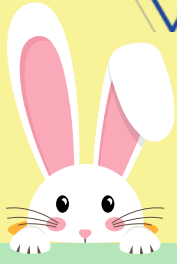




# Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students



## EASTER NEWSLETTER 2024



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 4th April  
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Tuesday 22nd April  
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Monday 5th May - May Day Closure
- Friday 23rd May  
LAST DAY OF TERM



# Arbor

Please make sure you download the Arbor app as this is where we send important messages and you can see pupil information

# HAPPY EASTER

### STAFF NEWS

**We are pleased to welcome to the team:**

Millie Metcalf - Apprentice

Annabelle Waller - Apprentice

**Goodbye & Good Luck to:**

Jamie McHugh after an amazing 18 years!

Jamie McDonald-Romero

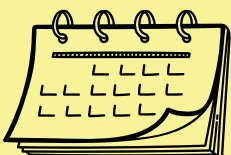
# THANK YOU

TO THE PSFA  
FOR THE PUPIL  
EASTER EGGS



# Congratulations!

To Natasha for completing your  
NVQ Level 3 for Teaching Assistant  
- Well done!



## REMINDER:

# SCHOOL REOPENS ON TUESDAY 22ND APRIL

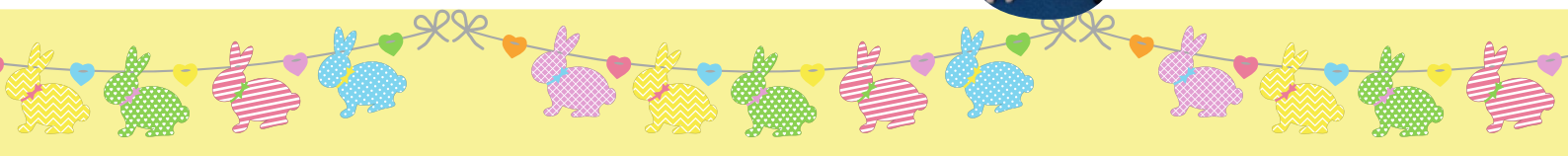


# SCHOOL NEWS



The students had a brilliant time at Bendrigg for their residential trip! They enjoyed canoeing, caving, archery, zip wiring, fell walking and many more activities as well as washing up, making their own beds and taking care of the communal areas. A great way for them to learn about independence, resilience and excitement. Thank you to all the staff involved too, both from Hillside and Bendrigg, for making it a superb time for all!

## World Book Day Fun!



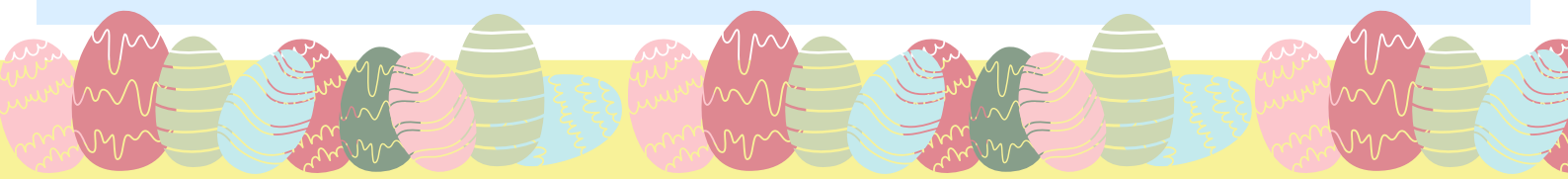


In class 6, our afternoons have been focusing on 'healthy bodies'. We have been learning all about the body, we have been tasting lots of different healthy fruits and vegetables, following sequences to build independence with brushing our teeth, washing our hands, making our own drink and snacks. In PE we have been revisiting all our previous learning during our warmup; to dance and move in different ways, before developing skills in ball games.

We have all enjoyed our English lessons, we have been working on early reading and writing skills in our repetitive stories 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'The three little pigs'. Pupils have enjoyed re-enacting the stories during English lessons and in the interaction room.

