



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: *Perseverance*

May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a glorious month May has been! We've certainly been spoilt with the weather lately, and it's been such a pleasure to see the children making the most of their playtimes in the sunshine – laughter and games filling the playground each day. The school has been a real hub of activity, with so much happening across the year groups. From our Year 6 pupils showing incredible focus and resilience during their SATs, to Year 5's exciting trip to the Hay Festival, and the whole school coming together to celebrate VE Day, it has been truly heart-warming to see our children so engaged and inspired. Their enthusiasm for learning and embracing new experiences never fails to make us proud.

Fire Brigade Use of Slip Road

From June, the fire brigade will be using a new base near B&Q, which means emergency vehicles will be using the slip road off Holmer Road. As a result, we can expect to see and hear fire engines, and it's especially important that we all remain vigilant and take extra care when crossing the road. To support this, parents are kindly reminded that they may park free of charge at the leisure centre during drop-off and pick-up times—this convenient option removes the need to cross the road altogether, helping to keep everyone safe.



Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: **Is it fair to treat everyone the same, even if they're different?** 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

This term Year 3 have been diving headfirst into the fascinating world of plants, building on their Year 2 knowledge! Our science learning objectives have focus on understanding what plants need to grow and thrive. We have been exploring key concepts such as essential factors of water, light and air, and learning how they work together to support healthy plant growth.

One of the most exciting parts of our journey has been conducting fair experiments to test these critical elements. We have set up investigations where some plants received plenty of water and light, whilst others have limited access to these essential factors. This way, we observed and recorded how these factors affect the growth. By ensuring we kept variables the same - like the type of soil, size of pots and the type of plants used - we have made our experiments fair and accurate.

We have also learnt about a plant's life cycle, especially focused on seed dispersal: wind, animal consumption and animal fur. It's fascinating how seeds are spread and grow in new places. We also became explorers and designers, creating our versions of seeds from Mars, which could be dispersed by several methods. By the end of our lessons, we not only understood what plants need to flourish successfully but also appreciate the clever ways nature helps them thrive. Happy growing! 🌱

Computing and All Things Digital @ Holmer Virtual and Augmented Reality

Is there a difference between Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality? Yes, there is a defined difference - Virtual Reality is when learners are 'transported' into a make-believe digital setting which they can interact with. Augmented reality is when learners have a digital representation of something overlaid on the actual world we live in. An example of this can be found on the link below. This is a free website so with the half term coming along, you can have a stay-at-home holiday! All you need is to scan the QR Code and take your pick of things that interest you. From a museum, artwork, city tours or even creatures - it is all there for you to enjoy!

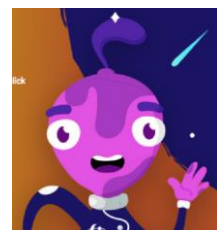
[Google Arts & Culture](#)



If you move across the top of the website to PLAY, you can even lipsync as well as bust some moves!

For the more adventurous, you could download the leARN (no it isn't a mistake, this is how it is spelt!) app found at the link below. Unfortunately, it is only available for Apple users and not Android yet. The website above and the app are free, which is another bonus!

[Twinkl LeARN & Explore on the App Store](#)



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What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

bbfc

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.

PEGI

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

Year R

In EYFS this summer term we have been looking closely at animals' life cycles which has linked perfectly with our class read 'The very hungry caterpillar', we have our very own caterpillars in the classrooms and have had a wonderful time observing the changes and development of the butterfly life cycle. We have also been developing our DT weaving skills this half term, we were lucky enough to have the parents and carers of the children attend a sewing workshop in the hall where the children had an opportunity to design and make their own bookmarks, showing off how much their fantastic sewing skills have progressed



Year 4

Year 4 have been super busy this term, working on their times tables for their upcoming multiplication check, rehearsing for their Courtyard performances, as well as all of their amazing work in lessons each day.

