



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 20th December
LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- Monday 6th January
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Thursday 13th February
- LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- Friday 14th February
INSET
- 17th - 21st February HALF TERM
- Monday 24th February
SCHOOL RE-OPENS



Arbor

Please make sure you download the Arbor app as this is where we send important messages and you can see pupil information



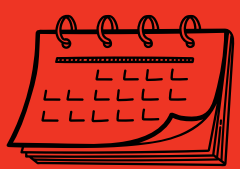
STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the team:

Anna Heyworth Teacher
Rafferty McComb TA1
Marie Parry TA1

Goodbye & Good Luck to:
Ellie Bennett

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY &
NEW YEAR



REMINDER:

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025

SCHOOL NEWS



College Enterprise have raised a fantastic £418!



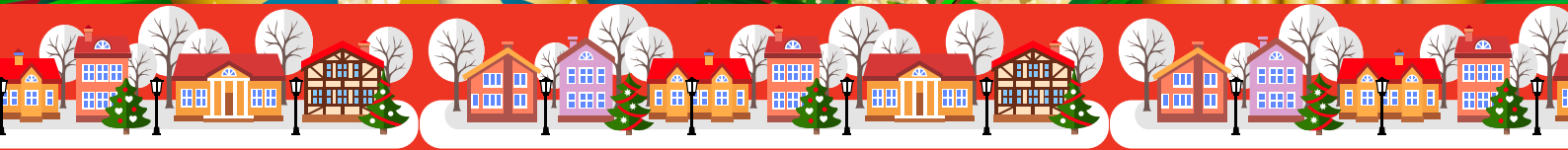
Well done to all the students involved and thank you to everyone who supported them with their ventures.

They are donating £75.00 to OJ's charity



To the PSFA for donating £100 to the School Council for the Christmas Disco and for all the pupils' Christmas gifts from Santa!

Thank you!



CLASS NEWS



Class 12 have had yet again a busy half term!

In Maths and English, we've been focusing on exam skills and targeting our learning to answering exam style questions, in the lead up to our Functional Skills examinations in the Spring/Summer terms. The pupils have enjoyed a range of speaking and listening games and activities, all of which have helped build up some lovely peer relationships.

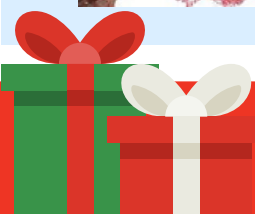
We've had a big focus on Enterprise this half term – this has been split three ways: breakfast delivery, brownie mix jars and Christmas crafts. The class have enjoyed recently making a range of Christmas crafts to sell at various markets/stalls, including weighing out ingredients for our brownie mix jars and decorating them. After weeks of research and planning, we started our class enterprise project – preparing, selling and delivering breakfast sandwiches to staff. So far it has been very popular and we've received some amazing feedback!

The pupils have been working hard towards their PDP silver qualifications, improving the look of our school grounds in forest school. We've also been continuing with our weekly music sessions, with some pupils playing music by colours on the bells/glockenspiel and others playing in our own 'rock band'! In PE we've been completing circuit training each week. It's been amazing to see how much progress the pupils have made over the weeks. To enhance our accreditations and as part of our careers curriculum, we've had visits from the local police, Mrs Singh and her friends from the local Sikh Temple and several college visits.

It's been a busy but amazing first term and it's lovely to see how well everyone has settled into Class 12 and built-up relationships with the class team and peers. Everyone has worked hard and deserve a well-earned break over the holidays.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing the pupils again in the New Year.

James and the Class 12 team





CLASS NEWS

Class 2 have had a very busy half term and an amazing build up to Christmas. Our topic this half term has been all about 'Senses and Sound'. Over the weeks we have embraced the topic and have completed some of the following;

English - We have shared two sensory stories together 'Peace at Last' and 'Stickman'. The children loved exploring all the sensory props and have started to become familiar with the characters in the stories.

