



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Spring (1) 2025

Message from our Headteacher

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting half term, I am delighted to share some of the wonderful learning experiences and achievements from across the school. This newsletter is a chance to celebrate the children's successes and reflect on the fantastic work taking place in our classrooms and beyond. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Mr Bredenkamp, who has joined us this week as our Site Agent across both Harlington and Sundon Lower Schools. I would also like to welcome Mrs Mehta and Ms Morton who have joined us as Midday Supervisors. We are thrilled to have them as part of our school team and look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to our school community.

Oak Class

We have been busy celebrating many things this term: Chinese New Year and Children's mental health week are just a few!

During Chinese New Year we participated in a variety of activities such as writing in Chinese, working in our Chinese restaurant role play area, learning a dragon dance and of course, sampling a variety of Chinese food.



Elsie: I loved the chicken noodles and rice. It was delicious!

Jack: I liked tasting the prawn crackers

For Children's Mental Health Week we made positivity jars. Each jar was carefully decorated and then filled with notes of kindness, compliments and pictures from our friends. We also discussed how special and unique we all are.



Talia: I loved making my jar
George E: I like playing with my friends

Our focus story this half-term was *The Naughty Bus!* We loved looking at the pictures and seeing all the naughty things that the bus got up to. We practiced writing descriptive sentences about the bus and this helped us when we retold the story in our own words.

Niamh: It was funny when The Naughty Bus drove into the beans!

Christian: We wrote some sentences about The Naughty Bus



Golden Book
 Freya



Wow work
 George R
 Lucy

Chestnut Class

Once again, it has been a busy half-term in Chestnut Class. The children continue to work hard and persevere with new challenges.

In RE we have started to learn about the religion of Islam, focusing on the key question 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' The children have been respectful and enthused to learn about the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam.



Owen: We learnt that the Qu'ran is written in Arabic.

Arthur: I liked dressing up when it was my turn.

In Science our learning has involved investigating materials and their properties. We learnt that everyday items we use come from a source and that some objects can be made of many different materials.

Rumaisah: We investigated the materials and matched with their objects

Polly: We looked at different materials

We were lucky enough to have a storyteller visit this half-term. We visited the library and were able to get involved in the telling of a story.



Elliot R: I liked the mouse.

Lacey: We had great fun!



Golden Book
Nell



Wow work
Rumaisah
Elliott L

Hawthorn Class

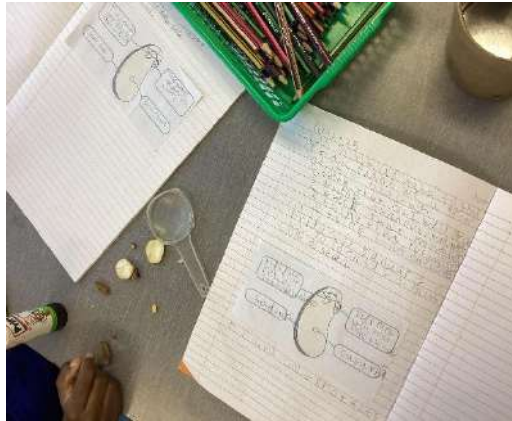
The children in Hawthorn Class have really enjoyed learning to play the recorder in our music lessons this half term. We have learnt to play the notes B and A and we are beginning to learn G. The children have been learning to play some different pieces of music using these notes. They will have the opportunity to carry on learning to play the recorder in our music lessons next half term.



Oliver - I really like learning to play the recorder.

Holly - Recorders are really fun and it's exciting to learn.

In Science, Hawthorn Class have learnt all about Plants and what they need to grow and stay healthy. The children took part in an investigation to find out what would happen to 5 plants if they were to each not have water, light, soil and the right temperature. We discovered how seeds germinate depending on what the seed is given as well as the life cycles of the seeds. The children have been very enthusiastic about this topic and have helped to water and care for these plants all half term.



Tillie - I liked doing the plant investigation and seeing if they grow or not.

Chloe. C - It was really fun to see if the bean seeds would grow.

In Geography, the class have looked at the topic 'Sensational Safari' and explored all about Kenya. We have discussed the culture, the animals, key places in the country and made comparisons between our lives and the lives of people in Kenya. Mr Kingham visited the class to share his personal experiences of Kenya and to show the children pictures of his trips including visits to the local schools and safari pictures as well as different musical instruments for the children to play and fabrics.

Annie - I liked seeing the differences between how we grow up in our country and how children in Kenya grow up.

