



# HALL MEADOW NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER 2024**

## Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our first termly newsletter and what a long term it has been! It is hard to remember back 8 weeks to the beginning of September when we welcomed staff back in from the holidays closely followed by our children. We have welcomed lots of new families to school and are now full in every class.

Over the summer, Mr Wilton worked really hard to paint the library with donations of paint from Wickes. The furniture was purchased with a grant from one of our parents' employers and the new library is looking great. We can't wait for you to see it during parents evening next month.

You will see from the class pages what each class has been up to but as a whole school the children have engaged in assemblies exploring the 'No Outsiders' themes ensuring that everyone feels welcome at the school, a visit from CSALT who retell bible stories with a value which the children can relate to, Mike, our PCSO about Halloween safety, sign language and of course our Harvest festival.

The children are benefiting from a sports coach at lunchtime who is leading games and activities including netball, croquet, races and other multi-skills games in the courtyard. PACT have made a great start too with lots of plans in place. The disco was a great start to the fundraising year. With shrinking budgets and increased costs, these events are needed more than ever to support the purchasing of resources such as new musical instruments, equipment for learning skills in design and technology and other areas. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of these events.

Next term, there are so many things happening in school from Children in Need to Christmas! Parents evenings, parent workshops and reading sessions will be happening too. We will also be re-exploring the Wrap Around Care (WAC) offer. This is something we are keen to start but can't until we have guaranteed bookings so please do look out for another quick survey and a booking form in the first few weeks.

Despite the damp weather of this term, it looks brighter over the holidays so I hope you have a great break with your children and manage to have a few days out in the fresh air! Don't forget the PACT pumpkin trail will be ongoing around the KLV too.

Best wishes,

Mrs Bodman-Knight

## Goodbye and Best wishes



We are very sad to announce that our lovely Miss. Day will be leaving us at the end of this term to follow her dream of being a dance instructor full time. It has been a privilege having her as part of our support staff team and she will be very much missed by both children, staff and parents alike. We wish you all the best for the future Miss. Day! All Hall Meadow Staff.

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Mrs. Ricotta who passed her apprenticeship in Wellbeing Champions with a distinction! We are so proud of all the effort she has put in over the last 18 months and are very proud of her amazing accomplishments. Well done Mrs. Ricotta!

# PACT Update

Welcome to a brand new academic year from PACT! We're excited to kick things off with a warm welcome to our new Iris parents, who joined us for a delightful coffee morning at the beginning of the term. It was a fantastic opportunity to make connections and foster a sense of community as you embark on the journey together. In addition to welcoming new faces, we held our Annual General Meeting, reflecting on the successes and challenges of the past year while laying the groundwork for an even more engaging and exciting year ahead.

This year's Halloween festivities kicked off with a thrilling pumpkin design competition, showcasing the creative talents of our children. The winning entries have been carved into pumpkins! We held a spooky Halloween disco, which turned out to be a great success. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, dance and spooktacular costumes. A delicious Krispy Kreme doughnut sale and ice cream sales also boosted our fundraising efforts this term. Don't forget the much-anticipated Halloween trail during half term, promising thrills and chills for everyone!

Looking ahead to the festive season, students were encouraged to unleash their creativity with their Christmas card designs which were available to order online. Don't forget tomorrow's 'mufti', non-uniform day, which is in exchange for a tombola donation.

If you're interested in helping us to organize events, there are plenty of exciting opportunities to get involved and we look forward to welcoming you. Please contact us at

[hallmeadowpact@gmail.com](mailto:hallmeadowpact@gmail.com)

Hall Meadow PACT Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/hallmeadowpact/](https://www.facebook.com/hallmeadowpact/)

Our Twitter page : @HallPact

# School Council



We're a finalist in the environment and sustainability award category for Northamptonshire Education Awards.

A huge thank-you to all our gardening and school council staff who have made this nomination possible including Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Hay and Mrs. Mehta.

## Gardening Team

Our children really enjoyed harvesting all the crops which they had grown throughout the calendar year. There was so much produce that school decided to donate some of the vegetables to the local food bank so we can support those families most in need. Thank-you again to the gardening staff for always providing these learning opportunities for our children.



# School Awards

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This school is proud to be a

### **Music Mark School**

In recognition of a commitment to  
providing a high-quality music education  
for all children and young people

**2024 - 2025**

We are proud to be part of the family of Music Mark School - our music investment in school is growing with Mr. Farmer as our Music Lead he has brought a real focus on building opportunities for music to be something which every child can get involved with. We have successfully launched Rock Steady this term which has had a fantastic uptake and is really rocking out our school hall on a Wednesday afternoon! Our NMPAT collection is growing with the reintroduction of piano and violin lessons, alongside our guitar and recorder lessons. With the development of music ambassadors and future plans to have a school choir, Mr. Farmer is bringing music to the forefront as a dynamic that everyone can participate in and enjoy.

