

Hamsey Community Primary School Newsletter

Festive Edition 2024

*A kind, creative
community where
learning is an
adventure.*



MR DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

We have had such a lovely time in the Christmas run-up at Hamsey - I have loved seeing the children become increasingly excited as the big day approaches! At the same time, the whole school has remained calm and collected - I am, as always, incredibly proud of the children.

Mrs Robertson was very impressed with how Owls Class conducted themselves during their time at Glyndebourne - what a great experience. We all loved singing festive songs with Badgers Class - I particularly enjoyed seeing some of the children dressed in full forest school gear, but with a festive nod. Foxes and Hedgehogs put on two fantastic nativity performances. On Wednesday this week we had our Christmas lunch complete with crackers and Christmas jumpers.

The children have really impressed all of the adults with their project learning this term - we now have a school full of budding historians. I know teachers have lots of exciting things planned for our Explore geography and DT project next term.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2025. I look forward to seeing you when term starts on Tuesday 7th January.

IMPORTANT DATES



January 2025

- Mon 6th - INSET
- Tues 7th - Start of Term 3
- Weds 8th - EYFS Open Morning
- Weds 22nd - Owls Rail Safety Workshop
- Fri 24th - Y1/2/3 Athletics at Barcombe
- Fri 31st - Y4/5/6 Athletics at Barcombe

ATTENDANCE

Our Attendance Target: 97%

Our Current Attendance: 93.4%

I have had an increasing number of requests for withdrawal from learning recently. Please can I remind you that government guidance means I am no longer able to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school unless there are exceptional circumstances. Family holidays do not fall into this category.

East Sussex guidance can be found here:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/attendance-behaviour>

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

DAYS FOR MRS JAMES

From January our SENCo, Mrs James will be at Hamsey on Thursday and Friday each week.

If you have any concerns relating to your child's learning, please first speak with the class teacher. If you would like to meet with Mrs James then please make an appointment via the school office.

Thank you.

SEND

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) Parent and Carer Practitioners aim to support parents and carers to understand children's mental health and emotional well being, and learn how a range of strategies can support their children.

They offer a range of webinars and in-person sessions in East Sussex's Family Hubs and schools.

Please see the flier included in today's bulletin for information on how to book these.

FOREST SCHOOL

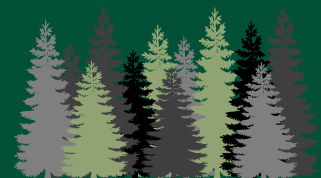
A message below from our fantastic forest school team:

The focus this term was the changing season and how we can support each other, and the animal and insect life around us. We developed team-building skills by working together to identify trees from their leaves in the forest school area and played games that required forward thinking and resilience.

When the weather was less kind, building dens together gave some welcome shelter! Year 4 practised their tool skills using bow saws, mallets and axes to prepare wood for a fire, as well as preparing and lighting the fire safely. A highlight this term was making nourishing and affordable soup using carrots, potatoes, celery and onions - every Year 4 child helped with peeling and chopping. If there is any assistance in the kitchen needed this Christmas we can officially confirm every child CAN help!

Reception learned all about Peekaboo the hedgehog, making leaf piles for him, hiding hedgehog food in secret places and checking he hadn't crawled too near a fire. Pine cone bird feeders were made to help the birds, while others enjoyed Nordic weaving, making clay hedgehogs and Mexican mandalas with great skill. We ended the term with songs around the fire enjoying hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows.

It has been a delight to see so many children grow in confidence, rise to challenges, and simply enjoy being outside, whatever the weather!



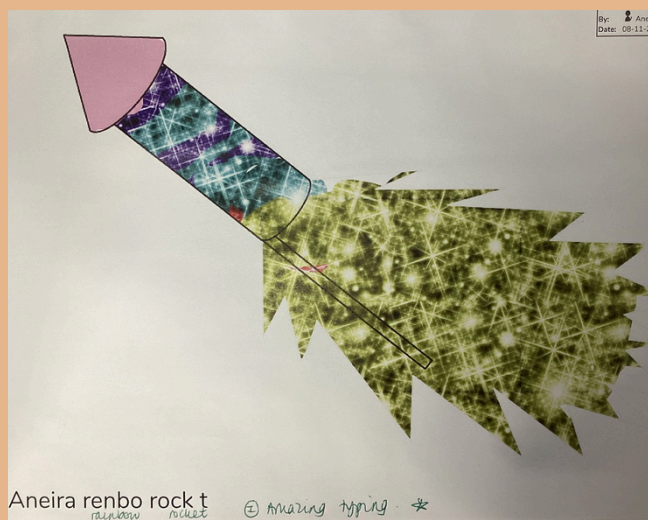
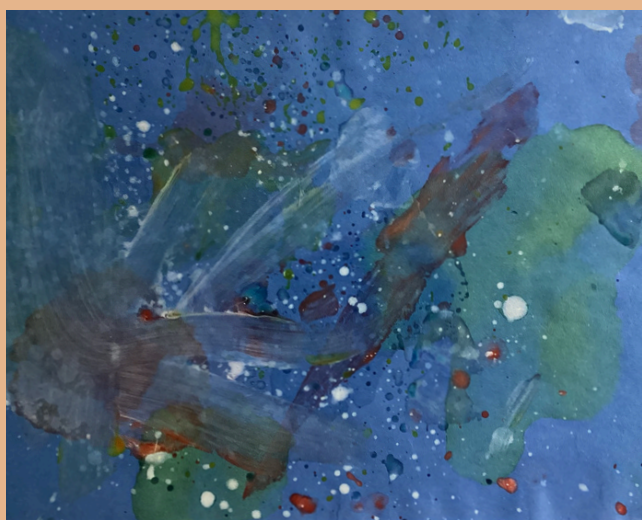
HEDGEHOGS CLASS



