxon kings, to sword making and illuminated letter decorating, we had the best time. We particularly enjoyed the chance to explore the fascinating paintings and displays within the building, learning all about the origins and meanings of these. How fun it was for some of us to have the chance to dress up in replica clothes from the time period too!



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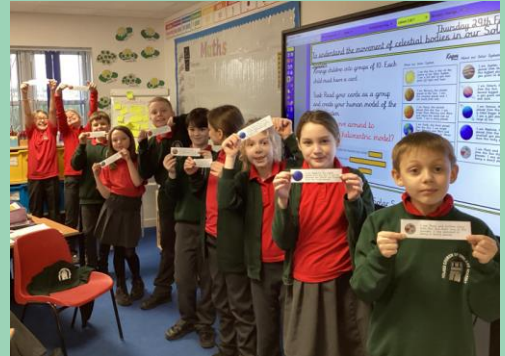
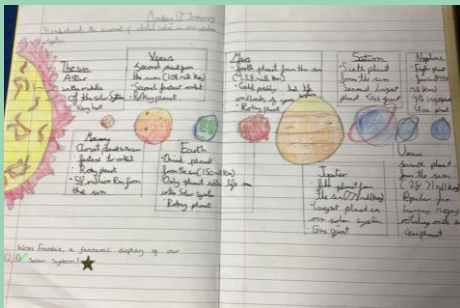
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Year 5 - Out of this World Science

Year 5 have had an exciting month diving into their science topic of Earth and space! They've been exploring the fascinating planets in our solar system and showcased their learning by creating some fantastic solar system models. The children have also been discovering how day and night are formed, as well as the reasons behind the four seasons. They are now eagerly looking forward to putting their knowledge into action on our upcoming trip to We The Curious next week!



Year 6 Adventures with Shackleton and Breakfast Club Triumphs!

This term, Year 6 pupils have been embarking on an incredible journey of discovery, learning all about Ernest Shackleton and his legendary adventures aboard *The Endurance*. Through this fascinating topic, the children have been fully immersed in the text, exploring the gripping story of courage, determination, and teamwork.

Our young adventurers have shown great enthusiasm while creating detailed fact files about the crew members who joined Shackleton on his expedition. They have also stepped into the shoes of hopeful explorers by writing persuasive job applications for roles on board the ship—some of their responses would have impressed even Shackleton himself! To top it all off, pupils have channelled their creativity into designing and crafting their very own Shackleton-inspired keepsakes, serving as a wonderful reminder of this exciting topic.

In addition to their exploration of *The Endurance*, we've been incredibly proud of the maturity Year 6 pupils have displayed as they've begun their weekly breakfast club.

It has been a true delight to see the children greet each other warmly each morning, share a nutritious "breakfast of champions," and dive into collaborative work to brush up their Maths and SPaG skills. The atmosphere has been one of camaraderie, focus, and a genuine love of learning.

What a fantastic start to the term! Well done, Year 6—we can't wait to see what you'll achieve next. 😊



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This month our Christian values have been **Generosity and Respect**. Please discuss how your child can show these values in their day-to-day lives.

GENEROSITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **GENEROSITY**.

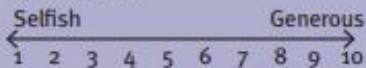
We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Generosity

When we think about **generosity** we usually think about being **generous** with money or possessions. However, we can also be **generous** with our time, our gifts and our abilities.

Generous people often say that they receive much more than they give. Perhaps this is because when someone is **generous** to us, it makes us want to be **generous** in return. The opposite of being **generous** is being selfish. What kind of person would you prefer to have as a friend?

- How would you describe yourself on this scale?



- Where would other members of your family put you on the scale and what are their reasons?
- Who is the most **generous** person you know?



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow's Mite

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen.

Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had."

You see, God is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than the size of their gift.

Bible story based on Mark 12:41-44

A Mite in Jesus' time was a small brass coin worth 1/128th of a denarius. Typically a labourer was paid 1 denarius for a day's work.



In Britain, many years ago, a coin called a mite was in general use and worth half a farthing, a very tiny amount of money.

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"God loves a cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9.7

New King James Version® of the Bible



QUIZ

Lost Letters

Which letters are missing from the alphabet? Arrange them to make a word from the story.



