



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Summer (2) 2024

Message from our Headteacher

Another year has flown by and I cannot believe that we are in the last few days of the Summer Term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this academic year.

Looking back over the last year, it is fantastic to reflect on how much has been achieved. In February we merged with the Pyramid Schools Trust and it has been great developing relationships with the other schools in the Trust and working together to further improve our offer for the children in all of our schools. This year we have celebrated a range of achievements: social, academic, musical and sporting. It is always a pleasure to lead Celebration Assembly and to present the children with values that demonstrate their achievements both in and out of school, for their excellent learning, living the values and their achievements in sports. This year we have also developed our English teaching through introducing Pathways to Read and Write and replacing our KS2 book scheme, thanks to the FRIENDS of Harlington Lower School. A true love of reading has developed across the school as a result of this, and of the work done in the library. It was wonderful to hear the Year 4 children speaking in the Leavers' Assembly this week about how much they love reading.

In December we were pleased that Ofsted recognised what a great school Harlington Lower is through their inspection. Just this week, Sundon Lower School was also inspected by Ofsted. Whilst we are not able to share the result at present, the school, supported by colleagues at Harlington, did a tremendous job in showing the qualities and strengths of the school.

However, Harlington Lower School is about so much more than academic attainment or Ofsted. It has been wonderful to be part of so many whole school events over the past few weeks where I see the responsibility, resilience, kindness and respect that our children show. The demonstration of these values shows how much the children gain from your support at home and that of staff at school. Our shared values is what makes Harlington Lower so special.

This time of year is always a sad one as we say goodbye to those leaving us to move onto new adventures. This year we say goodbye to Mrs Wilmington and Mr Turner who are moving onto new challenges. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the school over their time with us. Mrs Greaves is also moving to teach at Sundon Lower School and we look forward to continuing to work with her there.

We also say a special goodbye to Mrs Edmonds as she begins her retirement. Mrs Edmonds has contributed so much to the school and enriched the lives of so many children and families over her 13 years here. I know that you will greatly miss her, as will we, but I know that you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

This week we also say goodbye to our Year 4s. It has been a privilege to have you as pupils at Harlington Lower and I know how lucky your Middle Schools are to have you. Below is the poem that we shared in our final assembly.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing those returning on 4th September.

Miss Paulding

Leaving School by Jade Hughes

We've now left school.
It's how the story ends.
Years of happiness is what we recommend,
It's what we say,
But there's always a little pain,
Because once you've left,
It's not the same,
You could walk through school and you would see,
Your friends who have grown up incredibly,
But now you've gone,
It's not the same.
As you may never see them again,
Your friends who have grown up right beside you,
Who have helped you through your daily strife,
Will go ahead and leave behind them,
You who wants the same old life.
But you can not live your life in the past,
Hoping that the same memories will last,
You have to move on and just be glad,
That leaving has made you so sad,
At this just shows that you have loved,
Your days at school here with us.
So go ahead and live your life,
And become what you want to be,
But don't forget the days you spent,
When you were young at school with me.

Message from Mrs Edmonds

I have thoroughly enjoyed my career as a teacher and especially the last 13 years when I have been here at Harlington Lower School. I have been so lucky to work with wonderful children, staff and families.

I will miss so much about working at Harlington Lower School. The staff here work extremely hard to give the best that they can to the children at HLS. They are an absolute pleasure to work with and I will miss this extended family.

I am not sure that I will miss the rainy mornings standing at the gate but I have appreciated the conversations that I have had with many of you in the mornings as you drop your children to school. The children are kind, respectful, hardworking and lots of fun to be with. They live the school values every single day and I know that they will all go on to do amazing things.

I will miss you all, I wish you a lovely relaxing Summer break.

Mrs Edmonds

Wedding News

As many of you will know, Miss Paulding will be getting married in the Summer holidays. We are sure that our whole school community will join with us in wishing her and her husband-to-be a very special day and a long and happy marriage ahead of them. Miss Paulding will return in September and be known as Mrs Blunt.



Oak Class

Bingo Charity Event

Thank you to everyone that attended Oak class' bingo charity event. The children had so much fun playing bingo with their grown ups and winning prizes. We managed to raise £134, for our chosen charity, Children in Need.

Rumaisah: It was so much fun!

Claudia: My mummy came for bingo!

Violet: I won a prize!

