



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Justice**

October 2025

It was absolutely wonderful to see so many of you during our recent Parents' Evenings. These occasions are always such a valuable opportunity to celebrate the children's learning together and to share the great progress they are making across the school. We hope you all enjoyed some quality time together over the half-term break and that the children have returned to school feeling rested, refreshed, and ready for another exciting and busy half term ahead. As we move through the coming weeks, please do keep an eye on the school calendar for upcoming events and activities — we have lots of lovely things planned, and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out!

Harvest Thanks

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parents and families for your generous donations as part of our Harvest Festivals. Your kindness and support were very gratefully received by the local food bank, and we know that your contributions will make a real difference to the families and individuals who rely on their help. Your generosity truly reflects the spirit of our community—thank you for helping to share warmth and hope with others this season.



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 do we cry when we are happy or sad?** 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

Reception have embraced the Autumn term with enthusiasm and determination. We have been lucky enough to go out for our Autumn walk to Widemarsh Common and make observations of the changing seasons, observing the leaves changing colour and falling to the ground. We then collected the leaves, conkers and twigs to create our own Autumnal artwork. In Forest School, the children have been creating their own artwork inspired by the



Year 1

Year 1 children at Holmer Academy have made a big splash this term during their swimming sessions at Halo Hereford Leisure Centre! Over ten sessions across two weeks, the children showed fantastic determination and enthusiasm as they developed their water confidence and swimming skills. We were especially proud of a few children who felt nervous about getting into the pool at first — by the end, everyone was joining in, swimming, splashing and having a brilliant time! The final fun day swim was full of smiles, laughter and plenty of splashes. Well done, Year 1 — you've all been super swimmers!



A Message from the Worship Committee

Hello everyone! We've been really busy this term finding out what pupils across the school enjoy most about our times of worship. Lots of you told us that you love that *special feeling of togetherness*, having the chance to *share your thoughts and ideas*, and of course, *singing all our favourite songs*! We think that's a pretty amazing combination and it's been lovely to hear just how much worship means to everyone. We've also been coming up with ideas for how we can make collective worship even better. One of our biggest suggestions was to have **more visitors**! So, if you (or someone you know) have a special talent, story, or project that links to our school vision and values, we'd love to be inspired by you — please get in touch with the school office to share your details. We're also hoping to add a few new songs to our worship times and can't wait to see more of our brilliant *Open the Book* team very soon!



Anna's Amazing Hair Donation for The Little Princess Trust

We are so proud of **Anna**, who has been patiently growing her beautiful hair for the past four years! This month, she has decided to have it cut and is hoping to donate at least 30cm to the **Little Princess Trust**, a wonderful charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other medical conditions. It takes generosity, kindness, and courage to do something so selfless, and we couldn't be prouder of Anna's thoughtful decision and commitment. The **Little Princess Trust** not only helps restore confidence and comfort to young people going through difficult times but also funds vital research into childhood cancers. If anyone would like to support Anna's fundraising efforts for this meaningful cause, donations can be made through the link provided. Well done, Anna, for showing what compassion and community spirit truly look like!

<https://tinyurl.com/3cdf44x4>



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

In Year 2, we have been using our authoring hats to create our own stories based on traditional tales. We've had the Three Little Dinosaurs and The Three Little Birds, both perfectly entertaining reads written with the most beautiful cursive writing. It has been so rewarding to see how far our young authors have come and we are only in October. Elsewhere in the curriculum, in science, we have loved our lessons about animals and their habitats, learning why a clownfish needs to live in a large amount of saltwater whereas some mammals prefer cool, shady areas. Our geography skills have seen us compare parts of the UK to Kenya – a lesson which provided so many rich discussions as we worked as pairs. On top of all this, our Voice 21 skills are helping us to become confident speakers and we are showing so many incredible learning behaviours which are helping us all to shine as young people,



Year 3 had the most amazing experience at the History Store where they carried out 2 different workshops. Firstly, they were history detectives and 'dug down' through different layers learning about what it's like being an archaeologist. They also had a box of artefacts and had to try work out the answers to the questions by looking at the objects in front of them. The children made some super inferences and deductions from their artefacts.

Afterwards, they carried out a Stone Age workshop where they learnt about hunting techniques, tried teasing wool into yarn and saw many artefacts linked to our topic. They also got to touch a real part of a mammoth tusk that was over 10,000 years old found just outside Ross-on-Wye!



