



**Academic Year
2022/23**

October

24th - 28th
Half Term Break

November

Tuesday 1st
Learning reviews
3:30 - 6pm

Thursday 3rd
Learning reviews
4pm - 6:30

Wednesday 23rd
Y5 Cinema Trip

December

Wednesday 14th
Christmas Dinner

Monday 19th
Carol Service at
St. Marys 2pm

Wednesday 21st
Holtsmere's Got
Talent

End of Term
1:30 Close

January 2023

Thurs 5th & Fri 6th
INSET DAYS
School Closed

Monday 9th
Start Spring Term

Thursday 19th
Y6 Young Voices

Holtsmere End Junior School

Newsletter

ISSUE 1

21 OCTOBER 2022

Message from Mrs McGuigan

We cannot believe that October half term is here already! The children have all settled back into school routines well and we are enjoying getting to know all of our new Year 3 children. This has been an incredibly busy half term. Numerous clubs have started after school, at lunchtimes and even before school. Children have already experienced visitors into school and many have been on school trips that support their learning experiences.

OPAL lunchtimes have started this term. We have started a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play at lunchtimes.

OPAL is based on the idea that as well as learning through good and outstanding teaching, your children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible. One reason we are developing lunchtimes through this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

Average screen time per day 5 hours

Average outdoor play time per week 5 hours

Percentage of UK children who only play outdoor with other children at school 56%

As we improve play opportunities for your children, you may find us asking you for resources and we will be making changes about how the children use the school grounds.

The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental well-being and health and in line with all current good practice advice on health safety, well-being and development.



Message from Mrs McGuigan Cont/d...

Attendance:

It continues to be important for children to be in school as much as possible following a couple of disrupted years of learning. It is essential that children attend school and are only absent for significant illnesses. Minor headaches and colds can be managed in school and reasonable adjustments can be made- for example staying in at lunchtime. The school attendance policy does state that unauthorised absences can incur a fine as enforced by the Local Authority.

School Council:

The School Council of Holtsmere End Junior School has sent a letter to the people who make the woolly decorations for the post boxes for help us with an event in all schools worldwide.

We have asked for a beautiful structure for the event as we had planned. We hope that we get a letter back. We are happy to celebrate this event and are waiting happily for a reply.

Isabella Year 6

Reply from Hemel Yarn Bombers:

Good morning,

Thank you for your lovely letter inviting Hemel Yarn Bomb to take part in your Remembrance Day display. We are so happy that you enjoy seeing our displays in your local area and look forward to joining you in making this special display for your school.



Eco-Committee



On the 11th October, we went on a trip to the garden centre. We bought flowers, compost and some seeds. We learnt that some of the fruits and vegetables we wanted to grow were out of season and unavailable. Rob, the employee told us to come next season because they would have more fruit and vegetables to choose from. Rob made the price cheaper for us so we were able to get everything we wanted on our budget. We brought the plants back to school and planted them in the bio-dome.
By Melvin Y6

The eco committee went to the garden centre with Mrs McGuigan and Mrs Gibbons we looked for seeds and plants to put in the bio-dome. We are excited to announce we have bought a blueberry bush. When they have grown we will share the blueberries with the school. Rob, at the garden centre helped us choose the right seeds and plants for winter. The plants are now in the dome and we are carefully looking after them. We also planted some winter pansies (thank you Maiya's Gramp's!)

We are excited to learn more about plants and our environment at our meeting every week.

By Maiya Y4 & Rron Y3

Opal Assemblies:

Since the new year, we have had lots of changes in lunchtimes introduced in our Opal assemblies. I think that our lunchtimes have become a lot more fun and have made people happier. The Opal assemblies stand for outside play and learning. I have seen people playing on the scooters and taking turns. In addition to that, we have had plastic sheets with which we can make dens and roll down hills with them. We have also added paper outside that you can draw on. The wild-life area has opened and children have been playing in there. We are also now allowed in the bio-dome and we have a soil pit which we can dig in or play with plastic animals. We can't wait to see what's added next!

By Ollie & Alicja Y6



OPAL PLAYTIMES



Cross Country:

At this year's cross country we took part in a two kilometres race at Astley Cooper. This race lasted 2 hours, from 12:25pm to about 2:30pm. We competed against other schools using the 6R's risk (as we had never done this before) and resilience. Even when our school was not in the lead, we used these 6R's. We did training before we went because the race was really long. There were students from Astley Cooper who supervised us as we ran. This race was really fun. We would recommend this to anyone sporty or not! Take a risk and next time nominate yourself!

By: Lyla, Summer, James & Alfie Y6



Year 5 Planetarium, Royal Observatory, Greenwich

The trip on the coach to the Planetarium took 1 hour and 20 minutes. After we left the coach we walked through Greenwich Park. We climbed a few white stairs to enter the Planetarium. We were nicely greeted by staff before making our way to the toilets. We were then introduced to Greg who took us to a cinema- styled dome. Greg, who is an astronomer, gave us a very detailed explanation about our planets, constellation of the stars and about the sun and other planets while we looked up at the dome, showing the universe on my doorstep

We then made our way upstairs to where we did the crossword puzzle and some other activities (space themed) and had our lunches there. After lunch we had an afternoon workshop with Gred and he showed us the Earth and Moon rotating on their axis. T'iarah showed us how far the Moon should be from the Earth. When the workshop finished we said our goodbyes to Greg and left.

We would recommend going there, the staff were really friendly and Greg is hilarious. It helped a lot with our science topic about space and definitely boosted our knowledge.

Did you know that it takes 365 days and a quarter for the Earth to slowly rotate around the Sun? That's why every four years or leap year we have an extra day in February.

By T'iarah and Abby



Class	07/10/22									
	6R's	Writer of the week	Reader of the week	Mathematician of the week	Hand-writing	6 R's	Writer of the week	Reader of the week	Mathematician of the week	Hand-writing
Mrs Prendi	Lois	Taha	Fariss	Alfie	Antonia					
Miss Carroll	Teddy	Esther	Freddie	Violeta	Jacob					
Miss Abrey	Isabelle	Lucas	Lara	Bill	Abbey					
Miss Graham	Lara	Sofia	Aryan	Ami	Sara					
Mrs Toms/ Mrs Florido	Logan	T'iarah	Finley	Joshua	Elias					
Miss McCarroll	Zayd	Edward	Abi	Christopher	Lennie					
Mrs Deacon	Aram	Noah	Alisha	Jack	Roberto					
Mrs Tredwell	Charlotte	Daisy	Melissa	Ava	Israa					

BASKETBALL TEAM



Please remember to supply your child with a coat now the weather is getting cooler. The children still play outside no matter the weather.

