



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Justice**

October 2024

This month, we're focusing on the value of **Justice**, encouraging fairness and standing up for what is right. After facing the challenge of being flooded twice, it's easy to question the fairness of it all. But we're also fortunate to live in a place that rarely suffers from drought, reminding us to find balance and support each other.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parents' evenings. Thank you for celebrating the children's learning and achievements with us. Here's to a positive and thoughtful month ahead!

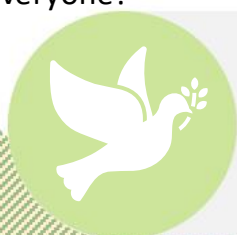
Please keep furry friends at home!

We know how much our Holmer families love their four-legged friends, and we do too! However, we kindly remind you that, except for registered therapy or service dogs, pets are not permitted on school premises. This is to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all our students, staff, and visitors. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Thank you for helping us keep Holmer a happy and welcoming place for everyone!



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 tell the truth?** Take a moment to discuss this with your child and maybe share the story of The Little Boy who Cried Wolf – we would love to hear their thoughts!



Inspiring us all to create a better world

Year 3's had an awesome morning at the Museum Resource and Learning Service where Lara led some amazing workshops. First, they became 'History Detectives' where the children had a hands-on experience of timeline and chronology. They took on the different roles of people who work with history (archaeologists, palaeontologists and historians) by becoming detectives to try and piece together stories from the past using the clues left behind by people and creatures. The children loved it! They then had a Stone Age workshop where they learnt about hunter-gathering and even touched a real mammoth's tooth! The workshop moved through the ages, introducing farming, bronze and iron. It was brilliantly interactive and the children even got to hand spin yarn out of sheep's wool!



Celebrating Our Wonderful Harvest Festivals

What a joyous time we had at our recent Harvest Festivals! The hall was filled with vibrant songs, heartfelt poetry, and delightful performances by our talented pupils. The children worked so hard to prepare thoughtful pieces that reminded us all of the spirit of gratitude and giving that is at the heart of the harvest season. Christians around the world celebrate this time of year as an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of the harvest and to share with those in need—and our school community truly embraced this message.

A special thank you to all the parents and carers for their incredibly generous donations. Thanks to your kindness, pupils from our Social Justice group were able to use the funds to purchase much-needed items for the local food bank. Because of this generosity, we have been able to make a positive difference in our community, helping those who might be struggling to make ends meet. Together, we have shown that a small act of kindness can have a big impact, inspiring others to make the world a better place. We are so proud of our pupils for leading this wonderful initiative!





NEURODEVELOPMENTAL

DYSLEXIA

PINS - PROJECT FOR INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS

JOIN US FOR A

CHAT ABOUT INCLUSION

Date & Time Below

Wednesday 20th November 2024
2:00pm at school

Neurodiversity celebrates cognitive differences like dyslexia, ADHD, and autism as strengths, showcasing unique talents and perspectives. Join us in discussing your Childs Journey in a warm and friendly group and lets make their time at school inclusive and not exclusive

AUTISM

DYSCALCULIA

ADHD

DIVERSE INTELLECT

DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATION DISORDER

Introducing Our Worship Committee

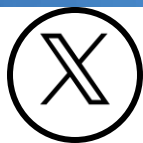
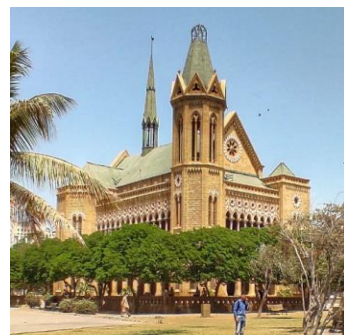
We are excited to introduce our **Worship Committee**, a group dedicated to reflecting on what makes meaningful worship for our school community. Their role involves making key decisions, such as selecting Bible stories that best illustrate our values, crafting thought-provoking questions to challenge our thinking, and helping to choose songs for pupils to sing during collective worship. Recently, the committee also wrote some beautiful prayers inspired by our school values, which they have shared during worship, adding a thoughtful and personal touch to our gatherings.



Holmer to Hira!