Maths - In maths we have been busy learning about weight and I have to say that the children have made fabulous progress. They have become more aware of the terms 'heavy and light', carried items in carrier bags of different weights and used balancing scales effectively.

PSHE - The topic this half term has been based on 'changing and growing'. The children loved looking at pictures of themselves when they were younger. The weekly quiz was a hit with a massive drum roll to reveal the answer. We have bathed babies and played some of our favourite games.

RE - We have been learning about the Christmas Story and Christmas traditions. It is a magical topic and lots of joy has been shared through our learning experience.

Our PE lessons have been focused on ball skills with an outside specialist coach 'Super Ball Paul'. Each week the children look forward to this session and their smiles speak volumes.

How can I forget to mention the effort the children have put into the Christmas Singalong and it was great to see so many parents sharing the special day with us.

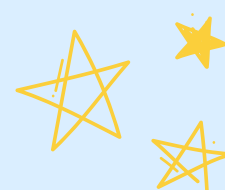
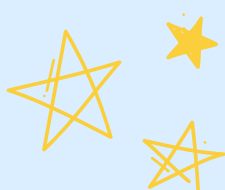
Have a lovely Christmas break and we will see you in the New Year.

The Class 2 team

In class 6 our topic has been 'winter'. We have loved our stories 'Ridiculous', 'Peppa's cold winter day' and 'One Christmas Eve'. We have all made so much progress during our English lessons working on reading, comprehension and writing skills. In maths we have been doing lots of practical activities focusing on temperature, weight and number. During our topic lessons we have been learning all about and experiencing different types of weather - we've had lots of fun playing in the snow and rain! We have learnt about what clothes we should wear in different types of weather too. We have also covered 'My Art', the pupils have loved the art lessons and have worked on skills such as fine motor, communication and following instructions. In PE we have been focusing on dance and moving to music, the pupils have enjoyed dancing and moving to a range of genres! One of our favourite lessons of the half term has been dance massage, we have been working on early communication and interaction skills throughout this and developing relationships too. In computing we have been using the whiteboard and iPads working on eBooks and digital art. In PSHE we have learnt about changing and growing. We have finished the half term off with some lovely Christmas themed activities.



This half term, Class 5 have been exploring winter; Snow Bear: A Winter Sensory Adventure and Winter Snow poem, role play and fun tuff tray activities. We have had lots of fun decorating the class snowman and Christmas tree and taking part in lots of Christmas fun and games, we especially loved our Christmas disco and going to see Sleeping Beauty. We have experienced our own Diwali and made Diwa lamps after a light show, learnt about Advent making an Advent wreath and Christingle. In maths we have been exploring numbers; counting and catching snowflakes and using coins to buy items from our 'supermarket'. Our Attention Autism sessions have been so much fun especially our snow fountain, and we are doing well with our phonics too. The children have made lots of progress not only in lessons but with their independence and communication, the staff are really proud of them all! Class 5 would like to wish everyone a magical Christmas and relaxing New Year!



Class 14 have had an extremely busy half term. We have been working hard with our enterprise projects, making lots of lovely Christmas presents to sell and have raised £418! Thank you to all who have supported the college enterprise, we will be giving some of the money we have raised to OJ's as we have been looking at charities and how we can support them as part of our AQA accreditation unit. We also took part in our annual Christmas concert and the students in class 14 were all amazing! We are so proud of them all! We hope everyone has an amazing Christmas holidays and we will see you in the new year!



CLASS NEWS



This half term class 9 have enjoyed a Christmas sensory story with gingerbread playdough. In maths we have been focusing on measurements. In PE we have been practicing individual dance moves then putting this together to do short sequences then copying a zumba dance to music.

Our geography has been based on globes and we have really enjoyed learning about India. Our PSHE focused on self esteem, we practised giving each other compliments then we moved on to focusing on families. We have enjoyed watching PowerPoints of our families and identifying our family members.

