

HTL News



Issue 1, 8th October 2021

Message from School Principal

I am delighted to be writing the first newsletter message of the year after a very successful 'back to school' for all of our pupils. We have had a wonderful start to the term here at HTL and I would like to commend all of our children and their parents for their positive approach to the new Year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the families of our Reception children who started this September. Our youngest pupils are already showing how responsible they are as they look after each other, share their ideas and make new friends. We are looking forward to continued efforts, enthusiasm and engagement in learning and sharing some of this over the course of this term and the year ahead. It has been wonderful seeing everyone in the playground once again at the start and end of the school days. One of the most frequent questions parents and pupils have been asking about is school trips and clubs and I am excited that this year we will be able to offer a wide range of activities with something to inspire and interest all of our pupils. Included in the newsletter is the new programme for extracurricular clubs for this term. Here's to a successful, and hopefully straightforward, school year.

Mrs Dawes

Prayer and Reflection

We thank God for a fantastic start to the new term. All staff and children have returned to school fit and well, ready to teach and ready to learn. Those of us who have been to Mass, have all enjoyed visiting Holy Trinity Church and spending time with Fr Mark, reflecting and giving thanks for everything we have. We are thankful for each new day of learning and discovery.

Dear God

I find myself at the beginning of another day

I don't know what it will bring.

Please help me to be ready for whatever it may be.

If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely.

If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly.

If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.

If I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.

If I am to learn, let me learn well.

Amen

General News

Welcome to new members of staff

We'd like to introduce you to our new members of staff. They come with a wealth of experience and are ready to work hard at HTL.

Mrs Weston—Office Manager

Miss Hayes—Reception Teacher

Mrs Cassizzi—Year 1 Teacher

Mrs Pearson—Year 3/4 Teacher

Mrs Masterson—Year 3/4 Teacher



Boys Noise

This term we have welcomed the Boys Noise team from CRIBS who are running the 'HeartSense' 10 week intervention at HTL to help support the emotional and academic development of boys. It aims to provide a space where boys meet affirming male role models; can feel like they belong and increase their confidence and social skills.



HeartSense helps children to recognise and make links between thoughts, feelings and behaviour, and encourages them to learn how to talk about these with others. It develops a number of key emotional and social competencies such as listening skills, how to forgive and let go, and how to cope well in stressful situations.

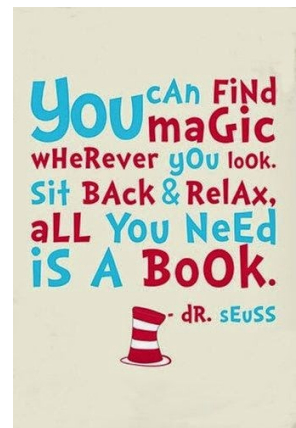
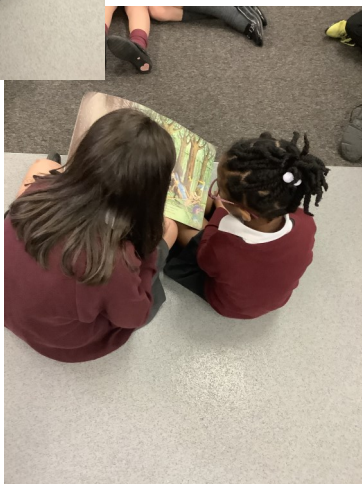


General News

Reading Companions



Year 1 are pleased to announce their new reading companions! Last week, Year 5 joined Year 1 for an engaging reading session. Each week, Year 5 will join their reading companions to share stories and to support the Year 1 children to begin to read for themselves. The aim is to create a love of reading and a shared enjoyment for storytelling. The Year 5 children will take responsibility for signing the Year 1 reading records each session. This is in addition to the children reading at home and their record being signed by a parent or carer.



Year 6 Responsibilities

All members of Year 6 now have a chance to undertake bigger and wider responsibilities.

Applications are open for the Head Boy, Head Girl, Team Captains and Playground Leaders. Application forms are available from Mr Nutting. It's a great opportunity for our year 6s to develop skills that they can take with them to secondary school. Please look through the applications with them and maybe you can have a practise interview! Closing date to get the applications forms back to Mr Nutting is 12th October. Interviews will take place on 15th October.



EYFS

In EYFS this week, the children have been settling really well and are getting used to our routines and expectations. Our main focus will continue to observe and assess children in all areas of their development.



In Nursery, we will be practising recognising names on our pegs and book bags. We will also listen to stories in groups and as a class focusing on who the characters are.

In Reception, we will be completing our speech and language link assessments. It is an online assessment which enables us to identify and provide timely support for children in class. It consists of 64 items presented across 8 sub-tests

including concepts, verb tenses, instructions, pronouns, negatives, questions, verbal reasoning and association.

Outcomes will be discussed with parents at the parent's evening.



KS1

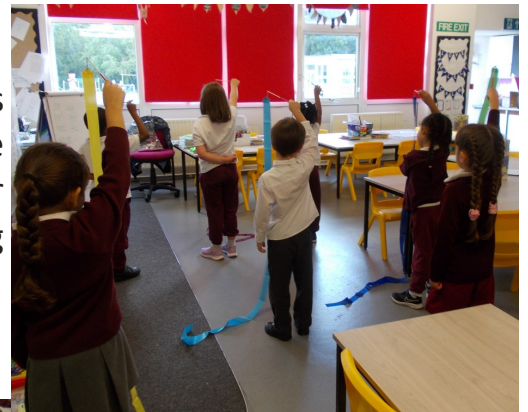
KS1 has had a fantastic return to school! Our children have engaged in a great deal of hands-on experiences from a spaceship crash in Year 1 to working with artefacts from Tudor times in Year 2.

One of the main things that we have prioritised in KS1 is building partnerships and teamwork, as it is essential in propelling us forward this academic year. It is for this reason that across all curriculum areas, our children have been working and learning together either with a partner or in a team.



We have been working on building our stamina and love for writing with fine motor skills activities in Year 1 and with the introduction of a fun writing station in Year 2. We have also been rediscovering and building upon our creative flair with the introduction of dance and art club. The children have really enjoyed being part of the creative process for dance and fine tuning as well as further developing their crafting skills in art club.

To celebrate a week's worth of hard work, we have been engaging in meaningful, fun experiences for golden time including making playdough and decorating biscuits.



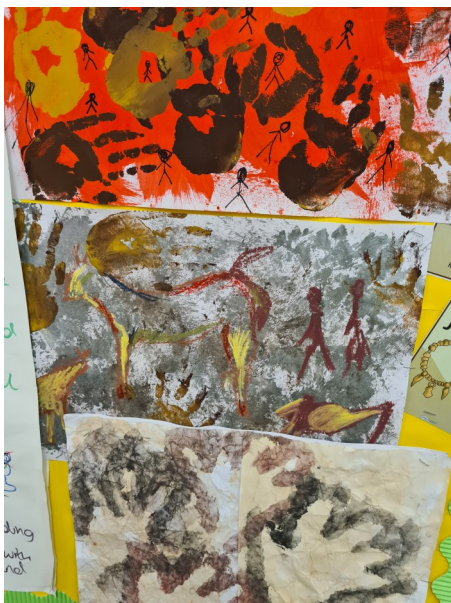
We are having a blast in KS1!

Lower KS2

Year 3/4 have been working incredibly hard on their first topic of the new school year, **The Stone Age**. Teachers have commented on how enthusiastic they have all been so far, and how much they are enjoying learning about how the first Britains lived.

Children have learnt about how stone age people hunted and gathered food, created an interesting menu for a stone age restaurant, studied and created cave paintings and found out the difference between an archaeologist and a paleontologist (ask your child, hopefully they will remember). Leading up to the end of our first half term, children in 3/4 will be learning all about stone age shelters and will be building their own miniature version. Our topic has also helped support our literacy work, using the book *Stone Age Boy*. Children have focused on writing detailed character descriptions of the Boy and his stone age friend Om, first person diary writing about an encounter with a grizzly bear, instructional writing and they are now working on a newspaper report before moving on to retelling the story of *Stone Age Boy*.

Please see some of the children's fantastic homework pieces below ranging from stone age tools to cave paintings to salt dough bone necklaces. We are amazed by the children's creativity!



Upper KS2



Our topic in Year 5 is all about where the world's rainforests are located and the different animals and plants that live there. To dive into the topic, the children have been asked to create a rainforest in a box. They have been really creative and thought about where the variety of animals reside.

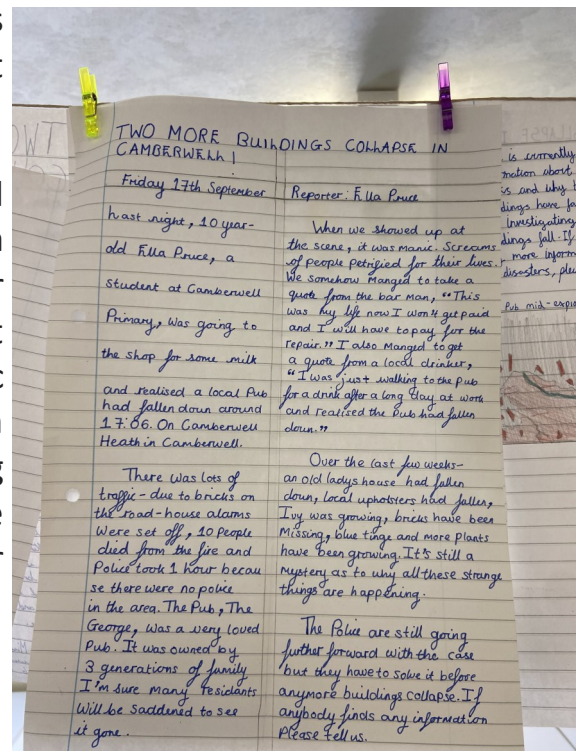
We have linked our topic to our Literacy and are currently creating a leaflet about a chosen animal from the rainforest, including facts about their diet, appearance, habits and more.

Year 6 have made a great start to the new year. We would like to say that the classroom move was a huge success. The children have settled in nicely and have adapted well to the change. They were helpful and organised, helping to make our classrooms a great place to learn.

Our science topic for this half term is evolution and adaptation. The children are excited and showed a keen interest in this area. It also links to our big question in RE where we have been looking at the story of Creation, unpicking and debating if RE and Science are conflicting or complementary to each other. It has been a fantastic talking point sparking great discussion and debates.

In Literacy, the book "Boy in the Tower" has gripped the children, and as such, they have produced a variety of wonderful pieces of writing. Character descriptions, retelling a narrative from a different character's point of view, and some fantastic newspaper reports that were written up and put on display. I am sure the children will be looking forward to seeing how the book will end, and are looking for any clues from the book that links to our science topic!

Overall, a great first half term back at school!



Mass Visits

The Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed their first trip to the church this academic year. Father Paul showed the children a very clever magic trick. He told the children that he didn't know how the trick worked and that you cannot see with your eyes how it works. He told the children that is like God, although you cannot see him you know that he is at work. It was lovely to see the children actively involved in the service.

The church is a place of worship. It is not a building to be silent; the children loved it when they were encouraged to shout at the top of their voices.

They are very much looking forward to their next visit.

On 22nd September, Year 6 went to Church for a service led by Father Mark. The main part of our service was thinking about our transition later in the year to secondary school. Father Mark spent a long time asking us all about which schools we were thinking of choosing. He took a list of these and placed them in the most holy part of the church, before blessing all of these schools and blessing us to make sure we are safe and have a smooth transition to secondary school when that time comes.

It made us all feel very reassured and protected.

Year 5 visited Holy Trinity Church on 30th September. Father Mark talked about the origins of the church and explained to us what parts of the church and the objects within mean to Christians.

On 29th September, Father Mark and Mother Renate welcomed Year 3 and Year 4 to Holy Trinity Church. The children had a wonderful experience and were able to enjoy celebrating Mother Renate's Ordination.

They presented her with beautiful congratulation cards they had made in class. The children prayed for family and friends and learnt about the importance of sharing and love. We can't wait to visit again.



Requests

Harvest festival donations

Thursday 21st October is our Harvest Festival Mass. The Harvest Festival is a traditional event celebrating the successful gathering of the year's crops. Often celebrated in churches and schools, people are encouraged to donate homegrown produce, fruit and vegetables to those in need. The Harvest Festival is a time for feasting, celebrating and giving thanks. It is also a time for honouring those who grow and reap crops.

The Harvest Festival is celebrated around the world across many different faiths and cultures. It takes place at different times of the year in different countries, according to when the main harvest is for each country. In the USA, the Harvest Festival is known as Thanksgiving, and is a national holiday in November every year.

From next week, we are asking all families to bring in one item of food. It can be anything tinned, dried or in a packet—baked beans, tinned soup, pasta etc. All items will be donated to Bexley Food Bank



Parent Volunteers

Do you have a skill that you would like to share with the children at HTL? Do you have 'green fingers' and would like to volunteer to do some gardening with the children, or are you more comfortable with a book and would prefer listening to children read? All

parents are welcome to come into the school and help out on a regular basis or simply as a helper on class outings. The assistance and involvement of parents is a valuable and worthwhile experience for parents, children and teachers alike. All volunteers will have to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.



Clubs

Extra Curricular Clubs

Club	Teacher	Day	Time
Dance Club	Ms Stephens	Monday	Lunch (12:20pm)
Art Club	Ms Andrews	Monday	Lunch (12:20pm)
Chamber Choir	Ms Cooper	Monday	Lunch
Sign Language	Ms Sime	Monday	After School
Guitar Club	Mr Boyd	Tuesday	Morning (8am)
Choir	Ms Cooper	Tuesday	After School
French Club	Ms Craske	Tuesday	Lunch
Guitar Club	Mr Boyd	Wednesday	Morning (8am)



Did you know?

Free School Meals



Your child will automatically receive a free school meal until the end of Year 2. However, **did you know**, for every child individually registered with Bexley for a free school meal, the school will receive money to spend on extra resources. It is called the Pupil Premium and is worth over £1000 per child. Even if you do not want your child to have the

school meals, if they qualify and are registered, the school still gets the Pupil Premium.

How to apply

You can check your eligibility on <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

Register now <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/free-school-meals/how-apply-free-school-meals>

School Governance

Did you know that all schools are governed by and base the majority of their policies using the Government's document called **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**? KCSIE is statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). It sets out the legal duties that govern all schools and colleges in England when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under the age of 18. If you're interested in reading the guidance that we follow, please click [here](#). It is quite a lengthy document, but you can look through the contents and select the section that interests you the most.



Dates for the diary

October	
Thursday 14th October	PTA AGM—7pm. Everyone welcome
Monday 18th October	Dare to be different
Tuesday 19th October	Spanish Day
Tuesday 19th October	Parent's Evening
Wednesday 20th October	Parent's Evening
Thursday 21st October	Harvest Festival Mass / Last day of term
Monday 25th-Friday 29th October	Half term
November	
Monday 1st November	Pupils return to school
Friday 5th November	PTA Fireworks Event
December	
Monday 13th December	10:30am—EYFS Nativity
Monday 13th December	2pm—KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 14th December	10am—KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 14th December	2pm—EYFS Nativity
Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 15th December	9:30am—Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 15th December	2:30pm—Christmas Carol Concert
Thursday 16th December	9:30am Christmas Mass / Last day of term
Friday 17th Dec-Monday 3rd Jan	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 4th January 2022	Pupils return to school