This month our Christian values have been **Generosity and Respect**. Please discuss how your child can show these values in their day-to-day lives.

RESPECT

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value RESPECT.
We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Respect

We are learning at school about the importance of treating others with **respect** even if we sometimes do not agree with the way they behave or the things they say. We have also been thinking about how we should treat the things that belong to us and to other people **respectfully**.

- Think of some practical ways that you show **respect** to each other in your family.
- Often we show **respect** to someone by the way we speak to them. What does this mean in practice?
- Do you treat one another's possessions with **respect**? What does this mean in practice?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Respect - to get it you must give it"
Anon



READ TOGETHER...

Moses and the Burning Bush

Moses led the sheep across the dry and dusty desert to Sinai, God's holy mountain. But in the stillness of the wilderness, while the sheep were grazing, Moses' thoughts were never far from the plight of his people the Israelites, who were suffering at the hand of the cruel Egyptian king. Moses had left Egypt years ago. He felt guilty and wished he could help his people, but what could he do? He was not brave, he was not a **respected** leader. Who would listen to him?

And then in the distance Moses noticed something very strange. A desert bush was on fire. The flames licked hungrily around the branches and yet, strangely, the bush did not burn up. He drew closer and as he did so, he clearly heard a voice call to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Yes, here I am" stammered Moses. "Take off your shoes", said the voice, "for you are standing on holy ground." Reverently, Moses untied his sandals and fell to his knees. "I am the Lord God of your ancestors and I have seen how my people suffer under Pharaoh. I have heard them call out to me to rescue them and now Moses, I am sending you to lead them to freedom." "But I am nobody, I am nothing. How can I go to the king and expect him to **respect** a simple shepherd? How can I ask him to let the people go?" But God replied, "Do not be frightened, I will be with you." "But what if the people will not listen to me?" said Moses. "What do you have in your hand?" "A stick." Moses replied. "Throw it on the ground." Moses did as he was asked. To his astonishment the stick turned into a writhing, angry snake. "Now bend down and pick it up by the tail." Nervously, Moses did as he was asked. Immediately, the snake once more became a stick. "When you perform this miracle," said God, "the people will believe that I have sent you. Take the stick with you for with it you will perform great miracles. Now go and do as I have commanded."

And so it was that on that ordinary day an extraordinary adventure began for Moses and for the people of Israel. It was a story that the world would never forget.

Bible story based on Exodus 3-4



QUIZ Tangled Strings

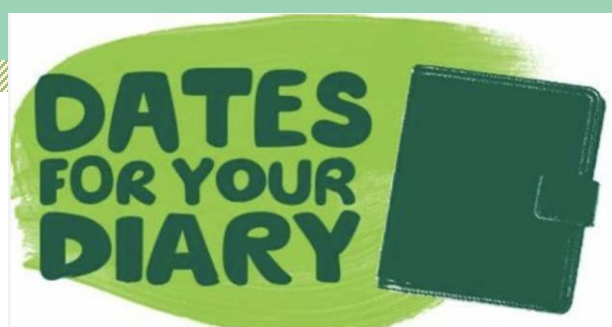
Which stick became the writhing snake?



Can you make a 'tangled string' puzzle?



February 2025	Event
3rd – 14th	Classes 1PM and 4P Swimming
Wednesday 5th	Y5 Trip to Bristol – We The Curious
Thursday 6th	3S Class Worship
Friday 7th	RP Class Worship
Tuesday 11th	Safer Internet Day : Y1, Y2 and Y5
Wednesday 12th	Safer Internet Day: YR, Y3, Y4 and Y6
Friday 14 th	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 24th	School Reopens
24th - 7th	Classes 4R and 1P swimming
Thursday 27th	Football Tournament at Wyeside
Friday 28th	Girls' Football in Birmingham



March 2025	Events
Tuesday 4th	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 5th	YR Gruffalo at The Courtyard Trip
Thursday 6th	Parents' Evening
Friday 7th	YR Vision Screening
Friday 7th	2A Class Assembly
10th – 21st	Y5 Bikeability
Wednesday 12th	Y1 Phonics Workshops Afternoon
Thursday 13th	Y6 Young Shakespeare Company
Friday 14th	4R Class worship
Friday 14th	Wear What You Like Day
Friday 21st	2P Class Worship
Friday 28th	5PH Class Worship

“You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.”