



# Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students



## MAY NEWSLETTER 2024



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 24th May  
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 3rd June  
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Saturday 8th June  
Longridge Field Day - Welcome to attend!
- Saturday 29th June  
Summer Fair - Welcome to attend!
- Friday 19th July  
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 22nd July - INSET Day
- Monday 2nd September - INSET Day
- Tuesday 3rd September  
SCHOOL REOPENS



# Arbor

We are excited to announce that we will be changing from School Spider to Arbor in September.

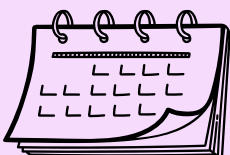
Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system.

We will send further communication on the parental app and how to register during the next half term, please look out for this information and register your child when prompted.

We hope you are looking forward to using this new feature as much as we are!



Congratulations to the pupils who participated in the Lancashire Special Schools Swimming Gala. You all swam really well and won lots of medals!



**REMINDER:**  
**SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 3RD JUNE**



# SCHOOL NEWS

## BENDRIGG RESIDENTIAL

The students had a brilliant time at Bendrigg for their residential trip! They enjoyed canoeing, caving, archery, zip wiring, fell walking and many more activities as well as washing up, making their own beds and taking care of the communal areas.

A great way for them to learn about independence, resilience and excitement. Thank you to all the staff involved too, both from Hillside and Bendrigg, for making it a superb time for all!



**PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY**

**HELP US SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS APPLY NOW!**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

We need your skills to help improve education for children in our school

Please contact Carol in the office for a chat about the role

**01772 782205**

## STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the team:  
Amanda Woodruffe & Kathryn Wilkinson

Goodbye & Good Luck to:  
Liz Ascroft, Mikala Hough & Zoe Hurley

A special thank you to Liz for all your hard work and dedication to Hillside over the last 16 years!





# CLASS NEWS

Class 6 have had a great half term. They have been busy learning all about the Circus through our class story 'The Singing Mermaid' and have really enjoyed learning some circus skills including juggling, dancing, gymnastics and balance beam walking.

In English, the children have been using adjectives to describe the different characters and settings from our story. The children came up with some super words to describe the circus including fun, loud and exciting. They have also been thinking about the different actions used by each of the performers and were able to add the correct action to complete the sentence describing each circus act.

In Maths, the children have been learning all about 2d and 3d shapes. They have been learning how to match the same 2d and 3d shapes together when they are different colours and sizes and were really good at doing this. The children really enjoyed learning how to draw 2d shapes and even had a go at doing this in shaving foam. They also really enjoyed building and making new creations with the 3d shapes.

Throughout this half-term, the children have really enjoyed creating some circus themed art using their colour mixing skills. The children have also been learning a circus themed dance with Sarah from Blue Moose and performed this with some of the children from Class 5. It was lots of fun!

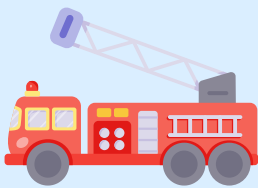


# CLASS NEWS

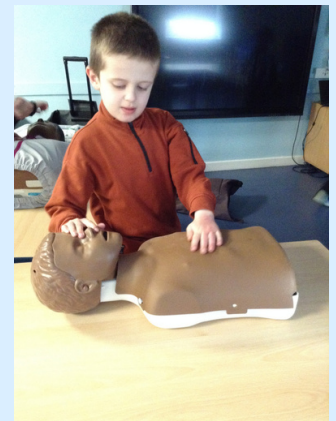
Class 2 - Our topic this half term has kept us very busy and we have loved learning all about 'People who help us'. They loved our sensory story 'A Superhero Like You'.

We have had lots of visitors who came in to see us. The children learnt about how guide dogs support people who are blind, how the fire service look after people in need and also we had a paramedic in to show us basic first aid. The children now know that not all superheroes wear capes!

We have been out in the community to the local library and I must say that the children fully embraced the session. They enjoyed exploring a larger range of books and they took part in the activities that were on offer.