Holmer's Digital Leaders have started this year with great enthusiasm and positivity. Holmer has a link with a private school in Karachi, Pakistan and we meet weekly to discuss and share pupils' thoughts and ideas around a pre-arranged topic. The topic for the next month is Global Goal 15, which focuses on sustainability of habitats as well as Life on Land. The first session in September was 'All about me' where all the pupils shared information about themselves. All the children began to realise that even though they are all different, they are all the same too!

The second session consisted of a deep conversation about courage – what it is, how we show it and examples of historical figures showing this amazing value.



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!



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Year 2

In Year 2, we have especially enjoyed our music lessons this half term. The children have been exploring rhythm and patterns through sound. They have been experimenting with making louder and quieter sounds using their voices, learning how to create different dynamics in their music. Alongside this, they have been working on creating rhythmic patterns by clapping and tapping, discovering how varying tempos and volumes can bring energy and emotion to their performances. To finish the half term, we were even lucky enough to have Bym come and work with us.

They have been using their Voice 21 skills to discuss what they enjoy about each other's rhythms and offering thoughtful suggestions on how to improve their musical patterns.



Year 1

During the school's Black History Week, Year 1 studied the British artist, Sir Frank Bowling. He came to Britain when he was a boy and loved being taken to art galleries. These trips inspired him to train and he became an artist. The children enjoyed learning about his methods of working, and then had a go with his techniques on their own piece of artwork. Their work was so good, and here are some great examples.

Thank you for coming to our Harvest Festival. The children loved learning the new seasonal songs and I'm sure you'll agree, they sang their 'I have a Seed' song, with smiles and gusto!

We are looking forward to our next event, Carols around the Christmas Tree, and we hope to see you all then.



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Year R

In EYFS this month, we have been looking at 'People who help us' and have been lucky enough to have had visits from the emergency services. We welcomed the fire brigade who taught us all about the equipment kept on the fire engines and how to stay safe. We were then visited by the police who let the children sit inside the police car and taught us how to call the police for help. What an incredible treat.



Year 4

Year 4 have had a fun filled and busy month where the children enjoyed an exciting trip to the Cathedral. At the Cathedral, the children were joined by other local schools and took part in multiple different prayer workshops where the children learned that prayer can be completed in many ways and even created their own prayers at the end of the day. The children have also completed lots of exciting learning such as carving rangoli patterns and writing their own newspaper reports in literacy.



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Year 5

Year 5 had an exciting DT Day where they took on the challenge of designing thermometers for animals! The task required them to consider the specific needs of their chosen animal, factoring in their normal body temperature, the climate they live in, and how to make the thermometer both durable and eco-friendly. The children got hands-on by programming their thermometers using Microbits, ensuring they would work accurately, and then used LEGO to design sturdy, creative cases. The excitement in the room was electric as students experimented with their designs, making sure their thermometers would protect the environment and the animals they were built for. It was a fun and imaginative day, packed with innovation and teamwork—Year 5's designs truly showed their creativity and care for the planet! We can't wait to see these ideas evolve further.



Year 6

October has been a thrilling month for our Year 6 students as they continue exploring the topic of World War II. Firstly, everyone embraced the spirit of the era during our special dress-up day, which was filled with excitement! Students participated in engaging workshops that brought history to life. They learned about the rescue from the beaches at Dunkirk, experienced the tension of air raids, and discovered the resilience of life on the home front.

Moreover, on our Design Technology day, the children joyfully planned, created, and feasted upon a delicious WW2-inspired three-course meal. The menu included hearty potato soup, classic corned beef hash, and scrumptious apple crumble!

In science, the investigations continued as the children delved into the fascinating world of invertebrates. Using clay, they crafted detailed models, showcasing their newfound knowledge. What a month of learning and creativity it has been!



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

JUSTICE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT JUSTICE TOGETHER...

Justice means more than making things 'fair'.

In order for people to live together well in a **just** community, it is important to have rules or laws that everybody sticks to. Imagine if there were no rules for people driving cars on the road!

As a family you may want to talk about:

- why it is important to have rules and laws
- rules or laws that you don't think are **just** (or fair)
- family rules that you think are important

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

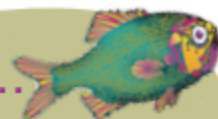
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to **justice** everywhere."

Martin Luther King Jr



READ TOGETHER...

The Story of Jonah



Some folk always seem to be arguing or moaning and groaning. Sometimes they moan about the weather, sometimes they moan about their family, and sometimes they just moan. In fact, they are so busy moaning about EVERYTHING that they forget to be thankful for ANYTHING.

