

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of last academic year, some of our Hub students took their exams and I am very pleased to say that they all did amazingly well and we are very proud of their achievements.

This academic year has started very positively for our pupils, it has been lovely to see how well they have transitioned back into school life, being fully engaged in their learning. The academic year started with pupils voting to determine who they would like to be part of the School Council. This is always a hotly contested event and congratulations to the pupils who were selected. This is such an important part of our school, ensuring pupil voice is heard and suggestions are actioned if feasible.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at parents evening in November, where once again our school photographer will be available, following the positive feedback from last year. This will be during the school parents evening, however, Hub students/families are welcome, thus providing an opportunity to have a wonderful family photo. We have also arranged for our local Police Officer to attend to provide information relating to online safety, which we hope you will find useful.

As a school, we understand that the holidays can be difficult, so please do get in touch with the school if you need any advice or guidance during the break. There will always be someone available during this period.

Well done to all our pupils on a great start to the academic year!

*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.

# ATTENDANCE

Following recent updates from the Department for Education surrounding attendance in schools, pupil attendance is very much a key focus for us this academic year. As a school we work with all of our Local Authorities with regard to many things, including sharing attendance data with them. When pupil attendance drops below expectations, the Local Authorities will be made aware of this and can make suggestions regarding interventions or strategies to improve attendance in line with their own expectations and taking into consideration reasons behind low attendance. We know that you make every effort to ensure your child comes to school every day and understand how important it is for continuity of learning, we fully appreciate that at times there may be difficulties, for example with transport issues. Please note Headteachers/Principals may not grant any leave of absence to pupils during term time unless they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. **Please note that a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance and will impact your child's attendance.** Attendance data can be viewed on the My Child at School app and Francesca our Attendance Officer, Lisa our Assistant Head and Luke our SENCO continue to support in all matters regarding attendance. If you have any concerns or questions regarding attendance please call the school or hub.



## Rufus Class



Hello and welcome to the new school year in Rufus class!

The members of Rufus class have done really well changing classrooms and settling in to a new routine. They have enjoyed exploring our new space and being able to access the playground more easily.

Our focus book this term has been *The Naughty Bus*. We have loved reading the story together, acting it out with toy buses and passengers, and building tall towers like in London. The children have also been trying to read, write and spell key words from the book, according to their phonic level.

We have had a counting focus in maths this term. Children have been practising counting and have been exposed to numbers up to 30. They have all improved their skills when counting a group of objects and showing the correct numeral.

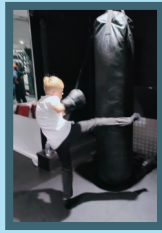
We continue to enjoy bucket time, carousel play and outdoor learning in Rufus. This has included lots of new crafts and sensory experiences, many based around a bus or transport theme. They have all been working hard on their fine motor skills in class, and their gross motor skills in gymnastics and trampoline sessions.



# Leeds Class

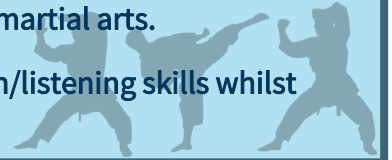


As part of PE this term Leeds class have taken part in Martial Arts lessons at a local gym.



The pupils have learnt the Importance of fitness as well as the disciplines of martial arts.

They have also practiced coordination, working together and communication/listening skills whilst having fun.



## Scotney Class

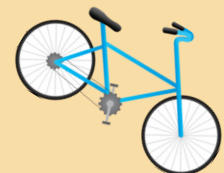
We are delighted to share an update on the exciting activities and learning experiences that Scotney Class has engaged in throughout Term 1.

The class have settled into the new term very well, displaying enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards their studies and activities. This term, our students had the wonderful opportunity to visit the local shops in Wheel of Independence where they bought and paid for different ingredients. Their culinary skills were put to the test as they created a variety of dishes, including macaroni cheese, and also designed and made their own sandwich of choice. These activities not only provide practical life skills but also promote teamwork and creativity among the pupils.



As part of our history curriculum, the class embarked on a History trip to Knole Park in Sevenoaks. This excursion allowed the students to explore the impressive 600-year-old estate and visit the display rooms within the house. We also took the opportunity to observe Tudor-style homes in local villages, such as Eynsford, which has enriched our discussions and understanding of the period.

