

A Weekend Update from Holland Moor- Saturday November 14th



Art Displays around school

The tour of our corridors focusing on the beautiful art displays should be uploaded to Facebook this very weekend. I am always very proud of the art work completed at Holland Moor but this exhibition is particularly good. The children have clearly grasped the ideas of the artist and then gone on to make their work so individual too.

BBC Children in Need

Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations to our Children in Need appeal. We collected 1313 coins. I'm going to let the Nat West coin counting machine total the amount and then let everyone know the sum raised as soon as I can. Thanks again to everyone and there are some fabulous photographs of the collection and our day in general on Facebook.

Google Classrooms

I know I nag on about this but please remember you can register through our website and be easily set up for our many Christmas presentations. As we are recording and sharing our Christmas presentations on Google Classrooms this year many more classes can be involved. For the first time in many years all KS2 classes are going to prepare and share something special for Christmas.

Vision Screening – Year 1

Next visit on November 20th

KS2A Class of the Week

It's Class 4C for their superb response to our new short comprehension activities. This was an experimental lesson and the children had to use their inferential and deductive skills after reading a very short piece of text about a view from a window. Their answers were superb and included many complex sentences.

KS2B Class of the Week

This week it's Class 6S for sharing some of their beautiful Remembrance Day art pieces with me and helping me start up a new portfolio of Remembrance Art.

Colouring competition

Our next competition is in honour of Children in Need and involves Pudsey. The usual £20 monthly prize is available. Colouring sheets can be collected from Mr Beale, from the school office or requested from class teachers.

Donations for the Christmas Raffle / Donations for the Christmas Hampers

Nearly there - we just need one more prize. Of course not only are we looking for those BIG prizes but your children will hopefully be pestering you in the nicest possible way for small contributions to the class hampers. We've grouped classes in pairs so the demands are not excessive.

Consultation Evenings for Reception Classes, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

According to my charts we made 375 video or telephone contacts during the week. Most of these were on Tuesday or Wednesday but some were at other more convenient times. This leaves us with about 60 contacts to make to achieve 100% success. So if you would still welcome a call please telephone the office and your child's class teacher will get back to you with an update. You'll be able to suggest a day and time.

Activity of the week

Years five and six completed some beautiful art work last Wednesday (November 11th) as part of our Remembrance Day activities. They looked closely at how art has been used to represent different aspects of war and studied the way artists responded to the Second World War. The children discovered how artists such as Henry Moore and Dame Laura Knight used their art as a way of expressing emotions and coming to terms with a changing and sometimes scary world. The children then used their own creations/responses during a class act of remembrance. Poignant and beautiful. Again some works have been uploaded to Facebook.

My Star of the Week

It absolutely must be Evan Collett for his donation of 313 toy cars after my plea from a few weeks ago. Brilliant Evan! The trouble is with secure bubbles I won't get to go into any of our Early Years classes to play with them. We are going to buy some new road map carpets to add to the fun.

EYFS Classes of the Week

We are a pilot school for trialling the latest baseline assessment. This is the newest test designed to find out what each individual child knows and understands when they start compulsory education. Full marks to our reception children who have worked with our teachers on this initiative. The activities are fun and the children just saw them as an engaging endeavour.

Anti –bullying week Monday November 16-Friday November 20.

This coming week it's National Anti-Bullying week and most schools in the country are taking part. Our emphasis for anti-bullying week will be on respecting ourselves and developing kindness. We will be exploring the idea that by developing kindness and acquiring a kind outlook to life we will reduce the possibility that we might ever bully or intimidate anyone else.

We will be using the videos I have listed below. You might like to take a look and perhaps share them as a family after we've used them in school.

Video 1 –**Be Kind to Others** - Teacher Lisa from YogaBugs talks about the importance of being kind to others, using a lovely meditation focusing on the Bucket of Kindness. This video promotes mindfulness. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qEvlukyr64&feature=youtu.be>

Video 2 –**Breathing Through Emotions** – We'll be practising some simple, but effective breathing exercises and then choosing our favourite one. Our children know they go through a mix of emotions every day. They also know these are all normal and part of life but understand that we need to learn to control these emotions, so they don't control us. The children will extend their knowledge of how this can be done by using these breathing exercises.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tg4yxbEsTA&feature=youtu.be>

Video 3 –**Spreading Happiness Visualisation**. The children will close their eyes, take in a deep breath and relax while they listen to a lovely visualisation about breathing in love and happiness and breathing out negative feelings. They will learn how they can pass on those positive feelings to others.e<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkx7TjxA2vc&feature=youtu.be>

Video 4 –**Stop Bullying Yourself!** We all give ourselves a hard time and are not always kind, this video will talk to our children about the importance of believing in themselves. We will explore some simple meditation techniques to help children focus their minds and give them a break from their thoughts. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xpgtf2MtsFE&feature=youtu.be>

As always thank you for the many positive comments we received during the consultation conversations and for the widespread positivity you express about the varied programme of events and activities taking place at Holland Moor. As I explained back in Newsletter 1 you can generally contact a senior member of staff any day 06.30 to 21.00 and you'll nearly always get a fairly immediate answer to any question or a reply or reaction to an observation. We all thrive on your involvement and it helps the school flourish.

I wish you a very pleasant rest of the weekend

MIKE BEALE 14/11/2020