

# Newsletter

**Friday 20th December 2024**

Roundhouse Way, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9SF



## **A Message from the Headteacher**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been filled with wonderful events and learning experiences. We've enjoyed fabulous assemblies from Years 2, 3, 4, and 5, where the children's confidence and knowledge have truly impressed us.

Reception's nativity production of *Whoops-A-Daisy Angel* was a delight, showcasing the remarkable progress the children have made since starting school. Our carol concerts for Years 1-6 were well attended and brought festive cheer to us all.

Year 5 had the heartwarming experience of singing Christmas carols to the staff and patients at St. Clare Hospice, receiving positive feedback for their beautiful singing and great behaviour.

Among the many learning highlights, Year 6's dissection of sheep hearts to study the circulatory system stands out! We bid farewell to Miss Carr, who is heading back to Canada, and Mr. Turner, who is leaving to join his family business. We are thrilled to welcome Miss Grover as the new Ash Class Teacher and Mr. Mahmoudi (Sports Coach) to our team.

Additionally, we say goodbye to Miss Andrews, our Deputy Nursery Manager, who has been promoted to a nursery manager position. We deeply appreciate all that Miss Andrews has contributed to Newhall; she will be missed, and we wish her all the best in her new role. Ms Pocock has been promoted to Deputy Nursery Manager.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Warm regards,



## **A Message from the Nursery Manager**

We have made it to the end of our first term and what a busy term it has been.

We are really pleased that Sharon Lewis will be starting her new journey with us in January and will be working across all three rooms. Abigail Jaggs will be extending her working hours in January and will be our new permanent member of staff in our Blossom Room and Jordanne Bond will also be extending her working hours and will be working across all the rooms.

We are also really pleased that three of our current staff team will be extending their professional development in January and starting the next stage of their childcare development journey by starting their next NVQ in childcare.

We will be shortly advertising for an apprentice to join our Pre-school. If you know of someone that would like to join our team then please do ask them to contact me on [emma.pike@newhallacademy.org](mailto:emma.pike@newhallacademy.org).

Blossom have had great fun this half term looking at Autumn; the sensory bottles have been a great hit making them with pumpkin seeds and conkers.

Snowdrop are really enjoying Christmas at the moment. They have made a Christmas tree and a fireplace, that has enhanced all the excitement of Christmas.

Bluebell have had great fun looking for the elf every day. The elf has also helped them with their learning. Elf was helping the children to understand positional language during carpet time.

On behalf of the team at Newhall I would like to say a huge thank you for all of the presents that we have all received.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# N E W H A L L



## Year 3

This half term, Year Three have become pop-up book experts! We have explored a variety of techniques that can be used to make an interesting pop-up book and created our own based on our class text 'Fortunately The Milk'. In science, we have had great fun learning about magnets and using the vocabulary of 'attract' and 'repel' to talk about if an object is magnetic. We have even made our own compass using a cork and a paperclip! Finally in RE we have been discussing the key topic 'Has Christmas lost it's true meaning?' which ended with a trip to St Mary's church where we found out why Christians celebrate Christmas.



## Snowdrop

This half term in Snowdrop we have been exploring the magical world of nursery rhymes and festive fun with our topic, *Twinkle Twinkle Here We Are*. The children have been busy engaging in a variety of activities designed to spark their creativity, develop key skills, and celebrate the season in style.

One of our favourite activities has been making salt dough stars. The children carefully measured and mixed the ingredients, then explored the texture of the dough as they flattened and shaped it with star cutters. These stars have been baked, painted, and decorated, ready to take home and hang on your Christmas tree—a beautiful keepsake to treasure!

The children have loved singing along to the different nursery rhymes and completing many different nursery rhyme based craft activities. In our sensory tray, we've been investigating many nursery rhyme based sensory experiences. The children loved scooping and pouring, building their fine motor skills as they played.

As we stepped into December, the magic of Christmas has softly weaved its way into our classroom. The children have been role-playing with our snowy Christmas village and train set, practising patterns with Christmas-themed activities, and enjoying collaborative games like *Feed Santa*. These experiences are not only festive fun but also support vital learning, such as building friendships, developing fine motor skills, and building imagination.

We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been this term. They've shown incredible curiosity and creativity while exploring the world around them. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to sharing more magical moments with you all!



## Year 1

This half term year 1 have been learning about writing letters linked to our text the polar express. Linking to this topic we went to Audley End to experience the Polar express for ourselves; the children had a great time doing a Christmas scavenger hunt and meeting Santa himself. In Science and D&T we have been learning about different materials. We have made a prototype for an umbrella and tested it; we had lots of fun. In maths we have learnt about addition and subtraction as well as fact families. In PSHE we have been learning to celebrate differences. The children have created a gingerbread man over the half term to show how we are different to one another as well as to think of strategies to stop bullying. In Geography we have been learning about the United Kingdom and looking at maps. We even ventured outside to create our own maps of the playground!