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BE SMART ONLINE

**S**

SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

**M**

MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

**THINK
U
KNOW****A**

ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

**R**

RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

**T**

TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.



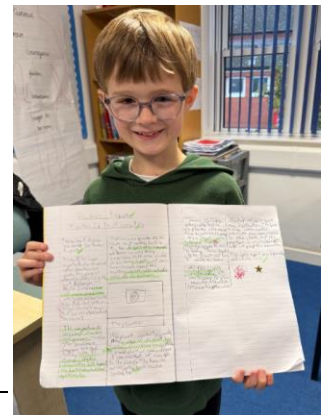
Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy month! They have worked incredibly hard on their swimming for the final 2 weeks of the term and have enjoyed their time at the pool. We also had a lovely trip to the Cathedral for our Prayer Experience. The children took part in a range of workshops which allowed them to reflect, pray and consider any hopes they may have for the future. From Lego and drawing, to playdough and a labyrinth they could walk through, the activities were lots of fun, while allowing the children some time to understand different ways people might choose to pray. How wonderful it was to see the children take in the beautiful interior of the Cathedral as they moved between the sessions too!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic October filled with creativity and curiosity! In English, we've been engrossed in our class text *The Viewer*, exploring Tristan's mysterious discovery and where it led him. We created haunting soundscapes to capture his restless dreams and wrote brilliant newspaper reports about his sudden disappearance, carefully including relative clauses. In Science, we tested different ways to separate substances through sieving and evaporation and investigated how to make solutions. A real highlight was our online Zoom session with Amazon, where we learned about exciting STEM careers and asked professionals questions about their roles. To round off a busy month, we enjoyed a trip to Whitecross High School to watch their amazing performance of *The Little Mermaid* — a magical end to our first half term!



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Choir Performance at Dunelm

Our wonderful school choir recently had the opportunity to perform at **Dunelm** as part of their **Mental Health Awareness Week** celebrations — and what a performance it was! The children truly dazzled shoppers with their beautiful songs which included: *Extraordinary Me, Extraordinary You, What About Love* and *I Will Shine*. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and joyful singing filled the store with smiles and positivity.

It was a heart-warming occasion that perfectly captured the spirit of kindness and togetherness we value so much in our school. The choir's voices brought a little sparkle to everyone's day, and we couldn't be prouder of how they represented our school community. A huge well done to all of the children involved, and a big thank you to the staff and families who came along to support them.



Blitz, Battles, and Bravery: Year 6's WW2 Adventure

Year 6 travelled back in time last month for their exciting WW2 Day, stepping into the shoes of those who lived through one of history's most dramatic periods. Dressed in fantastic wartime costumes, the children visited the beaches of Dunkirk, bravely battling against the Germans and rescued wounded soldiers. They also experienced what the Blitz must have been like for British civilians, taking part in an air raid and just making it into the shelter in time! Throughout the day, they learned about the many different jobs people did to help win the war, from nurses and pilots to factory workers and canary girls! It was a truly immersive experience that brought history to life — everyone learned so much while having a wonderful time. They even got to make their very own music video to celebrate VE day to end their topic!



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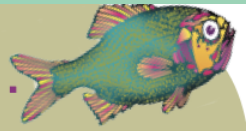


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This month our Christian value has been **JUSTICE**
 'Do justice, love kindly, and walk humbly with your God.'
 Micah 6:8



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

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



QUIZ Word Fit

- ANGRY
- CALM
- FISH
- GOD
- GROANED
- JONAH
- MOANER
- OVERBOARD
- PRAYED
- STORM
- SWALLOWED

November 2025	
Monday 3rd	School reopens
Monday 3rd	Year 3 & 5 Swimming starts
Wednesday 5th	Open Morning 9:30am
Friday 7th	4H Class Worship
Monday 10th	Anti Bullying Week starts
Thursday 13th	Flu Vaccinations – Yr R, 1 & 2
Friday 14th	2TW Class Worship
Thursday 20th	EYFS Small Breeds Farm Trip
Friday 21st	6P Class Worship & Rags to Riches Collection
Monday 24th	Flu Vaccinations – Yr 3 - 6
Tuesday 25th	Parents supporting wellbeing session – EYFS, KS1 & Yr 3
Thursday 27th	Parents supporting wellbeing session – Yr 4-6
Friday 28th	5R Class Worship



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

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