



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students



EASTER NEWSLETTER 2023



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 31 MARCH- LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- 4-13 APRIL - HALF TERM
- 17 APRIL - SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR PUPILS
- 1 MAY - MAY DAY CLOSURE
- 8 MAY - KING'S CORONATION CLOSURE
- 26 MAY - LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- 29 MAY - 2 JUNE - HALF TERM
- 5 JUNE - SCHOOL REOPENS FOR PUPILS



SchoolSpider

If your child is going to be absent from school it is important that you let school know the reason that they are not going to be in school.

You can let us know by completing an online absence form on school spider.

This can be completed at any time and school will get a notification.

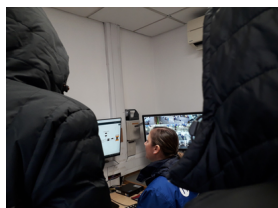
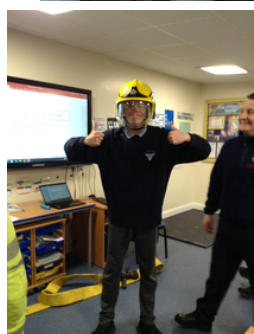
Class 10 raised an amazing £80 for the Red Rose charity by washing and cleaning staff cars Welldone class 10!



Career's week

A huge thank you to our assistant Headteacher, Emma Pettitt who organised career's week.

We had visits from a range of different workplaces and even from Angus the therapy dog



RRLTD
ROBERTS RECYCLING LTD

We made a total of £82.40 from the clothes collection, thank you to everyone for your donations



REMINDER

Please remember to book school meal's for next term

CLASSROOM NEWS

Class 2

This half term Class 2 have been very busy learning about different animals and where they live. They have really enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and have been engrossed in watching them grow. It has been a magical experience!

The children have enjoyed going to the children's centre and have also embraced their weekly trip to Aldi where they have been implementing their money knowledge and skills in our local community.

Have a lovely Easter.



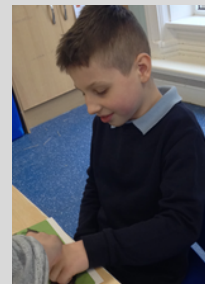
Class 13

Class 13 have had another jam-packed half term! We've been busy with all of our ASDAN Towards Independence modules – such as making some tasty snacks in 'meal prep and cooking' sessions. We've all loved taking part in a range of indoors and outdoors leisure activities, including gymnastics, using the low ropes trail and gardening. Some of us have been doing some work experience around the college, helping with lots of jobs – and some pupils have been volunteering at the North West Air Ambulance Charity Shop. For those pupils taking their exams in June, we've been working on practice exam and working under exam conditions – and everyone is doing extremely well! As part of careers week we had a visit from a firefighter, who brought lots of equipment for us to try. After Easter we're hoping the weather will treat us better, so we can start some work with the vegetable plot and begin getting out and about a bit more!

Have a lovely Easter all



Class 5

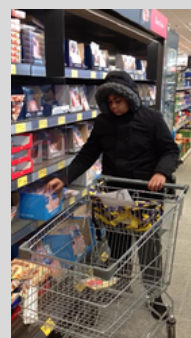
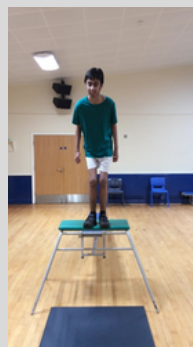
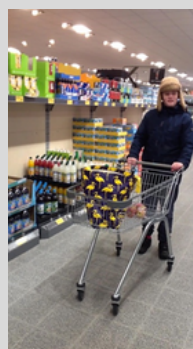


Class 9

Our Semi-Formal curriculum theme this half term is The Orchestra. In English lessons, we have read the text "First book about the Orchestra" and looked at different instruments that make up an orchestra.

We have explored a variety of music activities including body percussion, desk drumming and music with colours.

In PE, we have continued to work on gymnastics activities, practising linking movements to create a short sequence. The class have continued to access weekly visits to Aldi supermarket to develop independence skills when shopping.



Class 1

We have had a lovely half-term exploring our topic 'Over the Rainbow' and had lots of fun reading our call and response story based on the book 'Elmer' by David McKee.

In Maths we enjoyed counting rhymes and games. We enjoyed one game especially: rolling dice to generate a number, then taking it in turns to throw that number of beanbags into the bucket. We cheered along our friends with this activity! We have continued to enjoy our weekly PE sessions, especially our dance activity whereby we 'paint rainbows' waving our coloured scarves! Everyone has joined in with this activity.

In the afternoons we have explored a range of different coloured sensory materials, including green frozen peas, yellow custard and red jelly! In art we have had fun collaging Elmer with different coloured materials, bubble wrap printing colourful rainbows and making rainbow windsocks to hang at the window. We have also been learning about the weather and have enjoyed exploring different weather-related sensory trays and also dressing up for different weather conditions!

