

SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

February 2025

Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter, packed with exciting news, updates, and celebrations from across the school! We are delighted to share with you all the wonderful things our learners have been achieving, from sporting triumphs and creative endeavours to fascinating learning journeys and projects.

Ham Hill Class

We're delighted to share some positive updates from Ham Hill! Our learners have settled into the new term brilliantly and are achieving great things.

Congratulations to all our learners on successfully transitioning to dining in the main hall! It's fantastic to see everyone enjoying mealtimes together and managing the change so well.

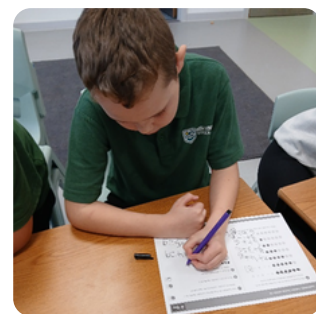
"We Are Water Protectors" has been a real hit this term. Learners have been exploring the importance of protecting our water, forests, nature, and our school environment.

Phonics is now a regular part of the routine, and learners are benefiting greatly from these sessions, showing progress in reading and writing.

Our cooking room is buzzing with activity! Most learners are now participating, developing life skills and maths skills through hands-on cooking activities. These sessions are proving invaluable.

We've also been thrilled to see the growth in learners' relationships with staff and each other. This positive environment has fostered improved communication and self-regulation skills. These social and emotional developments are just as important as academic progress.

We're incredibly proud of all our Ham Hill learners and look forward to sharing more updates soon. Keep up the amazing work!



Sunny Hill Class

We have had a busy half term in Sunny Hill...

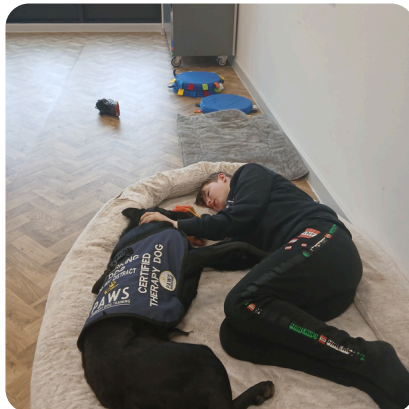
We have really enjoyed writing our own stories in English, learning about how to build tension and develop characters, we have produced some brilliant ideas!

We have begun to learn about the life of Anne Frank, reading parts of her diary and linking this to talking about prejudice, discrimination and celebrating difference in PSHE.

We have loved going to the Art room to have lessons with Sophie, developing some monster characters and LTNA sessions with Hannah, planting willows and cooking on the fire- pizzas were the biggest hit!

We have all become brilliant badminton players in PE, as well as some of us having a go at netball and rugby this half term, plus with the weather getting better we have been enjoying games of tag and hide and seek outside at the end of the day.

Another very exciting addition to our timetable this half term has been the new school Guinea Pigs who we have loved getting to know and building obstacle courses for, as well as enjoying our various sessions with all our very loved school animals!



Science @ Hill View School

Our Science department has been a hive of activity this term, filled with exciting experiments and fascinating discoveries! Our young scientists have been busy exploring a range of scientific concepts through hands-on learning.

Budding engineers put their skills to the test, constructing impressive giant hot air balloons. Through careful investigation of heat and air density, they successfully launched their creations, bringing real-world physics to life in a spectacular way!

Creative chemistry took centre stage as classes experimented with PVA glue to create their own slime. This messy, fun activity allowed learners to explore the concepts of polymers and chemical reactions.

Herne class embarked on an environmental science journey, delving into the water cycle and exploring how organisms adapt to their habitats. Their studies highlighted the fascinating connections between living things and their environments.

Our KS3 students ventured into the world of genetics, unravelling the mysteries of DNA, inheritance, and chromosomes. They gained valuable insights into how characteristics are passed down through generations, discovering what makes each of us unique.

Finally, our resident stick insects have been invaluable teaching assistants! These fascinating creatures have provided students across all year groups with hands-on experience in observing insect behaviour and life cycles, bringing biology lessons to life.



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Creative Arts @ Hill View School



Herne Hill are studying warm and cool colours and will learn about Aboriginal art

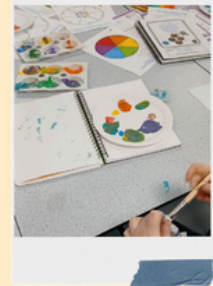


Ham Hill are looking at street life and will create their own cityscape out of cardboard

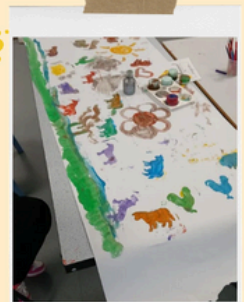


Primary CREATIVE ARTS

This term, each primary class is exploring a different theme focusing on the elements of art



Stone Hill are learning about different art movements with a focus on the use of colour



Sunny Hill are using their imagination in their 'Monsters and Characters' project



Secondary CREATIVE ARTS

This term each secondary class is exploring a theme relating to their English topic

Coker Hill are expressing themselves in their 'All about me' project



Burrow Hill are investigating the outside world in their 'Inspired by Nature' project



Learning Through Nature & Adventure

We have been embracing the winter weather this term, learning to adapt and understand the unique conditions on our beautiful, if somewhat exposed, site! It's been a learning curve, but we're making the most of it.

Behind the scenes, we've been busy planning exciting developments for both our secondary and primary Forest School areas, and these plans are now starting to unfold! We can't wait to share more details soon.

Despite the weather, all year groups have enjoyed a range of campfire cooking activities. From classic roasted marshmallows and warming hot chocolate to delicious bread on a stick and even adventurous calzone pizzas, our learners have been developing their culinary skills in the great outdoors.

We've had some changes in our animal residents. Sadly, our ducks have moved on, but our chickens are now one big, happy, and egg-laying flock! We also have some exciting additions to our animal care provision in the pipeline, so watch this space!

Our main focus at the moment is living willow. All learners will be involved in planting willow hedges and creating other structures. This hands-on project will further enhance our outdoor learning environment, providing natural boundaries and creating exciting new spaces to explore. We're looking forward to seeing the willow take root and transform our outdoor areas.



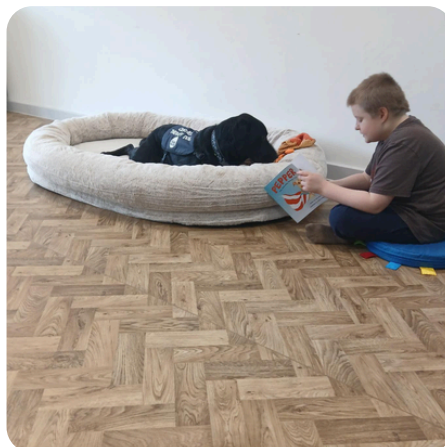
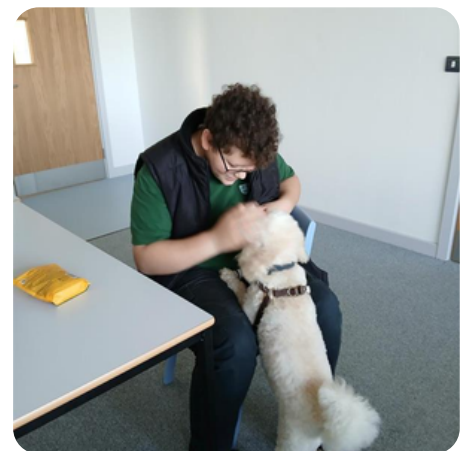
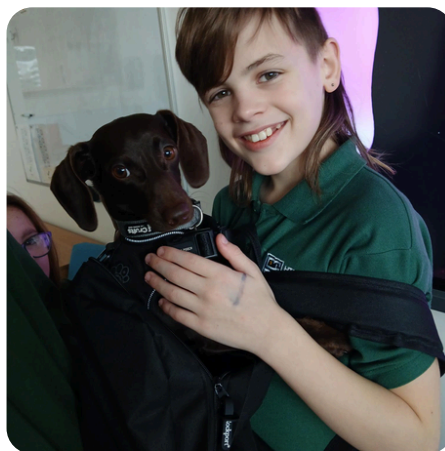
Animals @ Hill View School

Our Hill View family has grown a little bit furrer this term! We're absolutely delighted to welcome our newest residents: a group of adorable guinea pigs! They've settled in beautifully and are already proving a huge hit with learners, offering wonderful opportunities for observation, interaction, and learning about responsible animal care. Their little squeaks and playful antics bring smiles to everyone's faces!

Of course, our long-term residents are still thriving. Our stick insects continue to fascinate learners. Our chickens are thriving in there updated environment. We mustn't forget our dogs, the ever-popular Hazel, Jenson and Guss (visiting therapy dog), continue to bring joy and comfort to our school community. Their gentle presence is a real asset, offering learners a chance to connect with animals and learn about responsible pet ownership. They love a good cuddle and a walk around the school!

The arrival of the guinea pigs is just the latest step in our exciting plans to develop our animal care provision. We have big dreams to expand our provision even further and create an even richer learning environment for all our learners. We firmly believe that interacting with animals is incredibly beneficial, fostering empathy, responsibility, and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

We're working hard to develop our outdoor spaces to accommodate our growing animal family and provide our learners with even more hands-on experiences. These plans include creating dedicated enclosures, improving our existing habitats, and developing the provision to integrate additional animal care seamlessly into the curriculum.



Herne Hill Class

A busy term so far! The Roman Invasion has happened and we are getting ready for the Celts and Boudicea to start fighting back. We are going to make our own roman shields!

We have been finding out about Lent and we have each made a Kindness Tree. We have chosen several acts of kindness to do until Easter such as being nice to our siblings, being polite and helping each other!

We have been busy reading, writing and lots of Ninja maths. We have also made our own book bags for our school reading books. Lots of fun in art with Sophie creating our own Aboriginal Art dot paintings and Science with Dave and Nature activities with Nick!

We have started having a special Herne Hill Film Club on Friday afternoons to finish off our busy weeks. We watched Horrible Histories The Movie with chips then popcorn!



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PE @ Hill View School

It's been a busy and energetic term in PE, with all learners having the opportunity to try their hand at racket sports. We've seen some impressive skills on display and some healthy competition!

A particular highlight was the badminton match between Logan and Stu – Logan emerged victorious! Well played, Logan!

We've also seen fantastic progress from Harrison in Ham, who has really developed his badminton skills this term. The Stone class have been enjoying some friendly doubles games, demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Our talented gymnasts went on a School trip which you can read about in this newsletter, where they had the opportunity to further hone their skills. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

We're also thrilled to announce that Aurelia from Burrow and Logan from Coker have embarked on their Sports Leaders Level 1 training. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their leadership qualities and contribute to the sporting life of the school.

Finally, a special shout-out to Abbie in Ham, who has perfected her two-footed jump! It's wonderful to see learners mastering new skills and achieving their personal goals. Well done, Abbie! We look forward to another action-packed half term in PE.



Hill View Horizons: Exploring Vocational Pathways

At Hill View School, we believe in providing our learners with a diverse range of experiences to help them discover their passions and prepare for future pathways. Our vocational activities programme offers valuable opportunities to develop practical skills, build confidence, and explore potential career options. This term, some of our learners have been involved in a variety of exciting projects.

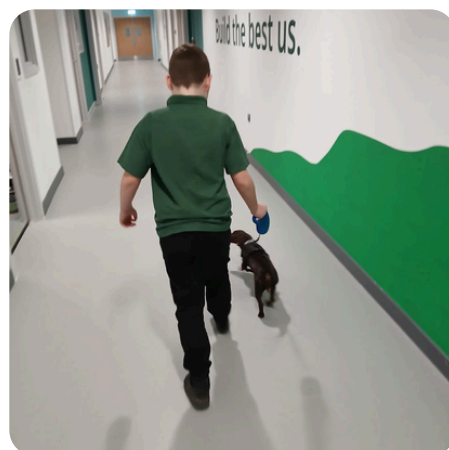
Our budding chefs have been busy in the kitchen, creating delicious meals and learning essential cooking skills. From mastering basic recipes to exploring different cuisines, they've gained confidence in food preparation, hygiene, and teamwork. These culinary experiences not only equip them with valuable life skills but also open doors to potential careers in the hospitality industry.

For those with an interest in mechanics, our car maintenance programme has been a huge success. Learners have been learning the basics of car care, from checking fluid levels to changing tyres. This hands-on experience provides valuable practical skills and an understanding of how vehicles work.

Our animal care provision continues to be a popular choice, offering learners the chance to work with our resident animals. From feeding and grooming to learning about animal behaviour and health, our learners develop a sense of responsibility and compassion.

Beyond these established programmes, we've also been focusing on site maintenance. Learners have been involved in painting projects, helping to refresh classrooms and communal areas. They've also gained valuable skills in basic repairs, learning how to fix minor issues around the school. These activities not only contribute to a positive learning environment but also introduce learners to the practical skills involved in property maintenance.

Finally, we're incredibly proud of our learners who have been involved in coaching and mentoring younger learners. This programme provides a fantastic opportunity for our older learners to develop their leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills. By supporting and encouraging younger learners, they gain confidence and a sense of purpose, while also acting as positive role models.



Our First School Trip!

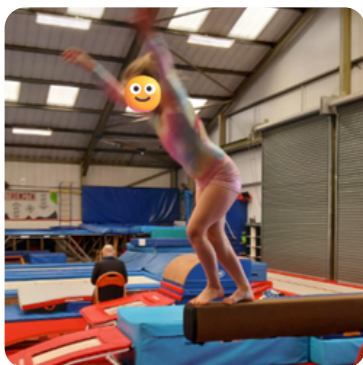
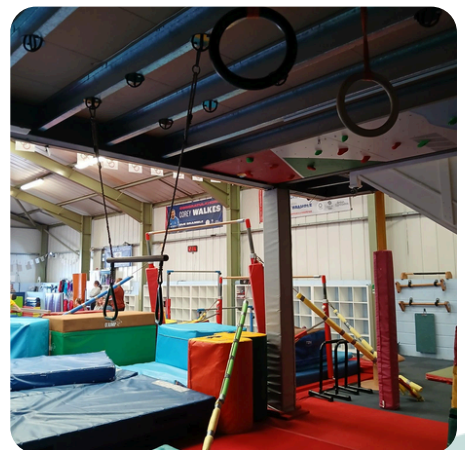
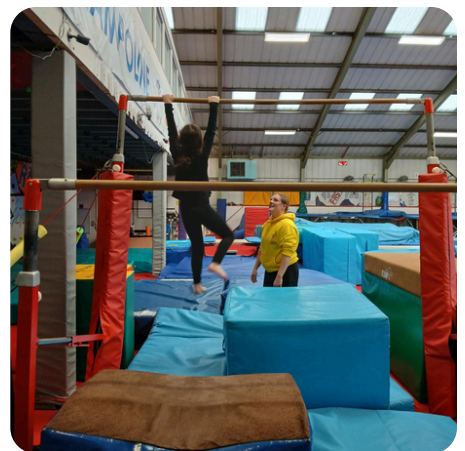
We're absolutely thrilled to report on the resounding success of our first official school trip to a local Gymnastics club! A group of our enthusiastic learners had an absolutely brilliant time exploring the fantastic facilities and trying their hand at a variety of gymnastic activities.

From the moment they arrived, the excitement was palpable. Learners were wide-eyed as they took in the impressive array of equipment, from spring floors and trampolines to balance beams. With the expert guidance of qualified coaches, including a truly inspiring Olympian, our learners were encouraged to push their boundaries and try new things.

There was plenty of rolling, flying, and tumbling. They learned new skills, developed their coordination and balance, and most importantly, had a huge amount of fun! The support and encouragement from the coaches, and particularly the chance to learn from an Olympian, was invaluable and truly inspired our learners.

This trip was a fantastic opportunity and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow throughout the session as they mastered new moves and overcame challenges. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and enthusiasm.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Gymnastics club for hosting us and for providing such a positive and memorable experience for our learners. We're already looking forward to planning our next gymnastics adventure!



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