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THE HOLMEWOOD  
SCHOOL



National  
Autistic  
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2020



## Newsletter

### Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Families,

Today is an exciting day, in that it marks the end (hopefully!) of our online learning for most students. Personally, I can not wait to return to school full time next week and see everyone in person. I have missed the students so much and I think the first few days of school will carry much excitement.

Whilst most of us will be feeling excited and eager to return, we are of course sensitive to those who may not be so ready. In order to give the chance to ask any last questions, raise any issues you foresee, and suggest any reasonable adjustments your child may need for a successful return, I asked my PA, Anna Row, to telephone each of you this week. I know that for some people, she could not make contact and has instead left you a message. If you do want to talk to any of the Senior Leadership Team about anything else needed for your child, please do get in touch with us via the office or by email.

This week I have had a lot of questions from parents about testing for covid in school. As a reminder, where consent has been given, students will be tested on Monday 8th March, Thursday 11th March and Monday 15th March. After this, testing of students in school will cease and your child will get a home test kit from the DFE. More information

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If your child is 16, they will need to give personal consent for testing. Whether we have consent from you or your 16+ child, anyone who is very upset or distressed will not be forced to have a test. Please be reassured that my test team is extremely sensitive and understanding to the needs of our young people and no pressure will be applied.

Before I leave you to peruse the wonderful summary of this week's learning at The Holmewood School, please can I remind you that on Monday your child will need to bring the following with them to school each day:

1. School bag
2. Water bottle
3. Lunch in a sealed container
4. A sealable plastic bag for any used PPE (from travelling)
5. Fresh and clean face coverings for any community based activities
6. Tissues
7. Pencil case with their own:
  - writing pen and pencil
  - colouring pencils
  - ruler
  - eraser
  - pencil sharpener
  - compass and protractor (in secondary classes)
  - calculator (for secondary classes, if you have one)

I wish you all a happy and peaceful weekend.

**Ms Camilleri**

Executive Head Teacher

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## Dates For Your Diary

- **Fri 26th Mar** - Last day of spring term
- **Mon 19th Apr** - Inset day
- **Tues 20th Apr** - Summer term (1st half) starts

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## World Book Day

When I pop into the sixth form common room, there is one particular student who always

recommended the book, or she explains that her family have some sort of reading competition going on between them.

I wish it wasn't unusual to see a young person reading in their spare time as opposed to staring at screens, but who am I to judge? As I have mentioned, I have been reading for 21 minutes each day this year, however this is a new habit that I am only just developing as part of a personal challenge I want to complete. I still wouldn't want to see my 21 minutes as a ratio compared with my daily screen time.

There are many benefits of regular reading practice for kids on the spectrum that go beyond an increase in literacy. For example, studies suggest that reading for pleasure is extremely important for cognitive development and that a correlation can be found between reading at 16 and securing professional jobs later in life. Also, reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities. Finally, regular readers report fewer feelings of stress and depression, have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.

Most of our students will require support to create and maintain a regular reading practice. If they're anything like me, this will require a more thoughtful approach than merely telling them to pick up a book.

Here are some support ideas to consider:

- As always, it may help to explicitly break down and explain the relevance of reading and all of its benefits.
- Let the young person choose something to read that really engages them. Take interest in it and ask wacky questions about the story and characters.
- Taking a structured approach can really help. For example you could read for 21 minutes each day, perhaps at a particular time and in a particular place. Reading is its own reward, however having a sticker chart or a habit tracking app can really help motivate.
- Parents that read and have many books in the house is associated with reading enjoyment and confidence in children. Perhaps you could set a timer and sit down together to read each day. Or maybe you could challenge your family to some sort of reading competition.

The importance of having role models that read, and promoting reading through actually reading cannot be understated. I'd like to thank our sixth form reader for being such a great role model to us all.

**Ms Young**

Head of Upper School

## Return To School Important Information

**Covid testing consent** - if you've not done so already, please complete and send the testing consent form if your child is a secondary student. The link is [here](#).

Students aged 16 and over will need to give their consent themselves (not via a parent), they can also do this through the link.

