

Dear Parents and Carers

As we welcome 2025, it has been great to see pupils across the school continuing to be fully engaged and interested in their lessons.

Some of our primary pupils have had a term of swimming, which is such a vital life skill to enhance their confidence in the water. Other primary pupils have been enjoying our sensory dance lessons, which has been joyful to see.

Recently it has been 'Mental Health Week', which is an important area for our pupils to understand and know how to get support. Activities the pupils were involved in included woodland walks, story time, mindfulness, dance, yoga and Thai Chi and they also had the opportunity to watch Inside Out 2.

We had a few of our older Pupils who went to the BETT fare, where they were able to see and explore a wide range of cutting-edge technology. Pupils at the Hub have been learning about safer internet and had a visit from the police who spoke to them about cyber-crime. It was a great learning experience for our pupils and I hope they shared their new found knowledge around this subject with you. We will continue to support parent's understanding around online safety as it is such a fast-moving area. We will continue to send out weekly information, but if you feel you would like further advice in this area, please don't hesitate to contact the school and the appropriate Designated Safeguard Lead will assist with any questions you have.

It was great to see so many parents attending our Hub parents evening, where they had the chance to see our creative curriculum, which includes Music, Art and Creative Media. Parents were shown the amazing work our pupils have done.

I am pleased to say the Helen Allison School was successful in our application in the Veolia Orchard Project, which means we will be getting five small fruit trees which will be a delightful additional to the school.

Have a wonderful Half Term break and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday 24th February.

*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.

## Rufus Class

We have had a lovely term 3 and our theme has been trains! We have read 3 different books about trains and pointed to key words on a visuals mat. In carousel play, we have had train and transport themed activities, including building track, matching the colours of vehicles and completing join the dots pictures. In maths we have focused on shape and size.

In art we have focused on painting and sticking this term. We have painted train pictures, cut and stuck shapes to create a train and created our own collages by painting, then tearing and gluing pieces into place.

We have been working on our independence and living skills this term; practising daily routines, washing and tidying up, and visiting places outside of school. Some of us have taken part in swimming lessons and others have taken trips to the shops. Our listening skills are all improving!

We have had some lovely moments between pupils as well. They have formed friendships and are also interacting with children from other classes.

Have a great half term



## Horticulture



The students made bird seed cups for the garden. This will help give the native birds that do not migrate food to eat in the Winter. They then hung them around the garden. We have seen birds eating from the cups, which shows it is working.



The students have also been repainting the tyres ready for the summer, to use as planters.



## Curly's Farm



Again, this term the weather has been horrible, it's been rain, wind, and freezing cold but our students are a hardy bunch and just carry on whatever the weather.

They have moved one of the pigs from one end of the farm to another, using some pig pellets and a pig board to guide the pig. The students had to work as a team and use all their communication skills to achieve this task.

The students have had some fun down times as well, they had cuddles with the new lambs and met the new piglets.





# Scotney Class

Scotney Class's activities during Term 3.

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

The students have consistently exhibited a wonderfully positive attitude.

This term, we have explored the imaginative world presented in *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, the children have engaged with the narrative but have also explored a variety of writing formats, such as descriptive pieces, creative continuations, and character profiles. Their creativity has shone through.

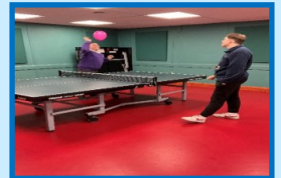
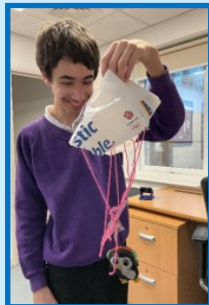
In our Science lessons, the students have focused on understanding the different types of forces that affect our everyday lives. We have conducted a series of practical experiments that have included making parachutes to test air resistance, building friction ramps to investigate how different surfaces can affect motion, and designing air-resistant paper aeroplanes to challenge their engineering skills. These hands-on projects have not only enhanced their comprehension of scientific principles but have also encouraged teamwork within the class.