We are also working on an ASDAN qualification and this half term we have learnt about people in healthcare who support us and then moved onto dangers. We have also enjoyed singing and signing Rudolph the red nose reindeer. Have a great Christmas!

Class 7 have had a jam-packed, fun and festive half term, full of achievements and plenty of wow moments to boot! The highlights being our trips out into the community, including swimming, the cinema to see The Magic Reindeer, and also our choir performing at St. Paul's church last week. Another big thank you to Laura S for organising the choir; Flynn's solo performance was a singing delight! The last few weeks have been full of magical moments together, festive baking, crafting and our class Christmas party and the school disco. We wish all our families a wonderful Christmas and looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2025!

Best wishes, Christy, Kerry and all the Class 7 Team 😊



CLASS NEWS

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Class 4 have had an extremely busy yet enjoyable half term, exploring and learning all about The Stone Age.

We have covered a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction texts during our English lessons, including 'Cave Baby', 'How to wash a woolly mammoth', 'Santa Claus' and 'Christmas Eve'.

We have enjoyed learning about different aspects of the Stone Age, broadening our understanding. We continued to explore the topic within our Art and History lessons, investigating how the Stone Age progressed over time and comparing Stone Age life with modern day. The children had a great time creating their own paint and collecting materials to paint with, making mini shelters and Stone Age tools. The children created a wonderful cave display, showcasing their fantastic work, both in History and Art.

During Maths we have been learning all about measurement; exploring weight and capacity.

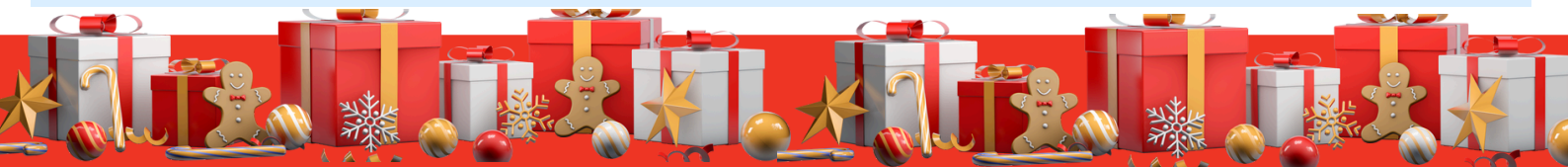
We have had a lot of fun considering both weight and capacity through various practical activities, allowing the children to investigate and explore.

The focus during Science this half term has been, 'Animals, including humans', with each week bringing the exploration of a new animal group. The children have developed an understanding of the characteristics of each group and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring through a range of hands on tasks, including insect hunts, animal tuff trays and caring for our young role play.

PE this half term has been very busy, the children have continued to participate in weekly sessions with Super Ball Paul. The progress made has been fantastic, not to mention the amount of fun that has been had.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who attended the Christmas sing along, the children had a great time and it was lovely to see you all.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break,
Kelly and the class 4 team.





CLASS NEWS

Class 3

In English, the children enjoyed listening to our class stories 'Peace at Last and Leaf Man' and have been busy completing lots of different activities linked to each story. During our 'Peace at Last' story, the children explore lots of different sounds that kept Daddy Bear awake all night. Whilst reading our 'Leaf Man' story, the children went on a leaf hunt to find the best leaves to make their very own leaf man before taking him on different adventures.

In Maths this term, the children have been focusing on numbers and measuring. The children learnt how to group objects together, practised their counting skills and compared objects to find the biggest and smallest objects. The children were really good at this and really enjoyed challenging the staff in class to see who could build the biggest tower using the duplo bricks. It was lots of fun!

The children have really enjoyed exploring the different percussion instruments this term during our weekly music lessons and creating music using the Music Lab app in computing. The children particularly enjoyed using the handbells to play 'Jingle Bells' and performed this in small groups. It was fantastic!

The children have all worked really hard this term and have achieved so much. We are all very proud of them.

