



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students



MAY NEWSLETTER 2025



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 23rd May
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 2nd June
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Saturday 21st June
Summer Fair - Welcome to attend!
- Friday 18th July
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 21st July - INSET Day
- Tuesday 22nd July - INSET Day
- Monday 1st September - INSET Day
- Tuesday 2nd September - INSET Day
- Wednesday 3rd September
SCHOOL REOPENS

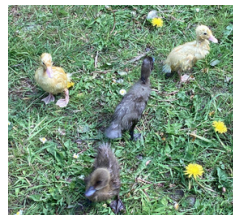


Arbor

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



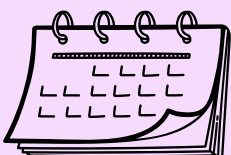
This term the pupils and students have enjoyed watching eggs hatch and ducklings appear!



STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the team:

Freya Silcock - TA1



REMINDER:
SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 2nd JUNE

SCHOOL NEWS

Well done!

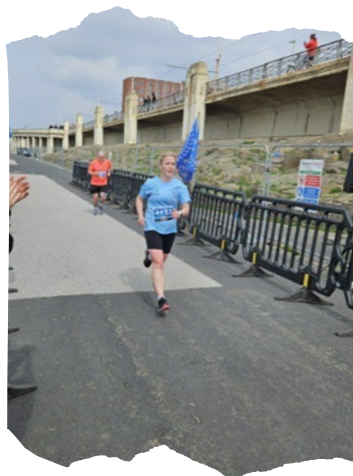
To the 9 staff and a parent who ran a 5km run in Blackpool and raised an amazing £1600!

A lot of the team had only just taken up running and worked so hard with their training after school.

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to help fundraise for school and for all the donations. The pupils will enjoy having lots of new resources!



You did great!



Congratulations!

To Anna Heyworth for completing your NPQLT & Lucy Singleton for completing your NVQ Level 3 for Teaching Assistant – Well done!



CLASS NEWS

What a super summer term it's been so far in Class 4!

This term, we've gone back in time to the Tudor period! From reading fun and factual books like 'Royal Animals, An Illustrated History' - to discovering the fascinating life of Henry VIII and his six wives, we've become true Tudor experts.

In History, we explored Tudor kings and queens, while in English we dived into both fiction and non-fiction texts, helping us learn new words and facts. We've also worked hard on developing our writing and communication skills.

In Design Technology (DT), we turned into Tudor chefs! We had lots of fun creating old-style recipes like pottage, honey and spice cakes, and freshly baked bread. Yummy!

And the best is yet to come... We're looking forward to joining Class 7 for a special Tudor Feast on Wednesday in the last week of term.

Maths has been full of magic this term as we joined 'Peter Pig on his magical market adventure!'. We've explored different coins, counted money, and practised paying for shopping.

Our Science topic, Earth and Space, has been blast-off brilliant! We've made our own planets, looked at the solar system, and even launched rockets! Hands-on activities have helped us understand our wonderful universe a little more each day.

We've been making the most of the sunshine by heading to the local park for PE. It's been a great chance to develop both our physical and PSHE skills—from teamwork and sharing, to running, jumping, and balancing.

Thank you for another wonderful half term. We're proud of every child for their hard work, kind hearts, and brilliant curiosity. Have a restful break!

Kelly and the class 4 team



CLASS NEWS

A short but very busy half term for Class 12,

This half term has been mostly dedicated to our exam practice and sitting our Functional Skills examinations. The majority of pupils have now sat their English reading and writing, as well as their maths exams. We're very proud of how hard everyone tried with their exams, no matter the results. Well done Class 12!