What a fantastic show they put on as part of the Talk Away Don't Walk Away project! Their energy for the dance was incredible, the song they sang was just beautiful, and to see the joy and confidence they had at being on stage was wonderful. A brilliant way to end the term. We hope you all enjoyed our show as much as we did. Now, we are looking forward to our next exciting adventure, when we go on our residential to Oakerwood. We can't wait!



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On the 8th May, Holmer school came together to mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe. The children all dressed up and looked incredible: we had evacuees, 1940s party goers and members of the armed forces all in attendance for our shared worship! Reception entertained us with beautiful rendition of 'Che Sera, Sera', Year 3

sang a rousing 'It's a long way to Tipperary!', while Years 1, 2, 4 and 5 beautifully recited poetry speaking of the hardship people went through but the hope that peace brings us all. Year 6 finished off with a video and song which brought smiles to everyone's faces!

The children also enjoyed :creating poppies- thinking of the significance behind the flower - for our amazing display on the school gates; shared 'street party' style lunches together; planted poppies in remembrance of the people who sadly lost their lives. Thank you for your creative outfits and thanks too to the PTFA who kindly bought every child a pin badge to mark this day. It is certainly a period in time we should learn from and never forget.



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Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant half term diving into our Super Six Story Spines! From exciting adventures to funny characters and magical moments, the children have shown so much enthusiasm and joy for reading. It's been wonderful to see their faces light up during story time and to hear all their thoughtful ideas and questions about the books. We especially enjoyed comparing traditional tales like *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* to the more recent retelling, *The Three Billy Goats Fluff*. The children had great fun spotting the differences and similarities between the two versions and talking about which parts they liked best and why. Another class favourite was *Emily Brown and the Thing*. We were completely drawn into the story and even had a go at drawing some of our favourite scenes. The children explained why those moments stood out to them—whether it was something funny, exciting, or a bit mysterious! Whether it's sharing favourite parts with friends, acting out scenes in class, or getting lost in a good book, Year 2 have really shown how much they love stories this half term. They've been building their reading confidence, using their phonics skills brilliantly, and showing great imagination. Well done to all our fantastic readers in Year 2—you've made us proud with your curiosity, creativity, and love of books. Keep it up!



Year 1

What a wonderful month of May we have had! In literacy we have been reading Olga da Polga and writing our very own 'Caring for a Guinea Pig' booklet. We have really enjoyed learning about these wonderful animals and as we are lucky to have our very own guinea pigs in school, we got to visit them too! We really enjoyed seeing them run around happily in real life. As a school, we celebrated a very special VE Day and alongside our super WW2 outfits, we also enjoyed a street-party style lunch outside on the playground. With the sun continuing to shine, we have been making the most of PE outside where we have been learning about 'invasion games' and 'sending and receiving'. We have been working so hard to improve our aim and accuracy with our ball skills. Finally, in PSHE we have been discussing 'Growing in our World' and thinking about all the amazing things that we are learning to do as we get older. We also thought about the special people in our lives who help us grow and why they are so important to us.



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Year 5 - Mappa Mundi experience

This month, Year 5 had an exciting and immersive experience learning about the famous Mappa Mundi. A replica of the historic map was brought into school, giving children the opportunity to explore it up close. They learned about its fascinating history and why it is so important to Hereford Cathedral, where the original is kept. Using their inquiry skills, the children investigated the map's curious symbols, examined how countries were represented in medieval times, and discovered what materials were used to create it. It was a fantastic opportunity to step back in time and see the world through the eyes of people from centuries ago!



Year 6 - SATS, Success and Celebration!

Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard over the last few months in preparation for their SATs. From breakfast clubs to booster sessions, their positive attitude and dedication to their studies have been phenomenal. Moreover, beautiful letters written by parents were handed to the children before their tests, showcasing just how loved and supported they are. It was heartwarming to see the children supporting one another as they navigated this challenging period.

As a reward for their amazing efforts, Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the bowling alley. There, they had the opportunity to relax, have fun with their friends, and reflect on how far they have come.