## Blossom

This term in Blossom we have been exploring and learning about the Autumn season. The children enjoyed spending time laughing and splashing in the puddles after the rain. They have taken part in a range of sensory activities to promote their social and physical skills through sensory play of exploring different textures and materials. The children especially enjoyed carving a pumpkin and exploring the shell and seeds inside a sensory bottle where we listened to the sounds it made when shaken.



# N E W H A L L



to infinity AND BEYOND!



## Year R

Reception have loved learning about our topic 'To Infinity and Beyond'. We have learnt about the Solar System, each individual planet and the other things that are in the solar system. We used the VR goggles to experience what it is like to stand on the moon. In the middle of the term we had an alien dress up day and did our first independent write of the year. We learnt new vocabulary such as orbit and gravity. To end the term off we had a Planetarium visit; again where we got to see all the planets in the solar system. Did you know that on your birthday you are celebrating travelling around the sun each year? How many times have you travelled around the sun?



## Bluebell

Bluebell has had a busy half term looking into the community in our 'People who help us' topic. The children have learnt about the importance of keeping our teeth healthy, the role of the fire service, and took on the job of detective investigating a crime in Bluebell's kitchen! As the half term comes to a close, the children have shown great excitement in Christmas festivities. We have been working hard writing letters to Santa, creating Christmas cards and gifts for our families, as well as discovering what mischief 'Bluebell elf' has been up to. Bluebell team wishes all of our children and families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in January, where we will be taking a deep dive into the world of dinosaurs!



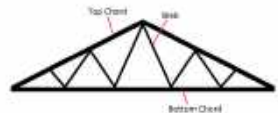
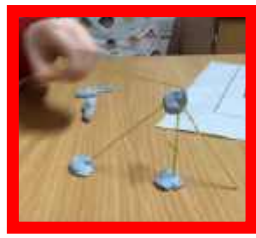
## Year 6

Year 6 had an incredibly busy and exciting half term! A standout moment was when the students had the opportunity to dissect a sheep's heart. This hands-on experience allowed them to explore the ventricles, aorta, and veins up close, observing the differences in size between the left and right sides and understanding how the valves function as a one-way system. It was a fantastic chance for the children to see their classroom learning about the circulatory system come to life, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding of how our bodies work.



## Year 4

This half term Year 4 have had the opportunity to make soda bread within their DT topic. This enabled Year 4 children to use their skills within the kitchen to come up with a creative recipe. We have also been able to use electrical equipment within our science topic of circuits. This was very exciting as we got to make our own switches. In our history topic of the Romans, we incorporated this within English to create our own myths about Romulus and Remus.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fun and busy half term! We have been learning about materials and their properties in Science, where we predicted and tested which ball would bounce the highest and which bat or racket would hit the furthest. We also discussed the importance of fair testing. In DT the children have been learning about different Truss structures used to build towers. We recreated this in a fun way using pasta and blue tac! The children then designed and made their own towers using straws.



# NEW HALL

## Year 5

Year 5 have had great fun this half term building their very own bridges in DT and experimenting with a range of materials in their science. Both classes worked hard to puzzle out how best to separate a mixture, which did admittedly leave the classroom very muddy... however the children enjoyed this very much and some even managed to distill some almost purified water from their muddy mixture! During DT where the children were learning about different bridge designs, they had the opportunity to measure, saw and construct their own tessellated truss bridge. In general, they were very successful, and when stress tested, the children enjoyed seeing how heavier a weight their bridge could hold. Needless to say, there was some friendly competition between the classes. One bridge from each class even managed to hold a massive 18KG without collapsing! Our maths has been very fraction focused, and the children have relished this opportunity to demonstrate their excellent times table knowledge. While in English, they have produced some wonderful descriptive pieces based on the WW2 Christmas truce. From all of us in Year 5, we wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the new year!



## Attendance

Our attendance for each class for the autumn term is shown below. Well done to Maple Class and Elm Class with the highest attendance! Our school target for attendance is for each class to be above 96%.

Year Group	Class	Attendance
R	Cherry	91%
R	Willow	94%
1	Beech	95%
1	Rowan	95%
2	Elm	97%
2	Hazel	94%
3	Chestnut	96%
3	Maple	97%
4	Ash	93%
4	Juniper	96%
5	Birch	95%
5	Cedar	95%
6	Hawthorn	94%
6	Oak	95%

## Important links:

Calendar: [Academy Calendar – Newhall Primary Academy and Nursery](#)

Twitter: [Newhall X Account](#)



We are looking to recruit an EYFS Practitioner. The vacancy can be found on My New Term (MNT) here: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145880/EDV-2024-NPA-27212> and the DfE, the REAch2 website, TES & Essex Jobs. The closing date for this vacancy is the 2nd of January 2025.