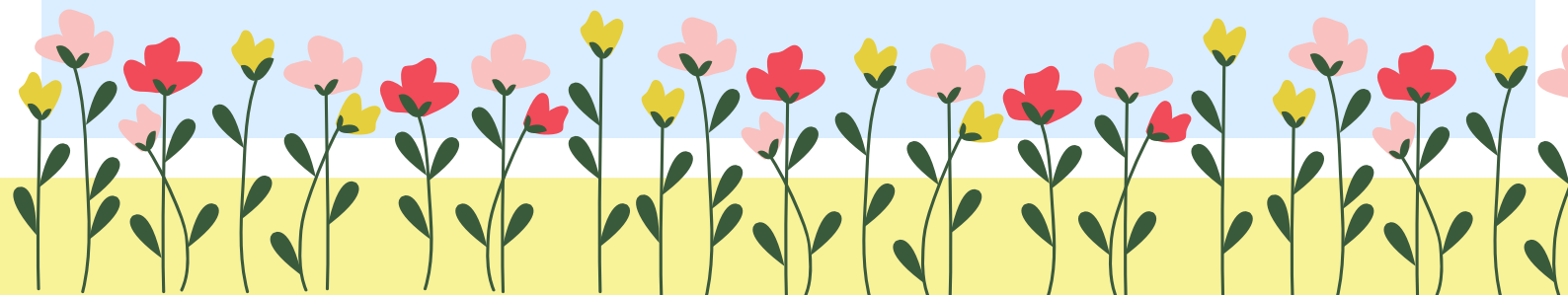
In maths, we have been focusing on money and capacity, with lots of practical activities to develop new skills and embed learning.

We have loved the sunnier days and have enjoyed exploring the school grounds, working on our independence when walking and developing our social skills.



## Class 5

We have had a very busy half term exploring and learning about food. Our sensory stories included the 'The carrot that could' and 'Don't put your finger in the jelly, Nelly' by Nick Sharratt, we loved tasting lots of foods, playing with different food textures, using foods for rockets, swords, unicorn horns and lots more. We have been trying to learn the Makaton signs for familiar foods, used our symbols to request foods, made potato faces and foam eggs too. In maths we have been investigating day and night, looking at the activities we do in the daytime and things we do in the night time, we also exploring light and dark. We have been using food to practice counting, we especially enjoyed using scoops of ice cream. In science we looked at healthy foods, making our own fruit basket, sorting healthy foods and finding out where our food comes from. In RE we experienced a sensory Muslim Nikah, exchanging rings, dressing up, tasting food and drink, smelling fresh flowers and dancing to beautiful music, we made a mosque, painted flowers with scented paint and even had some Henna put on our hands. During our PSHE lessons we visited the local park and practiced being safe out in the community and when using equipment, the weather was so lovely. We have had lots of Easter tuff trays, had a go at baking cakes and Easter treats. Have a look at some of the things we have got up to this term. Have a very hoppy Easter!





# CLASS NEWS



## Another busy half term for Class 12!

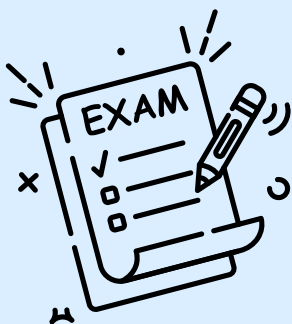
We've had a big focus on our Functional Skills Maths and English examinations this half term as exam season is upon us. Our focus has been on exam skills, looking at previous past papers and learning how to read a question carefully to understand what it is asking us to answer. So far, we have sat our English reading exams, with our Maths and English writing in Summer 1, followed by English Speaking and Listening in Summer 2.

As part of our PDP qualifications, we've been accessing different practical activities that count towards our modules, such as dodgeball in PE, using a range of tools in Forest Schools and continuing with our enterprise project. In PSHE we've been learning about puberty and the changes our bodies go through, as well as planning, making and reviewing a healthy meal.

Class 12 have also been exploring and adopting Thrive practices to build up our resilience, communication and group work skills – having taken part in a variety of team building games and exploring a range of calming activities. In computing we have been accessing our own Hillside email accounts as well as taking part in various Teams calls set up around the college.

Some of us also took part in our first ever residential college trip to Bendrigg. We took part in archery, canoeing, orienteering and a camp fire (to name a few!). It was a jam packed few days – but a fantastic trip! A huge thank you to all the staff that made it possible – both on the trip and at college.