Well done to all the Year 6 children for absolutely smashing their SATs week! You have shown us all what hard work, determination, and unity look like. We are immensely proud of each and every one of you—you are all shining stars!



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This month our Christian value has been **Perseverance**. Please discuss how your child can show this value in their day-to-day lives.

PERSEVERANCE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT PERSEVERANCE TOGETHER...

Teachers often say that **perseverance** is something that many children find difficult.

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without **perseverance**. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

- How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1 - 10 at **perseverance**?
- Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined **perseverance**?
- Is there a skill that you think you could improve with **perseverance**?



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow Who Never Gave Up

There was once a judge living in a town just like this one, said Jesus to the crowd of people who were listening to him and hanging on his every word.

This judge did not care much about God or justice. The crowd muttered to one another and smiled knowingly, they all knew judges like him! A poor widow, called Sarah, lived in the same town. She was being treated badly by her neighbour who was making her life very difficult indeed.

Sarah went to the judge to ask him to hear her case and give her justice.

At first the judge tried to ignore her. Silly old woman he thought. Why won't she leave me alone. Doesn't she realise that I have more important things to deal with?

But Sarah **persevered**. You are my only hope she told the judge. You must help me. Day after day she went to see him.

In the end, the judge was so exasperated that he thought to himself I will never get a minutes peace unless I help this old woman.

Finally he let her explain to him the problems that she was facing and agreed that Sarah's neighbour was indeed behaving very badly and must be made to stop at once. Sarah's **perseverance** paid off and eventually she got the justice she deserved.

So keep **persevering** and keep praying said Jesus to the crowd.

Bible story based on Luke 18:1-8



QUIZ Wordsearch

PERSEVERANCE
DAY
HELP
HOPE
IGNORE
JUDGE
JUSTICE
KEEP
NEIGHBOUR
PROBLEMS
SARAH
WIDOW

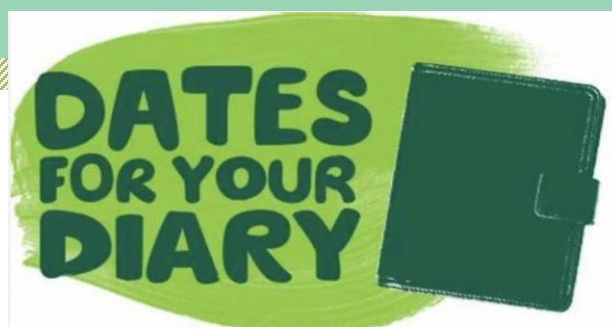
R	X	W	U	E	E	G	D	U	J	K	O
O	S	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	N	F	F
C	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	R	W
F	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	K	R	A	B
P	N	C	Q	Y	N	V	P	H	E	T	S
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
B	H	O	P	E	S	P	A	P	Z	C	F
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J	W	O	D	I	W	X	N	V	H	S	R
P	I	G	N	O	R	E	L	A	F	E	J

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again."

W.E. Hickson

June 2025	Event
Monday 2 nd	School closed – TED Day
Tuesday 3 rd	6TP Mappa Mundi Visit
Wednesday 4 th	Year 6 Military Day
Thursday 5 th	6D Mappa Mundi Visit
Friday 6 th	Y6 Leavers and Class Photos
Monday 9 th – Wednesday 11 th	Y6 Residential to Malvern
Monday 16 th	Wear What You Like Day
Tuesday 17 th	Y3 Sharing at The Courtyard
Thursday 19 th	Y5 and Y6 Cricket
Friday 20 th	RB Assembly School Summer Fayre
Monday 23 rd	Flag Raising Ceremony



June 2025 cont.	Events
Monday 23 rd	YR Sports Day
Tuesday 24 th	Y1 and Y2 Sports Day
Wednesday 25 th	Y3 and Y4 Sports Day
Thursday 26 th	Y6 Leavers Service at Hereford Cathedral
Friday 27 th	RP Class Worship Y2 sleep Over
Monday 30 th	Y5 and Y6 Sports Day

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