

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to our academic year with our pupils doing so well transitioning back into school life. It has certainly been a busy one with lots of activities taking place, which has fully engaged our pupil's learning.

We have made some changes this year with our KS3 pupils now making weekly visits to the Hub to learn ART and Creative Media which has been a great success.

We also have some exciting news regarding our outdoor area. Our MUGA has now been completed and we are looking forward to our pupils starting to use this after half term. This will have a fantastic impact on all our pupils who can now use this area all year round.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at parents evening in November, where we have the school photographer staying for part of the evening. We have put this in place following a parent request and we thought it was a great idea. We will also be continuing to offer stations at our parents evening which I know is beneficial and supportive to all of our parents.

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!

Kind regards

*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.

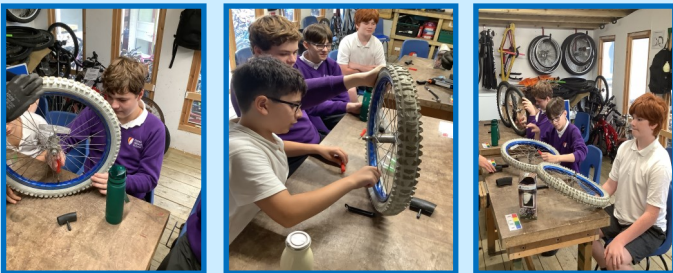
## Cave Drawings



During Art lessons at the Hub, students have been exploring The History of Art and the very first known artworks and artists. Some students have been looking at the cave drawings from the Chavet Caves in France and have been trying to reproduce them using the same materials (chalks and charcoal) on textured paper. The students also thought about adding different types of symbols that were used in the cave drawings.



## Bike Maintenance



Some of the students in Warwick Class have attended bike maintenance sessions this term. This term their focus has been on wheels and they have learnt how to adjust spokes and look at the different components of the wheels.

## Horse riding

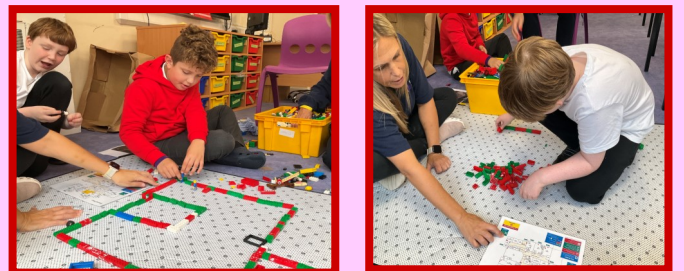
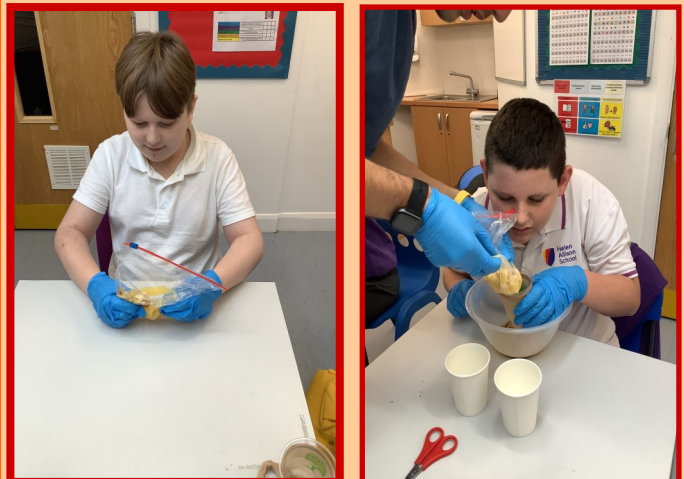
A new academic year brings with it a new group of students attending weekly horse riding lessons. The students are growing in confidence in their lessons and they really enjoy their Wednesday afternoon hacks out and about!



## Digestive System

This term in Science, Scotney class have been looking at the digestive system and how it functions. They focused on the process from when the food enters our mouths to finally when it appears as waste. They practised this process with an experiment, using crackers, bananas, orange juice and water. Safe to say it was a messy and smelly experiment!

They also created their own set of teeth using marshmallows. They learnt about how many teeth we have and the roles of each tooth. They cut some of the marshmallows so that the teeth were different shapes and sizes.



This term Leeds class topic in Geography is 'Map Makers'. The class have been learning about different kinds of maps and looking at what differences they may be able to see. Tyler and Alasdair used the aerial view map of the school to create a map using Lego. They worked together to make the perimeter of the building with the different rooms inside.



