

Dear Parents and Carers

Term 2 is always an action packed one and this year has been no different. Pupils have had many opportunities to enhance their learning and to be engaged with bespoke learning activities, including a visit from 'The Selfish Giant Play' company, a trip to the Panto and our youngest pupils had an onsite experience delivered by the 'Embracing Art' company.

This term we also offered our extended day to our school pupils. Everyone had a wonderful time at Ninja Warriors before returning back to school for a party involving food and lots of dancing. Thank you to Sarah and all the staff who volunteered and ensured our pupils had an enjoyable after school experience.

At the Hub, our students visited the Blake Gallery to see the brilliant work students from the Helen Allison School had created in their Art lessons. In Creative Media pupils had to become film critics, going to the cinema and writing up their review of a film and for Black History Month students created Caribbean food for all to try.

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate as a school, and it is always lovely to see everyone come together to enjoy the experience. Our Christmas Lunch was again, a success. Thank you to all staff involved in planning and preparing this festive event and it was great to see everyone in their Christmas jumpers! Our school pupils also had the wonderful experience of meeting Santa and his elf!

The term finishes off with our School Christmas Concert. Once again, this was a truly remarkable event; watching our pupils and staff perform on stage is inspiring. Thank you to Cyril and all involved in making the concert such a success.

I look forward in welcoming our pupils back to school in 2025.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New 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,

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.

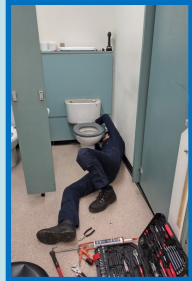




Work Experience



Micah helped out the site team in October half term and got stuck right in jet-washing the playground getting rid of the moss and making it safe for the students to return. He got absolutely filthy and was a fantastic help.



acousticadvice

Over the October half term acoustic panels were installed in the school dining room to help reduce noise levels. The Student Council had requested this improvement to be made as the dining room can get quite busy during the lunch hour. The panels have created a calmer, quieter and more autism friendly environment to help support our students to enjoy their lunch. Thank you to Acoustic Advice for their support in completing this project.



Rufus Class

Hello! It's nearly Christmas and I hope you have enjoyed term 2 as much as Rufus class have.

Our focus this term has been the book "Room on the Broom". This led to some great witchy activities, especially in our art lessons. We made witch faces, broomsticks and glittery wands, as well as some Christmassy crafts and cards.

We have all been working on our English skills and making improvements at our own pace. In phonics/reading children have focused on letter sounds, word blending or reading sentences. In writing we have been creating sentences based on the book using pictures, printed words or hand writing.

Everyone has worked hard on their number skills this term. All activities were based around counting to 20, using objects and pictures.

We have enjoyed gymnastics this term and seen much more participation by the class. We continue to enjoy music lessons, sing and sign, and song time. We look forward to joining in the Christmas concert.

Have a great holiday!



Leeds Class

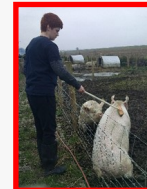
In Science lessons Leeds Class have been learning about States of Matter. We have enjoyed exploring freezing and melting points by making our own ice cream, discovering which type of chocolate melts the quickest and blowing up a balloon with a chemical reaction.



Curly's Farm



This term the weather has been horrible it's been rainy and windy but that does not stop the students from working hard at the farm.



The pigs love a good scratch and it fun to watch them enjoy the

The students worked hard cleaning out the cow shed, it was hard work but working as a team makes it easier!!



The students also got to walk the cows on lead ropes!



The students move a very large hen perch from one end of the farm to the other. They did this by themselves even working out how to lift the large, heavy perch over a 6ft fence.



Horticulture Group

This term the horticulture group have been fighting against the weather.

They have tidied the hub garden and tried to keep all the fallen leaves from the tree under control.

The students worked hard sweeping and raking the leaves from the grass.



The students also made a dried leaf collage using some of the dried leaves and twigs from the garden.

Group 1

Group 1 have had a busy term in and outside of the classroom. Some have attempted and completed a heart dissection and the HUB football team won their league at the term football tournament.



Windsor Class — Jackson

When we went to London we got there on a train. We saw the London Eye, Big Ben, London Bridge, The Big London Tower and the River Thames and they were good.

I felt happy because I had fun.



Warwick Class

This term in Warwick class we have been making sausage rolls, shepherd's pie and we also made a Christmas yule log. Students were able to follow a recipe independently and use different skills within the kitchen. Students also enjoyed a trip to a café and were able to purchase snacks and a drink independently. This term all students have worked so hard with their swimming they enjoyed the fun pool.



Group 5



Group 5 has settled in and found its place at the Hub this term – everyone is firmly on their feet and entrenched in their new activities and timetables! We've had a busy term with lots of exciting trips in the build up to Christmas, being homed in the Creative Media room meant it was very exciting when the Into Film Festival came around as we got to attend screenings of the Super Mario Bros. Movie and Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse!