Furthermore, Scotney Class has been actively participating in weekly bike maintenance sessions held at the hub. During these sessions, the children are learning valuable skills while using various tools that are applicable in multiple contexts beyond just bicycle maintenance.



In addition to these hands-on experiences, swimming and yoga sessions have become an integral part of our curriculum this term. Students have also enjoyed their time in the outdoor learning area, where they have been exploring the seasonal changes that occur during autumn and identifying various objects unique to this time of year.



## Group 2



In Wheel of Independence we have been using the Commando Joe box and it has been such a success. The groups at the Hub have all been working hard to co-operate together more, show more empathy for one another and listen to one another more. We've been building shelters, crossing icy terrain, building sugar cube igloos as well pushing ourselves to the limit with jumping, planks and running challenges.

The box has been an amazing resource for our pupils, we have been so proud of all their efforts and look forward to more challenges in the future.



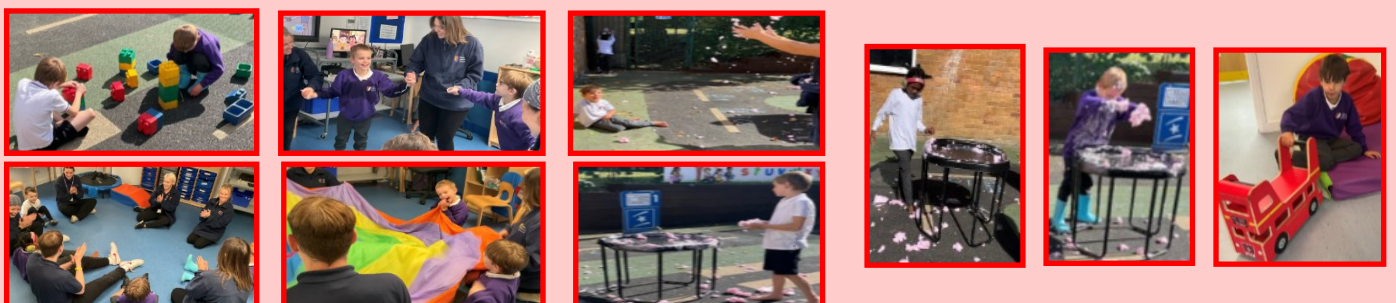
## Hever Class

This term, Hever class have been very busy with all aspects of their learning. We have been exploring landmarks around our local area in Geography. We have also been busy joining in with Gymnastics on a Monday morning, performing different rolls, jumps and stretches. In English, the class have engaged well learning about our superhero 'Traction Man', creating medals to celebrate our superhero saving the day!



## Corfe Class

It has been an excellent start to the new academic year in Corfe class. Work has taken place around developing friendships and building relationships with staff. The students have enjoyed being back in the routine of starting the day with their 'hello' song. Turn taking and communication skills have been developed in their daily Attention Autism sessions, as they have been enjoying choosing their preferred activities in Carousel Play. They have also engaged well in the OT sessions, which have focused on developing fine motor skills, as well as exposing students to a variety of different smells. The students have also been joining with Camber class for parachute games, which has been a great success.





## Rochester Class



This term is all about the Romans! We have conquered Richborough Gateway and explored the ruins and learnt about roman trades of glass, jewellery and weapons. We navigated around the site and climbed the wooden replica gateway built in AD 43.



We visited the Foxenden farm to learn more about growing and producing local fruit. We picked apples, pears and raspberries and chose a pumpkin for Halloween. We practiced our life skills, weighed our fruit and paid the farmer.

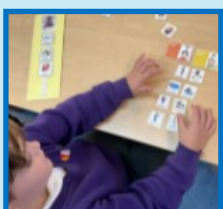
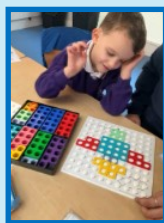


## Camber Class

Camber class have had a fantastic start to the new term. They have been using lots of maths manipulatives to develop their understanding of numbers and what they represent and have also been comparing objects and creating repeating patterns.

In English, they have enjoyed The Naughty Bus story and the work that they have been doing around this.

Science has also been lots of fun as they have explored a variety of animals, what they need to survive and where they live. The students have been making the most of the last bit of 'summer' weather by spending time in the new outdoor learning area, as well as the conservation area and the different playgrounds.



# Horticulture Group

The students have been tidying the Hub garden and making it ready for the winter.



They have covered the pond with mesh to stop the leaves falling into it, and the pond weed and water lily in the pond are growing well.



