



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: *Trust*

November 2025

As we move through this busy half term, I want to thank you all for the continued support you show our school community. The weeks ahead are filled with wonderful opportunities and events for the children, and I would encourage all parents and carers to keep a close eye on the school calendar so that no one misses out. It's a joy to see the children engaging so enthusiastically, and we're very much looking forward to everything planned for December. The recent weather has certainly reminded us that winter is on its way. Please ensure pupils come to school with warm coats and their school jumpers so they can stay comfortable throughout the day. We've been fortunate to avoid any flooding during the recent heavy rain, but our thoughts are very much with the schools, families, and local businesses who were not as lucky. Thank you, as always, for your care, understanding, and partnership.

Swimming Success

It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils already making such brilliant progress in their swimming this term. Their confidence, determination, and enjoyment in the water have been fantastic to watch. Swimming lessons for other year groups will continue throughout the year, and we will send reminders closer to the time so everyone is prepared.



Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: *If you create something, is it part of 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 R

This term we have been looking at people who help us and we have been very fortunate to have some special visitors to talk about how they can help us in the community. First, we were visited by the police and learnt all about how we could call them if we needed help and we had lots of fun exploring their police car and equipment! Then we were visited by Speller Metcalfe to talk about how they are building Hereford's new fire station and how we can stay safe around building works and their mascot Buzz came too! We had a fantastic week!



Year 1

The children of Year 1 have been buzzing with creativity and we are especially impressed with how brilliantly they have been using their fine motor skills. Across the curriculum, little hands have been busy cutting, collaging, sticking and shaping, and the results have been nothing short of marvellous. We have made collages of rusty robots, flocks of colourful birds, and of course the heroic Traction Man! The children loved designing and making a brand-new outfit for Traction Man, inventing their own robot dogs to join his adventures, and using scissors to carefully snip Scrubbing Brush's bristles—everyone showed such careful control and concentration. Our creativity has continued in RE, where we worked together to make a beautiful Advent wreath for the classroom door. The children took such pride in contributing to this collaborative piece, and it now welcomes everyone with festive cheer. Thanks to all this wonderful work, our classrooms are bursting with colour and imagination!



Wellbeing Wizards

Hello everyone! We've been really busy with a super visit to Holmer Court Care Home. We took part in a project where we created a joint remembrance display. We taught some of the residents how to crochet poppies. They absolutely loved learning a new skill and we will look forward to another visit soon. The residents will be joining us at some of the schools Christmas events. A fabulous help to their and our wellbeing!



Future Dreams, Bright Careers

Our Year 5 and 6 careers afternoon was a fantastic and inspiring event! We were lucky to welcome so many amazing volunteers who kindly came in to share their professions – from a fireman and a chef to midwives and a paramedic, and many more. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to explore the exciting world of work and discover the many jobs waiting for them in the future. A huge thank you to all the parents, friends, and members of our community who generously gave up their time to help make the afternoon so special for our children.



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @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

What a busy yet super November we have had! In literacy, we have started our new power of reading text called, 'A Winter Sleep'. The children have worked extremely hard to gather and use a variety of descriptive phrases to describe the first few pictures in the book. In maths, we have been learning to add and subtract two, 2-digit numbers across 10. They have used stacking, exchanging and partitioning to help them do this. The children's understanding of tens and ones has absolutely shone and we couldn't feel more proud of them! As well as this, we have very much enjoyed being scientists and investigating and discussing microhabitats. They were then able to classify a range of minibeasts by choosing their own criteria. Finally, the children have taken their learning outside with their friends too, where they have used their brilliant teamwork skills to build natural sculptures and to enjoy exploring the outdoors. Well done everyone!



Year 3 - This month, the children have enjoyed creating some artwork inspired by their history topic - The Stone Age. Firstly, they studied some pre-historic art from the caves of Lascaux and identified the different creatures that had been drawn, learnt about the possible materials used and the reasons for creating the cave paintings. Then, the children practised drawing some wild creatures from the British countryside and added detail. This was then upscaled and re-drawn using charcoal. Next, the children added a negative relief handprint and used natural spices and plant material to add colour and texture to their artwork. Finally, they created a gallery of their artwork and gave feedback to one another. Here are some of the finished masterpieces. What incredible artists there are in Year 3!



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ROBLOX

Powering Imagination

According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play'. For those of you not so familiar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.



What parents need to know about ROBLOX



ROBLOX STUDIO

The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and Roblox can only rely on people reporting negative/violent content in order to remove the games from the platform.



CHATTING AND FRIEND REQUESTS

Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.



ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS

When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux', which works as a currency within the platform, allowing the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the potential to earn a lot of 'Robux'. Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account info. If they are, advise them to make them private or remove them from their account. This will ensure nobody can find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION

In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2 STEP VERIFICATION

Roblox has a great 2-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and just generally doing something in the game to spoil gameplay for them. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/an agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT

Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you wanted to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they could not contact anyone including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click on Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.



Year 4

Year 4 have continued their hard work this month though all of the subjects. They have been exploring electrical circuits in Science and have loved working with the practical equipment. In Literacy, they have been completely hooked by the book 'Charlotte's Web', writing letters to the characters, creating illustrations to match parts of the story and even acting as journalists when a special spider web arrived in the school grounds. Our Art this term has allowed us to practise our sketching techniques, focusing particularly on tone. We created some very impressive work inspired by Cubism and worked hard to vary the light and dark areas. We are very much excited about what December will bring - in our lessons, trips and all the festivities!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant November, with our two-week swimming block as the standout highlight; every child showed fantastic perseverance, growing confidence in the water and a real sense of pride as they celebrated their progress. In Literacy, we continued exploring the book 'PAX', focusing on how authors create emotion and tension, and the children produced thoughtful dialogue scenes that revealed characters' feelings and motivations. In Maths, we worked hard on fractions, including converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, comparing and ordering fractions with different denominators, and solving multi-step problems with increasing accuracy. Our RE learning was enriched by a live call with Raz, who helped us deepen our understanding of life in Britain today as a Muslim and was impressed by the children's strong knowledge of the Five Pillars.