Enjoy the half term break, Class 2.



Class 1 - This half term our topic has been 'on the farm' and we've been exploring the story 'Farmyard Hullabaloo' in our daily Literacy lessons. All our children have enjoyed exploring our sensory story with props and have loved listening to animal sounds and various rhymes.

In phonics we have been learning letter sounds but also enjoyed listening games and activities, including 'Silly soup' and 'What's that noise?' In Maths we've continued work on developing our understanding of number through a range of songs and games. In the afternoons we have enjoyed a range of messy play, creative and malleable play activities on our farm theme. For example, we've explored small world sets up with edible sensory play ie weetabix hay bales and frozen peas, made muddy pig pictures and made models of farm animals with our dough! We've especially loved exploring our farm themed songs in our daily music and movement sessions. It's been a lovely but busy half term!





# CLASS NEWS

Class 13 have had a lovely few months in college. We have all enjoyed each other's company and built some lovely relationships with each other during our ASDAN 'My friendships' module. We have now moved onto 'My healthy lifestyle' module. We have linked most of our lessons to this theme, we have been learning about items in the kitchen and have been practicing following instructions to collect equipment and use it correctly during our healthy eating/food desensitisation sessions. We have been developing our gross motor physical abilities during PE in the walled garden and during our low level vestibular physical development sessions. We have also been developing fine motor skills during our English lessons and daily through life skills. We have been growing sunflowers and learning all about the life cycle of a plant during our science lessons. In RE the pupils have been completing an AQA unit linked to Judaism. In maths/science, pupils have been sorting the recycling and learning about the different materials. We have also been identifying coins and using these skills during the tuck shop.



## Class 14

This half term class 14 have been enjoying making a packed lunch from scratch, writing the shopping list, visiting the shop to buy our food items then making them in the college kitchen. We then enjoyed eating them outside of college and at Ribchester park. We have also been doing lots of work on asking and answering questions and the students enjoyed taking part in a hot seat to answer questions. We have been looking at shapes and signs around the school grounds as part of our AQA unit and have been practising speaking in front of people about familiar topics. We are looking forward to going to Walling's ice cream parlour on Friday to celebrate all of our achievements this half term and to practice our communication skills with unfamiliar people



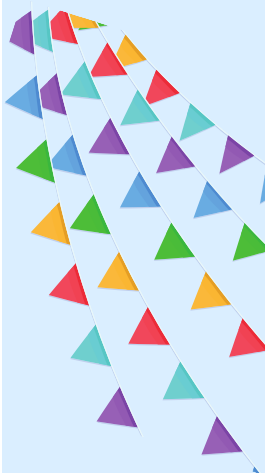
# CLASS NEWS

Class 7 have had a great half term, exploring and learning all about 'Fairgrounds'. We have enjoyed a variety of texts during our English lessons, including 'Fairground' and 'Class 7's Trip to the Fair'. The children have loved the sensory exploration of fairground smells, sights and sounds and have been developing their communication using a total communication approach when answering questions and discussing texts. We continued to explore the topic in our Geography, and DT lessons; whereby the children explored fairgrounds from around the world, investigating and contrasting the different climates and creating a range of fairground recipes, including, hot dogs, popcorn and candy floss.

During Maths we have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes, describing their properties and identifying shapes within our environment.

The children have loved participating in dance lessons, delivered by an external dance instructor, composing a dance routine from different elements of the circus. Additionally, the children had a fantastic trip to Hothersall, where they got to experience gorge walking, rock climbing and indoor caving – they all had a great time!

We hope you all have a lovely half term break,  
Kelly and the class 7 team.



This half term class 12 have enjoyed visiting Preston and Chorley hospital as part of a work familiarisation course. We have even toured some of the departments such as the linen department, kitchens and got to practice our skills as a nurse/doctor on a pretend ward!

Our Maths has focused on interpreting data from different types of graphs and tables. In English we have been learning all about conjunctions.