Kay - I liked making the passport for Kenya.

Georgia - I liked it when Mr Kingham came and talked to us about Kenya. He brought in some instruments to show us.



Golden Book
Georgia



Wow work
Elijah
Dylan

Rowan Class

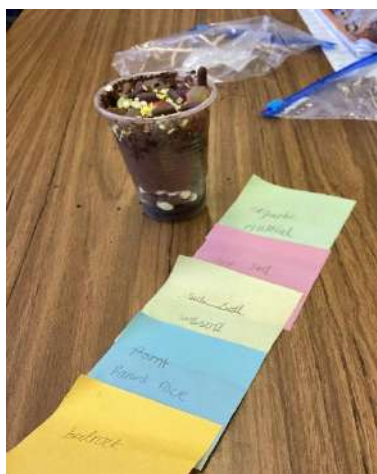
This half term Rowan Class had their Charity Week. We had a class discussion sharing different ideas for their fundraising event. It was a very close vote and winning by one was a sponsored mile run around the playground. Although some were rather hesitant about running for a mile, the enthusiasm and support of others allowed every child to run a mile. Some enthusiastic runners were able to run 2 or even 4 miles!! Their hot, sweaty faces definitely showed the effort every child put into the run. Our chosen charity was Cancer Research UK. They will be receiving an incredible £611.73. Thank you so much for supporting Rowan Class' event.



The children have enjoyed our music lessons with Mrs Monteath from Inspiring Music. We have learned lots of new songs with the hope of performing them at the theatre in the summer.



During our Science lessons we have been learning about Rocks and Soil. The children have enjoyed learning about the three different types of natural rock and how fossils are created. We have learned about the fascinating Mary Anning. This week we learned how soil is made of rock and that there are several layers. Below you will see we learned all this when creating our edible soil.



This half term in English our book has been Stone Age Boy. The children have really enjoyed this book as they can continue their History learning too. The children have worked extremely hard to develop their descriptive writing to help paint a vivid image in their readers mind. I'm sure you will agree.



Golden Book
Riley



Wow work
Aaraiz
Robyn

Beech Class

It has been a wonderful half term in Beech Class!

In English, we have been reading a book called Escape from Pompeii which is all about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. We found it really interesting learning about the lives of people in Pompeii and how the eruption would have affected them. We watched animated clips of Vesuvius erupting and got to see things like 'pyroclastic flows' in action. We've worked really hard on our writing: punctuating speech accurately, using paragraphs and building rich vocabulary.

I woke early this morning, the sun shone in through my window. I could hear the noisy traders haggling in the cobblestone streets below. I could smell the bread that had just been baked at the bakery. Lost in my thoughts, I tumbled out of my bed and ran to the window. I could hear the sweet sound of birdsong drifting through the air. Even though it was early, people still crowded the streets. Lots were lining up to collect the bread from the bakery, some were going to the taverns to have some breakfast. Even so, I could see people still lying in their beds, snoring away oblivious to the noise of the city. I suddenly realised that I was sweating it was very hot today and my window was facing the sun. Beyond the city walls, loomed Pompeii's greatest protector, Mount Vesuvius. It's immense height meant it towered above the city. It was so tall it looked like it touched heaven itself. Suddenly, I heard my dad calling it was time for breakfast. I ran downstairs to ~~have~~ have breakfast.

I woke up again to hear the traders haggling at each other seeing who earned the most money. Then I could smell something... something fresh... something mouthwatering... but then I remembered it was the bakery's fresh crossants and bread! I rushed down the stairs as fast as I could hoping ~~some~~ nobody ~~was~~ in my house would notice because it was my turn to collect the bread from the bakery! Surprisingly, there were no ~~flies~~ ^{queens} so I wasn't late anymore so I did some time to see my friend Livia (who lives in the bakery) but but I thought I'd go see her later instead. Soon, the bread was ready and deliciously good so I brought it back to my cosy house to eat with my family. When I'd eaten breakfast, I went down to the harbour to watch the fishermen unload all kinds of stuff, rich catches, salt you name it! I also liked the smell of the sea salt sometimes! Next I went to the forum to hear the politicians' poets about all of the ~~and~~ stuff you could ~~any~~ imagine! Then we all sang together with people laughing happily. ~~remember~~ My favourite one of all is 'Rubble down tumble down', it was a song about when the earth tremor was shaking the whole of Pompeii and some of the buildings haven't been repaired yet and hundreds were made homeless but then ~~also~~ also I wasn't born then. It was a few years before I was born but I did hear people calling when we talked about and they would say, "It was a disaster! Glad it's over!" ~~the~~ always laughing because nobody took it seriously. Next, I sneaked over to the theatre so I could watch the actors rehearse because my dad ~~said~~ chattered at breakfast.