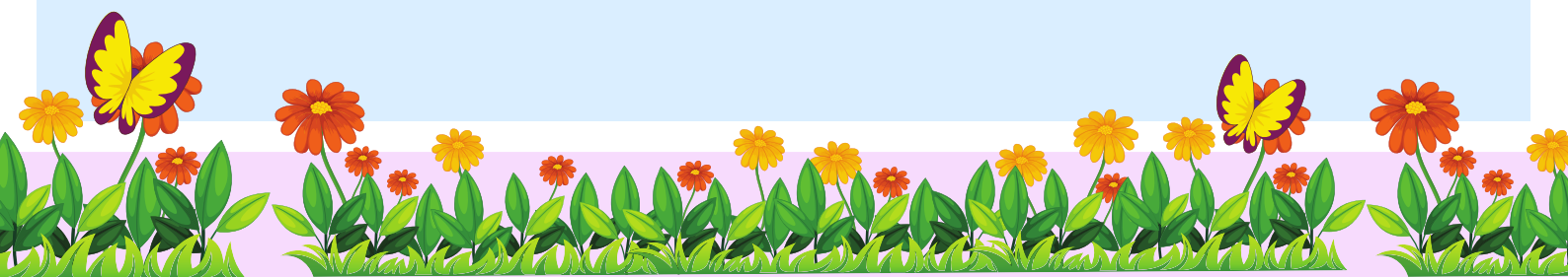
We've also had our final push to finish our PDP Silver and Transforming Aspirations qualifications, which has included a range of activities, including a trip to Sir Tom Finney High School's careers event, designing and making bird boxes in forest schools and recapping on fire safety we learnt about in our SENDsafe sessions.

Everyone has also had lots of fun at swimming each week, building confidence in the water and enjoying a variety of pool games. We're looking forward to our trip to Preston train station in the last week of this half term, exploring the station and the different careers in the train service.

I am personally very proud of each and every pupil in Class 12 for their perseverance and hard work this half term, they made it through the final push with both exams and accreditations and kept going even when they've found some things tricky.

I wish everyone a relaxing half term,

James and the Class 12 team.



CLASS NEWS

In class 10 we have all had a lovely start to the summer term.

We have made the most of the sunshine and spent time in our forest school area. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this outdoor learning and play time, as well as getting to experience newly hatched ducklings and see them grow. As well as this, science lessons have been taking place in the garden area of school, where pupils have been able to explore animal habitats. During PE lessons we have continued to work on sensory circuits, focussing on gross motor skills to play throwing and catching games with partners and developing confidence to walk and balance across a beam. Our overall topic this half term has been rainforests, we have been reading 'Roaming in the Rainforest' during English and have been able to learn key words and match these to images from this story. As well as this, pupils have been working on their fine motor skills to aid writing and also building sentences using colourful semantics. All pupils have continued to make progress in maths, looking at number and shape. This has been a great start to the last term of the year, in class 10 everyone is continuing to flourish in their own ways and develop independence and self-help skills.



From Ebony and the class 10 team



CLASS NEWS

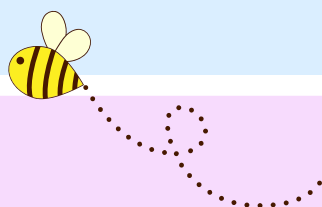
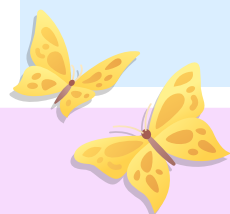
Class 5

We have had a very busy half term exploring and learning about animals. Our sensory stories were 'Walking in the Jungle' by Debbie Harter and 'Who's in the Forest' by Phyllis Gershator. We also had lots of scaffolded play with animals using Makaton/PECS symbols to name the different animals and used sound buttons to imitate animal sounds. In maths we have been learning about measure looking at long snakes and short worms and counting pieces of food when feeding animals. In PSHE we have been looking at how we take care of ourselves by eating a healthy diet, practising our personal hygiene skills, doing exercise and relaxing too. We learnt about the different habitats of animals in science, lots of sensory play, it was so much fun! In RE we learnt about Hinduism visiting the Mandir temple, we all felt very welcome; playing instruments, touring the different areas, ringing the bells, looking at the statues and much more. In PE we have worked on our dressing skills and creating our own sensory circuits using coloured symbols then carrying them out. In music we have been imitating animal noises using a guiro, boomwhackers, drums and rainmakers and in computing we have created our own animal photo book, we used a camera/iPad to take photos, printed them out and put them into an album to share with our friends.

Class 8 have been learning about the Iron Age. We have followed the story of the 'Iron Age Boy' and also made our own woolly mammoth and round house. Maths has had a focus on Time and how to use time in the most functional way.

History was a continuation of the Iron Age and included a visit to the round house. The pupils have also worked hard on their employability skills doing jobs around the school and making use of effective equipment.