Have a lovely Easter break,  
James and the Class 12 team.



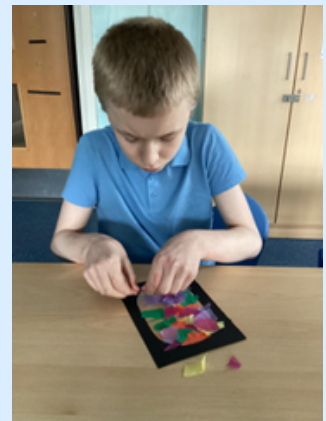


Class 10 have had a lovely half term. In English we have been focussing on Chinese stories. Pupils have all done well exploring images and matching key words from the text to images.

Class 10 pupils have also been developing their communication skills, using colourful semantics to describe what is happening in pictures of their classmates, as well as working on their fine motor skills to aid shape tracing and writing. Pupils have all made brilliant progress in different areas of Maths, completing practical sorting activities, exploring shape, addition and subtraction. In class 10, pupils are working towards their ASDAN Supporting Aspirations qualification, this term we have incorporated it in with our PSHE lessons which focuses on healthy eating, pupils have been making their own smoothies and trying different fruit and vegetables. Pupils have been making their own stained glass windows in science using coloured cellophane whilst exploring the topic of light and colour. This term it has been a pleasure to see all of our pupils thriving in their work and also socially, becoming more confident interacting and playing with each other.



Have a lovely Easter everyone! 😊



Class 13 have had a lovely and very busy half-term. We have been focusing on 'My Technology' within our Supporting aspirations accreditation. We have been using a variety of technology both within the classroom and the kitchen. We have been learning independence and life skills, and learning about keeping the kitchen clean and tidy and hygiene within the kitchen. We have been making a variety of drinks and snacks. Our Maths focus has been weight and capacity and we have been comparing the weight of different items and also practicing using weighing scales. In English we have been using colourful semantics to describe photos of us using the different technology. We have also been on a weekly offsite visit to Nicks Swim school in Longridge and have enjoyed using the swimming pool each week. In PE we have been developing independence within sensory circuits following a sequence of activities to support regulation.





# CLASS NEWS



Wow! What a quick and busy term it has been! Class 4 has had an incredibly exciting and jam-packed half-term, diving headfirst into the world of 'Textiles'.

We've been enchanted by some fantastic stories, including 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants', as well as our fascinating non-fiction text, 'Where Do My Clothes Come From?' These books sparked curiosity and creativity as we explored textiles through History, DT and Art. From learning about the cotton-making process to visiting a real cotton mill, we've truly stitched together an unforgettable learning experience! We even crafted our very own cotton gin and experimented with weaving using a variety of different textiles.

This half-term, we've been all about 'Time'! Through hands-on activities, engaging games, and creative challenges, the children have been developing their understanding of night and day, daily routines, o'clock, and half past. Time has never been more fun to explore!

In Science, we have been learning all about light! The children have explored different light sources, both artificial and natural, and discovered the fascinating world of shadows. They have loved creating shadow tubes and shadow theatres, as well as exploring and drawing shadows outside. It has been an illuminating experience!

It's been a term full of energy and movement as the children made waves in their swimming lessons and danced their way around the globe! In the pool, they've been working hard on their individual targets, building confidence, refining techniques, and improving water safety skills. It's been fantastic to see their determination and progress each week—most importantly, they've been having a blast! Our dance lessons have taken us on an exciting journey across cultures, where we've explored different dance styles, learned new rhythms, and expressed ourselves through movement.

We hope you all have a fantastic and restful break. We can't wait for more adventures when we return!