This last week we are learning about Easter and how it is celebrated. We will be making cards and decorating our bunny biscuits 😊

Class 10

Class 10 have really enjoyed going travel training on the bus into Preston and back this half term and looking in some shops. The children have done really well saying where they would like to travel to and learning how to read and use timetables.

Emma P has also organised lots of trips to help the pupils decide what they would like to do next. We have visited Myerscough college to look around and had a careers talk from a company. We had a trip to Blackburn via the train and learnt about various careers in the train station then had lunch out. For PE we have been playing rounders on the bottom yard. The pupils have really got into this! Our Science topic was Earth and Space and we made paper mache planets so we could act out how planets orbit the sun. For DT we have been cooking/baking with Amy. In Maths we have learnt some new strategies such as the bus stop method of division and looked at what a paragraph is in English. This is part of our work on functional skills. We hope everyone has a good Easter!



This half term class 6 have been learning all about 'things that grow', this has been explored throughout a variety of topics, including My Communication, The World about Me and Computing. The children have enjoyed two different texts, including 'The Tiny Seed' and 'The Enormous Turnip', they have loved acting out different scenes and interacting with a range of props – their answering of questions and discussion of texts has been amazing!

Along with learning about the life cycle of plants and growing their own seeds, the children have also been learning all about the life cycle of butterflies, creating sensory bottles using different shapes of pasta to represent each stage of the cycle. As a whole school, we have celebrated careers week this half term, focusing on and learning about a new profession every day, including chefs, firefighters, police officers, and zookeepers. A visit from the police was enjoyed by all of class 6.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break! After the holidays our topic for Summer one will be Games.

Kelly and the class 6 team.

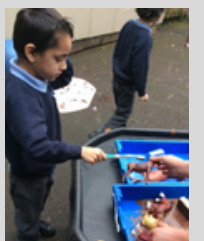
Class 3

We have had a very busy half term exploring and learning about animals. Our sensory stories were 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and 'Down on the farm' by Merrily Kutner, we enjoyed our animal wash station, giving all our zoo friends a good bath to get rid of all the mud! We made snakes using beads and laces and pretended to be giraffes by walking on bucket stilts. We also had lots of scaffolded play with our class farm using Makaton to name the different animals. In maths we have been learning about capacity so enjoying lots of water and sand play; pouring, filling and emptying different containers. We have also been exploring money; exchanging coins for treats at the tuck shop, sorting coins and singing lots of money songs too.

In PSHE we have been looking at how we take care of ourselves by eating a healthy diet, practising our personal hygiene skills, doing exercise and relaxing too.

We have even been looking out for the first signs of Spring when we have been walking around the school grounds; daffodils, buds and lambs in the field next door. We learnt about the lifecycles of frogs and ducks with lots of sensory play to replicate frogspawn using jelly and raisins, it was so much fun and exploring eggs. In RE we learnt about Easter and that stories can have sad and happy parts, we tried scrambled eggs, hot cross buns and chocolate eggs before finishing the topic by enjoying an Easter egg hunt.

Have a look at some of the things we have got up to this term and have a very hoppy Easter!



Class 14

Class 14 have had a great half term. We have been learning words for items in the kitchen and using these to collect our equipment independently when we have been cooking in the kitchen and measuring our ingredients and using different shape cutters. We have been working hard on our ASDAN modules, making choices about the things that we like and showing how we use our leisure time at college. We have been going out into the community using zebra crossings to help with our life skills, learning to stop, look, listen and cross, and continuing with our weekly shopping trips. We have been using the Jack and Jill dolls in PHSE to learn how our bodies change and how to wash properly, learning about electricity in science, using lots of different electrical appliances with plugs and batteries and have started to make our decorations for the Kings coronation. Well to everyone in Class 14 and hope you all have a well-earned rest!



Bendrigg residential trip

We had the most wonderful time at Bendrigg! From climbing and zip-wiring, to shooting bows and arrows, to riding bikes through puddles, to making our own beds and taking care of the communal areas (and much more besides!). All the students showed an enormous amount of independence, resilience and excitement throughout and it was a pleasure taking them all. It also felt good to be able to run our first residential since the periods of lockdown and COVID disruption. A big shout out is owed to all the staff involved too, both from Hillside and Bendrigg, for making it a superb experience for all.



Staff news

We are pleased to welcome to the team -

Kaitlyn Hindle who has started as an apprentice teaching assistant

And Finally.....

Another busy half term for our pupils, which has included a number of significant events. There has been a focus on a career's week with various agencies and vocations coming into school to talk to pupils and give them experiences about jobs in the wider community. We have also had a number of successful trips including a residential trip to Bendrigg and some of our older pupils have been preparing for and sitting formal exams.

I would like to thank those staff who contributed to the success of these events.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Easter period with you families, and we look forward to continuing with our learning and whole school events in the Summer term. Thank you for your continued support.

Paul Leaper - Headteacher

