



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School,

Welcome back! We are delighted to have all our classes back in school. Children have, once again, shown their adaptability and resilience in the face of another transition and have settled quickly back into school routines and learning behaviours. I know I speak on behalf of the whole staff when we say how much we all enjoy hearing 'school noise' again – in classrooms, in the playground and around the building; we have really missed it! Last week flew by! We do, collectively, hope this is the last time we need to talk about school closures and reopening; we continue to need your ongoing support in following our risk assessment and school measures to ensure we can keep our whole community safe. I hope as families you have taken some time to take stock of the many accomplishments from remote learning over the last 8 weeks – your support and engagement has been nothing short of phenomenal. We are absolutely thrilled to you have 'back'!

*Claire Syms*

### Monday Missions

#### Reception

Recently we have been creating friendship recipes (for example, a pinch of kindness, a cup of helpfulness and a sprinkle of love!). Can you make a new recipe at home... one to create a Superhero? Maybe you would add a spoonful of speed or a cup of strength!

**Year 1 Maths:** Can you put all your soft toys or toy vehicles in order according to their height? Explain to an adult what you have done. Remember to use the language *taller*, *shorter*, and *longer*.

**Science:** We are going to be learning about the Solar System. Choose two of your favourite planets and create a poster or fact file about it. Remember to include lots of interesting facts.

#### Year 2

Do the exercise plan you created in class each day. Keep a diary and note the changes that happen to your body each time. Does it get easier with time?

### Attendance & Punctuality

Week Beginning	8 <sup>th</sup> March			
	Attendance	Punctuality	Attendance	Punctuality
Comet	98.0%	99.9%		
Eclipse	97.2%	99.6%		
Galaxy	95.9%	99.4%		
Cosmos	96.2%	99.6%		
Hawking	97.7%	99.5%		
Einstein	96.9%	99.2%		
Jemison	97.4%	99.7%		

Well done to Comet Class for our highest 'returning' attendance last week! Well done also across the school for excellent punctuality rates, with both Comet and Jemison only just falling short of a perfect score. Let's keep it up! **Please do inform the school office before 9.30am if your child is absent from school for any reason.**

### SUPER STARS!

Our Super Stars of The Week are:

	05/03/2021		12/03/21	
<b>Early Years Foundation Stage</b>				
Comet	Gina	Kosaluchi	Maryam	Kyle
<b>Key Stage 1</b>				
Eclipse	Yedaiah	Sarah	Selah	Mohamed
Cosmos	Leah	Amir	Leonard	Kwame
Galaxy	Niyah	Korree	Max	Zehra
<b>Key Stage 2</b>				
Hawking	Mattia	Zion-Levi	Karishma	Bianca
Einstein	Yen	Ava	Maryam Kyrone Arthur	Martha Mon' Ay Joshua
Jemison	Yvonne	Enya	Anna	Nathaniel

**Well done to everyone for being such good role models by showing our school values and trying your best!**

## AFP filming – return to school

Journalists from Agence France-Press returned to Halley last Monday to film the 'reopening' of UK schools. AFP last visited us in June 2020 to record our Reception and Year 1 children returning after Lockdown 1.0. A number of images, and even a short clip of the school on the news in Malta, were picked up by the international press. Children really enjoyed the experience and were proud to show off their school to our distanced visitors. Thank you to all the children and staff who helped make Monday morning run so smoothly, and for a very eagle-eyed grandparent who was able to share the news clip directly with us!



## Art Star Awards

Well done to our star artists from last week!

KS1 – Elias

KS2 – Isohbella



## Neurodiversity Week 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



Year groups and children at school have been exploring and celebrating neurodiversity this week in recognition that around 15% of students in the UK have a learning difference.

Across the week, children have had opportunities to talk about neurological differences such as Autism and ADHD and learn more about the lived experiences of people with neurological differences. You can find out more information on Neurodiversity Week [here](#).

## Mindfulness Activities to try at home:

**Colour Spiral:** Use pens or crayons to draw a big spiral. Choose colours that reflect how you feel today. Is today a red day? Or a blue day? A yellow or a green day? There's a reminder of our Colour Monster story [here](#).

**Book Walk:** Think about your favourite story. Now imagine you're taking a walk through that world. What do you see? Who do you meet? How does your story end?

## Extended Schools

Please be reminded that it is important that you are booking into Breakfast Club. Failure to book could result in your child not being permitted to attend. This is to ensure that we have the correct staff to pupil ratios and can adhere to our Covid Risk Assessment. Please also be aware that Breakfast Club starts at 7:45am and children will not be allowed in the building before this time.

## Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

The impact of several lockdowns and restrictions has undoubtedly had an impact on the wellbeing and social interactions of all children. Please see below for some useful websites for any parents/carers or children who may be looking for some additional support. We continue to incorporate extensive work within our curriculum and wider school day to support children with their thoughts and feelings.

- **Childline: 0800 1111**, <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Offers information and advice on a range of issues affecting children and young people.

- **ParentZone: Ollee**, <https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>



A virtual friend app aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents, helping families talk about difficult topics. (See also more information attached).

- **YoungMinds: Parent Helpline, 0808 802 5544**

**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

Helpline providing information and advice to parents/carers who are worried about a child or young person's wellbeing or mental health.

We also continue to have the support of our school therapist, James Smith, who is able to offer weekly sessions for parents/carers. These are free and confidential. **For more information please contact James on [jsmith@r-u-n.co.uk](mailto:jsmith@r-u-n.co.uk) or 07956 360 661.**

## Social distancing

Please ensure that you are following the social distancing rules whilst lining up to drop your children off in the mornings



and after school. Please note that gathering outside the school office and school gate are not permitted. If you wish to speak to a class teacher please book an appointment via the school office. In the huge majority of cases these meetings will be held virtually by necessity to reduce the number of adults accessing the site.

## Code of Conduct

We are extremely proud of the community that we have at Halley. Our members of staff work exceptionally hard to ensure that our pupils treat each other with respect and courtesy whilst embodying our Halley Values, and we rightfully expect the same of our parents. Attached is our Code of Conduct as a reminder to ensure parents are treating each other and our members of staff in the Halley way. We encourage all parents to come and talk to their child's class teacher in the first instance if they have any concerns, as we are always willing to help. Thank you for your continued support and for helping to make Halley the special place that it is.

### Comet class is back in the building!

It has been a wonderful start to the week. Comet class have settled back into school smoothly and demonstrated how much they have progressed, both physically and mentally. Children have naturally re-established healthy relationships with their peers. They continue to demonstrate confidence and have shown such kindness to one another. They are the youngest role models in the school! And they should be very proud indeed. Our current topic is Superheroes. Children have been deciphering the features of a superhero using the Thinking Frame. As a result, we have seen some fantastic pieces of writing and pictures. Next week we will be working on independence. Please continue to encourage your child to learn how to put on their coat and do their zips up. This will be really important for them developing refined physical control. As children approach Year 1, they will relish the independence, too! Your continued valuable support has been amazing as always.

### Group Painting!



We were working with colour, line and pattern (our art topics) with our school friends again in our Halley House Art Room. **Art** is for **A**wareness, **R**outine, **T**ransformation! We used 6 colours only, in 6 pots and passed the pots of paint down the long table, looking,

learning and waiting for each colour. Our chair numbers, visual time table and warm up all help to set out our routine. Being observant and patient builds awareness, and then what is created is the transformation! We had a chance to be with our community again, enjoy a moment with these colours and enjoy not knowing how our images were going to turn out. The last colour was gold, which we definitely enjoyed the most!

### Fortnite

It has come to our attention that some children are exchanging their login usernames in school for online games they play at home so they can link up and join each other. While we know that gaming can be a creative and exciting arena for our children, please make sure that the games that they are playing are suitable for their age group and that they are being monitored while online with their friends. We would also hope that children are expected to complete any schoolwork before they are spending time playing games. If you are not sure, all games have a PEGI rating that suggests the age group the game is designed for. It is very easy for other older people to join chat rooms and games and they may not always be genuine gamers looking just to have fun. **Please help keep your children safe online.**



### Let's Count Day

As the census deadline (March 21<sup>st</sup>) fast approaches, Halley House will be



celebrating Let's Count Day on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. Please be reminded that children can come to school wearing a maths themed costume on the day. Children will take part in a variety of activities about the census, statistics and around the theme of 'This matters to us'. A suggested donation of £2 will go towards maths resources.

### Science Fair Dress-up day



We are very excited that we can still go ahead with our annual Science Fair dress up on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. Children can dress up in a science themed costume and donate to expanding our science provision in school. Science Fair projects should be brought into school during the course of next week, ready to be presented to classes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents and carers will not be able to join in this year (in school), but we do hope you still enjoy completing the projects at home with your child! The theme for projects is 'Innovating for the future.'

### Year 2 bread making



This week Year 2 have been making their own bread rolls as part of our topic 'Fire fire'. We have been learning all about London in the 1600s and how the Great Fire of London started in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. Children enjoyed kneading their dough (although it was hard work!) and getting to eat their delicious bakes. Samuel in Galaxy was so inspired by the activity he declared "I am going to be a baker when I grow up!". Good luck Samuel and well done Year 2!

### Year 1 - The Colour Monster

It has been lovely to see the enthusiasm and determination in Year 1, both in class and around the school, since we returned last week. In class, we have spoken about how we felt being back at school, and explained why, using the feelings from The Colour Monster.



We then completed a drawing to describe feeling happy, sad, fearful, calm, angry or confused. It was a great way to start our return to school! This half term we are learning about different types of standard

and non-standard measurements. Our focus last week was non-standard measurements where we used cubes, paperclips and hands to measure different objects around the classroom. We learned that non-standard measurements are things that are not typically used. It was really fun as it was very 'hands-on'!



### Well-Being in School

Thank you to Ms Ashley and Miss Sumaiya for the lovely surprise when all staff returned to school on Monday. The little act of kindness put a huge smile on all our faces and I know made the return to school even more special.



### E-Safety with Mr Oxford

#### Whatsapp and Tiktok Parent Information

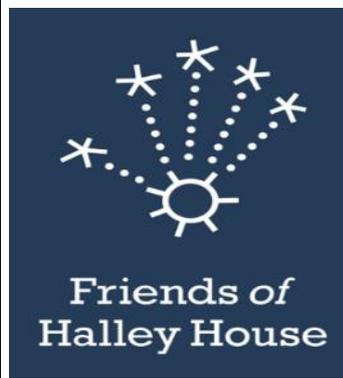


As children get older they tend to find different ways to communicate with each other outside of school using, as many of you already know, various messaging apps.

We know you know how great they can be! However, sometimes they can also be used inappropriately by children who don't realise that hurtful words typed are just as painful as those said. Mr Oxford has put together two key help sheets for you to help you monitor the usage of apps like Whatsapp if your children use it. We do need to make it clear that, as of May 2018, WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old and should therefore not be being used by children at Halley. There is also a help sheet about TikTok included, as many of the new worrying internet trends start by being promoted or shown-off by influencers on this app. Both these help sheets are attached.

Please also find attached an information sheet about a new version of a game that uses webcams and Zoom to create a story that is also not appropriate for our children. If you have any questions, please contact the office and they will pass it on to Mr Oxford.

Each term, our school receives an e-magazine called 'Ditto' all about e-safety and new trends that emerge online. This month they have started to produce a few pages specifically for parents so we thought we would share with you the full magazine so you can have a look at it (see attachment). The parent pages are towards the end of Ditto, but the whole publication is quite interesting. Please let us know what you think!



A big hello from the FOHH team!

### Tote bags

We are excited to finally launch the Halley House tote bags. £7.50 for a quality reusable bag with the Halley House logo on, which can be used for wellies on Outdoor Adventures day, shopping or anything you fancy really! All proceeds will go to the school.

Please purchase from Natasha or Kat in the school office and put your donation into the tin. Please let one of the committee know if you'd prefer to transfer money or buy more than one to kit out family and friends. Huge thanks to Laura (Lennie & Ezra Y2, Jasper YR) for brilliant help with this.



### School library

Library work is continuing in the next two weeks, when we can safely access the space when it is not in use by classes. The immediate focus is on sorting the Reading for Pleasure and non-fiction section of the library. Photos to follow as the transformation progresses. Please do get in touch if you want to help with the library – we've come a long way already but are always happy to hear from interested parties!

### Easyfundraising

We are thrilled to have raised \*£1,068\* through easy fundraising to help develop the outdoor space. Huge thanks to all who have signed up. If you are new to it, please visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and search 'Halley House School Fund' to find out more. Please contact Viv on 07887 751472 for more information.

### Pyjama day

Pyjama day (the easiest dress up day of all!) is **Friday 30th April** too (Summer term), so do put that FOHH fundraiser in your diary.

### Meeting dates

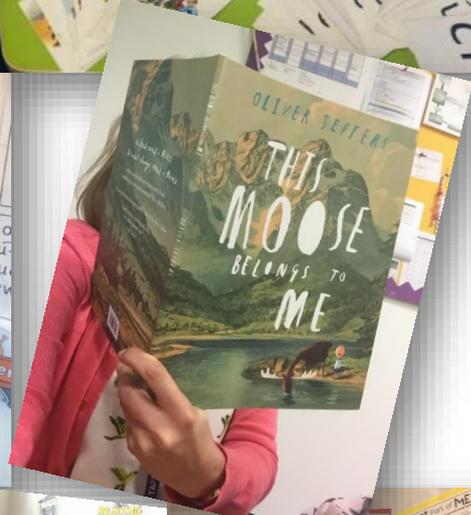
Please join us for the next FOHH meeting after the Easter holidays at 9am on **Friday 23rd April**. Open to all. We'd love your ideas and input of any kind. It's always lovely to have a chat and get together. We'll bring biscuits!

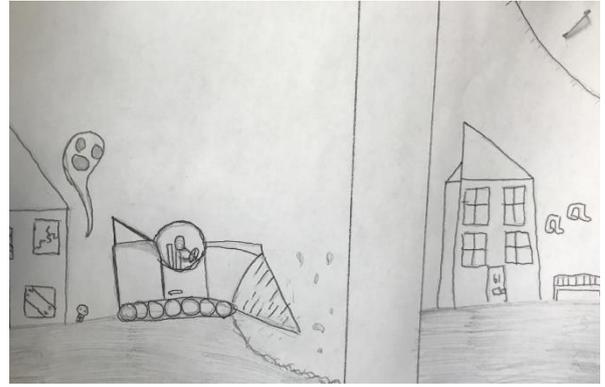
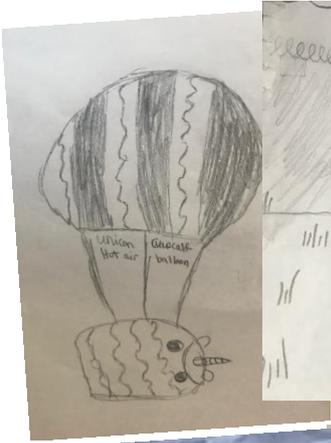
Please let us know if you'd like to join the team or can help in any way. We are a small team now so any help and support hugely appreciated. Keely (07866 515568) Clare, Viv and Lola!



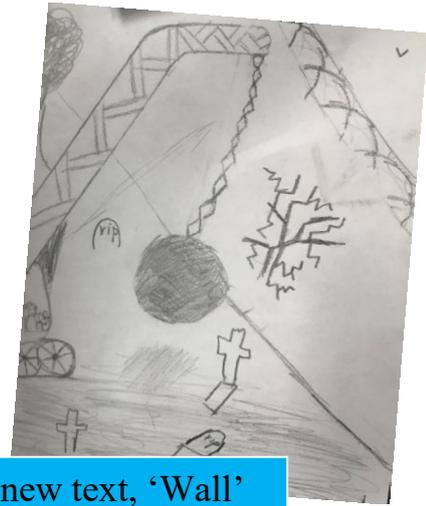
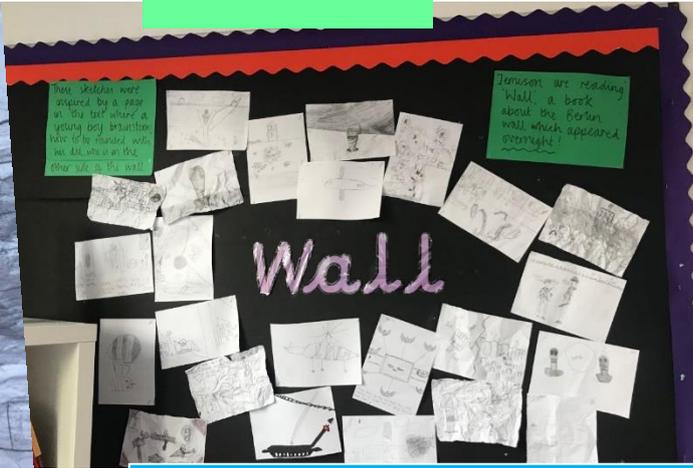
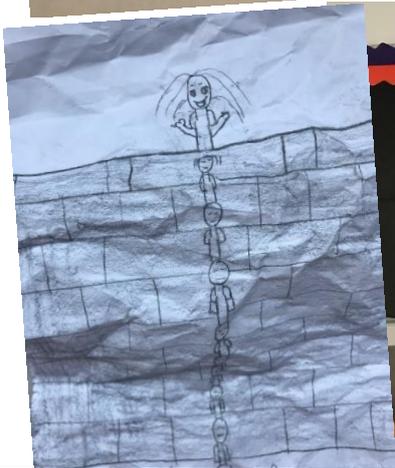
At Halley House School EVERYONE loves reading!

# CAUGHT READING





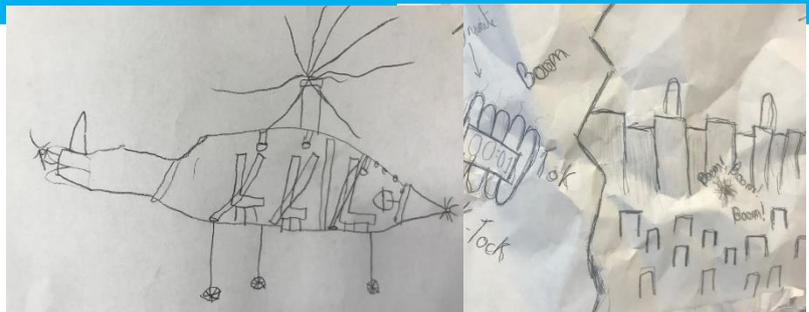
# Year 5



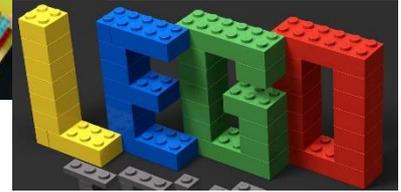
This week Jemison started reading their new text, 'Wall' by Tom Clohosy Cole. The book features breathtaking illustrations which tell the tale of a boy separated from his father because of the Berlin wall.

We were particularly inspired by the illustration to the left, which shows the boy desperately trying to come up with a plan to get across to the other side.

As a class, we tried to re-create this scene. We each sketched a scheme to cross the wall (which had varying chances of success) and layered them on our reading board. We even scrunched some up to make them look like the boy's rejected ideas!



# Extended schools

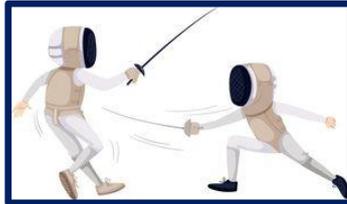


**CLUB**

We are not yet back to our full complement of clubs, but it has been fantastic to see a range of activities on offer after school again! Children have really enjoyed the first week back!



**FENCING**



**CHOIR**



**TABLE  
TENNIS**

<b>DIARY DATES</b>	
<b>Spring 2 2021</b>	
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR Outdoor Adventures resume</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y3 Outdoor Adventures resume</li> <li>• Y5 Outdoor Adventures resume</li> <li>• Y1 Outdoor Adventures resume</li> <li>• Local Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting, 6-8pm</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y2 Outdoor Adventures resume</li> <li>• African Drumming &amp; Dance sessions (Year 3 and Year 4)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's Count Day! (Maths themed costume £2 suggested contribution)</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Fair projects to be brought into school this week</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Day dress up (£2 suggested contribution)</li> <li>• Science Fair for all classes in school</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of Spring 2. School finishes at 2pm</li> </ul>
<b>Summer 1 2021</b>	
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First day of Summer 1. All Extended Schools provision resumes</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOHH Meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyjama Day! FOHH fundraising for the school</li> </ul>