



# HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER 09

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As we have reached half term, we thought it would be nice to share what has been going on in school this week – to give you a flavour of some of the activities the children at our school have been up to.

**Reception class** have had great fun this week pretending to be pirates in PE. *Ship Ahoy!* The children have worked on balancing on one leg, passing treasure along a line in different ways (over their head and under their legs), scrubbing the deck, getting rid of seagulls and jumping over cannon balls.



The children have also been enjoying playing in their medical role play area and have spent lots of time tending to each other's injuries. They have been very interested in bones and have learned a song and dance, 'The Skeleton Dance' to help them remember lots of things we have been learning about. We have been reading the book 'Funnybones' by Janet and Alan Ahlberg too.



The children in **Year 1** have been taking part in their first topic week, this week, finding out about where they live and their local area.

They have been using the iPads to take photographs of human and physical features and, as well as using Goggle Earth, they were also taken on a virtual walk (by watching a video created by Miss Roberts).

They will be celebrating the end of their first half term in Key Stage One by having a 'spooky' Halloween party this afternoon.

**Can we politely request for those adults who drop off and collect their children from the school hall gates, to refrain from smoking and to wear a face covering – as they would need to if they came on to the school premises. This is really important to the children, staff and other parents/carers who are using this access point.**

In **The Fawns**, the children have been practicing their sewing skills (by making mini-cushions), learning how to sign along with songs using Makaton (sign language), designing their own islands and writing messages to pirates, and making wind vanes and rain gauges to help the children to measure key aspects of the weather.



**Year 2** have enjoyed finding out about the local area during their topic week before looking more widely around and investigating the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. The children have sent in photographs of different places that they have visited on their travels, both locally and in different places in the U.K – and have had great fun sharing and discussing these.

The children have also had great fun playing parachute games in PE - and some have impressed their teachers so much in maths that they have been asked to act as 'visiting maths experts', to explain to the rest of the class what they know and how they know it.

In addition to all of this, the children in **Year 1 and Year 2** have been practising improving their speed of calculating – using **Numbots** - with some children spending over 100 minutes practising their numbers skills over the last two weeks!



Well done to the following children who achieved the most minutes for their year group – and have been doing lots of practise over the last two weeks:

Year 2 - Andrei O, Alfie W and Holly M

Year 1 - Hollie B and Eryn G



The children in **Year 3** have been very busy this week, writing explanatory texts about How To Trap The Iron Man – to conclude their work on this well-known book by Ted Hughes. They have also been taking measurements each day and recording the speed of growth of cress, using bar charts, in Science.

As part of their guided reading sessions, based on The Sea Book by Charlotte Milner, the children have been using all of the knowledge that they have gained by producing posters to highlight the damage that humans are causing to the sea; and writing letters to persuade the people in our school to take action to help to protect the seas and all the wildlife that live in the seas and oceans around the world. Always using reusable water bottles and thinking carefully about how we get rid of our waste (recycling as much as we can and reducing the amount of rubbish we throw away), were some of the suggestions that the children have asked everyone to consider.

The children in **Year 4** have been completing their geography topic work this week.



They have each created a large collage of a river using a range of techniques and materials. They started on the riverbed and gradually built up the layers, using the work of David Hockney to inspire them. They used oil pastels, acrylic paints, printing inks, tissue paper, wax crayon and cardboard to create these and emphasise the flow of the water.

They also enjoyed taking part in a Water Cycle Workshop lead by United Utilities, which they accessed virtually via a Google Meet. They explored where their water comes from, water efficiency and various ways to save water.

The children spent a whole day outside on Wednesday for their final forest school session of the half term, during which they completed orienteering tasks, collected field notes and made tin foil rivers. This allowed them to showcase all of the different features of a river that they have learnt about in the classroom.

Mrs Moss, Mr Pritchard and Miss Clemson-Banks feel it has been a very busy and enjoyable week.

This week **Year 6** have focused on how to show perspective in their drawings. They have explored how to use the horizon line, vanishing point and a mixture of vertical and horizontal lines to create an image which is 3D. To showcase their learning, the children will be creating a piece of artwork inspired by Patrick Hughes.



The children in **Year 5 and Year 6** have also been battling against each other in TT Rockstars, with Year 6 achieving victory with a decisive 148 points.



The top 3 performers in the battles were:

Year 6 - Hayden W, Ethan L and Marc O  
Year 5 - Mia O, Jasmin M and Connie-Emma W



**Year 3 and Year 4** have also been battling it out this week, to decide who are the **TT Rockstars champions**.

There were some fabulous individual scores in both year groups but... Year 3 won with an enormous 218 points! *Congratulations and 'Well Done!' to everybody who took part and contributed to this battle.*

The top 3 performers in the battles were:

Year 4 - Lily M, Monica C and Isabella B  
Year 3 - Harry C, Sophie F and Rose M

This week, several children in **Year 5** have taken part in a Bikeability course (Levels 1 and 2). The course was aimed to develop their skills and confidence when riding their bikes on the road. The children were taught how to ride their bikes safely, the importance of wearing a helmet and how to signal correctly. They also went out around the local area to put their skills into practice.



The children in Year 5 have also been finding out about different counties in the UK during their topic week. They used a variety of topographic and thematic maps to identify the similarities and differences between certain counties. They also compared the sizes of mountains and have developed their understanding of grid references.

### Helping Halton Kids



We have been informed about a local organisation called 'Helping Halton Kids' that has just been set up. Runcorn-based charity All or Nothing, the Really Good Food Company (RGFC) and D&D Recruit (the Runcorn headquartered employment agency) have got together to try and make what they hope will be a crucial difference to local children and their families.

They are making packed lunches for the children in the local area who are in need of this service. Whilst they looking for local firms to unite over Half Term, to help feed 1000s of children, they are keen to hear from any families who would benefit from this service.

John Edge, Founder and Trainer at All or Nothing, which aims to provide an avenue for the people of Runcorn to develop healthier minds and bodies, has explained:

"With the government blocking the free school meals plan over the half term, a few of us got together last night to come up with a plan to help the kids in Halton who need support right now. Basically, we will be providing over 1000 packed lunches on a daily basis thanks to our friends at RGFC and D&D Recruit."

"They will be made at RGFC's 5\* rated hygiene unit in Runcorn and then the D&D drivers and logistics team will be doing drop offs at different locations around the town in the morning. This is our minimum goal but we hope that with a bit more support from other backers we might be able to scale this."

"If you are a business that would like to donate time, resources or funding to support us, contact [endchildhunger@ddrecruit.co.uk](mailto:endchildhunger@ddrecruit.co.uk)."

If you are a family that would like us to include your kids on this can you send us a message with how many packed lunches you need per day and what location you are in. We will be sorting the logistics out over the weekend."

For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Helping-Haltons-kids-108869321008464/>



Halton Borough Council have asked schools to forward a copy of a News Release, regarding having fun but sticking to the rules this Hallowe'en (under the 'very high' covid alert level).

A copy of this News Release is included with this week's newsletter.