For PE we have enjoyed finishing our street dancing lessons via zoom then moved on to throwing and batting skills.

Science has focused on chemistry, we have looked at chemical reactions.

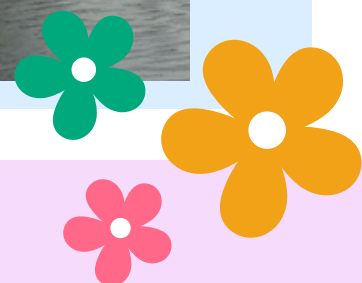
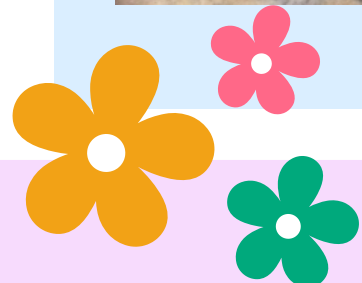
Have a great half term!





# CLASS NEWS

Class 5 have had an action-packed half term of swimming, dancing, football, circus themed fun and an awesome trip to Hothersall Lodge; trying canoeing, climbing and caving! We were bowled over by each child's bravery and determination in a new environment! Thank you to our wonderful teacher Tracey for organising and WELL DONE to all the children 😊



# CLASS NEWS

## Class 10

This term we have been learning all about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, we have learned about the different food groups and the benefits of each one for the body. We have looked at portion sizes and illnesses and nutritional deficiency that may occur if we don't eat a balanced diet. We have discussed the importance of exercise and investigated the effects of exercise on our bodies using our pulse rate as a guide. We have been working towards the 'My community module' in our Asdan qualification visiting the local cafes and shops. We walked to these places to increase our daily step count as part of our healthy living sessions.

In English we have been learning about rhyme and poetry, learning about alliteration, personification, similes and metaphors and exploring the poem 'The Highway Man'. In science we have been learning about plants functions, parts and growing our own daffodils.

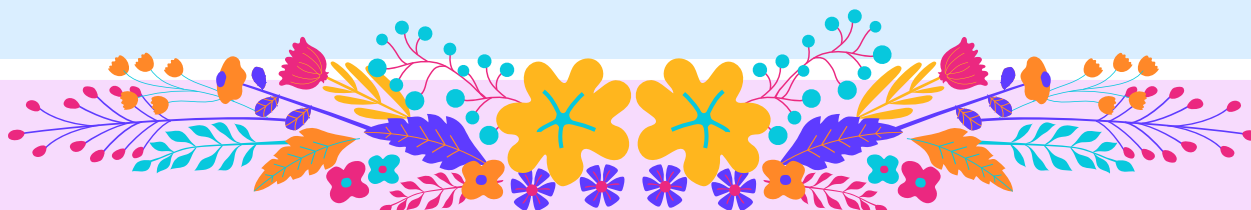
In maths we have been using our recently acquired skills to complete BOMASS tasks. We have commenced our class mini enterprise this term raising money for charity and our end of year trip by washing and valeting staff cars and organising a pyjama day.

Class 4 have had another energetic half-term and a lot of fun 😊

Highlights have included visits to the community, including experiencing a gorge walk and indoor caving at Hothersall Lodge.



Have a great half-term everyone from Class 4 😊





# CLASS NEWS

**Class 8 - Our curriculum theme this half term has been “World of Work”. In English lessons, we have read information texts about different jobs. We have looked at jobs that involve working indoors and outdoors.**

**We have continued to work towards the ASDAN qualification – Exploring Aspirations. This half term, we have completed units on making drinks and snacks and looking after the environment. We have visited Witton Park at Blackburn each week. During these visits, the pupils have taken part in a litter picking activity.**