Christmas Sensory Show



The younger pupils at Helen Allison School really enjoyed their sensory Christmas show, which was delivered by Embracing Arts. There was a wide variety of sensory experiences for the students to explore including falling snow, wind, lights, music and large snow flakes.



Christmas



c	j	h	s	a	n	t	a	e	s	w
a	a	h	t	f	g	h	o	p	b	r
n	d	s	n	o	w	f	l	a	k	e
e	s	a	i	b	f	p	t	z	f	a
q	t	m	i	t	t	e	n	s	g	t
p	r	e	s	e	n	t	h	a	e	h
o	m	t	i	a	z	n	o	t	y	d
g	e	a	z	s	n	o	w	m	a	n
s	p	r	u	c	e	x	t	u	z	y
t	e	g	s	p	s	a	k	v	s	p
g	i	n	g	e	r	b	r	e	a	d

Answer: 1- spruce; 2-wreath; 3-gingerbread; 4-mittens; 5-present; 6-santa; 7-snowman; 8-cane; 9-snowflake



Can you find all the Christmas words?

Spruce
Wreath
Gingerbread
Mittens
Present
Santa
Snowman
Cane
Snowflake

PSQM

We are very proud to inform you that we are celebrating being awarded the highly regarded Primary Science Quality Mark award by the University of Hertfordshire. The staff worked very hard over the last year to further develop and improve the teaching and learning of science across the school. By showing an extremely high standard in the science leadership and teaching, as well as offering a variety of wider science learning opportunities, the school successfully earned the award which they now hold for the until 2027.



Hever

This term, we have been focusing on microhabitats. We have explored different types of microhabitats around the school, as well as a few local country parks. We have examined what is needed for animals to live within different microhabitats and how important they are to our environment.



Extended Day

Term 2 saw another successful Extended Day taking place. Approximately 20 students took part in the events, which involved an after school trip to Ninja Warrior and then returning to school for a buffet dinner party and a disco. During their time at Ninja Warrior, they saw lots of students 'Beat The Wall', many of whom showed great determination and resilience to keep on trying. After they had all refuelled with the party food, the disco started and there were lots of amazing dance moves...from both the students and the staff!



Corfe Class

The students in Corfe class have had a fantastic term, with lots of exciting learning and playing taking part. They have been developing their interaction and communication skills, which has involved some turn taking activities, as well as Sing and Sign sessions with our Speech and Language therapists. The class have also been working very hard on their transitions, not only around the school, but some have accessed a variety of places around the local community, including shops, parks and a swimming pool.



Camber Class

Camber class have had a wonderful term and have engaged in a wide variety of learning and play activities. A particular highlight for some of the students have been their trips into the community. They have visited parks and shops and have enjoyed choosing items to buy. We have also had a trip to a local Leisure Centre to go swimming. The science lessons have been very closely linked with Food Tech this term as the students have been learning about a balanced diet, as well as the life cycle of chickens and what products comes from a cow. The Room on The Broom is a fantastic story, which they have enjoyed studying throughout the term.



Primary PFA Christmas Treat

The Primary students really enjoyed their trip to Buzy Bees in New Ash Green. We had exclusive hire at the venue so there was a lot of space for the students to explore.

We would like to thank the school's PFA who very kindly paid for this trip.



Vocational Courses at the Hub

Four students at the Hub, Carmen, Alecia, Rex and Ryan have been attending a Hair and Beauty Course at Rowhill School, from the beginning of term.

For Carmen, this is her second year and she has recently passed another Entry Level Certificate, for applying a temporary colour to a mannequin's hair, after completing a consultation sheet, choosing an appropriate colour and sectioning off the hair, before application. Well done Carmen.

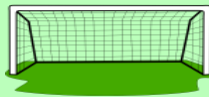
The other students, Alecia, Rex and Ryan, are new to the course and are already fast approaching their first Entry Level Certificate. They have been carrying out tasks such as, washing, drying and applying a conditioning treatment, plus learning how to blow dry correctly.

Well done the three of you too.



Group 1

Group 1 have had a busy term in and outside of the classroom. Some have attempted and completed a heart dissection and the HUB football team won their league at the term football tournament.



Art

This term many of the students have been tasked with making 3 Dimensional objects related to Christmas. Some have made Christmas trees from wool, some have made Christmas trees from different thickness of string, some have made Christmas trees from clay and some have made string baubles.

They have also designed a box for the clay trees including Christmas bags for the lighter items.



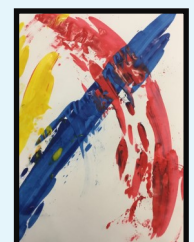
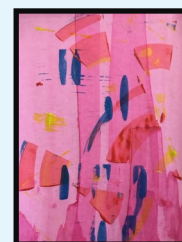
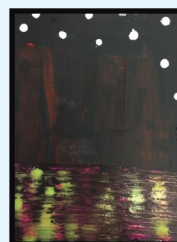
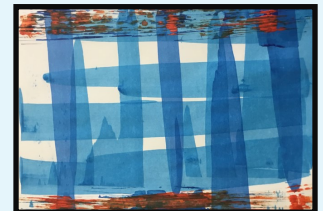
The Blake Gallery

Some of the students were invited to exhibit artwork at The Blake Gallery as part of the 50th Anniversary of Gravesham Borough Council and Youth Group.

