

Dear Parents,

It has been a fantastic term for our pupils, who have engaged in numerous activities throughout the term. My highlight of the term was when our school band, who, for the first time, went to another school to perform in front of 100+ pupils and staff. Their amazing performance and professional behaviour was a proud moment and a fabulous representation of our school.

Thank you to the staff who supported at the Hub enabling us to offer an extended day, where our older pupils were treated to a fun afternoon at Gravity. We had another wonderful World Book Day, with pupils and staff being involved with this important day, all dressing up as their favourite characters. The pupils at the school were treated to an informative Guide Dog assembly, which involved a guide dog visiting Helen Allison School and pupils being given an insight into the incredible training that is put in place for these special dogs. Thank you also to every member of staff and pupil who have taken part this week in World Autism Acceptance Week, visiting the local community, speaking to members of the public, including local shop owners.

As we now look forward to our summer term, we have some fabulous activities planned, including our yearly residential trip and Family Fun Day, as well as two Graduation events for our pupils leaving the Hub and our pupils who will be moving to the Hub from the school in September.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Monday 15th April.

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 Francesca Shaxted have your article.

World Book Day 2024

On March 7th Helen Allison celebrated world book day. This year's theme was 'Read Your Way' and encouraged students to enjoy and explore books in a way that appealed to them. Across the school and Hub, classes took part in different activities from discussions around reading to visiting book shops to browse and choose books. All students were provided with a digital book token, which could be used until the end of March in participating shops.



To celebrate World Book Day the students at the Hub went to Waterstones to select a book using their tokens.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Red Nose Day



The Hub raised a great amount of £21.40 by all putting in £1 for Own Cothes Day. Great Job!

For Red Nose Day Rochester Class, made and sold cupcakes to raise money. They made an amazing £104.60



Rochester class students, year 7, taking part in a Book Bingo activity on World Book Day in the School Library.

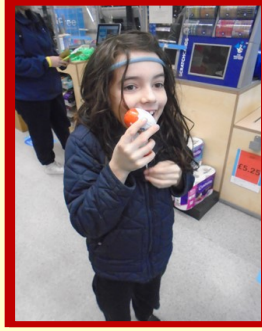




RUFUS CLASS

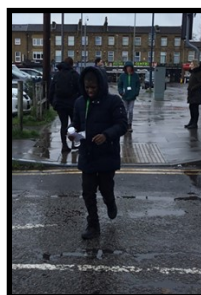


Rufus Class have had a very busy term with lots of learning and fun taking place. In Science, they have been learning about the different seasons, which has involved creating weather charts, investigating animals that hibernate and migrate, as well as thinking about the clothes we wear and the activities that we take part in throughout the year. The class have engaged well in a variety of fine motor skill sessions and used these skills to help with their writing and art. They have also had some fun trips into the community, including trips to the park, local shops and McDonalds.



Road Safety Awareness

Group 4 have been learning about how we can be safer when crossing a road and where is the best place to cross on a road when there is no designated crossing point. The students have also been learning what they are doing wrong when crossing a road i.e. having their hoodie up so that they cannot see up and down the road.

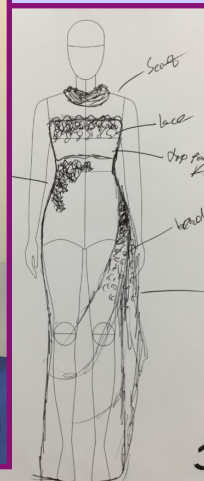
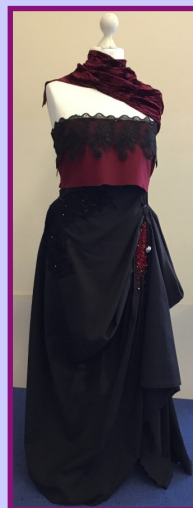


Art



Our Student Anara has submitted her dress design into a fashion competition called Junk Kouture. The aim of the competition is for art students to design an outfit from discarded materials and linked to one of 17 themes. She chose the theme Sustainable Consumption and Production and she chose to do it in the Gothic Style. Anara's work is entitled Delphic and it is made from an old king size bed sheet and remnants of fabrics, lace, beads and safety pins.

Well done Anara.