"Livia! Are you OK?" I stammered normally my heart beating faster every second. "Are you hurt?" Livia chuckled and laughed "Don't worry. I'm safe! My Dad is chasing our goat. It went completely haywire when the pottery broke! You could of died laughing!"

I just managed a weak smile.

"Look," I instructed raising my hand to stop Livia from laughing, "Let's go outside to find your father."

We ran outside into the loud, dusty streets. I shivered and Livia clung to my arm. People were shouting and arguing while carrying their belongings outside. As we ran, my friend carefully examined the birds flapping continuously towards the woods.

"They're flying the wrong way," murmured Livia "Look!"

She pointed at a bird tweeting noisily in it's cage Dogs howled as Livia coughed.

"Maybe we should go back," suggested Livia.

"No! The ash is too thick!" I shouted drawing Livia's voice. "Quick! To the harbor!"

My heart was pounding as we ran. An ash cloud gathered above our heads as we dove into a boat.

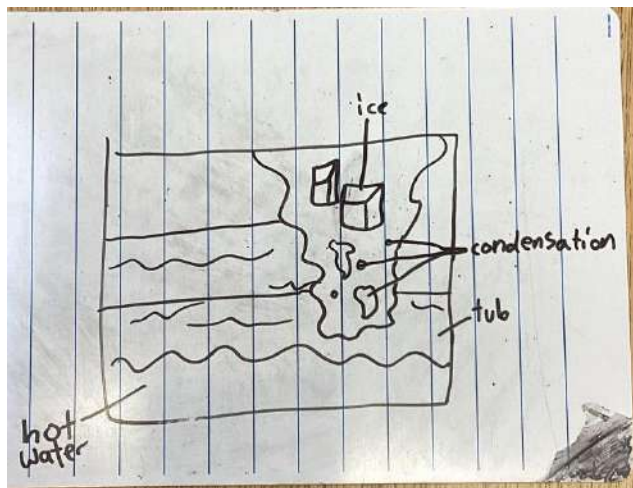
But then suddenly Without warning...

Vesuvius came alive.

In Art, our focus has been 'Insects'. We have studied a few different artists who created different insect inspired pieces and used this to create our own work. We have developed our drawing skills in both pencil and colour, created shadow puppet shows and made insect sculptures. We are really proud of our artwork.



In Science, we have been learning about states of matter. We now know how the particles behave in solids, liquids and gases and how materials can move between states. We did some experiments with balloons and sponges and found out that gases do in fact have 'weight' and we used different temperatures of water to see which was best for melting chocolate.



Golden Book
Lucy



Wow work
Max
Sasha

School Council

This half term, the School Council have been thinking about recycling and reusing. They have applied to a battery recycling scheme to collect batteries. Please support our School Council by sending into school any used batteries. The recycling bin will be kept in the foyer and all children will be made aware of where they can recycle used batteries.

Special Assembly

In January, we had a visitor from the Gurdwara in Queen's Park, Bedford who came into school to share with us an assembly about Sikhism. We learned that Sikh's live by all of the values that we live by at Harlington Lower School.



Library

Earlier this term, we had a very special visitor: a local storyteller brought Max the Library Mouse to meet the children. Each class participated in an interactive workshop, designed to encourage a love of books and reading for pleasure. The sessions were very popular, particularly with our younger readers.



All children in school are now able to borrow a book each week from our well-stocked library. Please do encourage them to share these with you at home and remember to return them each week on their library day, so they can choose a new book. Children are welcome to keep their library books at home over half term - we will be collecting them all in before the Easter holidays, ready for the summer term.

We are excited to be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair in school again next half term. We will circulate details of opening times and ordering options after the break.

Sports

This term we took our Y3/4 Athletics Team to compete against different lower schools in our area for the yearly Sportshall Athletics Competition. Each child competed in 3 track and 2 field events that showcased their fantastic talents. The group was split into 2 teams and both did exceptionally well. Our Harlington Team 1 finished 1st and Harlington Team 2 finished 3rd out of 14 teams! This is a fantastic achievement and all children were exceptional representing our school, not just in ability but living our school values. Well done to all!

