



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Autumn (2) 2024

Message from our Headteacher

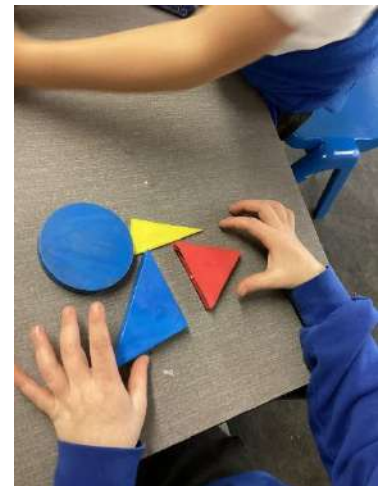
As we come to the end of the half term, it's a perfect opportunity to reflect on all the wonderful things that have taken place in our school community. From special events such as our Diwali experience and Christmas celebrations, to enjoying new stories and exciting writing opportunities, this half term has been filled with achievements and moments to celebrate. I hope that you enjoy reading about these in this newsletter.



As always, the children have shown enthusiasm and resilience, embracing every challenge and opportunity with energy and creativity. I am so proud of everything they have accomplished and grateful to our dedicated staff for their hard work and to our families for your unwavering support. As we now look forward to the holidays, I want to take this chance to wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas. May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and plenty of time to relax together. Thank you for making this half term so special, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

Oak Class

In maths we have explored 2d shapes and created some shape pictures.



Christian: I made a cat.

Luca: I made a giant wobbly house!

Freya: I made a Christmas tree with triangles.

We had a fantastic time exploring snow earlier this term. The unexpected weather created great discussions and investigations of ice and how to help it melt quicker.



Lola: I threw snowballs at the fence.

Jack: The bikes got stuck in the snow.

Maisie: I made snowballs.

We thought about Remembrance and made some poppies in class.

Elsie: We made peace poppies out of salt dough and then painted them. Then when they dried we took them home.

Kaya: We painted the poppies red and black.



Our focus story this half-term was *The Three Little Pigs!* We were shocked to discover that the big bad wolf had entered our classroom one night. He had made such a mess and we had to investigate what had happened and why. Our final piece of work was to think of a way to trap the big bad wolf!



Hammanah: The big bad wolf threw all of the chairs down.

Niamh: The big bad wolf knocked the table down.

Joshua: He got in through the window!



Golden Book
Lucy



Wow work
Elsie
Alwin

Chestnut Class

It has been a busy half-term in Year 1. The children have enjoyed some new subjects, such as geography and Design Technology!

The children have impressed their teachers with their enthusiasm and perseverance in learning many new skills.

Here is a snapshot of the learning that has taken place:

In our geography lessons, we used the compass to find North, East, South and West. Mrs Ghuman taught us the mnemonic *Naughty Elephants Squirt Water*. We used the blocks to create our own aerial plan of our classroom.



Arthur: We can look down on the aerial plan

We have been learning about weather and seasonal change in the UK, in our science lessons. We made a weather vane and then tested it on the playground to notice which direction the wind was coming from.



Owen: The coldest wind is from the north!

We started off December by making Christingles. We can explain the different parts of a Christingle and their significance to Christians.



Polly: It was fun making the Christingle
Teddy: Sweets are nice



Golden Book
Violet



Wow work
Elliott L
Maya

Hawthorn Class

Hawthorn Class have had a busy half term learning all about The Gunpowder Plot. We began the topic by having a WOW afternoon. This enabled the children to gain an insight into what The Gunpowder Plot was all about but also to get them excited and interested in the topic. We talked about Guy Fawkes and his role but also how this then links to Bonfire Night. The children created Firework art using wet chalk and also pipe cleaner sparklers!



The children have really enjoyed our DT unit of work on Fabric Faces. They have explored different fabrics and used a variety of materials to create hair. The children looked at how to join fabric and attach different materials. They designed their fabric face and had fun creating their face using a variety of materials.



Lily - I liked making the hair for my fabric face.

Harper - I liked sewing the eyes on my face.

Ben - I liked making the crown out of felt.



Golden Book
Hawthorn Class



Wow work
Lily
Sophia

Rowan Class

During our D.T. lessons we have continued to learn about a balanced, nutritious diet. We have learned to identify different herbs, follow simple recipes and use simple kitchen utensils. We have enjoyed making basil pesto and fruit smoothies. Some of us even enjoyed eating them too!