Jonah was just like that! He moaned all the time. So when God asked him to go to Ninevah and tell the people there that he was angry about their stealing, lying, fighting and their wicked ways, of course Jonah moaned and groaned. "Not Ninevah, please! Anywhere but Ninevah! We have never got on with that nasty bunch. Please Lord, send someone else." And just in case God asked him again Jonah, quick as his legs could carry him, ran to the dock and asked the captain of the nearest boat to take him to the furthest place from Ninevah. The nearest boat was the Jolly Dragon and her captain was called Wise Captain Silas. The Jolly Dragon set sail on a calm sea under a clear blue sky but within a day found herself caught up in a fierce and frightening storm. Captain Silas knew immediately that something was not right. He went to find his passenger, who, surprise, surprise, was below deck moaning to one of the sailors. "It's my fault," groaned Jonah. "Throw me into the sea and the storm will blow over." Wise Captain Silas knew Jonah was right and so to save his ship and all the crew, gave orders to toss Jonah overboard that minute. A huge fish saw Jonah sinking slowly to the bottom of the sea, and he opened his great mouth wide, and swallowed him whole!

Jonah had only just enough time to recover from the shock when he found himself shooting through the air and onto a beach very near to Ninevah. The great fish had spat him out and swum away.

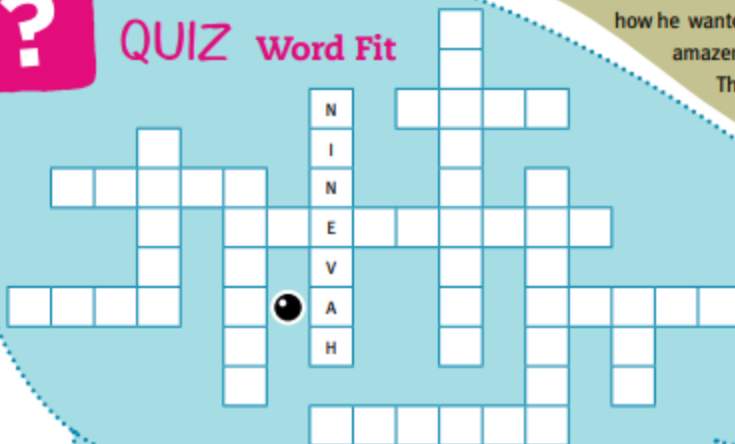
Even Jonah knew now that there was no way out. He picked himself up, shook off the seaweed and walked slowly into the centre of the city. There he did what God had told him at the start and explained to the people of Ninevah that God was sad about their **unjust** behaviour and how he wanted them to change their ways. To Jonah's amazement, that's exactly what they did.

They fasted, they prayed for God's forgiveness and even thanked him for sending Jonah.

Bible story based on book of Jonah



QUIZ Word Fit



ANGRY
CALM
FISH
GOD
GROANED
JONAH
MOANER
OVERBOARD
PRAYED
STORM
SWALLOWED

November 2024	
Monday 4 th	School reopens
Wednesday 6 th	Open Morning 10am
Thursday 7 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Friday 8 th	4P Class Worship
Tuesday 12 th	YR trip to small breeds farm
Wednesday 13 th	Year 5 I Sing Pop concert
Friday 15 th	Children in Need Day
Monday 18 th	School closed – TED Day
Wednesday 20 th	Y1 Phonics Meeting
Thursday 21 st	Parents' Wellbeing Workshops KS2
Friday 22 nd	4R Class Worship
Friday 29 th	6TP Class Worship



December 2024	Event
Tuesday 3 rd	Y5 Cathedral Christmas Workshop
Friday 6 th	Wear What You Want Day
Tuesday 10 th	Y4 Donkey Service at Cathedral Year 2 Play 2pm
Wednesday 11 th	Y2 Christmas Play 6pm
Thursday 12 th	Y2-6 Pantomime PTFA Christmas Disco
Friday 13 th	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Monday 16 th	Y1 Elves and The Shoemaker
Tuesday 17 th	YR Nativity 10am
Wednesday 18 th	Y1 Carols around the tree 2:30pm
Thursday 19 th	YR Elves and The Shoemaker
Friday 20 th	School closes for end of term

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