Class 14 have had a very exciting half term and have managed to fit in lots of community visits. For our AQA unit, we have been taking part in some work experience in the community, visiting a local park and picking up some litter. The students have really enjoyed making the park clean and were all fantastic using the litter pickers! We have also been practising our communication skills within the community, visiting The Station Cafe, McDonalds and Wallings Ice Cream parlour. We have been using theme boards to help us make choices and to communicate our orders to the staff in the venues. We have also been working very hard completing some of our accreditation work, the students have all worked so hard over the year and should all be proud of their achievements. We have also been having a college sunflower contest, they are all growing well and we are excited to see who the winner will be!



CLASS NEWS

This half term, Class 2 have fully embraced our animal-themed topic and have had a wonderful time learning through a wide range of engaging activities.

Science and geography - We've explored different animal habitats and looked closely at where and how animals live. Weekly visits to the Forest Classroom brought this learning to life, where we observed snails in their natural environment and watched ducklings hatch and grow. Seeing their very first swim was a truly magical and memorable experience for all.

English - We have shared two fantastic sensory stories: Hole in the Zoo and Big Red Barn. The children have been brilliant at answering key questions, making connections to the text, and exploring the story props. Some even took on the role of storyteller, reading confidently to the class and leading our story sessions – they really knew the stories inside out!

Maths - In maths, we've focused on using coins to count to 10p. The children especially enjoyed the Class 2 Shop, where they practised exchanging coins for items. They also applied their learning during weekly visits to Aldi, where they: followed a shopping list, selected their item and then they used the self – checkout to pay. This real-world experience helped develop confidence and independence.

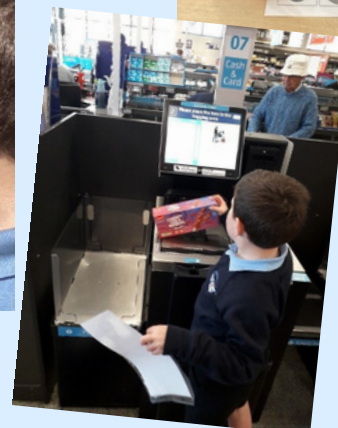
PSHE – Our PSHE topic focused on people who help us at home and school. Each week, we learned an important part of self-care, including: brushing our teeth and washing our hands.

We also talked about how others help us with these routines.

In PE, we've been moving like the animals we've been learning about! There were fierce tigers, cheeky monkeys, and lots of laughter as the children expressed themselves through movement and rhythm.

Thank you for all your support this half term. We've had a fantastic time learning, exploring, and having fun together.

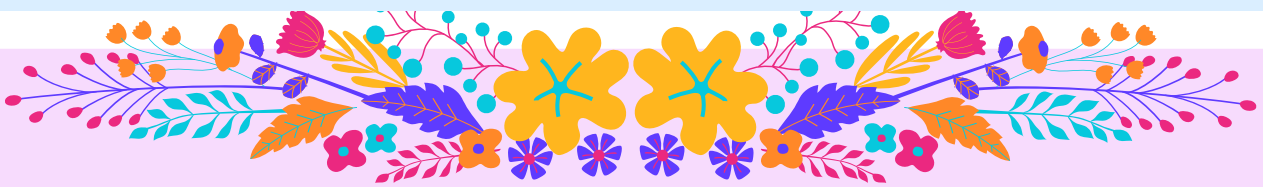
Have a lovely, restful half term! – The Class 2 Team



CLASS NEWS



Class 7 have had a wonderful time this sunny half term and everyone has tried their best. We've had lots of hands-on learning fun: we've made lots of tasty artisan bread and scrummy bread rolls; we've visited the very fluffy and cute Hillside ducklings and watched them take their first swim; we've been learning about capacity and repeating patterns, through real-life materials, and garden fun with water; we've made tasty summer fruit kebabs; we've organised and made our outfits and decorations for our Royal Garden party; we've visited the petting zoo in school; we've sung and danced along to our new Hillside Song; we've painted some beautiful self-portraits....everyone's had a great time and given their all! Have a lovely half term hols and we look forward to all the fun instore for Summer Term 2! Thanks for your ongoing support, Christy, Kerry and all the Class 7 Team



CLASS NEWS



In class 6 our topic has been 'On the Road'. We have had lots of transport themed lessons including our phonics and story 'On the Road with Mavis and Marge'. We have been doing some transport themed position and direction and number work in maths. In our Science lessons we have been learning about forces and motion whilst developing playing and social skills. In our music lesson we have been developing social and communication skills whilst engaging in transport themed songs.

We have been lucky enough to have Super Ball Paul for our PE sessions; we have all loved these and engaged really well.

We have also been to Forest Schools each week, we have had the chance to see the chick eggs hatch, we then saw them once they had grown swimming in the water. We have also learnt about snails; we looked at them and chopped up fruit to feed them.

We have loved being outdoors this half term and have been developing our independence skills on a daily walk around the triangle before enjoying the climbing frames and gym equipment in the walled garden.



CLASS NEWS

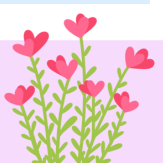
We have had a great half-term in Class 3 learning all about 'Animals and their Habitats'.

Our story this half-term has been 'Dear Zoo'. In the story, a little boy wrote to the zoo to ask them to send him a pet but some of the animals they sent were too big, too grumpy, too jumpy and too scary. Eventually, the zoo sent him a puppy which was perfect! This got the children thinking about the different pets that they would like to have. They came up with some super suggestions including lizards, cats, fish and even butterflies. The children then painted some super pictures of them and came up with a describing word.

In maths, the children have been learning all about money and have had lots of fun visiting our class store to spend their money. The children were really good at exchanging coins for toys and understood that items must be paid for before they could leave. As they became more confident with this, they learnt about the different coloured coins and even had a go at paying for toys which required them to pay with either a silver or brown coin. It was lots of fun and the children were really good at looking at which coin they needed to use to pay.

During our afternoon lessons, the children have been learning all about different animal habitats in science and look at animals that came from the artic, the sea, the desert, the rainforest and their back gardens. Over the term, the children became more confident at matching the different animals to the different habitats and really enjoyed going to our walled garden to look for animals living in their natural habitat. The children have also been creating animal art work in art and have made some lovely animal models using clay, some animal mosaics and some animal shadow pictures.

The children also enjoyed a visit from Gramps the tortoise and the petting zoo!



CLASS NEWS



Class 1 - This half term has been a short but busy one! On our 'jungle' theme we have explored sensory stories, including 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Walking through the Jungle'. In Maths we've been learning about addition and subtraction through practical play activities, and have been exploring 3D shapes too. We have especially enjoyed our weekly PE sessions including our dance-freeze warm up, and our new 'Super Ball Paul' sessions in the hall! With regard to PSED we have started to practice brushing our teeth daily and continue to work hard on other self care and independence skills. We now attend assembly with the other primary classes in the hall weekly and have enjoyed meeting with different peer groups. In the afternoons we have had fun engaging with a wide variety of jungle themed arts and crafts, music, malleable and messy play activities!

Chantelle and the class 1 team

This half term class 9 have loved having superball Paul for our PE sessions and doing lots of different throwing and catching exercises.

In English we listened to a story about a rainforest and practised reading sentences connected to the rainforest as well as identifying what we can see and hear using theme boards to support. Our geography has also been focused on learning about the rainforest and the animals that live there.

Our science lessons have involved looking at forest and microhabitats. We have used magnifying glasses to look at minibeasts and identify what we have found. For forest schools we enjoyed looking at the duck eggs and seeing the ducklings after they had hatched.

In PSHE we have learnt about friendship and good and bad relationships. In computing we learnt what an animation is and made our own gifs using a flipbook website.

Have a good half term!

Despite this being a short half term, pupils and staff have been extremely busy accessing a range of activities. Pupils were particularly excited to watch the ducklings hatch from their eggs and to be involved in a number of off-site visits. I am really pleased and proud of the efforts that our secondary aged pupils have put into their accreditation work, qualifications and exam preparations.

I would also like to thank staff for their fundraising efforts in completing the Blackpool 5K run.

Enjoy the half term - let's hope the fine weather continues!

Paul Leaper - Headteacher.

School will re-open on Monday 2nd June



FUNDRAISING NEWS



Hillside PSFA

**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

**Fancy a
clear
out at half
term?**



ROBERTS RECYCLING
will be collecting any unwanted
bags of clothing on Wednesday
4th June. If you have any
unwanted items, please can
you bring them in by **Tuesday
3rd June** & help raise funds for
school!

**support our school
join our lottery!**

Sign up today at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play

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!