# Sporting Achievements

Cross Country Finalists: Eight children from years 5 and 6 competed in the Kettering School Sport cross country event. All of them performed brilliantly with 7 of them qualifying for the next round. A special mention to S for winning the Year 6 girls race.

Congratulations team!

The team will be competing in the Cross Country Area finals in November and we wish them all the best of luck!



# Sign Language Club



We have a free sign language club within school, run by our fantastic Miss Walker. The club runs on a Monday during breaktimes and our attending children are becoming very comfortable and confident at sign language. At Hall Meadow we believe we should be as inclusive as possible to all and these valuable skills will be a skill they can carry forward into the future.

## Dwarfism Awareness Month

We also celebrated World Dwarfism month. E stood proud in front of the whole school and shared some things about her condition but most of all told us all how accepted she felt in our school. She also asked for it to be shared to the world so they knew not to make fun of people like her and to remember to treat people as they would like to be treated themselves



# World Mental Health Day

We all dressed in **Green** this term to celebrate World Mental Health Day on the 10th October and we talked about the importance of our mental health and how we link this to our zones of regulation.



# Wednesday Discos

To aid in our children's mental health, Miss. Letts has been orchestrating an outdoor disco on a Wednesday during lunchtimes to give everyone a positive boost mid-week!



# IRIS

## Update

As the first term of reception comes to a close, we are thrilled to share the wonderful journey our young learners have embarked on this school year! From the first day of school to now, the children have grown in confidence and curiosity.

We've introduced a variety of themes this term, including "All About Me" and "Harvest/ Autumn," which have sparked exciting discussions and hands-on activities. The children enjoyed sharing their own stories and experiences during circle time, fostering a sense of belonging. As the crisp air and vibrant colours of autumn settle in, our reception class has been buzzing with excitement and exploration! This season presents a wonderful opportunity for our young learners to connect with nature and discover the beauty of change.

Throughout the month, we've engaged in a variety of hands-on activities that celebrate the wonders of autumn. The children have collected a bounty of fallen leaves, acorns, and pinecones. These treasures have inspired creative projects, from leaf rubbings, colourful collages and conker rolling prints that decorate our classroom.

Literacy and numeracy skills have been woven into our daily activities, making learning both fun and effective. From phonics games to counting activities, the children have shown impressive progress. Their enthusiasm for learning has been truly inspiring! As we look forward to the next term, we want to thank all the families for their support and involvement. Your encouragement at home plays a vital role in your child's success. We are excited for more adventures, discoveries, and growth in the coming months!

# IRIS

Update



# DEMETER

## Update

What a fantastic start to the year in Demeter class. The children have settled very well into year 1 and have shone in many ways. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about our body and senses in science. In maths, we have been focusing on number bonds to 10 and have begun to look at simple addition with numbers below 10. This term has also seen the children produce a biography on Florence Joyner as well as a character profile for our friend 'Auggie'- we will conclude the term with a flash write looking at a setting description. Our learning in Geography has focused on human and physical features in our local area and being able to explain the difference. Work for the nativity is underway and the children have been working very hard to already learn most of the songs. Not to forget our brilliant performance in the Harvest festival and your wonderful generosity in supporting the local food bank! So many positives from an action-packed term, lots of proud moments and now it's time to recuperate and be ready for even more learning next term- we look forward to welcoming you back then.

The Demeter Team.

# DEMETER

Update



# APOLLO

## Update

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Apollo class and have been working incredibly hard. In English we have focused on story writing and poetry. Our stories were all about an animal going on an adventure to school! We loved expanding our vocabulary and challenging ourselves within our writing.

In maths so far this year we have been focusing on place value and addition and subtraction. We have worked hard to try and secure our place value knowledge of tens and ones which will help us next term as we continue with addition and subtraction. Apollo are becoming more and more confident to use mental methods where needed but also reach for resources to support their learning.

We have loved our art topic this term which has focused on Life in Colour. We have mixed paint colours, searched for textures and recreated textures. We created our own paper using a range of paint colours and textures which were then used to create a collage. It has been great fun getting creative on Monday afternoons.

Geography has also been a hit in Apollo class this year. We have spent our lessons comparing different aspects of life in Kampong Ayer (Brunei) with our life here. Being able to see photos of their schools, transport, houses etc, has been amazing for the children.

We are looking forward to continuing our hard work next term!

# APOLLO

Update




PIC-COLLAGE



# POSEIDON

## Update

What a busy term for Poseidon Class! This term we have been super scientists learning all about plants. We have had great fun designing and setting up an experiment comparing the effect of different factors on plant growth. We conducted more experiments to investigate the way water is transported in plants and made salt dough flowers to explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants. To understand how seeds are dispersed we made helicopter seeds, sticky burrs and exploded balloons full of bird seed! We continued with our experiments in History, where we have mummified tomatoes to explore the mummification process in Ancient Egypt. We have learnt about the life of Ancient Egyptians and the importance of the river Nile and will continue to learn more about Ancient Egypt next term.



# POSEIDON

Update



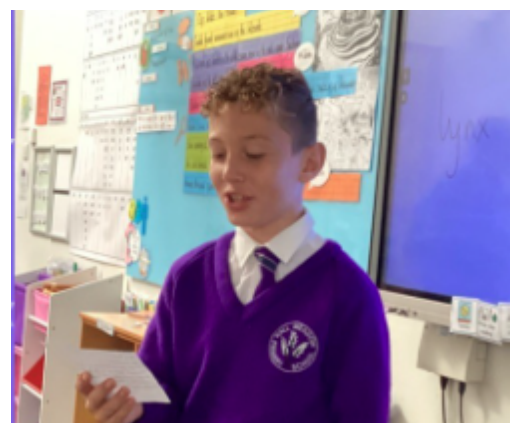
# ATHENA

## Update

This term, Athena class have embarked on some exciting learning adventures! In English, they investigated the mysterious black feather of the Badwoods from The Wizards of Once, sparking curiosity about magical worlds. They also delved into the enchanting universe of Harry Potter, discovering spells, characters, and magical creatures. In Geography, the class explored how Kettering Leisure Village has evolved over the past 150 years, examining its growth and development. Science lessons took them on a fascinating journey through the digestive system and included a fun experiment using eggs to observe how different substances can affect teeth. In DT, students designed and created their own slingshot cars, developing creativity and engineering skills. In RE, they explored Buddhist beliefs, learning about happiness and mindfulness. Finally, in PSHE, we have explored how we can work collaboratively, recognise emotions and how to support each other when we feel blue. It's been a fantastic, action-packed term and we cannot wait to continue our learning journey!

# ATHENA

## Update



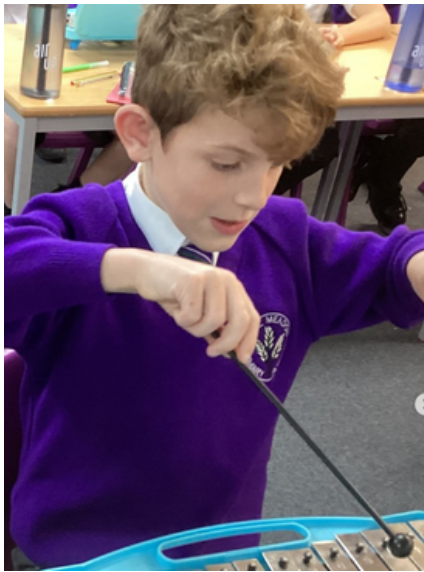
# ARES

## Update

Ares Class quickly settled into the routines and expectations of Year 5, working hard throughout the term and producing some really pleasing work.

In science, they engaged in very sensible conversations about the human life cycle and puberty. The class also participated in a live lesson delivered by Developing Experts, where they had great fun conducting an experiment with various acids and bicarbonate of soda. In religious education, Ares Class thoughtfully considered how Sikhs demonstrate their commitment to their faith, learning about the Khalsa, the five K's, the Sri Harmandir Sahib Ji, and the practice of langar.

# ARES



# ZEUS

## Update

It's been an exciting and busy start to the school year, filled with new experiences and lots of learning!

We had an unforgettable time on our residential trip to Govilon. The trip was packed with adventurous activities that pushed us out of our comfort zones.

Not only did we enjoy the fun challenges, but we also strengthened our friendships and created memories we'll cherish forever.

In English lessons, we have written a moving narrative inspired by the book *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna, which taught us about resilience and hope. Mrs Nunn has been skipping into the lessons because she has been feeling so eager to get going. In geography, we've been learning about the National Parks of the United Kingdom. Using the knowledge we acquired about the Brecon Beacons, we wrote detailed information texts, bringing our understanding of this beautiful national park to life.

Mrs Mehta has been teaching us the upbeat lyrics to the song "Happy" and guiding us as we learn to play the tune on the glockenspiel. Our classroom has been filled with the cheerful sound of music, and we're all improving each week!

In reading lessons, *The Clockwork Crow* has captured our imaginations with its gripping storyline. We're eagerly turning the pages to find out what happens next and are already excited to discover what our next book will be.

We've been working diligently, especially as we've now completed our first set of assessments in preparation for the SATs in May. It's been a challenging process, but we're feeling more prepared and determined to do our best.

One of the biggest milestones for us surely has to be finally sitting on the benches during assembly. After six years of waiting, it felt like a real achievement to take our seats with pride. It's a small but meaningful change that shows how much we've grown!