MUSIC

On Wednesday 28TH February the HAS music department band performed at the Parkwood Academy in Sidcup to their music students. This was the first time the group had played for an audience outside of school.

The band played three songs to a very enthusiastic audience, who sang along and even asked for an encore! The Group performed really well and the students enjoyed playing in front of an audience. A special mention should also go out to the music students who came along to help. They helped carry equipment, photograph and video the event.

Well done everyone!

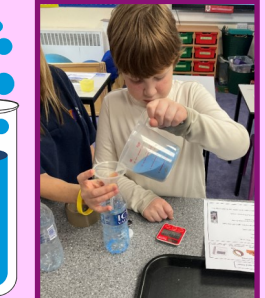
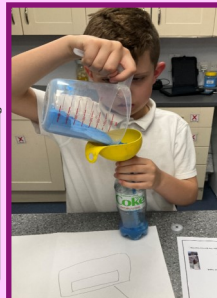
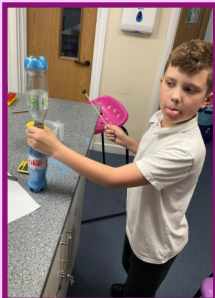


LEEDS CLASS

As part of British Science Week, Leeds class have made sand timers and challenged themselves to what they could do in a minute.

The class problem solved how much sand would be needed to make a minute and how they would get the sand in the bottle.

The class then had fun completing various tasks in a minute including, the skittle challenge and balloon keepy-uppy.



WINDSOR CLASS



This term, Windsor have been learning about habitats in their Science lessons. They have learnt that some animals live in smaller places called Microhabitats. A couple of weeks ago, they went to the park to look for minibeasts. They collected some leaves and twigs so that they could make their own bug hotels to put outside to provide a microhabitat for the minibeasts at Helen Allison.



Horticulture Group at the Hub



This term the students have been renewing the compost in the vegetable bed. They have made a tin can bug hotel



They have also looked at our environment in our hub garden to coincide with General Studies Week on the environment. We looked at the litter around the outside of our garden and how that is bad for the environment.

We looked at what we have in the garden to help the animals.



Curly's Farm

The students have been learning about the different types of eggs that birds lay on the farm. Below are pictures of a hen's egg—the brown one, a duck egg—the white one, a quails egg—the speckled one, they also looked at how they look once cracked into a bowl.



The students have also been moving pigs from one end of the farm to the other and they have learnt how to use 'pig boards' to move the pigs.



They also moved a large animal hut from one end of the farm to the other. Great team work!



Camber Class

Our topic this term is Marvellous Machines. We have looked at robots, cars and different machines we have in our every day lives. In art, the children created patterns and shapes using nuts, bolts and chains. They have also decorated a robot picture and built a cardboard car. In carousel play, the children have been using their fine motor skills and puzzle-solving. They have investigated floating with small fans, used the water doodle pad to draw, write and stamp and threaded beads while counting and naming colours. They have all enjoyed identifying animals by their names and the sounds they make.

The sun is finally starting to shine and Camber class had a lovely session playing with water and animal toys together outside.

Cooking has been great this term, the children are following instructions really well. They have made a range of baked goods and decorated biscuits.

We also celebrated Daniel's birthday with cake and treats. Happy Birthday Daniel!



Scotney Class

Scotney class visited Fenn Bell Zoo to explore animal habitats and how animals adapt to living and surviving in different conditions.

Fenn Bell is a local conservation project that supports endangered species and regularly seeks donations from members of the public to support their campaign to help other animals.



Group 3 Hairdressing



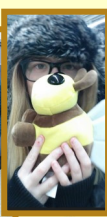
Our Student Carmen is doing a Hairdressing course, learning tinting, blow drying and using curling tongs. She has also learnt health and safety in the work place, risk assessing and communication skills.



Group 3 Wheel of Independence



During Wheel of Independence, the students have been looking at safety in the kitchen and using the



correct chopping boards. They have also looked into utensils used in the kitchen for people with disabilities and how to adapt the kitchen for them, and they went to the shops to find different utensils people with disabilities can use.



Warwick Class

In Wheel of Independence this term Warwick class have been learning about road safety, crossing the road, the dangers of not crossing a road properly and how to check the road to make sure it is safe. As a class they were able to identify any hazards on the road, why safety measures are put up in some areas and independently each student crossed the road identifying when it was safe to do so. Warwick also participated in different activities such as going on a bus, paying for their fares independently to Bluewater to buy lunch, going to Waterstones to purchase a book to read with their vouchers and enjoyed dressing up as a class for World Book Day.