Sports Day

We had a successful first sports morning. The weather was just right! We all had the opportunity to take part in the running race and then either the Kings and Queens race or the Speckled Frogs race.



Freddie: I had so much fun!

Theo: I came 2nd and 3rd!

Owen: The yellow team won!

Beach Afternoon

Oak class were delighted with a beach afternoon, as a reward for filling their class marble jar. So much fun was had and the children were super sensible whilst having lots of fun.



Florence: We had a water balloon fight!

Violet: I got splashed!

Lacey: We went into the paddling pool and into the sand.

Herrings Green Farm

Oak class had a wonderful time on our school trip to Herrings Green Farm. We saw many different birds of prey and also some other animals. The bird show was fantastic and we all had the chance to hold an owl and fly an owl. We had a wonderful picnic together and we even had time to play in the farm playground.



Elliott: I held the tortoise

Derin: I touched the bunnies

Luca: I liked stroking the snake

Decarlo: The snake was called Sweetcorn

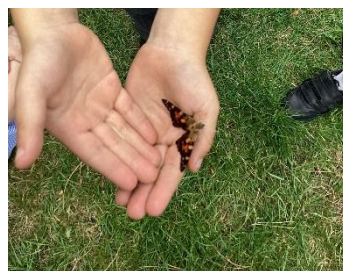
Olympic Day

Oak class enjoyed taking part in Olympic day. We celebrated by taking part in activities such as boxing, long jump, shooting, goal ball and many more. We chose to learn about the country of France and enjoyed building the city out of construction material, decorating the flag, working as a team to build the Eiffel Tower from straws and we were very lucky to try some traditional French baguette and crepes for snack.



Butterflies

This term in Oak class we have watched some caterpillars grow into butterflies. This has supported our understanding of change and growth and how we are going to flourish and grow, as we move into Year One.



Owen: We held the butterflies

Paisley: I liked the colours of the butterflies

Warris: I like hold butterfly



Golden Book
Florence



Wow work
Claudia
Sid

Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class we have enjoyed learning about the weather in geography. We have recorded the weather over the course of a week, acted out our very own weather forecast and designed posters to teach people how to stay safe in the sun.

Ben - I liked learning about staying safe in the sun. I put sunscreen on, wear protective clothes and wear a hat when I go in the sun.

Dylan - I liked learning about what the weather is like in different countries.

Holly - I liked making the weather diaries because it was fun to look at the weather outside.



We enjoyed our trip to Milton Keynes Museum. We experienced a Victorian lesson and explored a Victorian house. We also learnt the differences between rich households and poor households in Victorian times.

Tillie - I liked the garden because there was a little beehive.

Pietro - I liked learning about Queen Victoria.

Georgia - I liked learning about the different toys that were played with in Victorian times.

Kay - I liked washing the clothes with the dolly and mangle.





Golden Book
Jaxson



Wow work
Liam
ChloeL

Hawthorn Class

The children have loved our DT unit of work this half term on Sensational Salads. They enjoyed tasting a variety of salads; their favourite was the carrot and sultana salad! The children then had the opportunity to make their own carrot and sultana salad and really enjoyed eating it. They made a tuna pasta salad and are excited about making their fruit salad in the last week of term!



The children had a great trip to Milton Keynes Museum. They really enjoyed the Victorian school lesson, looking at the different rooms in the Victorian house and using the washing dolly and the mangle to do the laundry.

Aaraiz - The fire in the kitchen was good. It was really warm.

Erselda and Tabby - When people were bad at school, they got put in a basket and pulled up to the ceiling all day.

Eris - I liked doing the school lesson in the school room.

Holly - I liked washing the clothes with the dolly and mangle.



Golden Book
Aurora



Wow work
Emily
Sophia

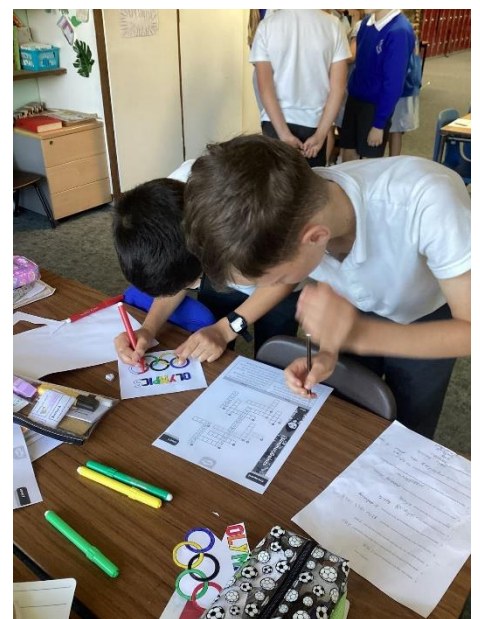
Rowan Class

Year 3 has had a very busy last half term. The class took part in a singing showcase 'Something for Summer' at The Grove Theatre to perform songs they learned in their music/singing lessons. All children performed brilliantly and represented our school wonderfully.