All in all, it's been a busy term full of learning, growth, and fun. We can't wait to see what the next few months will bring!

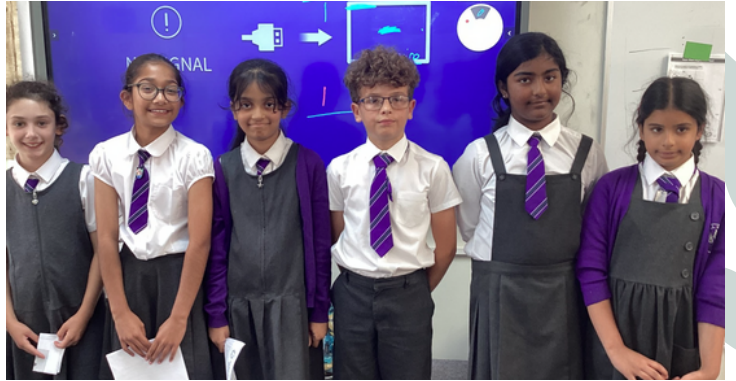
# ZEUS

Govilon Trip



# ZEUS

Our Term in Photos



# Coming Up Next Term...

6th Nov - Reception Class Trip

8th Nov - Year 4 Class Trip

11th Nov - Flu Vaccinations

12th Nov - Odd Socks Day (Anti -Bullying week)

12th Nov - Read with Children 2.45pm

13th Nov - Parent Spelling Workshop  
for Years 2 - 6 2.30pm

14th Nov - Parents Spelling Workshop  
for Years 2 - 6 5pm

14th Nov - MIND booked sessions for parents

15th Nov - Mufti Day - Children in Need

15th Nov - PACT Magician in school (ticketed)

18th/19th Nov - Parents Evenings

2nd Dec - PACT Wreath Making event (ticketed)

4th Dec - Panto "Scroogical" visiting school

6th Dec - Read with Children 2.30pm

6th Dec - Christmas Fayre

9th Dec - 2pm Grandparent Nativity

11th Dec - 2pm Parent Nativity

12th Dec - 2pm Parent Nativity

12th Dec - PACT Christmas Disco

13th Dec - Year 3 Class Trip

18th Dec - Rock Steady Christmas Concert

20th Dec - Carols in the playground

# Coming Up Next Term...

PACT PRESENTS

# MAGIC PAUL

15  
NOV

3.30PM - 4.30PM  
SCHOOL HALL

£5 PER TICKET

BOOK VIA THE PACT WEBSITE



# What you need to know?

## School Updates

We have updated our Attendance policy in line with new guidelines. This includes fine changes for term time absences and also for those who have multiple late marks. Please make yourself aware of these new guidelines by reading our updated Policy - available on the website.

## Reminders

- Nut free school - no nut products allowed on site.
- 10 instances of late to school will now incur a fine from Northamptonshire Country Council.
- Winter uniform is now to be used. No summer dresses are to be worn until the Easter holidays.
- No bikes or scooters to be ridden on the school grounds at any time.
- No sweets or confectionary to be given out for birthdays or other events on the school grounds.
- Please ensure you park sensibly on school runs as our local PSCO and traffic wardens will be doing spot checks during drop off and collection times.

# What you need to know?

## Safeguarding Update

At HMPS, the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment where every student can thrive. As part of this, we would like to remind parents, guardians, and students about our safeguarding procedures.

### **Key Safeguarding Contacts:**

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Bodman-Knight  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Mrs Ricotta, Miss. Letts,  
Mrs Jeffs  
Safeguarding Governor: Ms Emily Oakley

These members of staff are specially trained to deal with safeguarding concerns and are here to support students, staff, and parents. If you have any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of a child, please do not hesitate to contact them directly via [hmps.admin@inmat.org.uk](mailto:hmps.admin@inmat.org.uk)

### **Updates to Safeguarding Procedures:**

We are continually reviewing and updating our safeguarding policies to ensure they meet the highest standards. All staff have undertaken the relevant training with updates for 2024/25.

### **Reminders for Parents:**

- Please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact information so we can reach you in case of emergency.
- If your child will be absent, notify the school as soon as possible to ensure their whereabouts are accounted for.
- Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult if they are feeling unsafe or anxious, whether at school or outside of it.

For more information about our safeguarding policies, please visit our website or contact the DSL team.

Together, we can continue to create a safe and nurturing environment for all our students.

# What you need to know?

## School Office

Please call the office for all absences, medical appointments and changes to child collection: 01536 417627

## Important People

### **Key Safeguarding Contacts:**

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Bodman-Knight
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Mrs Ricotta, Miss Letts, Mrs Jeffs
- Safeguarding Governor: Ms Emily Oakley