The students have also made a leaf pile in the garden which will help benefit the wildlife by:  
Being a food source for hedgehogs, frogs, toads and newts.  
It can be used for a nest or bedding for hedgehogs and invertebrates, or be used as a hibernation shelter for hedgehogs.  
The leaf pile is in a tyre because we did not want the leaves blowing away in the wind.



# Curly's Farm



This term the new students at the Hub have also started coming to Curly's Farm. All the new students are really enjoying their time there and are joining in with the tasks set by the staff at the farm and getting to know the animals.

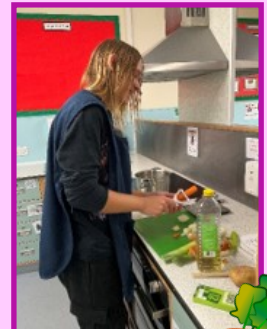


Below are pictures of all the students working together as a team to prepare one of the pens for the pigs on the farm. It was hard, muddy work but everyone joined in and to make it even better the sun was shining



# Warwick class

This term in Wheel of Independence Warwick class have enjoyed going to the supermarket to explore the cost of certain items and understand there are different brands, sizes and value for money, and buying items and paying for them. We have also been cooking different things in the food tech room such as soup, following a recipe and using a knife, chopping and dicing skills.



# Head of the Student Council at the Hub

In September, Micah was voted in as Head of the Student Council at the Hub. He had to present his Manifesto to the staff and students to suggest why he was the right person for the role.

Since being elected in, Micah has organised a democratic system for each Form Group to vote for their chosen Student Council Representative. He has met with these to discuss and prioritise changes that will support the students.

The main focus has been their Common Room. To make this more comfortable, Micah requested new chairs. He also ordered new games for the students to play on the Xbox, using eBay as his source, and sold a couple of items that were going to be thrown away to CEX in Gravesend, raising £61 for the Student Council Account.

Micah is going to present the members of the Student Council, what they have already achieved and their future aims in a Hub assembly.

They will all meet after the half-term to discuss their next stages in supporting the students at the Hub.



## ART

Students have been looking at spirals in nature and trying out new medium of charcoal and chalk pastels. The focus was on control and application of the chalk pastels.



Students have also been exploring the artist Rachel Parker and they have been exploring their own repeat surface pattern. They had to come up with a small design and then play around with scale and size and then incorporate their original design into a larger surface pattern.



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## Group 5

With the recent influx of new arrivals to the Hub, Group 5 has re-materialised for the first time in a few years and it's been a busy first term! Whilst some of our group have slipped right back into familiar patterns, a few of our pupils have been settling in to life at the Hub, taking on board their way around, how lessons here operate and enjoying all the various subjects on offer to them—such as Curly's Farm, Horse Riding, Bike Mechanics, Gym & Healthy Lifestyle, and Creative Media!



## Windsor Class

This term in RE Windsor class's topic is 'What do Muslims believe?'

The class visited a local Mosque a place of worship for Muslim people.

The Imam gave the children a talk about the religion of Islam and gave them a tour of the different rooms within the mosque.



### Group 1



*Group One have all settled well into the new school year and are all working hard towards their own targets and different qualifications. Some members of the class have participated in a school football tournament where they played 6 games winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 3. All matches were very close and could have gone either way.*



## WELCOME TO THE HELEN ALLISON SCHOOL

We would like to say a huge warm welcome to our new starters who started this term.



Stuart Nicholson  
Teacher



Casey Jones-Allen  
Teaching Assistant



Leanne Manning  
Teaching Assistant



Harriet Norman  
Assistant Psychologist





## Dates for the diary



**21st October 2024**  
Half Term

**4th November 2024**  
Term 2 Begins

**12th November 2024**  
The Selfish Giant Play

**15th November 2024**  
Children in Need

**19th November 2024**  
School Parents Evening  
& School Photos

**21st November 2024**  
HUB Parents Evening

**12th December 2024**  
Christmas Lunch & Jumper  
Day

**19th December 2024**  
Christmas Production

**20th December 2024**  
Last day of Term

**6th January 2025**  
Term 3 Begins

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



**FRIDAY 22TH NOVEMBER**

**10:30am to 11:30am**

**At COSTA Coffee**

**6 The Parade, Meopham,**

**DA13 0JL**

with

Lisa Waters—Senior Assistant Head

Marie-Louise Holmberg - Assistant Head

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