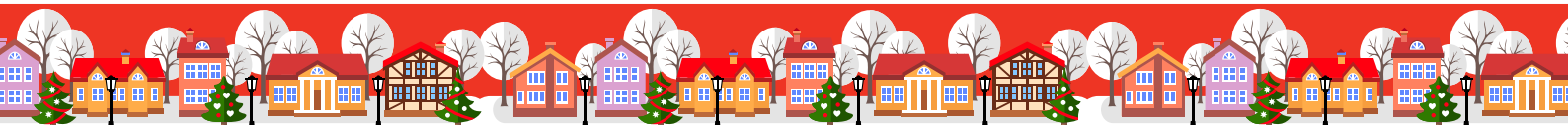
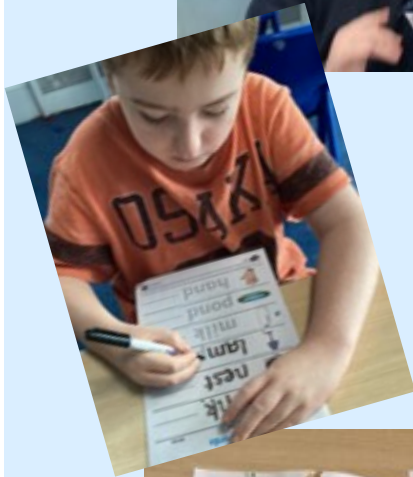




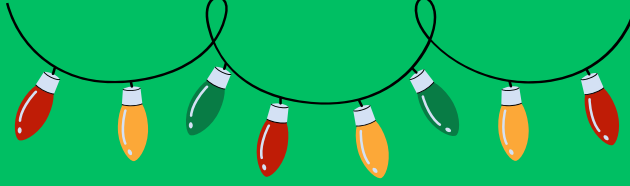
CLASS NEWS

Another great half term for class 10! In English we have been reading The Nativity story with lots of sensory props and theme boards for pupils to follow along with, pupils have also been practising their reading and writing skills. Pupils have all made brilliant progress in different areas of Math, looking at shape, number and size. In Science, pupils have learnt how to be safe around electricity and explored different electrical items. In RE, we have explored the Hindu festival Diwali, pupils have enjoyed lots of arty activities, creating decorations for the festival of light. In PE lessons we have been practising a sensory circuit, focusing on gross motor skills. Pupils have enjoyed interacting with each other whilst playing turn-taking games and we have also had lots of Christmas craft sessions!

Class 10 staff and pupils would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope you all have a lovely time over the holidays.



CLASS NEWS



In Class 13 we have had a big focus on our Enterprise project this half term. We have been working as a team in making Christmas decorations and tealight holders to sell at Enterprise and Christmas fairs. We even hosted a Christmas fair in Class 13 in the final week before Christmas and was able to sell our items. We worked on lots of different skills during our Enterprise project using shape cutters to make our items out of clay, painting the items and using our communication skills to make choices throughout the process. Thank you to everyone who bought some of our Enterprise items!

Our theme for the half-term was the Human body and we have been learning the vocabulary of different body parts through a number of Cross-curricular activities such as English, Science and Art. We enjoyed a fun and very messy sensory story to support our learning and develop our communication skills.

In Maths our focus has been time, and we have been learning about our daily routine, ordering this, making a Class 13 Diary and using colourful semantics to describe photos of ourselves participating in activities during our daily routine.

We have developed our functional Maths and English skills through our Pathway 3b curriculum working on Number, Writing, Fine Motor Skills and Reading.

We have also been involved in the Christmas performance and have been practising Christmas Carols using handbells through 'Music with colour'. Our pupils really engaged and progressed, working as a group and individually, following sequences of music using colour to play Christmas songs such as 'Jingle Bells'. We enjoyed being part of the Christmas performance with other classes around school.

We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to getting back in 2025 with new themes and learning opportunities. Next term our focus will be 'My Technology' and we will be using and learning about different technological devices in the classroom, kitchen and community.

Neil and the Class 13 team



CLASS NEWS



Class 1 - This half term our topic has been 'Dinosaurs'. In our literacy lessons we have enjoyed exploring the stories 'Stomp dinosaur, stomp!' and 'Crunch, munch, dinosaur lunch'. In Maths we have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes and have also explored some dinosaur themed counting songs and activities. We have been extremely creative in our afternoons and have been exploring various sensory and malleable play and art activities. For example, making dinosaur prints in different messy materials, dinosaur collages and hand print pictures. We have also enjoyed a range of dinosaur themed songs in our music and movement sessions, in addition to our daily dough disco sessions!

We are now in 'Christmas mode!'. We invited parents in to join us for our Christmas workshop and singalong. We even had a special visit from Father Christmas! We have been busy with Christmas crafts and sensory play activities, whilst exploring our new Christmas themed sensory story. The class 1 staff would like to thank our parents for their continued support and wish all our children and parents a Happy Christmas 🌿

Class 8 have had a productive half-term.

In English we have completed activities linked to 'A Christmas Carol' and worked on making progress in speaking and listening, individual/shared reading, comprehension and writing.

During Maths we have completed activities linked to number and measure.

In Science we have investigated Animals including Humans.

Our PSHE lessons have explored managing feelings.

During Art lessons we have made progress with a variety of techniques including printing, painting, sketching and using chalk.

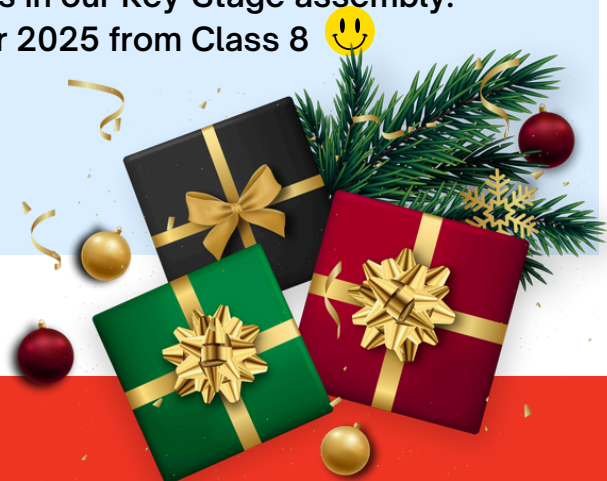
We have developed our music skills practising Christmas carols including playing a variety of musical instruments.

During PE lessons we have made progress with our ball skills led by an outside specialist coach.

In RE we have explored Judaism.

Each Friday we have celebrated our achievements in our Key-Stage assembly.

Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2025 from Class 8 😊



CLASS NEWS



It's been a very busy time in school this term and I am very pleased to see the range of activities the pupils have been involved in and the hard work provided by our staff at school. It was great to watch our secondary and college pupils' perform at their Christmas event last week and I would like to thank parents for coming along and supporting those pupils involved. It was also great to see so many of you at the primary singalong events in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Leaper
Headteacher



FUNDRAISING NEWS

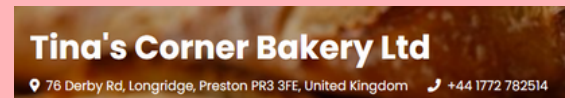
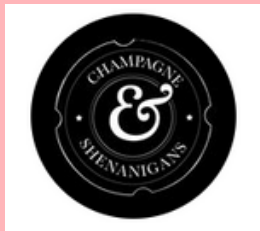


THANK YOU SO MUCH!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual bingo event. We were overwhelmed again by how many people joined us to support the school.

The PSFA raised an amazing £2016.50!

Thank you to Bingo Ben our fantastic caller, all the parents & relatives who donated raffle prizes for non-uniform day and all the businesses that kindly gave us donations or bingo prizes. We couldn't have achieved this success without you all!



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£1 per ticket!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all - We look forward to welcoming the pupils back in January!