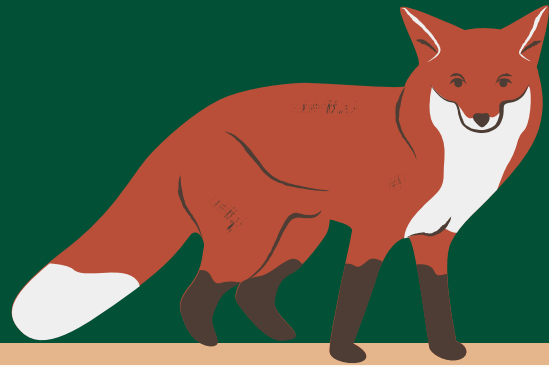
Hedgehogs have had an excellent term, continuing our Discover Conflict project by looking into the Great Fire of London. We enjoyed learning about the sequence of events and then creating our own artwork using a range of media.

Our more recent Discover learning has been looking into Christmas - what Christmas traditions have people had in the past compared to now? What did Father Christmas wear?

Finally, Hedgehogs were absolutely fantastic in our Nativity performances! Thanks again for all your support in costume prep and listening to us practise over and over again!



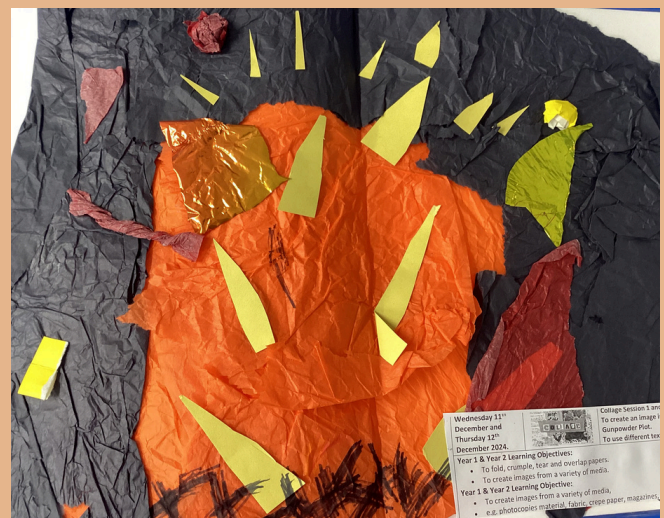
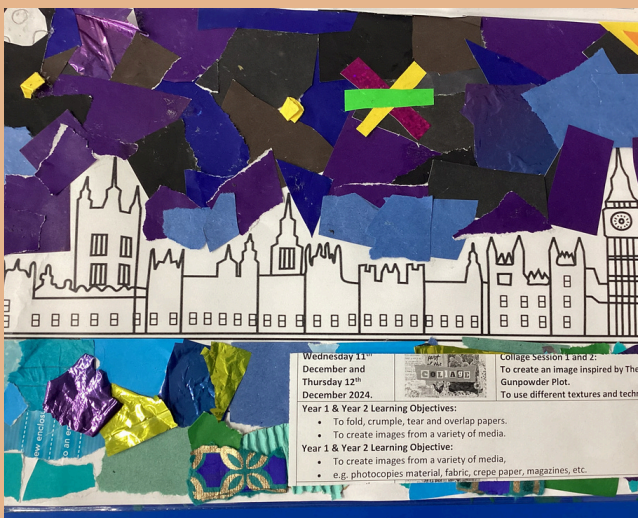
FOXES CLASS



Foxes Class have loved their history project this term, learning all about the story of the Gunpowder Plot.

The children have worked hard to understand the key points of the story, using their knowledge to act it out, analyse sources and create artwork inspired by the events of 1605.