We had 13 pieces of work on display which was wonderful and the theme was people from the past, present and future. Our students all did artwork that represented themselves.



Some of the students have been learning about the term Contemporary Art and Abstraction. They have produced abstract paintings thinking about complimentary and analogous colours.



Makaton Sing-and-Sign

Corfe, Camber, Rufus, Hever, Rochester and Windsor classes have enjoyed learning Makaton as part of their Sing-and-Sign sessions since September. In these sessions, the pupils have been developing valuable communication skills, such as a shared attention, listening, turn-taking and vocabulary. Makaton is also an effective alternative communication method. The pupils love choosing their favourite songs and singing along!



Group 2

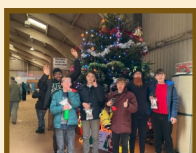
In horse riding this term, Daniel has been riding Trooper and Thomas has been riding Arnie, they both have been trotting around the arena and listening to instructions given by the instructors when riding. We also took a group of students to the Nativity at the Riding stables which they all enjoyed.

In maths the students have been looking at money and the value of money.

In Wheel of independence this term the students have been looking a self-care.

Group 2 really enjoyed their trip to the cinema.

In Cojo this term the students have been trekking down the Amazon, crossing rivers, building camps, rescuing camp mates without talking.



Santa's Grotto



On Thursday 19th December, The Helen Allison School was lucky enough to meet Santa Claus and his helpful Elf who helped Santa feel right at home by making a Grotto in our library with fun games and presents for all.

As expected all our students are on the nice list and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas.



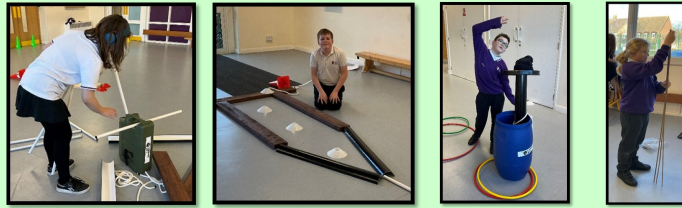
Christmas Time is approaching and we would kindly ask if you could save any empty celebration / hero boxes for Food Tech.

Many Thanks

Rochester

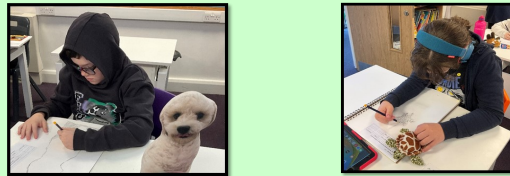
Commando Joe

Rochester Class have been busy building fantastic space ships and communication towers. We connected and communicated to Earth via our satellite walkie talkie and even chatted to an alien!



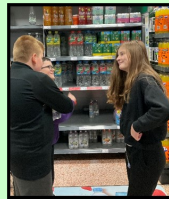
Art

In Art we have been practising our sketching skills. We chose something from home to draw, taking time moving our pencils backwards and forwards and trying really hard to look at the shape of our objects.



PSHE

Understanding what we need in and out of school to keep our bodies healthy. We visited Morrisons purchased deodorant, shower gel, handwash and water. We talked about how these can help to keep our bodies clean and healthy inside and out.



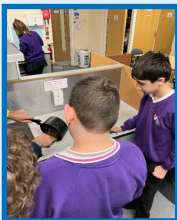
Scotney



This term, our students participated in the Commando Joes programme, an initiative that focuses on building character, self-worth, and confidence in young people. Through a series of engaging activities, students have learned valuable life skills that promote happier and healthier living.



In addition, our class embarked on an inspiring mask design project linked to Black History. This creative endeavour allowed students to explore significant cultural narratives while expressing their artistic talents. The project not only fostered creativity but also encouraged a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusion.



One of the highlights was our exploration of irreversible and reversible changes, centred around the intriguing medium of chocolate. The children enthusiastically participated in hands-on experiments, witnessing first-hand how chocolate can be melted (a reversible change) and then combined with other ingredients to create delicious treats (an irreversible change). This practical application not only enhanced their understanding of scientific principles but also encouraged teamwork and creativity.

We are proud of the achievements of Scotney Class this term and look forward to further inspiring our students in the coming weeks.



Dates for the diary



20th December 2024
Last day of Term

11th February 2025
HUB Parents Evening

6th March 2025
World Book Day

23rd Dec—3rd Jan 2025
Half Term

14th February 2025
Last day of Term

21st March 2025
Red Nose Day

6th January 2025
Term 3 Begins

17th —21st February 2025
Half Term

31st March—4th April 2025
Autism Acceptance Week

3rd—6th February 2025
Children's Mental Health Week &
Online Safety week

24th February 2025
Term 4 Begins

3rd April 2025
HAS Got Talent

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.



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