Kelly and the Class 4 team

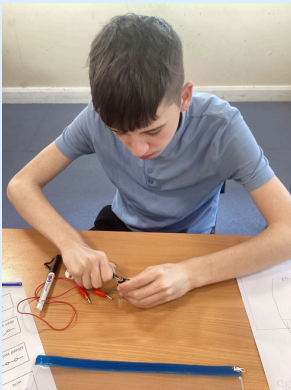




# CLASS NEWS



This half term class 14 have been working hard on their AQA and ASDAN qualifications. In AQA, the class have been learning about different types of medication, when we need to take medication and who can give us medication. We have taken part in some role play activities and the students have done some excellent reading, learning how to read and say tricky words like antibiotic and paracetamol. In maths and computing we have been looking at patterns and photos, and in science we have been drawing circuits and making our own circuits with motors. This term we have really enjoyed swimming, completing our basic swimming skills AQA and we have been growing our independence in the shop. We have also been learning a lot about the changes that happen to our body during puberty and enjoying our intensive interaction sessions, learning how to take part in group games.



## Class 1

In Literacy this half term we have explored 3 stories told through a sensory approach; The Rainbow Fish, Elmer and Elmer and The Rainbow. On World Book Day we had lots of fun dressing up as our favourite book characters and enjoyed making bookmarks and sharing new stories together in class and in our outdoor area. We have especially loved the arrival of the lovely Spring weather and have had fun playing outdoors more!

This half term in Maths we have been exploring groups and comparing them to find out which group contains more and which contains less. We have also been learning about one more and one less, and the relationship between doubling and halving. We have explored these concepts through practical activities, songs and games.

We have been enjoying our weekly PE sessions in the hall – everybody loves PE! This half term we have been focusing on ball skills (ie throwing, catching, rolling, bouncing etc).

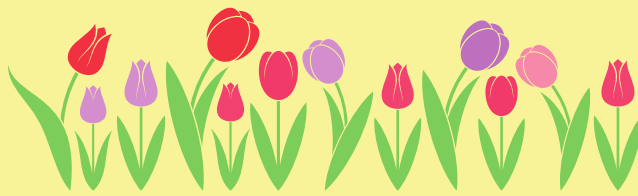
We have had lots of fun with our freeze- dance warm up and parachute games too!

In our creative afternoons we have explored a range of colour and rainbow themed songs, in addition to completing many different creative, malleable and messy play activities on this theme. For example, we have made our own Rainbow Fish and Elmer collages.





# CLASS NEWS



This half term class 9 have loved going cycling for several weeks at UCLAN arena. The children have developed their confidence and speed!

For PE we have practised leaping and jumping with two feet together during gymnastic sessions.

Our English was based on the story the magic paintbrush and we have enjoyed playing the cookie jar speaking game.

Maths was based on the position of objects and direction. We practised identifying where objects were and placing objects in different places.

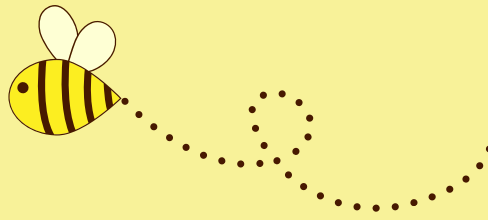
For science we have been learning about light, we practised identifying light sources and used a torch to make shadow animals with our hands.

History was based on China. We enjoyed playing a game picking up pom poms with chopsticks, looking at photos of us when we were younger at a celebration and making Chinese dragons and lanterns. We also looked at pictures of important structures in China a long time ago and now, as well as identifying Chinese artefacts.

Have a lovely Easter holiday!



# CLASS NEWS



Class 8 have had another busy and productive half-term.

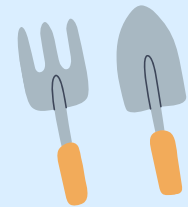
In English we have completed activities linked to 'Treasure Island.' We have continued to practice skills in speaking and listening, reading, spelling, comprehension, and writing.

During Maths we have completed activities linked to number and money.

In Science we have explored 'Earth and Space.'

Our PSHE lessons have focused on the importance of 'Self-care, support and safety.'

As part of our work in Asdan, we have explored jobs that involve working indoors and outdoors along with any equipment used. We have also practiced gardening skills using a variety of tools.



During our Creative Curriculum sessions, we have explored Kenya through Geography, Art and Music. We created our own special cards to send home for Mother's Day.



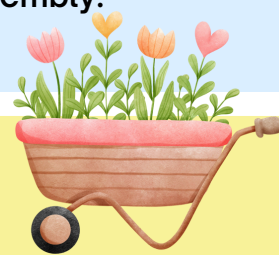
Our PE lessons have focused on developing skills in Kurling and Boccia through team-games.