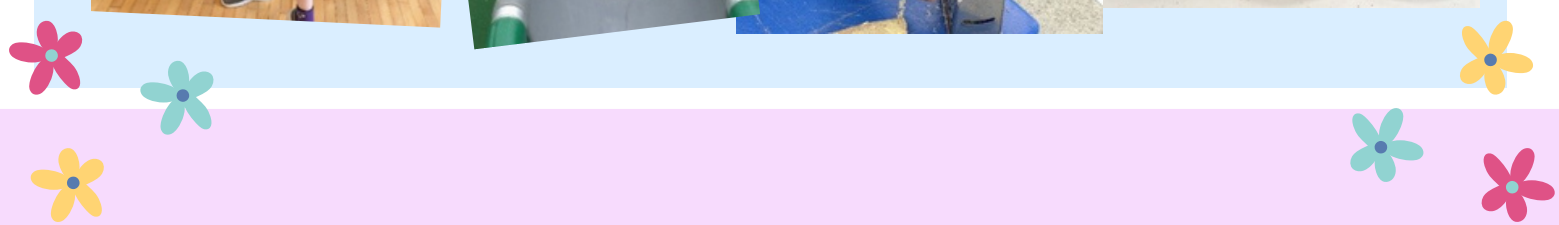
**In Science, we have been learning about plants and what plants need to grow well. We have planted sunflower seeds.**

**In our PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about healthy eating and exploring healthy and unhealthy food options.**

**The focus for our RE lessons this half term has been Buddhism.**

**Some of the pupils visited Sir Tom Finney High School in Preston to play a Tee Ball match. One of our pupils also participated in the Lancashire special schools swimming gala. We were all very proud of his achievements – he won three gold medals and one silver medal.**

**The class enjoyed visiting the theatre at Preston College to watch “Matilda” performed by students studying Performing Arts.**



# CLASS NEWS

## Class 3

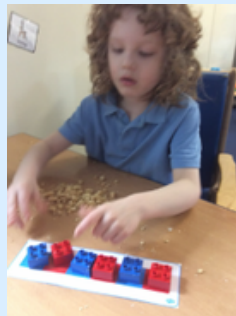
Our topic this half term has been 'Colours', Class 3 have loved our stories this half term, 'Dog's colourful day', 'The Colour Monsters' and 'Rainbow fish'. We enjoyed playing with the sand, seashells, and lots of different sea creatures! In maths we have been sorting objects by colour and counting fish we have caught in our 'pond', which we really enjoyed.

On a Monday afternoon we have visited a local park and worked on following instructions to be safe in the community and being aware of strangers. In science, we explored light using a dark den, light box and investigating how to use different light sources, we all loved the light game on the interactive whiteboard. As part of our colour topic, we listened to the story of Noah's Ark in RE, playing with the animals and the ark, water play and singing rainbow songs learning the Makaton signs for lots of colours.

Superball Paul has helped us with our ball skills in PE; kicking, throwing, bouncing, and catching whilst having lots of fun! We also visited Hothersall Lodge and took part in climbing and caving, we all did brilliantly!

Lisa has helped us to explore colours in art and follow patterns in computing, we have had such a busy half term learning, playing, and growing!

The class 3 team wish everyone a happy half term and look forward to seeing you all for the last half term of the year!



It's great to see how busy pupils have been over this last half term, which has included a number of off site trips and activities.

I am really pleased with the Ofsted report that has now been published and can be found on our school website. It reflects the hard work of the staff and pupils over the last 6 years since we were last inspected. If you wish to be part of the journey in taking the school forward, we still have a Parent Governor vacancy. Contact the office for further details.

We look forward to seeing you at our summer fair on 29th June.

Thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy the half term.

Paul Leaper - Headteacher

School will re-open on Monday 3rd June



# FUNDRAISING NEWS



## SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 29th June  
12pm to 3pm

HILLSIDE SPECIALIST SCHOOL & COLLEGE

**FREE ENTRY**

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- bouncy castle •
- market stalls •
- fairground rides •
  - hook a duck •
  - games •
- entertainment •
- face painting •
- yummy food •
- and much more!

Donations needed -  
Unwanted gifts,  
gift sets etc

For more information call the school office on 01772 782205

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£1 per ticket!