



**HOLYHEAD**  
PRIMARY ACADEMY



# Newsletter

ISSUE  
**8**

## Year 2 - Towers, Tunnels & Turrets



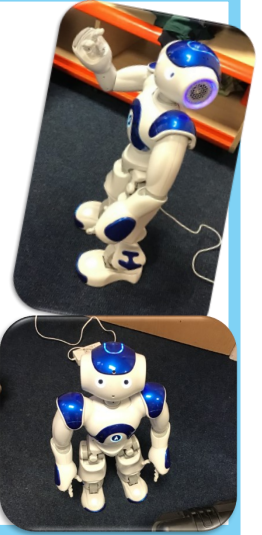
Year 2 have absolutely loved their Spring 1 theme - Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. They have learnt about the evolution of castles - from motte and bailey to stone castles. They have even made their own castles! The children demonstrated phenomenal team work and communication skills. Finally, the children have been researching about certain historic figures, such as William the Conqueror and important dates at Warwick Castle. Another fantastic half term of learning!



## Reception—Toy Story



This half term Reception have been learning all about toys and how things work. They have created their own inventions, instruments and robots and also met Felix the Robot, who can talk and sing songs. He read the story of the three little pigs and he sang 'let it go' which the children all loved and we even joined in singing with him. Reception have used lots of forms of technology over the last half term; some of their favourites have been the iPads and remote control cars.



What an amazing day at Warwick Castle! They were exceptionally well behaved and engaged during each part of the wonderful day. We had a range of in depth discussions about the Normans, William the Conqueror and the features of the castle. One of the best comments from the day was, 'that picture was from the Victorian times...1898... it is from the Victorian times because Queen Victoria died in 1901 which was the end of the Victorian times'.

## Year 2 - Warwick Castle

Many children made links between the castle and their learning - why the castle was rebuilt in stone and the benefits of battlements for defence. The Warwick Castle trip was a delight - well done Year 2 you are amazing historians!

Finally, a huge thank you to our parent volunteers. We really appreciate your time and support - you were fabulous!

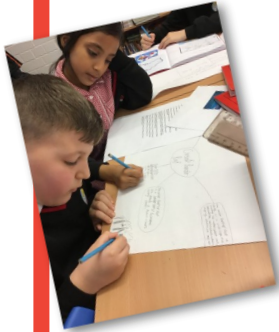




## Year 4—Blue Abyss

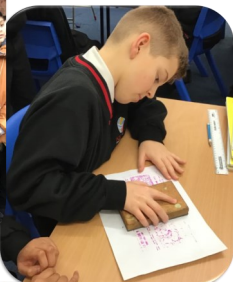


This half term Year 4 have been learning all about the Great Barrier Reef in Australia as part of their topic entitled 'Blue Abyss'. They started off their topic with a visit to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. Children were able to explore the Marine life of the oceans without leaving the City. Photos were taken of the fish to design and make clay pots. During the Geography and Science lessons the children researched the different types of pollution effecting the Ocean. Their final writing outcome has been to write a letter to the Mayor of Sandwell persuading her to take action and reduce the amount of pollution in our Oceans.



## Year 6—A Child's War

Year 6 have had a fantastic half-term studying 'A Child's War.' They have studied different aspects of World War Two with the main focus being evacuation. They have thoroughly enjoyed their reading text 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and used it to write their own evacuation stories. During their trip to Weston Park, they made their own Anderson shelters, dressed up in 1940's clothes, lay in a Morrison shelter and experienced what a 1940's living room would be like. In addition to all of this, they also had Ian Bott, a local historian, come into school and spend an afternoon with them looking at Wednesbury during World War Two and allowing the children to look at a range of World War Two items.





## Most Improved EYFS!

Holyhead Primary Academy was part of an early years project to improve the settings of twenty schools over 2 years. The project's success was measured using an environment rating scale ECERS-R and four educational aspects of provision (ECERS-E). The audits were carried out at the start and end of the project to measure progress as well as the improvement in GLD (Good level of development) results at the end of the academic year.

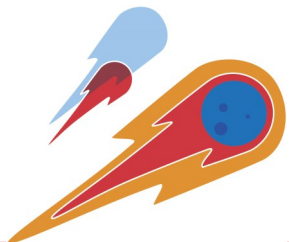


These assessed a variety of areas such as: literacy, mathematics, science/environment and diversity. A team of early years professionals observed and evaluated the effectiveness of planning, delivery, resources and interactions between adults and children as well as between adults and adults. Each area was scored in relation to 'indicators' with which to evaluate the quality of the early years environment in its broadest sense, 1- inadequate to 7- excellent.

After several months of hard work and changes within the EYFS environment, the ECERS-E and ECERS-R audits were carried out again. The results were fantastic; the team had made some phenomenal improvements. The school won THE MOST IMPROVED, which the staff were incredibly proud of!

## Year 3—Tribal Tales!

As a part of Year 3's 'Tribal Tales' theme, they created a Stone Age mural. First, they planned a tribal design and mimicked the examples of true Stone Age languages by researching and looking at cave paintings, found by archaeologists. Secondly, the children created our mural using charcoal for outlines, soft pastels for colour effects, block patterns and tribal shapes. Finally, they evaluated the outcome of our mural, and discussed what could have been further improved upon.



# Teacher Interview: Mrs McMenamin

## Who inspired you to become a teacher?

I have always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I had a very enjoyable experience of primary school and my year 2 teacher inspired me to go into teaching. She made all learning very engaging, in particular art and theme.

## What is your favourite hobby?

I enjoy swimming and socialising with friends.

## What do you like the most about school?

I love working at Holyhead Primary Academy! Both the children and staff are so friendly and welcoming. I always walk out of school with a smile on my face as the children at Holyhead try their best and take on new challenges everyday.

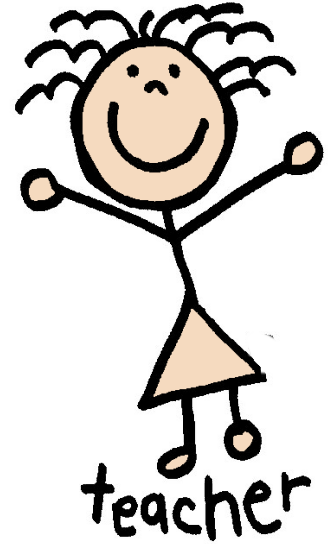
## What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is reading; I enjoy pretending to be a character and enjoy seeing the children's faces light up throughout a story. My favourite children's story is The Gruffalo and I enjoy sharing this with my class.

## If you wanted to travel around the world, which country would you go to first?

I have always wanted to go to Niagra Falls in Ontario Canada, I love seeing natural phenomena up close and would love to travel on the maid of the mist (a boat ride under the falls).

Interviewed by: All of Reception



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