In RE we have developed our knowledge of Hindu Dharma.

During Computing we explored using the internet.

Each Friday we have celebrated our achievements in our Key-Stage assembly.

Happy Easter everyone from Class 8 😊





# CLASS NEWS



Class 7's had a busy and creative Spring Term 2. Our topic this half term was Textiles and we researched the Lancashire Cotton Mill Industry and the local artist, Lowry. We have studied Lowry's paintings and made posters about Lowry's life. We have practiced painting huge mills and old 1900's terraced houses in the Lowry style and learning to draw our own matchstick folk. We then dressed up as 'matchstick people' from a hundred years ago, in old coats and flap caps, like in Lowry's paintings. We took photos of ourselves in 'matchstick' style poses on the iPad and then printed them and added our photos to a huge class mural, which is similar to Lowry's famous painting, 'Coming from the Mill'. This beautiful collage is now on display in our classroom. We have tried out making our own mood boards, investigating materials, colour and descriptive language. We then collaborated as a whole class to make our own Spring wallpaper, by decorating with different materials, feathers, gems and by practicing printing patterns, which everyone enjoyed. In English, we've been learning to read and follow instructions, including visual (symbol) instructions; this has helped with our DT and artwork this half term. We have also followed written/visual instructions in RE to make a Sikh kite and a Raita dip for celebrating Sikh festivals. This last week, we followed instructions to make Easter salt-dough animals and delicious chocolate nests. In Maths, we've been learning about time, sequencing events, days of the week and months of the year, and learning how to tell the time to o'clock and half past. We've had more fun sessions with Super Ball Paul, and everyone has progressed in their learning and skills this half term. In Science, we've been learning about plants, and we made a Bird Feeder at Forest School with Julie, which is now in the garden area by our classroom, so we can enjoy bird-spotting. We wish everyone a choccy, happy and safe Easter break! Christy, Kerry, and the whole Class 7 Team.



# CLASS NEWS



This half term Class 2 have embraced the topic 'Journeys'.

**English** – We have shared two sensory stories together 'Whatever Next' and 'Mr Grumpy's Motor Car'. The children remembered the stories well and have started to answer key questions linked to them. **Role play** - They loved landing on the moon and having a picnic together.

**Maths** – In maths we have been busy learning about ordinal numbers as well as directions with Anna on a Monday.

**PSHE** – The topic this half term has been people who help us and each week we have had a special visitor. We have had the fire service, Herby and Lisa from the Guide Dog Association and Zakaria's Mum came in from the local food bank. We were also able to borrow Postal uniform so we could write and post letters too. It was great to see the children learn about different people who help us in life.

**RE** – We have been learning about the 'Holi Festival' in RE and what a colourful experience it has been. We have made some amazing pictures with splashes of colour and learnt about spring.

Our PE lessons have been focused on developing a range of skills linked using larger apparatus. The children's confidence has grown massively whilst exploring the larger equipment.



Have a lovely Easter Break!

The Class 2 team





This half term in Class 3 the children have been learning about 'Journeys and Transport'.

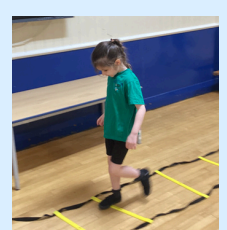
In English, the children enjoyed listening to our class stories 'We All Go Travelling By' and 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's'. The children saw and learnt about lots of different vehicles throughout the story including cars, trains, helicopters, boats, bikes, fire engines and tractors. They learnt about the sounds they each make and the jobs they can do. The children also had the opportunity to explore a real fire engine and have a sit inside it. It was lots of fun!

In Maths, the children have been learning all about time. They learnt about different times of the day including day and night and understanding that the sun rises and shines in the daytime and the moon and stars come out at night. The children also learnt about the different routines that they do during the day and at night and had a go at these. They enjoyed washing their faces, eating breakfast and bedtime stories.

During our afternoon sessions, the children have had the opportunity to go outside and explore the different vehicles. They went around the staff car park looking for their favourite cars and took pictures of these using the iPad and then completed a tally chart of the different types of vehicles that went past school.