We were very proud to celebrate all the children during their Nativity performance. The children put on a wonderful show with singing and acting worthy of an Oscar award - well done Foxes!



BADGERS CLASS



Badgers have had a fantastic half term finding out about the Romanisation of Britain in our 'Discover: Conflict' project work. We started this term with a fascinating Roman workshop at Plumpton School where we acted as Roman soldiers and studied Roman artefacts. We finished the term with our Open Classroom, showcasing all the amazing project work and artwork that we have created. These included the incredible Roman shields and volcano sculptures inspired by our English class reader 'Escape from Pompeii'.

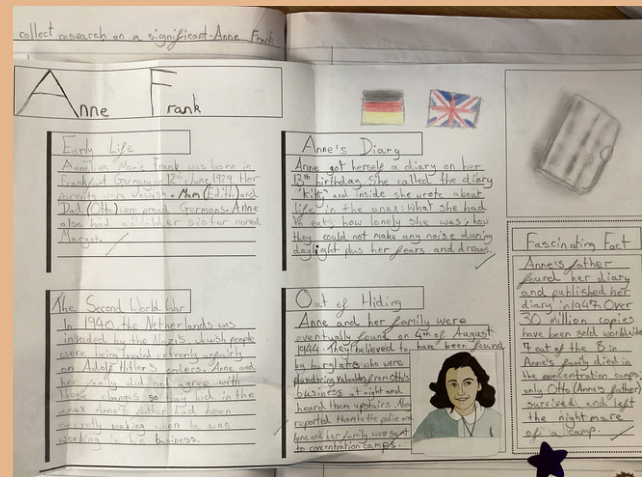
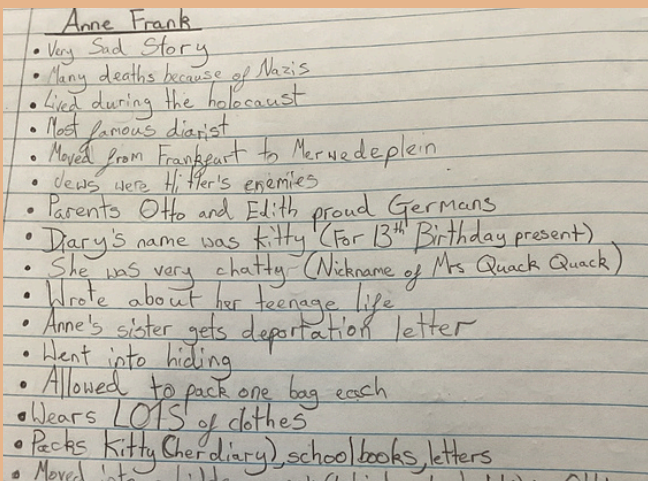
It has been a wonderful term, and we are already looking forward to our 'Explore: Water' project after the Christmas break. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and here's to more exciting learning in the new year! 😊



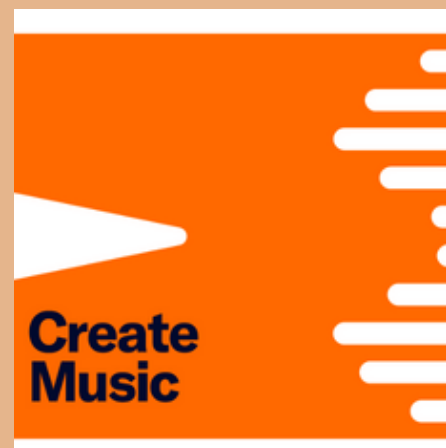
OWLS CLASS



Owls Class has had an exciting and thought-provoking term learning about key events in history. The children began by analysing primary and secondary sources, developing skills to understand historical documents and photos. They explored the timelines of significant events during WW1 and WW2, learning about key battles and figures. A key focus was on the experiences of evacuees during the wars, discussing how families were affected and how propaganda shaped public opinion. A particularly moving topic was the life of Anne Frank. The children learnt about her courage and the importance of remembering her story, while also exploring the issue of segregation and its impact both historically and today. The children have shown great enthusiasm and critical thinking, reflecting deeply on these important events.



What a wonderful experience Owls Class had when they visited Glyndebourne Opera House to perform in the 'One Voice' festival of singing! Over the past two terms, the children worked incredibly hard to rehearse their festive songs and learn the actions, perfecting every note and movement with great enthusiasm and dedication. The performance was a huge success; their energy and focus were truly impressive. It was a magical experience for all involved and the children made us all so proud! A big thank you to the families who came along to support the children and enjoy the performance.



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Hamsey School Charter

- We are kind, gentle and forgiving.
- We celebrate our school community and the world around us.
- We value our learning and creativity.
- We feel safe to be who we are.
- Our pro-social choices create a safe space for everyone.
- Our learning behaviours are:
curiosity, determination, independence, pride and respect.

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