Hello

Harry one of our past students visited us at the Hub, he left Helen Allison School in July 2022 to undertake a music course at Mid Kent College in Medway.

IT was a great listening to how well Harry is doing at college and how his music has progressed. He is now a member of a local band called 'Midnight Mi-graine.'

This is what Harry wanted to say about his time at Helen Allison School:

During my time at the Helen Allison School, I have learnt a lot of important lessons such as, never listen to Richard or Sam. No, but seriously they helped me a lot growing up and definitely helped make me into who I am today, there were times when I struggled a lot and they were there, or if I wasn't sure of something I knew I could ask someone about it and receive an honest answer. Although I wasn't the perfect student, I mean I chucked paint over the head teacher, I was able to change myself and become a better person. I even ended up getting the principal award from the very same teacher. Without the help and support of the school I don't think I would've found my passion for music. They helped every step of the way and I'm very thankful for everyone who believed in me.

Kind Regards,
Harry



Group 1

Some of Group 1 have been visiting different music shops throughout the term. The boys initiated conversations with the shop owners and workers and discussed different instruments and music.



Happy Retirement

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Denise, our lovely catering assistant will be leaving us this term. Denise started with us in 2020 as an additional daytime cleaner during COVID and quickly became a favourite to us all! She clearly loved us all, just as much as we love her because she then applied to be part of the catering team and has been with us ever since. On behalf of everyone at Helen Allison School, we would like to thank Denise for everything she has done for every single one of us, from her infectious laugh to the extra-large pudding portions, she will be very sorely missed. Denise will now be retiring and enjoying being a lady of leisure and having some well-earned rest!



Thank You



Sprig Moulds

Students have been learning how to produce a Sprig Mould in Art. This has meant they have had to create a 2D relief before making a wall and then using plaster to create their mould. We have been exploring how moulds are used to help artists use multiple designs on the surface of pottery.



Forest School

Rufus and Hever class have enjoyed attending Forest School this term. They worked together to build a den and then had fun playing the mud, exploring the forest and going on a creature hunt. At the end of the session, there was time to relax with a hot chocolate.

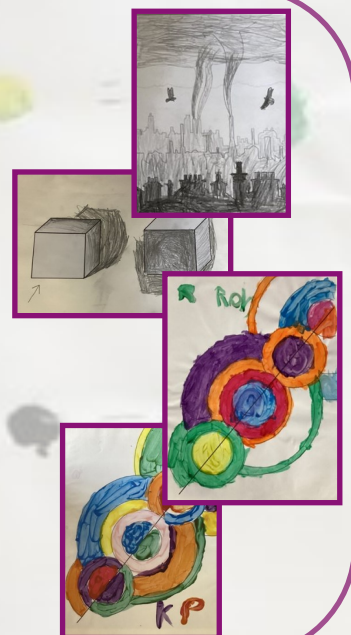


Hever

Hever Class have been exploring colour, tint, tone and shade. How colours can change by adding black or white. Colours can be mixed to form new colours.

They have been learning about the artist Sonia Delunay, creating artwork using movement, geometric shapes and we have learned shading techniques, gradient and showing light and shadow. Great work Hever Class.

They went to Bluewater and had a great time choosing some reading books for our class to enjoy with the vouchers from World Book Day.





Dates for the diary



29th March 2024
Bank Holiday

25th April 2024
HAS Got Talent

28th May 2024
Half Term Begins

1st April 2024
Bank Holiday

6th May 2024
Bank Holiday

4th May 2024
Inset Day

2nd April 2024
Half Term Begins

13th—17th May 2024
STEM Week

5th May 2024
Term 6 Begins

15th April 2024
Term 5 Begins

27th May 2024
Bank Holiday

24th June 2024
Diversity Week

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.

WELCOME



My name is Sian Williams and I joined Helen Allison as a Speech and Language Therapist in February. My background is working with children and young adults in SEN schools and I also have experience of working with adults with learning disabilities. I have enjoyed getting to know lots of the pupils and staff here, and look forward to getting to know more of you soon!

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