

Hilary House Newsletter



Summer 2 Term – 20th July 2023

What a year!

We've come to the end of another amazing year at Hilary House. At these times, it's important to reflect on the journey we have been on and it really has been special. When we compare the children walking out of our doors this week to the ones we met in September, it is clear to see the huge amount of progress they have made. Thank you to the teachers, TAs, therapists and of course, the parents, for the huge amount of time and energy you have put in to ensure the children got to where they are today.

We're excited for an amazing 2023/2024 academic year. Have an amazing summer and we will see you on the other side, safe and sound.

Blue Class News

Well done to Blue Class for their amazing year. This last term, we have focused on "Our World" and taken trips all over the globe to explore different cultures. We tasted exotic foods, smelled amazing spices and read stories that left our minds reeling.



Thanks to our continuous provision in our outdoor space, the children had daily access to fine motor, gross motor, art, music and literacy activities. Teachers and TAs guided each child through the activities to ensure that they were reaching their learning goals, modelling the correct language facilitating playful learning.

In maths, children learned to skip count in 5s and 10s, combine and double sets and continued to practice their addition and subtraction.

Our English lessons saw us writing poetry, examining the difference between and information text and narrative and labelling the parts of a report.

Green Class News



Green Class ended the year with a bang! We earned our reward for the Great Green Class Bake off and got to make some delicious treats including pizza, donuts, cake pops and some traditional Irish soda bread, which all the parents got to enjoy at our end of year assembly.

English: This term, our focus text was Zeraffa Giraffa. We used this as a springboard to write in a variety of different genres, including non-chronological reports, letter writing, story writing and poetry. We were also tasked with creating our own 2D and 3D Zeraffa Giraffas, which turned out amazing.

Maths: Our work on multiplication and division kept us quite busy this term as we started to learn the column method and got to grips with problem solving a little more. We ended the term focusing on time, learning to read an analogue and digital clock and calculate differences in time.

Meet Hilary House

David De Matos

Green Class – Year 4



My favourite thing about school is when we do science that is my favourite subject. I like Hilary House because it has the books that I like... books on space, fiction books and non fiction books.

My favourite memory of this year is when we went to McDonalds, because everyone loves McDonalds. I had six chicken nuggets, fries and a bottle of water.

If I was the boss, I would let everyone be free and have no school forever. I would watch videos to learn and still be a scientist.

Stephanie Church

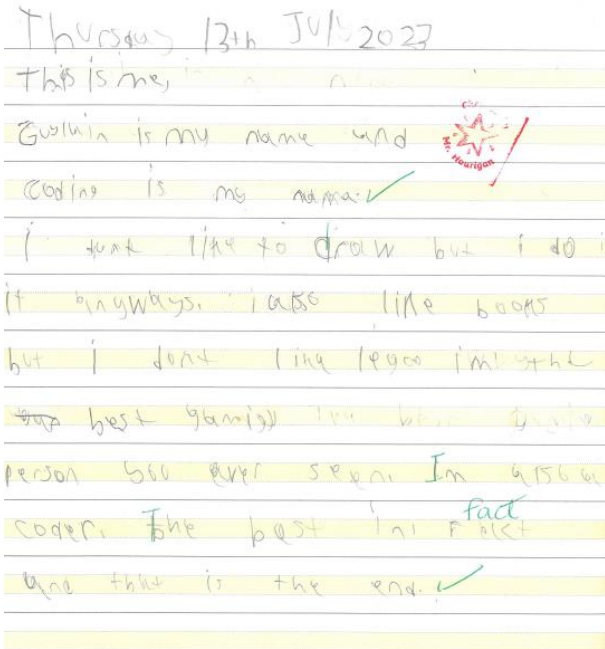
TA – Green Class



Hi everyone, I've had an amazing start to my time in Hilary House. I've worked as a TA for over ten years prior to joining Hilary House and have worked with children for over 30 years. Getting to know the children has been great. Every day is different and full of fun. My favourite thing we have done so far was our celebration assembly at the end of the year. I was really proud of the children and how well they learned the songs.