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Footballing Success

Our school is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of both our Mixed and Girls' Football Teams, who triumphed in the Herefordshire FA Primary Football Tournament. The Mixed Team impressed spectators with their sharp passing, fast paced play and relentless energy. After winning their group without conceding a single goal, they progressed to the final—an evenly matched contest that could only be settled by penalties. With some heroic saves and fantastic penalty shots, they finished victorious. Equally inspiring was the Girls' Team, whose confidence, resilience, and excellent communication on the pitch led them to dominate their matches, winning every game they played. Like the Mixed Team, the Girls' Team required penalties to win their final and thanks to two brilliant saves from our goalkeeper, they claimed the title. A huge congratulations to every player who represented the school; we are incredibly proud of you!



Year 6

Making Our Voices Heard Through Art

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard on their art unit, *Make My Voice Heard*. Throughout the term, the children have explored a wide range of artistic styles, including symbolic Mayan art, expressive street art, dramatic chiaroscuro techniques using light and dark, and bold graffiti art. They experimented with different mediums to bring each style to life, developing both their skills and confidence as young artists. To conclude the unit, every pupil created a powerful final piece designed to share an important personal or social message. We are very proud of their creativity, effort, and the thoughtful messages they chose to express through their artwork.

Relax, Reflect, Renew: Year 6's Mindfulness Journey

Year 6 took part in a well-being workshop focused on mindfulness and relaxation. We explored different ways to calm our minds and bodies and discussed why taking time to relax is so important for our overall well-being. After practising some simple relaxation techniques, we created our own positive affirmation cards to support us throughout the year. These personalised cards will act as daily reminders to stay calm, confident, and kind to ourselves.



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TRUST

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

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

TALK TOGETHER about Trust

Trust is a really important value. It must be earned. If we do not **trust** someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them.

Talk together about:

- people who you know that are **trustworthy**
- practical ways that we can show others that we are **trustworthy**
- why it is important to be able to **trust** others when working together as a team

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Trusting** someone is like knowing you can jump and they will be there to catch you"

Anon



FASCINATING FACTS

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)

When the crew and passengers of boats get into difficulty at sea, they can **trust** the lifeboat crews from RNLI to try their very best to rescue them. Many of the crew and coastguards are volunteers.

- There are over 230 lifeboat stations all around the coast of Britain & Ireland
- Crews are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They must be ready to drop what they are doing at a moments notice to go out on their lifeboat



READ TOGETHER... The Storm on the Lake

The disciples were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following Jesus, listening as he taught them about God's love and watching as he healed people who were ill. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his friends were, Jesus said, "Let's get in a boat and go over to the other side of the lake."

They rowed away from the shore while Jesus went to the front of the boat and lay down. The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, lulling Jesus into a peaceful sleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The waves weren't so gentle anymore. The little boat began to pitch and rock. The men looked anxiously across the lake. But Jesus still lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

The wind blew stronger. Great gusts rocked the boat. Spray from the waves soaked everyone inside. But still Jesus lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

By the time they reached the centre of the lake, the wind had turned into an angry gale that whipped the waves so high that they washed right over the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still Jesus slept on.

Finally, one of Jesus' friends went and shook him awake. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray of the waves. He saw the fear in the faces of his disciples.

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the wind and the waves, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" At once the wind died down and the waves became completely calm. Turning to them, Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Do you not **trust** me?"

Bible story based on Mark 4:35-41



QUIZ Crack the code

Answer the clues to find the letter corresponding to each number and then fill in the message.

Thrown in a board game

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Jam is stored in this

5	6	7
---	---	---

Opposite of dark

8	9	10	11
---	---	----	----

Used to carry money

12	13	14	15
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Break the code to discover the message in the story:

11	10	4
----	----	---

1	2	14	3	2	12	8	4	14
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----

11	7	13	14	11	4	1
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5	4	14	13	14
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December 2025	Event
Tuesday 2nd	Year 5 Christmas Experience at Cathedral
Wednesday 3rd	Year 3 DT Session with parents
Friday 5th	1CP Class Worship
Monday 8th	Year 2 Christmas Play - 2pm
Tuesday 9th	Year 2 Christmas Play – 6pm
Wednesday 10th	Years 2-6, Christmas Panto at the Courtyard
Wednesday 10th	Disco
Friday 12th	3S Class Worship
Friday 12th	Christmas Fayre & Father Christmas visit
Monday 15th	Year 1 Hansel & Gretel at the Courtyard
Tuesday 16th	Reception's Nativity Service - 10am
Wednesday 17th	Reception Hansel & Gretel at the Courtyard
Wednesday 17th	Year 1 – Carols around the Christmas Tree
Friday 19th	Christingle Service



January 2026	
Wednesday 7th	School Opens
Monday 12th	National Child Measurement Program – Yr R & 6
Wednesday 14th	Young Voices
Friday 16th	2P Class Worship
Tuesday 20th	Nicola's School of Dance Workshop – Year 2
Friday 23rd	1A Class Worship
Monday 26th	Racecourse – Year 5
Tuesday 27th	Anglo-Saxon Workshop – Year 4
Friday 30th	Wear what you like
Friday 30th	RB Class Worship

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