Camber class have been working hard on their attention this term. Bucket time has been a real hit and students have done some great turn-taking and watching. In their Independent Living Skills lessons, the students have learnt some new skills in the kitchen and made sure to wash up afterwards! Make sure to let them practice at home mums and dads! Students are also working on their problem solving and fine motor skills, by completing tasks such as bead threading, puzzle making, and hanging monkeys on the tree! An excellent term for Camber class!



## Thank you Network Rail!

Over the summer holidays, 28 staff members from Network Rail volunteered at the school undertaking painting of classrooms and 1:1 rooms. They also jet-washed the primary racetrack playground, painted the steel pillars and removed foliage which made the area look cleaner and tidier.

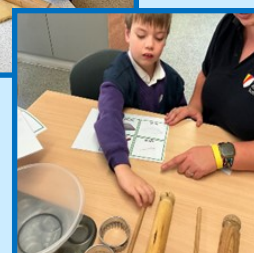
We are very grateful for the support and hard work from the staff at Network Rail.

The team loved volunteering at the school and are planning to return during another Half Term.

## Thank you Network Rail!



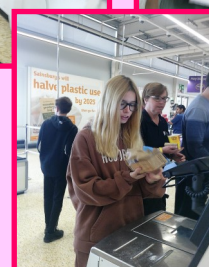
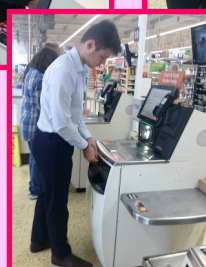
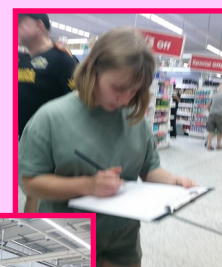
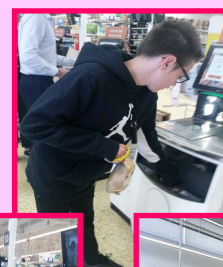
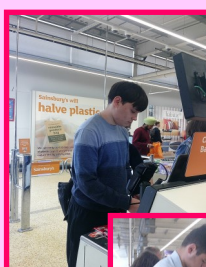
Corfe Class have had a wonderful time this term developing their independence, exploration and problem solving, communication and active learning skills. A huge amount of learning is also taking place through making cheese straws and jam tarts! The students have all been getting excited when they see on their schedules that it is time to go to the Independent Living Skills room for their weekly cooking session. During the sessions they have been learning life skills such as washing their hands before they start cooking, developing their understanding of the names and symbols of cooking equipment by matching the item to it's symbol, and have been really interested in exploring the texture, taste and smell of ingredients. They have also worked hard to develop their motor skills such as grating, mixing and pouring, followed by the hardest part - learning to wait patiently for their jam tarts and cheese straws to be cooked before finally tasting them!



This term, Group 3 have been developing their food shopping skills for their Wheel of Independence / Life Skills sessions on a Monday morning.

They have learned to price a selection of items, identify cheaper alternatives, including offers and the purpose of loyalty cards. As well as that, they have compared prices in two supermarkets and used the self-service and counter checkouts, where they had to engage in conversation at the till.

The students have worked really well on this topic and it has increased their confidence and independence.







## Rowhill Mechanics

The mechanics group who attend Rowhill car mechanics have been learning new skills this term. They have been looking at components of engines and learning what each part does.



Millbrook



As part of their Science learning about 'Animals including Humans' Windsor class took a trip to the Millbrook Pet Centre. While there, they saw lots of different types of animals, some small, some furry and some that live in the water. They asked the man who worked in the shop very nicely if they could hold one of the small snakes and he was kind enough to say yes. They were very brave, took it in turns and listened to the man's instructions on how to hold the snake so that they didn't scare it. Windsor class learnt lots about different animals that day which helped them in their Science lessons when they came back to school.

## Independent Skills



Group 4 have been working on their preparation of food this term and have had several trips to the supermarket to buy items on a shopping list. They have been focusing on how to find the items in different aisles using signage, using a hand held basket and using the self-checkout till. Their focus with the food preparation has been on knife skills, cutting, peeling and grating in particular.



Students also went offsite and had to independently find a specific item on the supermarket shelf. After the trip they came back and made a healthy snack using the items they had searched for.



Rufus class have had a very fun and exciting first term. There has been lots of exploring with the numicom, as well as being introduced to colourful semantics. The class have also already been learning about animals and how they can be grouped. The students enjoyed sorting the animals between those that live in water and those that live on land. There have been some English lessons in the library, which the students have really enjoyed for a change of scenery. As part of their European Day of Languages work, they learned about Wales and listened to some Welsh. A big focus of the term has been to promote independence, including life skills, cooking, trips into the community and engaging in breakfast club.





# Curly's Farm



This year we have some new students going to Curly's farm and they have been working enthusiastically with the animals and the tasks needed to care for them.



Students have removed old straw from the sheep huts and pig pens ready to put in new clean straw



Refilling the hay trough with new hay for the sheep to eat



Moving straw bales (Building muscles!)



Once the students have completed their mornings work, it's time to have fun with the piglet's



The students have learnt how to do health checks on the sheep, also how to hold the Ram so he could have a health check too!



The students also got the chance to see a Dorset horn lamb being born.

## "Dungeons and Dragons"



"Dungeons and Dragons" club is off to a flying start this year! During Friday's Social Skills learning, a group of 8 intrepid adventurers have created their own role-playing characters and embarked on a quest to keep the Sceptre of the Ancients away from the prying hands of evil. Currently, they're locked in a Museum overnight, having to successfully navigate Vampire guards and find the Vault in which secrets of the Sceptre are hidden.



Warwick class visited Woodlands Park as part of their science lesson. This term, during these lessons they have been measuring distance time and speed. They collected data at different distances to then record them into a graph.

## (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths request

We are looking for relatives who would like to come into school to talk to a small group of students about their jobs. We feel this would be a great opportunity for students to learn about a variety of different jobs, as well as providing enrichment opportunities to enhance curriculum learning. Maybe you're a dental nurse and can talk to the students about oral hygiene, a builder who can talk about different materials or someone who works with animals or plants. Other examples of STEM careers includes computer programmers, video game designers, doctors/nurses and engineers. If you are able to come into school and talk to a small group of students about your job, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with your child's teacher.



This term Honor has been enjoying time with other students in class, building communication skills through play. She visited a local park with Alasdair and did some great sharing, taking it in turns on the zip wire. As well as this, Honor has been having 'face paint Friday's' where she has been enjoying painting hers, staff and other student's faces.





## Paul Klee

This term, some students have been exploring the work of the artist Paul Klee especially his painting entitled Castle and Sun. They were tasked with reproducing an architectural structure using a variety of different geometric coloured shapes and simple lines.




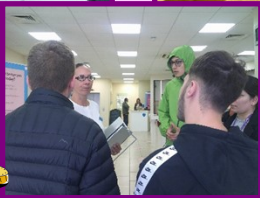










During Group 2's Wheel of Independence lessons, they have been looking at different types of money. They have looked at the different types of coins and notes in circulation and had some items to "pay" for. They have used their money knowledge to work out which coins and notes to hand over and how much change they should receive. They have also been to a bank to see how bank cards work.

## Hub Horticulture Group

When we came back from our summer break the horticulture group had a lovely surprise with all the vegetable they had planted in the summer. They had lots of tomatoes to pick as well as sweetcorn and strawberry's. They all grew so well over the summer but best of all...




...their runner beans are spectacular and still growing with new flowers so we will have a bumper crop this year.!




This term, Yellow Group have been looking at Healthy Lifestyles and the health implications of not looking after your nails. They explored how you would have to physically adapt if you had very long nails and the students did an experiment wearing long pasta nails. They had a challenge of trying to open doors, put on sunglasses and trying to scratch their heads.









## Dates for the diary



16th—27th October 2023  
Half term

23rd November 2023  
Parents Evening—Hub

30th October 2023  
Term 2 begins

21st –29th December 2023  
Half term

21st November 2023  
School Photographer

1st January 2024  
Bank Holiday

21st November 2023  
Parents Evening—School

2nd January 2024  
Inset Day

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.

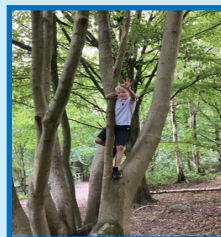
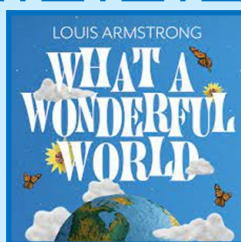
In September, the school was lucky enough to received a donation of £150 from IDH Alarms, a company who we use for many aspects of our school site. Thank you so much to Chris, Jackie and the team for this very kind donation!



**IDH**

Alarms and security

Hever class have been looking at the world around them, learning the physical and human features. They have been listening to Louis Armstrong's "What a wonderful world" and been thinking about their personal thoughts of the planet and what is important to them.



**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



**Chelsea**  
Behaviour



**Natasha**  
Financial Support