Eris - I liked making the smoothie because it helped me learn some kitchen skills and gave me healthy food ideas.

Charlotte - I liked making the smoothies. I also liked evaluating the smoothies and inventing my own flavours.



We have really enjoyed our English lessons inspired by Nen and the Lonely Fisherman. This half term we have worked hard on using expanded noun phrases and time adverbials to help paint a detailed picture in our reader's mind. Below are some examples of a storm at sea.

Thursday 28th November
LO: to write a description of the storm
That night Pelagios was very angry and depressed because his son was friends with a human so he raised the roughest storm from his powerful trident. Though tears of sadness and frustration fell, Pelagios was gathering enormous heavy storm clouds. Next Pelagios stirred all of the water ~~in~~ until it made the biggest wave he could ^{that} ~~trapped~~ on top of each other. All of a sudden terrified Ernest was tossed straight into the heart of the storm. Minutes later Nen was swimming from the sandy shore to the deep dark depths of the ocean but Nen could not find Ernest. Nen was so heart broken he shouted at Pelagios.

* Thursday 28th November 2024
LO: to write a description of the storm
When Pelagios saw Nen and Ernest playing together he got so frustrated that ~~to~~ he started a raging storm! Then Pelagios couldn't help himself, ~~so~~ he cried watery tears of anger and sadness. Straight after that he swirled heavy thunder clouds that darkened the sky of the storm. Suddenly the flash ~~ing~~ lightning launched through the grey, stormy sky. A few seconds later the thunder roared like a very angry lion! After that Ernest fell into the violent, ~~lashing~~ ocean. Nen swam down as fast as he could, ~~instantly~~ he knew it was going to be tricky but didn't give up. He did not find Ernest though.

Finn - I think my handwriting has really improved now I am in year 3. I also use rich vocabulary in my writing.

Tabby - Now I am in year 3 I can write more because I was inspired by our book Nen and The Lonely Fisherman. I can also use more adjectives in my writing making my writing more descriptive.

In Science we have been learning about a balanced diet and the three different types of skeletons: endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic. We had great fun one afternoon building the human endoskeleton using anything we could find on the back field.



Jacob - Building the skeletons was really good because I learned about the bones in the human skeleton.



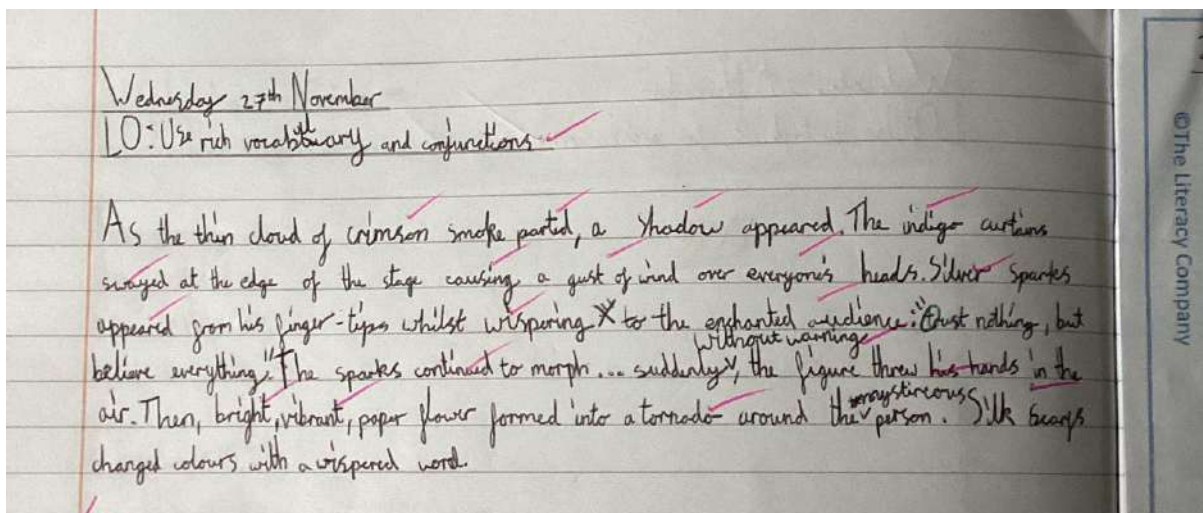
Golden Book
Archie



Wow work
Charlotte
Riley

Beech Class

In English this half term we have been reading a book called Leon and the Place Between. On the first day, we came into class after assembly and our room was decorated like a circus. Miss Hines gave us a special ticket to enter and we got to play with cards, look at different pictures and eat yummy popcorn. The story has been so exciting and we have learned some new skills. Our writing has been absolutely fantastic and is now full of rich vocabulary, apostrophes for possession, conjunctions and fronted adverbials. Here are some examples:



Wednesday 27th November

LO use rich vocabulary and conjunctions. ✓

A swish and a swoosh of the navy curtains and a small puff of purple smoke spread out from the a tiny gap of the curtains. The crowd gasped with excitement as the curtains opened. A man appeared on the wooden stage with a magenta cloak covering most of him. He bowed theatrically and waved his hand magically. Suddenly fizzing sparks exploded out of his fingertips and sprayed everywhere. "Trust nothing but believe everything" he said sternly with his arms in the air.

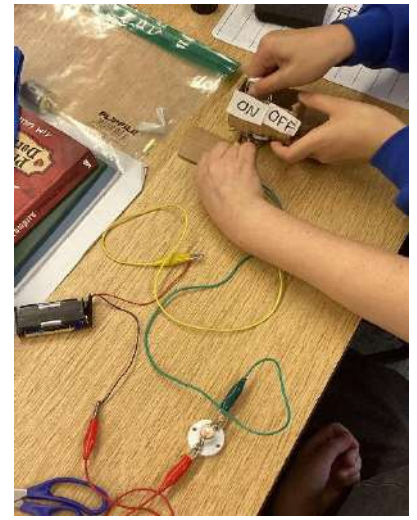
Tuesday 3rd December

LO use rich vocabulary and conjunctions

As Abdul Karam swished his cloak aside, a box appeared in the middle of the stage. A golden ladder led up to the entrance and the small intricate door creaked open. I held my breath and waited to see what happened next. Then, the incredible man shouted at the top of his voice "Who will step into the magic?" I took my first look inside the box, my heart ~~beat~~^{skipped} with fear. The box was as dark as your worst nightmare, the only thing I could see was a single lantern shimmering in the darkness. I didn't like the look of it one bit. Suddenly, my brother Leon catapulted towards the box. I tried to grab him but I was too slow. Leon was in ^{and} the door slammed shut. He was gone.

Science has been all about electricity. We learned how to be safe around electricity and how to build circuits. We did an experiment where we tested different materials to see which ones were conductors and which were insulators. We found out how a switch works and then used some different conductors to design and make our own - this was really tricky!





This half term, we had our charity week where we decided to sell cakes and second-hand books to raise money for a charity of our choice. We donated some of our pre-loved books and made/bought lots of lovely cakes to sell on the playground at the end of the day.

To choose the charity, we all had a vote so it would be fair and we chose Cancer Research. All money made from the sale was donated to them. The sale went really well and we sold out of most cakes, the queue went all the way across the playground.

Altogether we raised £321.25! We are really proud of how much money we raised and we know it is going to such a good cause.



Golden Book
Maisie



Wow work
Jack
Ava

Remembrance Sunday





School Council

The School Council have been busy promoting Anti-Bullying week and Road Safety week during this half term. They designed posters to display around the school and in class shared with their peers, the aim of both of these national causes. Odd Socks Day was a huge success and it was fantastic to see how unique all of the socks were and a reminder to us all that we are unique and that we should respect each other's uniqueness.



Choir

Over the past few weeks the school choir has been busy bringing festive music to the community. They performed carols at the Luton Airport, providing a cheerful welcome for travellers, and visited the Bright Hour at the Methodist Church in Harlington to share some Christmas joy. The children also had a fantastic time singing in a concert with Ampthill Town Band.

We hope that some more children may wish to come along on Wednesday lunchtimes after Christmas to join the choir!



Does your child want to play a brass instrument?

Following on from the Harlington and Sundon Lower School choirs performing at Ampthill Town Band's Christmas Concert on Sunday 8th December, Mark Lowe came in to do a brass assembly on Wednesday 18th December.

There has been lots of interest in children wanting to learn to play a brass instrument in 2024. So, if your child has shown an interest to play the pBuzz, cornet, trumpet, tenor horn, euphonium and trombone (pBone), an Inspiring Music tutor can start these lessons in 2025.

We are very much looking forward to seeing lots of new children playing brass instruments, as they realise how enjoyable learning a musical instrument can be.

So, if your child is now interested in having brass lessons, please find out more information [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please do email Mark at Mark.Lowe2@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk