



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel No: 01928 564053

Headteacher: Mr A Hilldrup

Email: head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk

Website: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

NEWSLETTER 11

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Thank you to everybody who has made a donation to Children In Need by joining in with our Dressing Down Day today or buying merchandise over the last two weeks.

We are still counting up all of the money that has been donated by the pupils and their families – and will ensure that this is sent off at the beginning of next week (so it can be used to have a positive impact on the lives of children around the UK). We will let you know the total amount raised by our school via Studybugs.

What's been going on over the last two weeks?

This week the children in our **Reception Class** enjoyed their first ever Forest School session – during which they played in the mud kitchen, dug for worms, used mallets and pegs, made animal homes and played Hide & Seek.



They are already up to the number 7 (in Maths) and are learning lots of new phonics (letter) sounds – to make words. In PE they have been 'landing on the moon' – which has caused great excitement and generated lots of interesting questions.



Last week, **Year 1** had a Topic Week focused on local history. They were fascinated to learn about the fire that engulfed the previous school building and loved making their own version of the Runcorn Transporter Bridge using marshmallows.

This week they have particularly enjoyed creating their own avatars in Computing and using the iPads to create digital pictures to capture the most important aspects of what they have learnt about Remembrance Day.

The children in **The Fawns** have been writing about the superheroes that they have designed and created since they have returned to school after half term and have also been learning about 'Why we have Remembrance Day?'



The children have also produced some amazing self-portraits, have become detectives to explore their senses and have been focusing on balancing in PE.

They have also been focusing on developing their team building skills by playing and inventing games that they can play together on the playground. The staff have been so impressed by how hard they are working, their positive attitude and how well they are working as a team!



Over the last two weeks, **Year 2** have enjoyed reading their new book "The Night Gardener" in English; and finding out about this setting narrative.

They have also had an afternoon of Forest Schools where they have learned compass directions and made collages in the style of Matisse.

In addition to this, they discussed why we mark 'Remembrance Day', made poppies and held a 2 minute silence on Wednesday.

The children in Year 2 are also very proud of Joseph (and his brother Billy) for the fundraising they have done recently for Claire House Children's Hospice – who sent us two videos that have been watched by all of the children in our school this week to thank them for all of their hard work and effort and to inform us about what Claire House does.

Year 3 have started to use the glockenspiels and are learning how to play simple tunes in time with the music. They are really enjoying these lessons.



The children have also be finding out about other people to help them to understand that it is OK to be different (in PSHE), how to carry out effective searches when using a search engine on the internet (in Computing) and all about 'Rocks and Soils' (in Science).

They have also been taking part in role-play activities to explore the character's thoughts, feelings and actions in the fable they are reading at the moment (in English) about THE FOX.



Year 4 are really enjoying reading and discussing their new book – "Leaf" – which is about a polar bear who does not feel that he belongs. They have used this to write descriptive passages – using 'show not tell' sentences (to really capture and describe what the main character is doing – so the reader can work out for themselves exactly what they are thinking and feeling).

They have also been focusing on athletics (running) in PE and after focusing on sprinting last week are now looking at ways to develop their stamina to succeed at long-distance running.

The children are also showing a great understanding of how to use the column method for both addition and subtraction – and using this knowledge to represent key facts using various visual representations, including bar models and part-part-whole models.

The children in **Year 5** have been enjoying finding out about the Vikings during their topic week. As part of their Forest Schools morning, they worked as a team to collect resources to create a Viking longboat – with a hull, mast, sails and shields. After that, they then researched all about the Viking longboat and the reasons why the Vikings



invaded Britain. Some children even continued their learning at home and created their own information, posters and shields.



Last week our **Year 6** pupils explored the question 'How have the Ancient Greeks influenced the modern world?' They explored a range of different concepts including democracy, The Olympics and architecture. During their forest school session, the children worked in teams to build a Parthenon using natural resources. They worked extremely hard during this topic. Well done Year 6.

Here are a few thoughts and reflections from the children:

"I enjoyed learning about the Olympics and the events that they competed in. I came out as the champion when we tried some of the events." (Ethan)

"I enjoyed learning about the Greeks and how they have influenced our lives today. Did you know that our system of democracy is influenced by the Ancient Greeks?" (Ellie-May)

Online Safety and The Need To Behave Appropriately (and Respectfully) Online & When Using The Internet

In recent weeks we have been alerted to a number of issues involving our pupils (and parents) in incidents involving inappropriate language and upsetting conversations that are being made using social media and whilst online gaming.

We do a lot of work with the children in school about online safety, staying safe and being respectful. Our key messages focus around being S.M.A.R.T.



As well as causing unnecessary distress, when these incidents that have originated outside of school are brought into school (usually the following day) they also absorb a large amount of time to defuse and resolve – especially when it takes us time to ascertain what is being alleged, what has happened and who has been involved. *There are often a large number of pupils who have unnecessarily been informed about disputes between adults and arrive at school trying to find out more (which causes even greater upset and distress).*

Obviously the safety and well-being of all of our pupils and staff is of great importance to us. However, if we could request for all parents to:

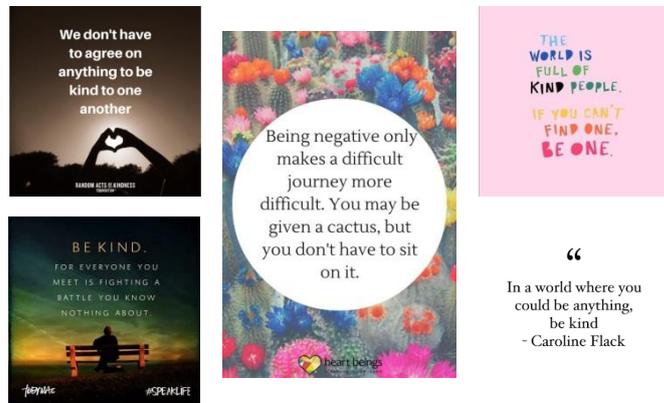
- closely monitor the games and conversations that their children are having online and ensure these are age-appropriate.

- consider the language that they themselves use when they post comments or contact other parents (directly or through parent forums - such as What's App and Facebook chat groups) and avoid using other children's names when they do post (to maintain confidentiality and ensure that private information does not enter the public domain). *This is particularly important when any allegations made prove to be false or unfounded.*

- only be a part of a long standing social media 'group' if they feel it is still beneficial and appropriate (and it is not having a detrimental effect on their mental health and well-being). *It is vital parents and carers only use these forums to engage for positive and purposeful reasons – looking to resolve any issues or concerns in a calm, respectful and considerate manner.*

If any parent or carer feels that their (or their child's) privacy or confidentiality has been breached, that they have been the victim of a hate crime, or slanderous and unfair comments are being made about them online, they should report these to the social media platform that they are using and also to the police.

We started this calendar year with a national campaign #BeKind. It's vital that all adults and children understand the consequences of their actions – and we all model the behaviours we would want others to adopt if the situation was reversed.



Since we asked for parents and carers to check whether they are entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS in the school newsletter several weeks ago, we have had 18 more children who have found out that they are eligible. Since then, the government (as a result of the pressure placed on them by Marcus Rashford's campaign to end child poverty), have announced that all children who receive free school meals will also be entitled to extra support during Christmas, Easter and over the Summer holiday period too. If you believe that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please submit a claim this weekend. Simply click on the following link: <https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>, send an email to RutlandHouseSharedAdminTeam@halton.gov.uk (informing them that you have a child who attends Halton Lodge Primary School and you wish to check if they are eligible for free school meals) or by telephoning 0151 511 7188. Our records suggest that we still have 21 children who are entitled to free schools but are not claiming.