Our History lessons have taken us back in time to explore the fascinating period of Anglo-Saxon Britain. The class has studied the arrival of the Anglos and Saxons, delving into the social structures and daily life of this era.

As part of our project work, students have designed their own Anglo-Saxon villages, incorporating essential features such as homes, farms, and communal spaces. This approach has provided a sound context for understanding how these early settlers shaped the landscape and culture of Britain.

In PE students have really enjoyed the Table Tennis sessions, they have been able to perform some of the core skills and have started to play rallies with an opponent.

I and the class team look forward to working with the students throughout Term 4.



## GROUP 1

**GROUP 1 HAVE HAD A BUSY TERM THIS TERM, STUDENTS ALL WORKING HARD TOWARDS THEIR GIVEN QUALIFICATIONS; WHETHER THIS IS COMPLETING MOCK PAPERS OR ENTRY LEVEL ASSESSMENTS. GROUP 1 LIKE TO BE AS PRACTICAL AS THEY CAN AND THE MAJORITY OF THE CLASS ENJOY ATTENDING CURLY'S FARM ON A TUESDAY FOR WORK EXPERIENCE. A COUPLE OF OTHER STUDENTS IN THE GROUP (JAKE AND GEORGE) HAVE EXCELLED AND WORKED HARD IN THE GUITAR TUTORING ON A FRIDAY AND THEIR MUSIC LESSONS WITH CYRIL AND HAVE BOTH PASSED THEIR GRADING IN THEIR DISCIPLINE.**



## Corfe Class

In Corfe Class we have been exploring our learning through play this term. We have been looking at colours and exploring through rice play.



We have been exploring different toys, music and sounds. We have been exploring foods with different textures and tastes.



Our class love music sessions with Cyril and they love to play outside.

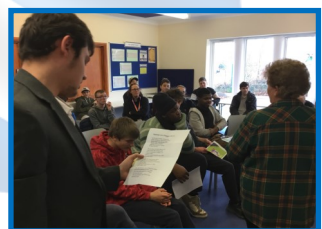




## Group 4 — Assembly



In Group 4's Assembly they discussed Burns Night. Lisa brought some Haggis in for the students to try and they conducted a ceremony called 'Addressing a Haggis.' This means that they played bagpipe music which is 'Piping in the Haggis' and two students read out the Robert Burns Poem 'Address to a Haggis.'



## Disability Assist — HUB

On 17th January Nikki brought in an external speaker to address the students at the Hub and Warwick Class on Disability Awareness. The external speaker was Donna Francis who is a Little Person and has a condition called dwarfism. She spoke to the students about her life and how she works for an organisation that employs disabled people who then support disabled people in the community, including those who have autism.

She also showed the students her adapted vehicle which the students found very interesting. She spoke about the need to have a foot rest high enough so that her feet could touch the platform, she said that the panels were extended so that she could reach them, she has a very long rear mirror because as a Little Person she cannot turn her head around to see what is behind her. Her wheelchair has to dock into a system at the back and the students were really interested in how she had to change into a seat which when moved forward to become the drivers seat.

The organisation she works for is called Disability Assist.



## English at the Hub



This term, students at the Hub have been very creative in their English lessons, producing poetry, with an "escape" theme.

Students chose what escape meant to them and decided whether they were escaping from something or escaping to somewhere or something.

The ideas and what they have produced are amazing, ranging from imaginary worlds to feelings and emotions.

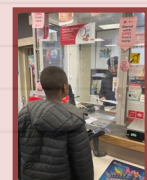
These poems will be entered into the Young Writers poetry competition where students have the chance to win prizes, ranging from an iPad Mini, £50 in money or a £10 book token.

## Windsor Class

Windsor class have been writing a postcard for English.

We visited the post office to buy a stamp and some postcards.

We wrote the cards, put a stamp on and posted them. We are awaiting the return of the cards.





## Group 5

Group 5 is continuing to make waves and establish itself well in the Hub – we're forming solid connections and friendships within the group and across different groups, making for some fun breaktimes and activities. The best example of this was our trip to the BETT Education Technology Convention where we could independently move around the convention, exploring the different stands, experiencing the technology on display and getting LOADS of free stuff!



## Group 2

Group 2 enjoyed COJO this term, worked as a team and solved all set tasks! In our wheel of independence lessons we learnt about washing our clothes.

We visited different shops to look at washing products, even some washing machines!



Olly made a fossil. His favourite lesson this term was Science, he made different circuits.



## Rochester Class Science

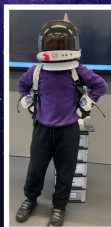
We had a cosmic adventure at Greenwich Museum.

Rochester class learnt amazing facts about the universe, planets and stars in our solar system.

We packed for a trip to Mars, tried on Spaceman helmets and oxygen tanks.

We experienced space, constellations and moons around our earth inside the Planetarium.

The show taught us how the observatory telescope helps astronomers to make sense of our universe.



This Year, World Book Day is on 6<sup>th</sup> March and we will be celebrating again with fun activities planned throughout that week, including the option for your children to dress up as their favourite book character. More details will be sent out at the start of next term.

We are sending home the £1 book tokens for you to spend this week, so that you have the opportunity to use them in half term if you would like to. (They are valid from 13<sup>th</sup> February to 23<sup>rd</sup> March.) The link below will take you to the archive where you can see the books that are on offer this year for £1. Alternatively, you can use the token as £1 off a book or audiobook of your choice.

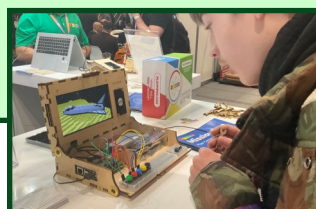
Have a wonderful half term and find some time to curl up and share a book!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/book/>



## BETT Education Technology Convention at Excel Centre

This term, we were fortunate enough to procure free tickets for a small group of students from the Hub to attend the BETT Education Technology Convention at Excel Centre. The convention presented a brilliant opportunity for those who are tech-minded to explore a wide range of cutting-edge technology, understand how it is relevant to education, and discover what companies and entrepreneurs are doing to bring it to a wider audience and implement it in schools – in addition to lots of opportunities to experience it themselves! From gaming simulators and immersive headsets, to coding battle bots and building computers, there was loads to explore.





## Camber Class

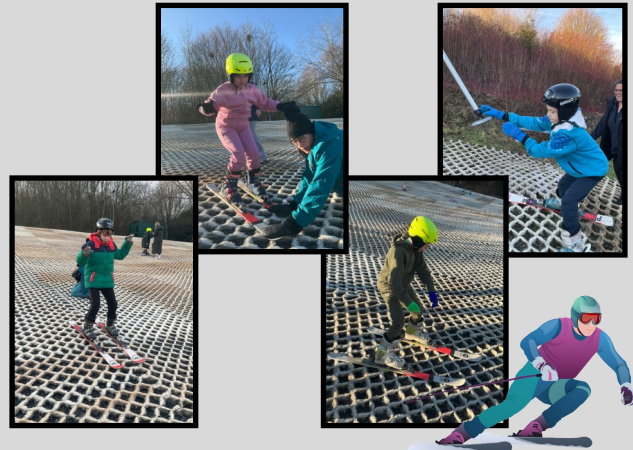
Camber class have had a fantastic start to 2025 and have been very busy. There has been a lot of learning going on in the classroom and great progression made. The class have also been accessing a variety of activities in the local community, including swimming, parks, shops and walks. During our space topic in Science, they learnt about rockets and then really enjoyed making their own rockets. We have also been learning about forces and have explored the school community to see what can be pushed and pulled in our school.



## Leeds Class

This term, Leeds class has the opportunity to try skiing at the local dry slope centre.

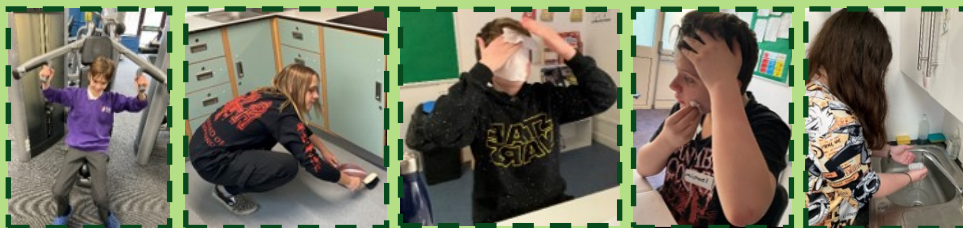
Fears were overcome and pupils showed resilience and patience when learning new skills, including using the ski lift, turning and stopping, all of which are tricky to navigate whilst on ski's!



## Warwick Class

This term Warwick class have been going to the Gym, using a range of machines to work different muscles of the body and to increase their fitness using cardio exercises. They have all enjoyed this time to work on themselves and their fitness levels. Warwick class have also been looking at personal hygiene and the ways to keep ourselves clean and hygienic.

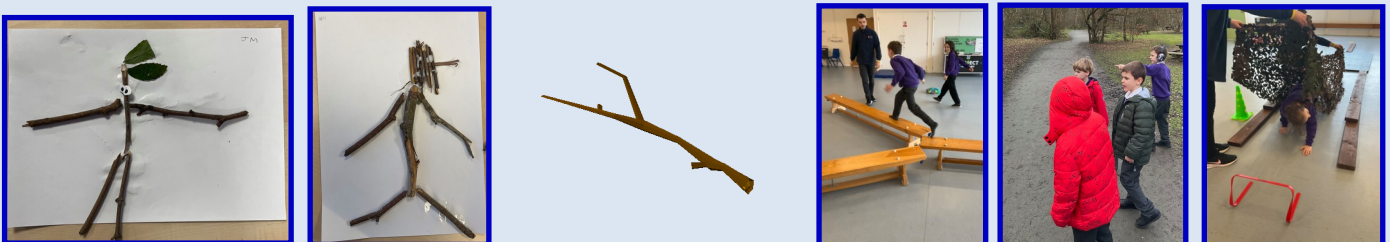
In wheel of independence we have been learning the importance of cleaning food preparation areas and developing the skills of multitasking such as loading the washing machine, then preparing food and washing simultaneously.



## Hever Class

*This term, Hever class have been busy participating in 'Commando Joe's'. The pupil's have certainly enjoyed engaging in these different activities, using their reasoning and problem solving skills to overcome the tasks that they face and working together as a team.*

*In addition to this, Hever class have been out in the community exploring physical and human features. We have even collected some physical features to support our 'Stickman; creations for our English topic!*







At the Hub some of the students have been exploring Expressive Mark Making as part of their Arts Award. They have been researching work by Henri Matisse and David Hockney.

They had to experiment with using a long stick to make more expressive lines and they used a variety of different mediums from paint, chalk and charcoal.



The following artworks are from students who have been exploring Combined Art and the work of the artist Robert Rauschenberg. They have had to make an artwork about the world they live in.



Another set of students have been exploring the work of Cy Twombly and have been reproducing work in the style of the artist using chalk pastels.



We have some images of students exploring mark making and fine tonal drawings.





## Dates for the diary



17th—21st February 2025  
Half Term

24th February 2025  
Term 4 Begins

6th March 2025  
World Book Day

21st March 2025  
Red Nose Day

25th March - 4th April 2025  
Autism Awareness Week

3rd April 2025  
HAS Got Talent

7th - 17th April 2025  
Half Term

18th—21st April 2025  
Bank Holiday

22nd April 2025  
Term 5 Begins

5th May 2025  
Bank Holiday

12th May - 16th May 2025  
Science & STEM Week

26th May 2025  
Bank Holiday

27th May - 2nd June 2025  
Half Term

3rd June 2025  
Term 6 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.



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