For our DT topic this half term 'Let's Go Fly a Kite', the class have individually made kites. They considered the key parts and success criteria to ensure flying their kite is successful.



At the end of the term the whole school took part in Olympics Day, celebrating the upcoming Olympics, learning about a country selected by each class and taking part in Olympic and Paralympic events. Rowan chose Spain and had a fantastic day!





Golden Book
Ralph



Wow work
Lucy
Jack

Beech Class

In Beech Class we have had another fantastic half term full of exciting learning opportunities and activities.

In DT, we learned about the history of Warburtons (the bread company). We tasted lots of their products and rated them based on their appearance, smell, texture and taste. Next, we used salt dough to practise our dough shaping skills (this was trickier than it looked), before finally designing our own bread.

Last week we took part in 'The Great Bread Bake Off' and had so much fun baking out bread and adding the ingredients we had chosen. Some of us chose savoury with garlic, cheese and herbs and some of us chose sweet ingredients like chocolate, honey and orange. Once we had evaluated our final products, we ate the bread and it was delicious. Lots of us were going to take some home to show our families but unfortunately the bread didn't last that long as we ate it all!



We also had lots of fun on Olympic day where we learned all about Jamaica. It was interesting to hear about the different genres of music like Reggae and we listened to some great songs like Three Little Birds by Bob Marley and I Can See Clearly Now by Jimmy Cliff. We talked about different types of food and tasted some mango which was delicious! Then we did some craft activities and made Jamaican flags, Olympic gold medals and the Olympic rings. In the afternoon we had a workshop with some special visitors where we got to try out lots of new Olympic and Paralympic sports like goalball and boccia. We really enjoyed trying new things.



Golden Book
Sophia B



Wow work
Phebe
Lucas

Music Assembly



We had a wonderful music assembly this half term. Our brass players were able to play for us for the first time and we were delighted that their teacher Mr Lowe was able to attend to play with them. We are so fortunate to have many children who are learning to play the piano and they all entertained us with their pieces. The recorder players were fabulous and the assembly finished with two songs from the school choir. Thank you to all of the children who performed for us, you are all amazing!

Choir

The choir had a wonderful time this term singing at a range of events, including the Bright Hour at the Methodist Church and outside the Hub and Spoke Café. Well done to everyone who has sung in choir this year! We look forward to continuing to sing next year, and perhaps welcoming some new members.



Library and Summer Reading Challenge

Many thanks to everyone who has returned their library books this week. It has been lovely to speak to children across the school over the last couple of weeks about the library and to hear their ideas about how to improve this fantastic resource even further. I look forward to welcoming them back into the library next term.

Mrs Philip from the Central Bedfordshire library service visited us this week. She spoke to the children in assembly to introduce this summer's reading challenge, being run jointly by The Reading Agency and local public libraries.

This year the challenge is **Marvellous Makers**, with a particular focus on creativity. It runs from Friday 19 July to Saturday 7 September 2024 and is a great way to encourage children to keep reading over the long summer break. Further details of the challenge and details of some very special local events can be found online at https://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/bedfordshire/vlib/0.children_teenagers/src_cbc.htm

We will also again be running our own school summer reading challenge, alongside the public library scheme. Coming home with the children in their book bags will either be a reading record sheet with some suns to colour in (Reception and Year One) or a bingo style sheet of challenges (Years Two and Three). Instructions for each are included on the sheets. If children would like to keep a list of what they've read, they are welcome to do so on the back of this sheet, though this is entirely optional. We would be really interested to know which book they enjoy most, though, and there is space on the front of their sheet for them to record this.

Please can these be returned to me at school by the end of the first week of term in September.

I would love to hear how your children get on with both these challenges and am looking forward to hearing all about the fantastic books they've discovered over the summer!

Thanks for your support,

Mrs Georgescu