**Chromebooks** - if your son/daughter has been using a school Chromebook, please make sure that they bring it and the charger back to school on Monday.

**Uniform** - Primary and Secondary School students should come to school in uniform from Monday. If your son or daughter has outgrown theirs during lockdown, I have replenished our stocks and all items and sizes are available to buy through ParentMail.

Many thanks,

**Mr Hardwick**  
Office Manager

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## World Book Day - Thurs 4th March

Hello,

This year, like so other events, World Book Day was celebrated remotely. That did not stop our students getting involved and many chose to contribute by dressing up at home, making book towers, designing book marks and characters from their favourite books from objects at home.

Staff too were wonderful in their support, contributing photos of themselves reading as well as Guess Who? photos we can collate and show the students.

On our return to school next week, we will continue to celebrate World Book Month. We have vouchers for the students so they can purchase their one pound books with the book tokens and some prizes.

We all value reading here at The Holmewood School and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for encouraging this in your children and young people.

If you are concerned that your child is not engaging with reading, please email me because I am convinced that this is because they have yet to find the right book!



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reading programme to encourage and support all reading ages and abilities.

Take care,

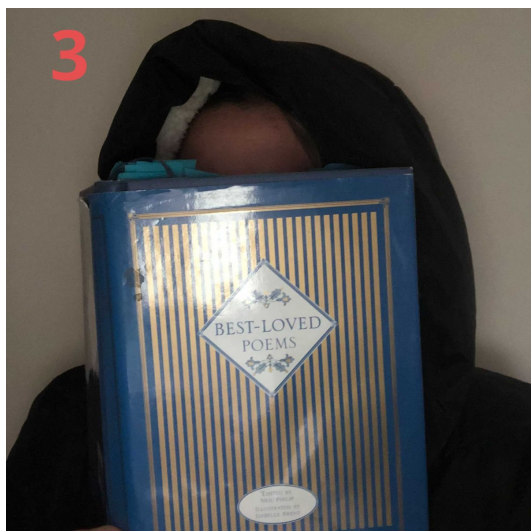
**Ms Lyons**

English Teacher & Curriculum Coordinator

## World Book Day - Guess The Reader!

Can you guess the Holmewood staff members who are reading on World Book Day and/or by the books they read?

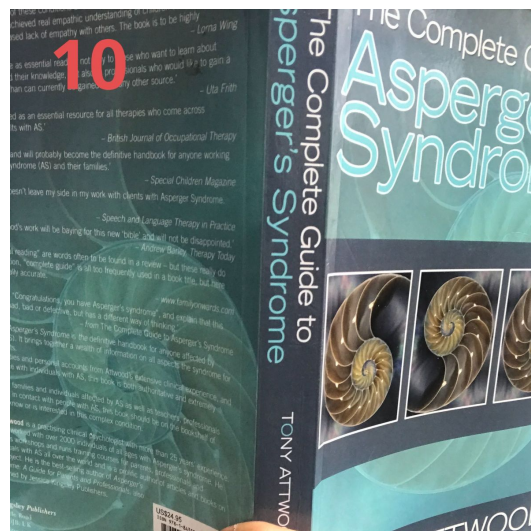
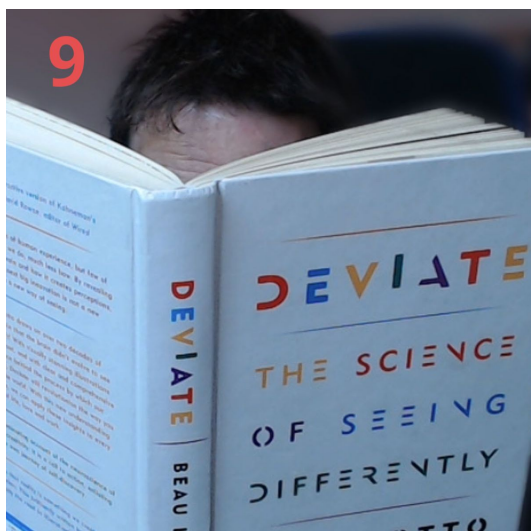
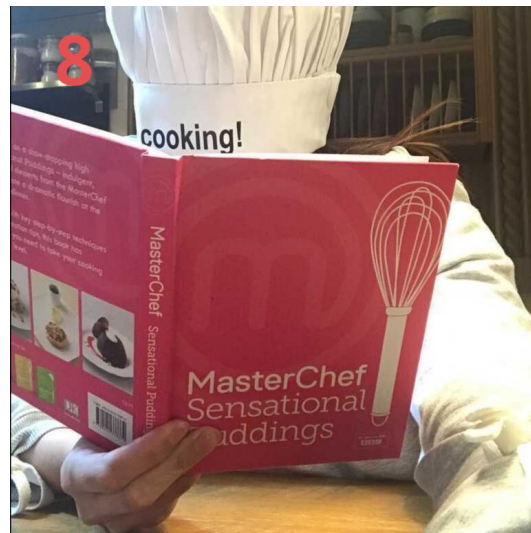
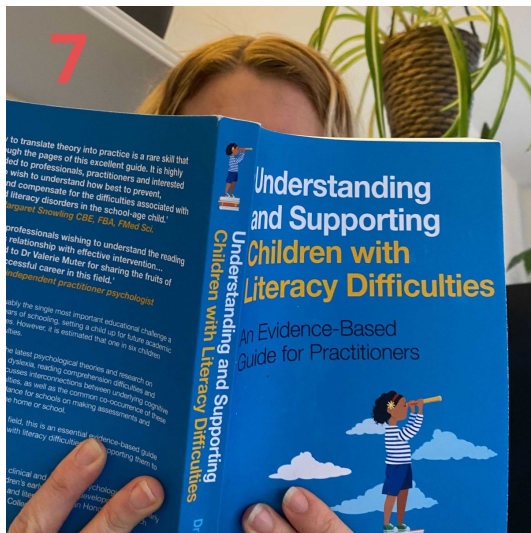
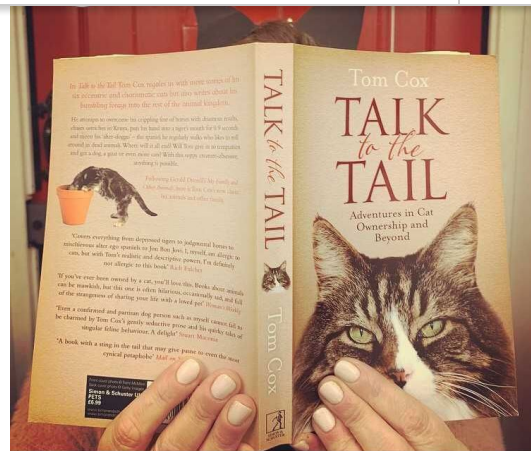
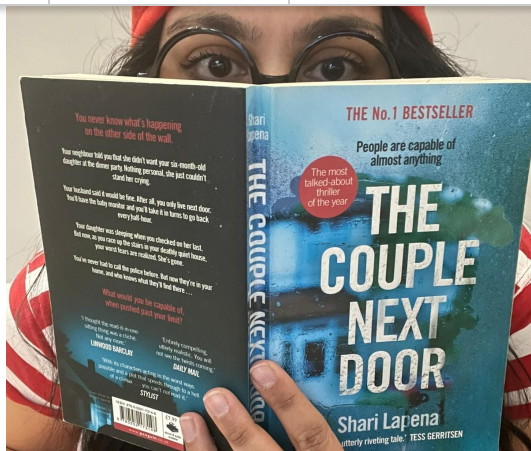
(Answers are shown at the end of this newsletter along with our special World Book Day Gallery)



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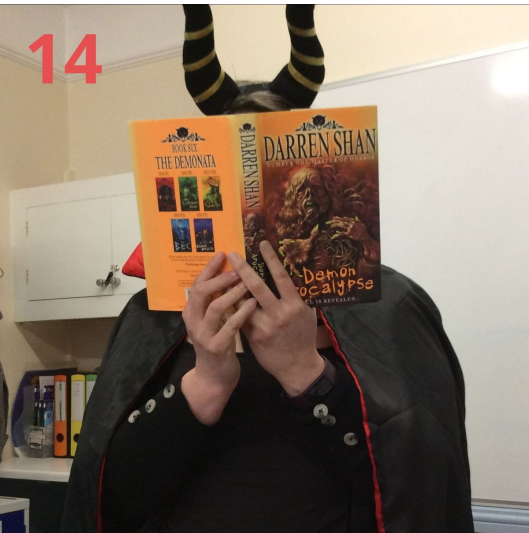
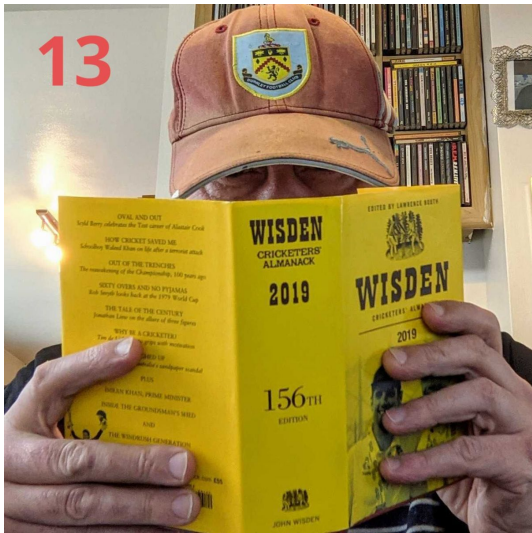
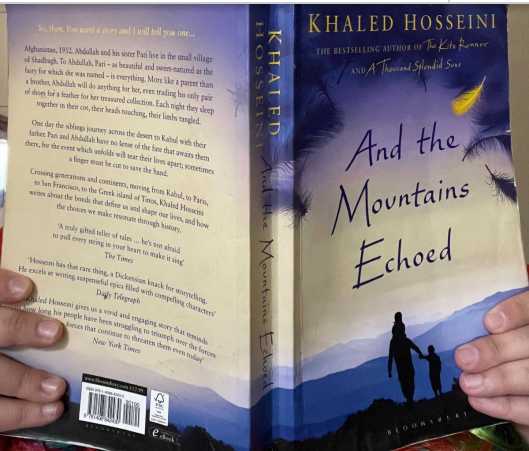


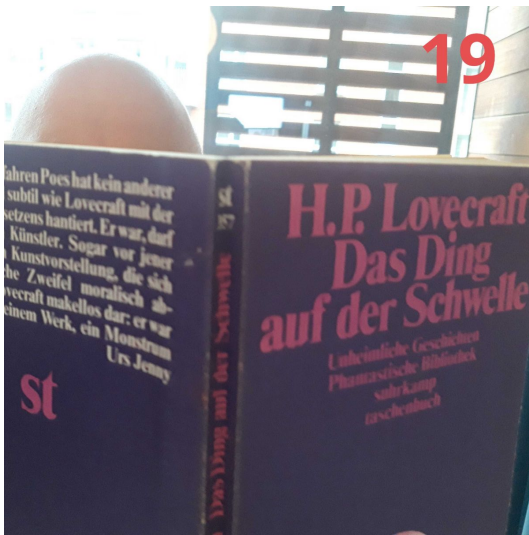
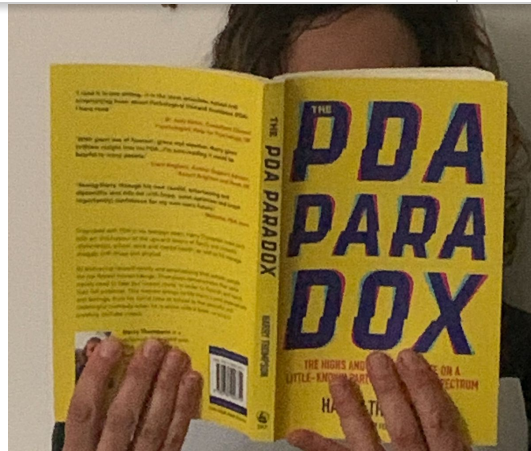


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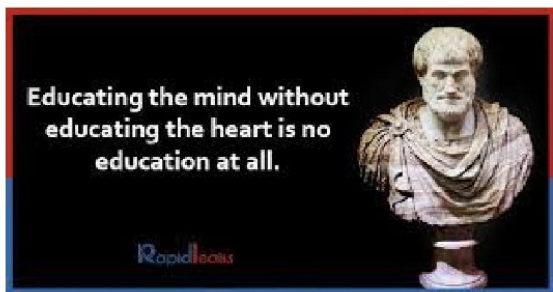
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## SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social And Cultural Development) 2020-21



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about some SMSC events which have now been rescheduled as we welcome the students back to school on Monday 8th March!

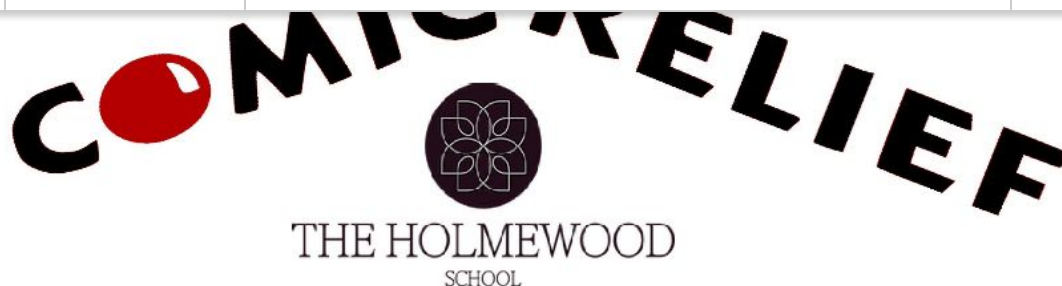


Activity	Rescheduled for:
<b>Egg incubation project</b> with the Happy Chick company at both upper and lower school	15th-20th March 2021
<b>World Autism Awareness Week</b> run by Ms Wiltshire	22nd-26th March 2021
Ms Camilleri's special <b>Easter 'eggstravaganza'</b> at the lower school	25th March 2021
Advanced First Aid courses delivered by specialist trainers from <b>React First</b> for all secondary students and a basic first aid course for all primary students.	Summer 2
Student panel talking to the <b>MET police</b> about their autism to improve understanding	Summer 2
<b>New girls club holiday camp</b> after the huge success of our weekly girls club which now runs at both lower and upper school.	July 2021 (in summer holidays)
<b>Hope Virgo</b> (external speaker, eating disorders/disordered eating) speaking to all students.	Summer 1 (Parent session running remotely 11.03.21)

Best wishes,

**Ms D'Silva**

Assistant Head



## Red Nose Day - Friday 19th March

To celebrate Red Nose Day, our staff and students will be wearing their Onesies to school. Please bring £1 on the day and join the fun!



As people, we love our fun and jokes,  
 But out in the world there are lonely folks,  
 Who all want love and support.  
 So as a school that's always full of life,  
 With staff and students, we can bring an end to strife.  
 Let's pool our pounds for our common belief,  
 So that we can all enjoy comic relief!

*By Ms Irma Khalil*




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## The Appliance of Science - Water Filtration

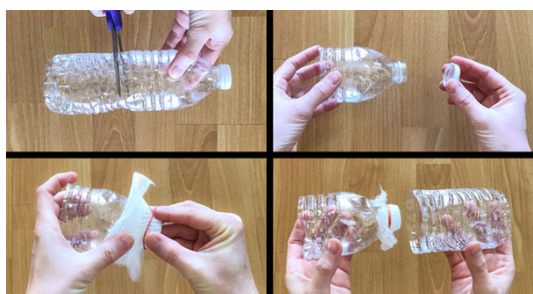
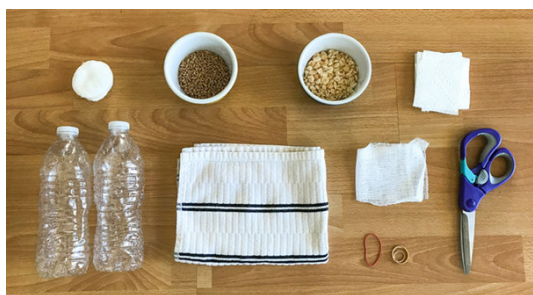
Circle Class students this week had to design and build a device that could clean a dirty water sample using household materials.

Earth. To do this, they were to test multiple designs, and look at how their materials got them closer to their goal, they were to record their findings to build the best filter possible.

**Important safety note!** This activity was not designed to make drinkable water. No matter how “clean” your filtered water looks, you should never drink it because it still may contain pollutants you can’t see.

The students were suggested the following items but could use anything similar at home:

- 1-2 empty plastic bottles
- Scissors
- Towel or paper towels
- Old thin fabric like clean old t-shirt etc jay cloth
- Rubber bands
- Any stuff that would be a good filter (cotton balls, sand or gravel, uncooked pasta, coffee filters, etc)
- Any items similar or their own ideas for a filter







The students made a great effort to filter their dirty water samples and thoroughly enjoyed the activity.

Have a great weekend everyone!

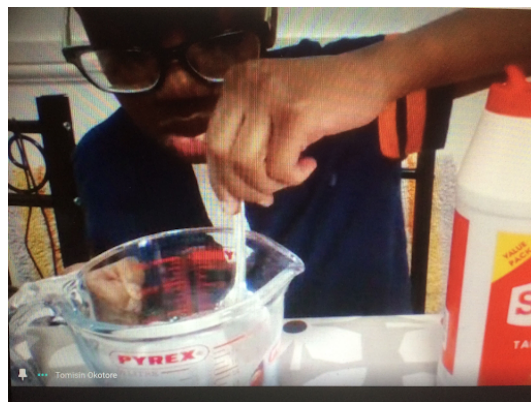
**Mr Podichetty**  
Science Teacher

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It has been a busy few weeks for Circle class, who have been continuing to work so hard through lockdown with such positive attitudes.

We have done some fantastic lockdown experiments, exploring soluble and insoluble solids and working on recording their results. Thank you to the parents who helped prepare the equipment!



Eytan has been helping to run Among Us remote lunchtime clubs and lots of students have really enjoyed playing together. Mariah made her own Among Us costume! Very



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Those who were in school had a wonderful time throwing snowballs (from a distance) and making snowmen during our snow days!

Circle class have enjoyed reading lots of wonderful books, writing their own adventure stories in English and dressing up for World book day! They also created their own bookmarks and redesigned book covers in computing, learning new skills on the app Photopea. Great job!

Can't wait to see you all back in school!

**Ms Wiltshire**

Circle Class Teacher



Dear Parents,

This week concludes the end of remote learning for all pupils. I just wanted to share with you all the good things the students in Northern have done over the remote learning period.

Henry has produced some beautiful artwork in his art lessons, inspired by the work of The Fauves.

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Mae has been cooking on Fridays in school with Ms Scott-Price developing some life skills and sharing with the staff and students on site.



Danya-Leigh performed a song for Open Mic in Girls club.

The whole class have been debating on cancel culture - they all had some really interesting thoughts on the topic, discussed examples of celebrities that had been 'cancelled' and did some independent research before concluding if they agreed with the movement or not

Myles for being very mature and engaging in conversations with Ms Johnson about his future career in our drama lesson. He has started thinking about how he is going to save income so he can move out and live independently and how he could achieve his goals.

experiences and feelings.

Tayo has had a really positive remote learning completing the majority of his work with Mr Dev.

I want to thank all the students and parents in Northern for all their hard work throughout remote learning. I'm looking forward to seeing all the students in school next week!

Have a great weekend!

**Mr Rose**

Northern Class Teacher



Hello, Parents and Carers.

I hope you are well and keeping safe.

This week in Metropolitan Class, we have been discussing our favourite books and finishing off our autobiographies.

We have also been talking about returning to school next week and how we are all going to keep each other safe.

This week, Ediz has been selected by the class team to write the newsletter on behalf of Metropolitan.

Hi everyone, I am Ediz and I am going to tell you about the news in Metropolitan Class.

This week, we have been learning about teeth decay in Science.

As a class we said that sugary foods, starchy foods and sticky foods could leave us with teeth decay. We also said that by brushing our teeth and visiting the dentist we can prevent tooth decay.



On Thursday 4th March 2021, we have been celebrating World Book day:

- Clara came dressed as a princess
- Ms Eva came dressed as a dinosaur
- Chisom was dressed as a wolf
- Omolara was a bug from the movie A Bug's Life
- Ms Khalil was dressed as a character from Holes
- Mr Murphy was dressed as Arsene Wenger
- Ms Perera was dressed as 'Where's Wally?'



Have a good weekend!

### Ediz

#### Metropolitan Student

As Ediz explained, it has been a great week in Metropolitan. We have all enjoyed dressing up for world book day and discussing our favourite books with one another.

On Monday the 8th March, we welcome back the students to school. We are all very excited to see one another again and catch up with peers from other classes.

weekend.

Best wishes,

**Ms Perera**

Metropolitan Class Teacher

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## Upper School Band

We have some excellent musical talent in the school. Mae, one of our upper school students, had the idea to start a school band. I think this is the coolest thing ever and we already have some students who are interested.

We would like to offer an after school club that will be led and coached by an established musician and producer. He will follow a structured programme that will support the students in playing together, writing music and other things associated with being in a band.

The after school club will run on Tuesdays from 3.00-4.30 and there will be a cost for students to participate. I will send a letter to parents of interested students next week but if you have any questions please email me at [byoung@thsl.org.uk](mailto:byoung@thsl.org.uk).

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## Answers: World Book Day - Guess The Reader!

1. Ms B Young   2. Ms Row   3. Ms Lyons   4. Ms Aker   5. Ms Perera  
6. Ms Camilleri   7. Ms Gallagher   8. Ms D'Silva   9. Mr Shearer   10. Mr Ali  
11. Ms Bar   12. Ms Khalil   13. Mr Hardwick   14. Ms Wiltshire   15. Mr Taylor  
16. Ms Gunning   17. Ms Tokekar   18. Ms Wallis-Jones   19. Mr Klein  
20. Morris - Ms Gardner's Dog

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## World Book Day Gallery



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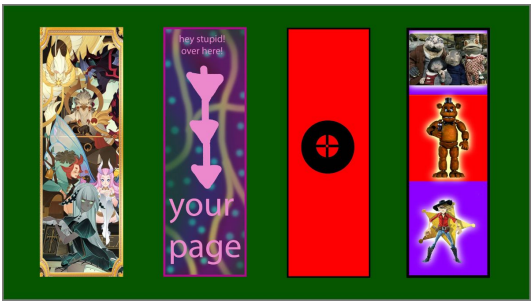
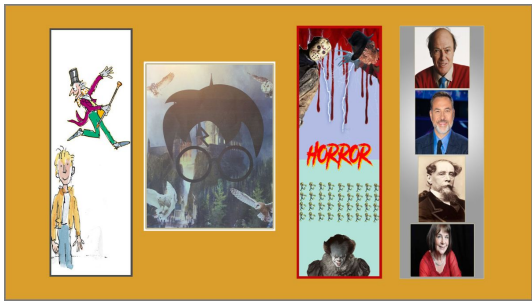
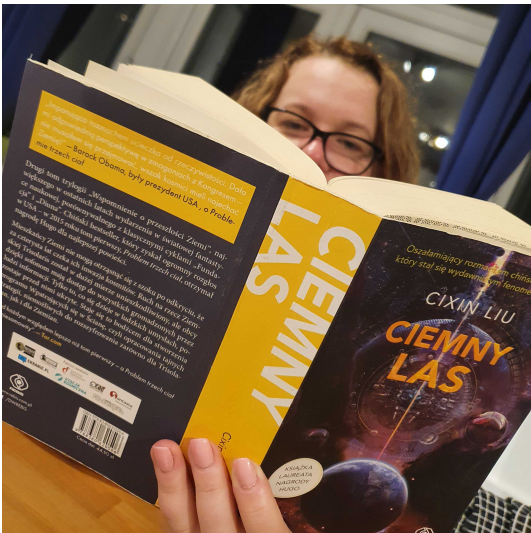
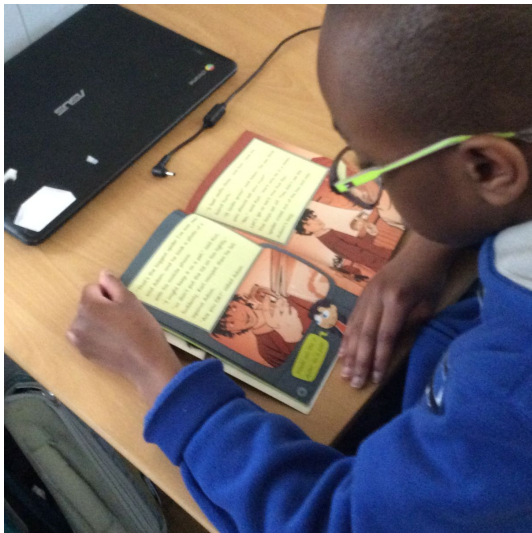
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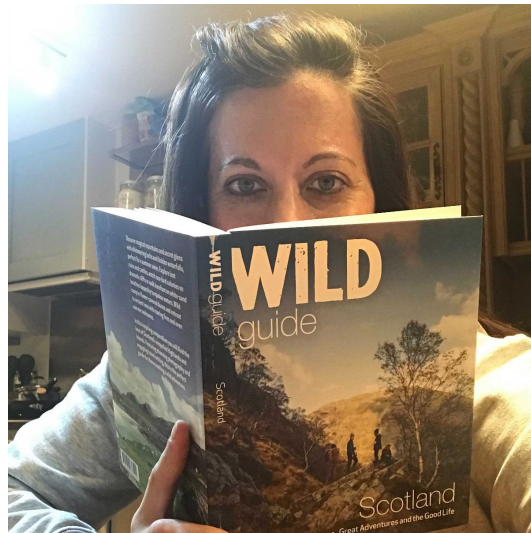
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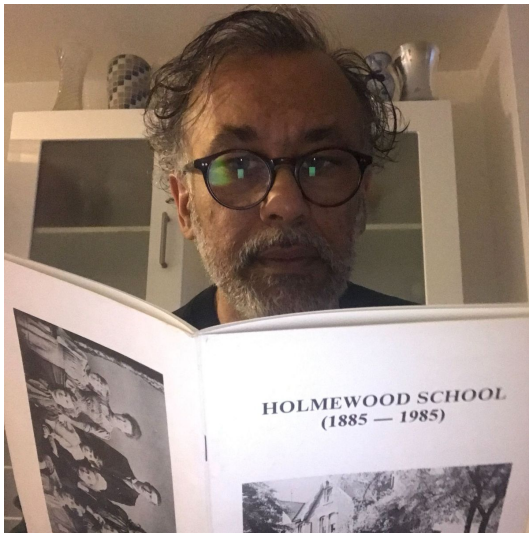
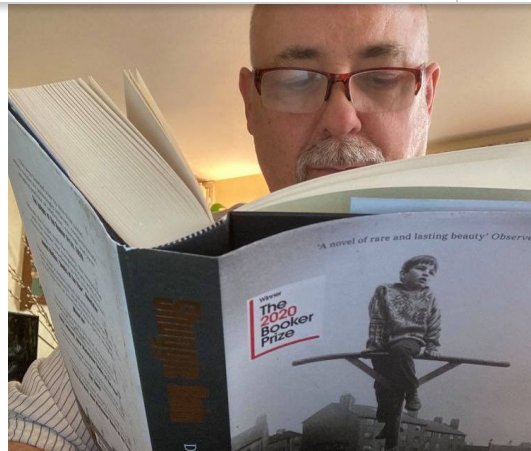
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## Designated Team For Child Protection And Safeguarding

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harm.

Lower School			
			
Ms D'Silva (Assistant Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Lemposzek (Head of Welfare & Behaviour, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Mr Gibbs (Humanities & PSHE Teacher, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)
Upper School			
			
Mr Lamb (Deputy Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Upper School, Level 3)	Ms Young (Head of School and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Young (Assistant Head and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)

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