

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would firstly like to wish our pupils who are currently taking their exams all the very best of luck. It is always a challenging time but I know our pupils will do us and themselves proud.

This term is a short one, but we have had some wonderful learning experiences. Some of our hub students had the opportunity to visit Lush during our STEM week, where they made bath bombs in Lush's science lab. This was a valuable experience for our pupils and our thanks are extended to Lush for this experience.

We also welcomed Courtney Orange to our school, who is a Commonwealth Athlete and has competed in the disciplines of both Gymnastics and Dance. During this visit, pupils across the school and hub had the opportunity to take part in a physical circuit, which was a truly inspiring event, with all those involved contributing to the best of their ability. Courtney gave an inspirational presentation to the pupils, describing how despite struggles and set-backs in his life, his determination and 'can do' attitude enabled him to achieve success. I would like to thank Courtney for sharing his life story with us and inspiring our pupils.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new PE Teacher, Lisa, who I am confident, will enhance the school's sporting activities and have a positive impact on our pupils in this area of the curriculum.

Wishing everyone a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing our pupils when they return to school on Tuesday 3rd June.

Adam

Principal



British Values

The various activities highlighted in this newsletter are an example of just some of the diverse learning opportunities that are undertaken by our students. Many of these activities take place within the local community as well as at school for real opportunities to explore these values in order to support students to understand the needs of others in a wider context. Helen Allison School teaches students by planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. British values embedded within this curriculum and these values are defined as: Democracy, Rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter we would like to hear from you. If you would like to contribute to the next Newsletter, please let Lacie Whitehead have your article.

hello MATERNITY LEAVE



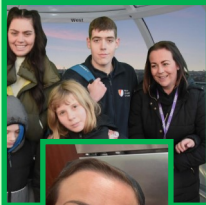
On the 30th May, Francesca will begin her maternity leave, taking time to prepare for the arrival of her baby.

We would like to take a moment to wish her all the very best for this exciting new chapter of her life. Francesca we are all so thrilled for you as you await the arrival of your little boy!

You'll be greatly missed by both the School and the Hub. Things certainly won't be the same without you, but we're all looking forward to hearing your happy news and we can't wait to meet the newest little member of your family.

We wish Francesca and her partner Ben the very best on their exciting new venture and hope you don't have too many sleepless nights!

GOODBYE



As the term draws to a close, we will be saying goodbye to Jodie, our Kitchen Assistant.

Jodie started work with us almost 5 years ago as a teaching assistant and has spent the last 3 year of those working in the kitchen ensuring our students get a lovely hot meal at lunch.

We would like to thank her and wish her all the best for her future.



On Wednesday 7th May, we welcomed a Commonwealth athlete to our school, as part of a fundraising event through Great Athletes. Courtney Orange joined our pupils for the afternoon where he took a physical session with the pupils, motivating them in a range of activities. The pupils engaged well and thoroughly enjoyed the session, even though they were tired afterwards! Courtney went onto hold an assembly, sharing his life story to date and even showing them a few flips and tricks using his gymnastic skills.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Courtney started gymnastics aged 7 and chased his Olympic dreams in London, becoming National Gymnastics Champion six times, after competing in the 2002 Commonwealth Games. A knee injury ended his gymnastics career, however, talent scouts then spotted his dancing skills and he went on to perform for top music stars. Now, Courtney loves inspiring others as a wellbeing motivator.

We are incredibly proud to announce, that following your fundraising efforts and the participation of the children at the event, you have raised £1590.50! This money will go towards new sports equipment for the children, so a huge thank you!

LONDON MARATHON

On Sunday 27th April 2025, a student's dad challenged himself to run the London Marathon to raise money for the National Autistic Society, he has currently raised an amazing £5,700.



We would like to say a big well done and thank you from everyone at the Helen Allison School





Group 5

Group 5's term has been exciting and engaging as the weather is steadily improving for summer! Most of us have been really well-engaged in our digital photography work, making good progress on the Portrait project – taking photos, meddling with lighting and beginning to edit the finished pieces into a final product.

Meanwhile, Kai has been on a baking mission – creating some truly magnificent lemon cakes and strawberry-chocolate tart for us to enjoy!

Hever Class

This term, Hever class have been incredibly busy with their learning. They have been out in the local community for their PE sessions, using different apparatus and equipment to participate in games. In class, we have been gaining lots of independence using manipulatives in our maths and English lessons. Some of our resources have even been edible!



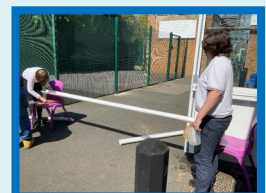
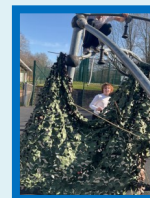
Windsor Class

This term, Windsor class' Wheel of Independence topic has been leisure activities. As part of the topic, they learn about different activities that people do for enjoyment and during their leisure time. They independently choose different activities that they would like to take part in and organise it themselves. For their first activity, the class chose to go to the park.



Leeds Class

Through the 'Commando Joe's programme,' Leeds class have practised skills such as team work, listening skills and communication all whilst carrying out fun, physical activities. Along the way we have learnt about inspirational explorers/role models and their achievements, for example 'Walking the Amazon' with Ed Stafford and The Journey across Arabia' with Levison Wood.





SCOTNEY CLASS



As we approach the end of Term 5, I am delighted to share with you the progress that Scotney Class has made throughout this term.

This term, we have completed the book called Krindlekrax, a fascinating narrative that has allowed us to dive deeply into the lives of the characters Ruskin and Elvis, and their extraordinary encounter with the crocodile on Lizard Street.

We have moved onto looking at a book called The Comet, a story about Nyla moving from her village to the city.

In our Science lessons, the focus has been on The Planets and made links to our work in English.

Our Wheel of Independence has focused on leisure activities and aiming to be part of a team, and playing a game within and following the rules.

During Physical Education lessons, the students have particularly enjoyed their Table Tennis sessions, great progress has been made and with support the boys can return the ball with consistency.

The class team and I look forward to working with the students throughout Term 6, where we will continue to build upon their learning experiences.



CAMBER CLASS



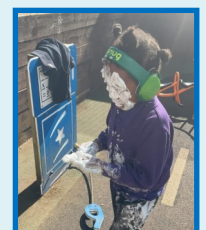
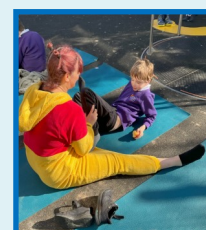
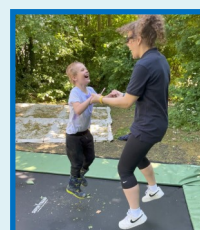
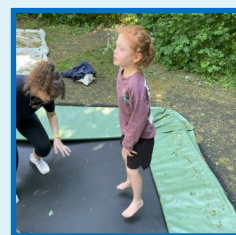
There has been lots of fantastic learning going on in Camber class this term. This has included investigating sight and sound around the school, as well as exploring the uses of our hands and feet. A wide variety of manipulatives have been used to explore different number representations. The number songs have continued to be popular, with Five Little Ducks and Five Little Speckled Frogs being the most popular this term.

The students have also enjoy their trips into the community, including their weekly swimming lessons and park trips.



CORFE CLASS

Corfe class have had a great term. They have been engaging in a wide variety of sensory exploration play. The hot weather has enabled a lot of outdoor learning and investigating. Water play has been extremely popular, as have the rebound sessions on the trampoline. The student have also been enjoying the Sing and Sign sessions these songs are becoming very familiar to them.





At the beginning of the term Curly's Farm was closed, so we thought we would have a sneaky trip to Wildwood Trust near Canterbury. The students had a lovely day.



Back on the farm working with the cows



Now for some rest after working so hard



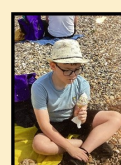
MUSIC

This term we have been doing some exciting activities! The pupils who have an instrumental lesson each week are making great progress. Here we see Heidi working on her chords and melodies on the keyboards. Pupils at the hub have been working towards their Arts Award this week. Lyra is seen putting the final touches to a music video she created for her Arts Award. At the main school different classes have been focusing on singing, playing different parts together, creating videos and composing sounds to a theme. Here we see Kyle from Scotney putting the final touches to the video he created and Windsor composing their Wave composition.



Rochester Class

As part of our topic on habitats, conservation and water pollution Rochester class explored The Leas Beach. We found crabs, sea snails and explored the environment they need to survive.



We collected waste, leaves, sticks and card to design & make bug hotels for mini beasts as part of our Art topic 'sculptures'. We placed our creations in the school conservation area.



In Art, Rochester class have been looking at sculpture and using a variation of materials and resources. Our task was to design and make a standing bird using wire, card and feathers.





The Hub's New Additions

At the hub we have been very lucky to have a Bluetit make her nest here!!

She started off by laying 11 eggs but only 6 have hatched

Mum is in and out of the box feeding her hungry brood.

It has been very distracting for staff and students watching them on the camera Lisa bought.



Group 2

Group 2 had a lovely term.

Thomas and Daniel love their horse riding sessions. Thomas riding Arnie and Daniel riding Amber down the lane in horse-riding.

To celebrate science week in STEM the students made bath bombs.

Thomas is busy working in construction

Group 2 enjoyed Cortney Orange's visit and Isaac was amazing with the exercises Cortney set for them.



Rufus Class

Rufus have had a lovely term 5. They have been enjoying the sun and exploring outside spaces around the school. The children have used each of the playgrounds, the MUGA, the outdoor learning area and the trampoline (which is a class favourite!). This has all helped with their gross motor skills.

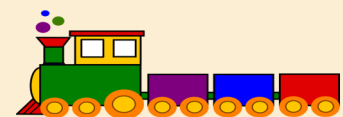
The children have been doing really well with their fine motor skills this term. During focused sessions, food safari and art they have all made progress. All children are now using scissors and taking part in mark-making at different levels. They take care when using materials and are showing greater engagement. There have been lovely moments of interaction this term. Children are playing alongside and with each other more often, and are doing really well at turn-taking.

Have a lovely break, see you in term 6!
Rufus team.



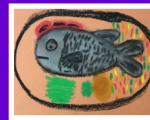
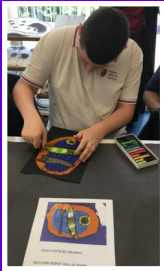
Warwick Class

This term Warwick class have been learning about Leisure, money and time management in their Wheel of Independence lessons. This included going offsite to different locations and then evaluating whether it was a fun activity, good or bad value for money, whether they would visit the location again and how long it took to travel there and back. We have been to Trosley Park, Camer Park and Capstone Country Park.



ART

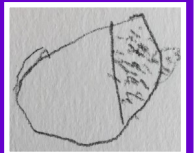
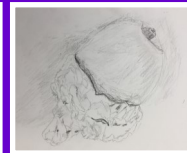
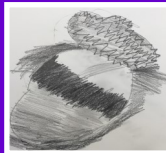
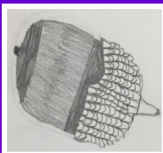
At the Hub some of the students have been exploring Chalk Pastels and had to create an image of a platter containing a fish, lemon and tomatoes.



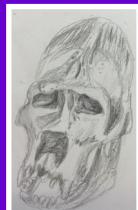
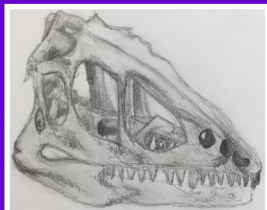
They have been exploring the work of a British Artist 'James Lake,' and they have been making 2D relief or 3 dimensional objects using just cardboard.



This term we have been doing drawing assessment and many of the students were tasked with drawing an acorn.



The older students chose what they wanted to draw.



The following are the results for the Art Bytes competition this year. The 1st placements for Primary and Secondary which are Freddie Johns and Jayden Jobson, they will have their work on display at the Hastings Contemporary Studio for the celebration event to be held on the 12th June 2025.

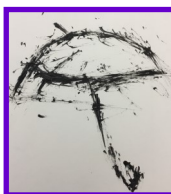
The judging has been completed and the following students got placements

SECONDARY: 1st Freddie Johns, 2nd Aidin Sarrami and 3rd place Vincent Momont

PRIMARY: 1st Jayden Jobson, 2nd Donnie Roberts and 3rd place Oscar Eady



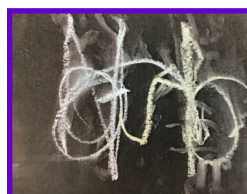
Freddie Johns



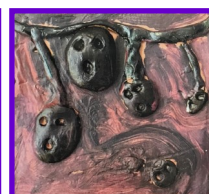
Aidin Sarrami



Vincent Momont



Jayden Jobson



Donnie Roberts



Oscar Eady



Dates for the diary



5th May 2025
Bank Holiday

12th May 2025
Science & STEM Week

23rd May 2025
Last Day of Term

2nd June 2025
Inset Day

3rd June 2025
Term 6 Begins

23rd June 2025
Diversity Week

24th June 2025
Parent Evening

9th July 2025
HUB/Upper School
Sports Day

11th July 2025
End of Year Production

16th—18th July 2025
HUB Camping / School
Enrichment Week

21st July 2025
Whole School Transition
Day

22nd July 2025
Lower School Sports
Day

22nd July 2025
Family Fun Day

23rd July 2025
HUB Graduation

24th July 2025
School Graduation

25th July 2025
Last Day of Term

Keep an eye on the My Child at School app for additional dates.

my child at school.com

The school have now moved to a new home/school communication portal called MCAS (My Child At School). This portal should be used for all communication to staff. You can also view your child's attendance, update their records and pay pocket or dinner money via this portal.

Please contact Lacie or Lynn if you have any problems with this system as step by step guides can be provided.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to volunteers from Network rail, Nassir, Gary, Steven & Joe who all worked hard during our Easter half term painting various rooms around the school, which has refreshed and improved the learning environment for our pupils. We are most grateful for the support provided by the Network Rail volunteers who have worked at our school on a voluntary basis over many years and whose contribution has had a positive impact on our school.

If you have any concerns around your child's computer or internet use please don't hesitate to ask us for help, guidance or support. Contact the school on 01474 814878 and ask to speak to a safeguarding officer. The Helen Allison School website has all of our safeguarding information as well as Internet Safeguarding links you might find useful.

Safeguarding Team

The following staff are our school safeguarding team. If you have a concern or wish to speak to one of them, please call the school and we will put you in touch.



Adam
Lead DSL



Luke
Deputy DSL



Lisa
Deputy DSL



Francesca
Attendance and
Welfare



Ashleigh
Behaviour and
Wellbeing



Natasha
Financial Support