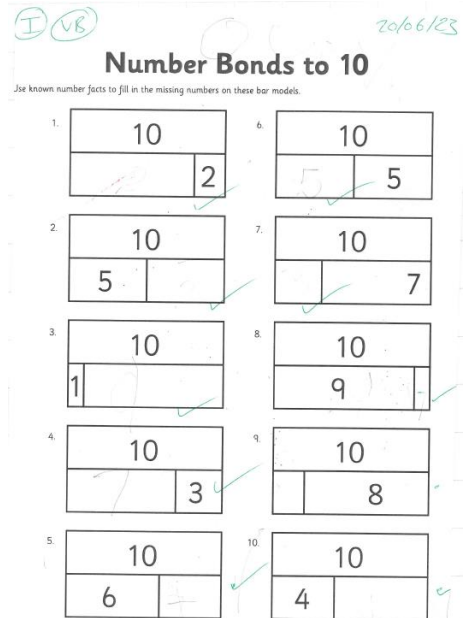
Next year, I'm looking forward to having even more time with the children and continuing to see them grow and develop.

Writing Heroes



Congratulations **Guylain** in Green Class who is this term's writing hero. He wrote an excellent poem called 'This is me' after learning about poetry.

Wall of Fame



Oliver in Blue Class has had his work added to the HH Hall of Fame! He has been practicing his number bonds to 10.

Reading Challenge

Well done to Madyson in Green Class who won our Reading Challenge this term.

Madyson read more than 20 books and wrote a review on each one – well done Madyson!

Keep up the amazing reading for the summer

Dates for your Diary

- 21st July – Last Day of School (Half Day)
- 4th Sept – Inset Day – School Closed
- 5th Sept – First Day of School.

Next year - Homework

- Children receive their homework on a Friday and it is due the following Thursday.
- Spellings are given on a Monday with spelling test on a Friday.
- Children who do not complete homework stay in at play time to complete on Friday.

Spotlight on Speech & Language

Children learn language best in natural contexts. Over the summer holidays you can promote communication and interaction development, as well as understanding of the world by taking your children on lots of trips and outings.

This could include trips to Battersea Park, a Pet farm, the Beach (if some hot weather returns) or visiting a museum. Children learn new words in motivating, fun and meaningful activities.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Summer break and I'm looking forward to hearing all about it in September.



Spotlight on Occupational Therapy

Using scissors successfully to cut is an important rite of passage for any child. Especially those who have 'accidentally' cut off a chunk of their hair, or even better, their sibling's hair!



1. Ensure the child is holding both the paper and the scissors

This might sound quite obvious, but it is a common error I see in the classroom. Often the adult will 'help' the child by holding the paper and just letting them use the scissors. In order to be successful with cutting skills, children need to learn to use both of their hands together. They need to know that the scissor needs to line up with the paper. They must be able to hold the paper steady and in the right position for the scissors. If the adult is holding the paper for the child, then they don't learn scissor skills correctly.

2. A child that has their thumbs facing the ceiling will develop more mature scissor skills

It is essential that the child has their thumbs facing the ceiling. This tip applies to both hands. They must position their hands so that their thumbs are on top. and their little finger faces the floor. It is important they do this with both the hand holding and scissors and the hand holding the paper. So, their thumb will be on the top and their fingers will be underneath.

3. Make sure the child is looking!

A child will never be successful or accurate with their cutting unless they are looking at the scissors and paper whilst they are cutting. If the child isn't showing any interest, maybe their are not ready to be learning to cut.

4. Start learning cutting skills with BBQ tongs

For children that are really struggling to co-ordinate the idea of squeezing scissors, tongs can be a nice place to start. Reaching out for things with BBQ tongs can be a lot of fun! As can snapping onto things. Using kitchen tongs is a good next step. Then the child can use ice tongs as these are smaller and a similar size to scissors. Once the child has the ideas of squeezing and better hand control they could also try tweezers.

5. Consider self-opening or spring loaded scissors

If the child is really struggling to use scissors with one hand, purchase a pair of **self-opening scissors**. These scissors have a spring in them that makes them automatically open. The benefit of this is that the child doesn't have to focus on the opening and closing part of cutting. It means they can learn to line up the scissors with the thing they are cutting. The child can practice this without having to coordinate the opening and closing

Our Memories!

Blue Class learned about the world and the continents.



Blue Class learned about China, tasting Chinese food, listening to traditional music and making lanterns.



During our food tasting group, we tried lots of new flavours and textures.



Green Class created some amazing Zerffa Giraffa 3D models!



The Great Green Class Bake Off was a huge success!