This half term, the children have been lucky enough to have PE with Super Ball Paul who has taught them lots of new skills. They learnt how to pass the ball using their hands and feet, score goals in both the football and basketball nets, participate in a game of dodge ball and they even had a go at completing an obstacle course.

On Friday's the children have been developing their cooking skills and have been trying foods from around the world. They tried and made their own pizzas from Italy, chocolate croissants from France and nachos from Mexico. They were yummy!



# CLASS NEWS

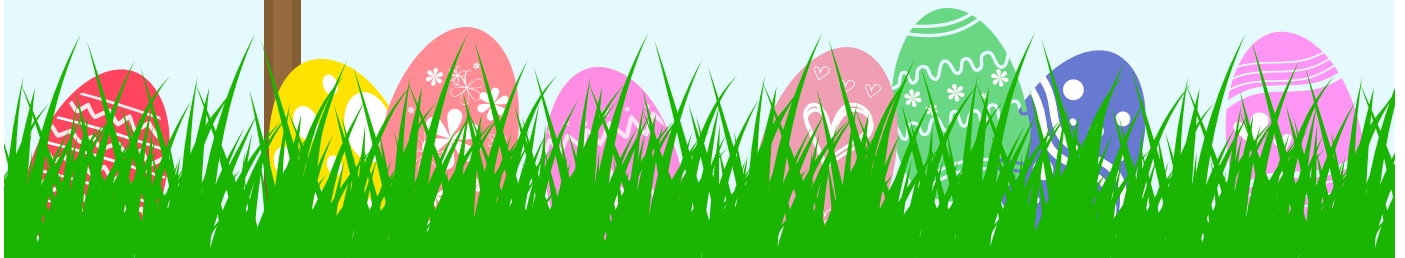


What a busy half term it has been! Pupils have been involved in World Book Day celebrations, Spring themed activities, residential visits and exams for our college pupils. It's pleasing to see the progress that pupils are making towards their targets as we approach the final term of the year.

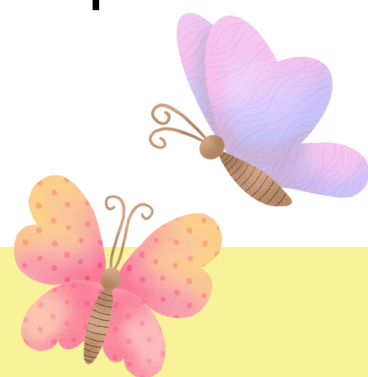
Thank you for your continued support of school activities. If you would like to become more involved in supporting our fundraising events, please get in touch with our PSFA regarding helping out with the summer fair.

Enjoy the Easter period.

Paul Leaper - Headteacher



School will reopen on Tuesday 22nd April





# FUNDRAISING NEWS

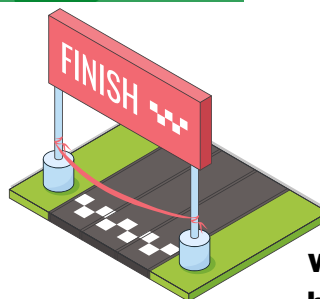


## Fancy a clear out at Easter?



### **ROBERTS RECYCLING**

will be collecting any unwanted bags of clothing on Wednesday 23rd April. If you have any unwanted items, please can you bring them in by Tuesday 22nd April & help raise funds for school!



A group of staff are in training to run a 5km/10km in Blackpool on the 26th April to raise funds for sensory resources for pupils.

You can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hillsidespecialistschoolcollege>

## We really appreciate all the support!



For every ticket sold 76% goes towards school and prizes. If you would like to take part please go to

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/> to join.  
£1 per ticket!

# FUNDRAISING NEWS



**STALL HOLDERS  
WANTED  
£10 A STALL**

# Summer fair

**12PM-  
3PM**

**SATURDAY  
21ST JUNE**

**HILLSIDE SPECIALIST SCHOOL  
& COLLEGE**

**FAIRGROUND RIDES  
BOUNCY CASTLE  
MARKET STALLS  
GAMES  
ENTERTAINMENT  
FACE PAINTING  
YUMMY FOOD  
HOOK A DUCK  
AND MORE.....!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 01772 782205**