



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Spring 2025

Message from our Headteacher

Reading through the sections of this newsletter written by our classes reminds me of how much has been packed into this half term! It has been a busy half term with lots of key events, embracing both tradition and diversity. There has been our thought-provoking Ramadan assembly, our fantastic Science Week and trips such as the Year 4 trip to Cuffley Active Learning Centre and the Oak Class Spring Walk. It has been wonderful to share these experiences with our children and to share some of them, such as our amazing Mothers' Day Tea, with our families.

We have also had the privilege of participating in the Trust Dance Show, where our children showcased their incredible talent. Our Year 4 School Council representatives also attended the Trust Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion event, where they worked with other schools to create a charter about creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

Additionally, we are delighted to have welcomed two new schools into our Trust, strengthening our collaboration and enriching the opportunities we provide for every child.

As we head into the break, I would like to thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday and look forward to an exciting Summer Term ahead.

Oak Class

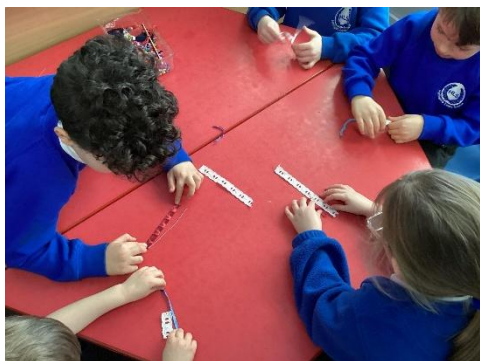
Oak Class have enjoyed exploring the book 'Something Else' in English. The topics in this book are friendship, kindness and understanding that we are all different and that is okay. We have made a recipe for a good friend, we have made houses for 'Something Else' and a friend to share and we have acted out ways to be kind.



Jack: I liked building the house for Something Else.

Sumaya: We learnt about Something Else and we did some clever writing.

In Maths, Oak Class have been learning lots of different topics including comparing height and length, understanding doubles, exploring 6,7 and 8 and looking at odds and evens.



Lola: I liked learning about odds and evens.

Kaya: I liked building towers to compare the heights.

We had a fabulous time on our spring walk to the cafe, spotting signs of spring on our way. Thank you to the Hub and Spoke café for having us – we had the best time.



Elsie: I liked exploring different places in Harlington.

Lorelai: I loved the brownies.

Christian: I loved the milkshake.

Oak Class enjoyed the whole school assembly about Ramadan. They also enjoyed a week of fun learning about Ramadan and Eid. On the Thursday we had a party to celebrate, which included learning dances and having a feast. Thank you to Mrs Azim for being our special visitor.





Niamh: I loved the feast and the gifts.

Mylee: I liked dancing.



Golden Book
Hammanah



Wow work
Rory
Lorelai

Chestnut Class

It has been another busy half-term of learning and enjoyment in Chestnut Class. The children have been captivated with our learning of sculptures in our art lessons. They have particularly enjoyed creating sculptures out of large blocks and junk monsters!



Paisley: It was fun making people models out of the blocks.

Theo: I liked making bread sculptures. We even got to eat them!

Freddie: I made a person with a giant foot.

In our Science lessons, the children have enjoyed looking at plants and discovering that some plants are edible and some are purely for our enjoyment. The children had a wonderful time in the school grounds, finding and exploring different plants. We also thoroughly enjoyed Science Day and cannot wait for the next one!



Karis: I liked looking at the different plants in school.

Polly: I like plants and nature!

Jude: Some of the plants had ladybirds on them.

We started off our Geography work by comparing towns and the countryside. The children enjoyed listening to the story of Town Mouse and Country Mouse. They then worked really hard to create a town or a countryside in a shoebox.



Rumaisah: We got to choose if we wanted to make a town or a countryside.

Owen: We made flap books with facts about the United Kingdom.

Nell: We had fun making things.



Golden Book
Theo



Wow work
Jude
Lily

Hawthorn Class

It has been a very busy half term in Hawthorn Class. The children have continued to enjoy learning how to play the recorder. They have now learnt the notes B, A and G and have also learnt about the duration of the notes. After Easter, the children will have the opportunity to continue to learn the recorder in a lunchtime club on a Thursday.



Camilla - I liked learning the note 'G' and playing a mixture of the different notes.
Keziah - I liked playing the recorder because it's fun and I get to play different songs.

In History this half term the class have learned about the Great Fire of London. We have discussed the events before, during and after the fire and what London was like in 1666. The class really enjoyed re-enacting the events of the Great Fire by moving to music.



This half term, Hawthorn class had their charity week. As a class, we talked about different charities that the children would like to raise money for and what they would like to do. The children voted to raise money for Children in Need and decided to have a non-school uniform day for the whole school. We raised £105 and the children were very proud of this; thank you to everyone that donated.

Chloe. L - I loved our charity day because we raised a lot of money for Children in Need.
Boden - It was great and we had lots of fun.

Hawthorn Class have really enjoyed their DT unit of work on designing and making a lunch box. They looked at a variety of different lunch boxes and thought about what the positives for each one was and what could be improved. They designed their own lunch box following design criteria. The children had great fun making their lunch boxes and I was very impressed with what they created.



Liam - I enjoyed making my lunch box and making the handle.

Jaxson - I liked making the handle because I could use string and lots of other things.



Golden Book
Tillie



Wow work
Annie
Zach

Rowan Class

The theme for Science Week this year was adapt and change. Rowan Class had a wonderful time experiencing all the different activities around the school. They had a brilliant time leaving the books and pencils behind and developed their learning through lots of great practical tasks. These included creating habitats for different animals to camouflage in, building different nests with a variety of resources, fixing a broken bucket and redesigning the school site to attract more pollinators.



Rowan Class has enjoyed our 'Extreme Earth' topic in Geography, this half term. We have discussed what causes volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and how this affects people. When learning about earthquakes, we practiced an earthquake drill and learned how people kept themselves safe in countries where severe earthquakes take place.



Our English book this half term was 'Big Blue Whale'. We have loved learning about these majestic creatures. Our non-fiction writing has developed to include rich vocabulary, descriptive words and varied conjunctions.

What is happening to whales?

Whales are beautiful creatures, but people are killing whales. Japan, Norway and Iceland are killing whales for food. Japan is killing whales by scientific research. Also, fishing nets are super bad because whales like orcas are trying to get fish, get food. But the fish are in the net so orcas and whales have to get the fish but they end up in the net and mice die from stress.

How can humans protect whales?

People need to protect whales. But people aren't doing that. 4000 whales have been killed but we can help by making sure that rubbish is in the bin. Use less plastic, go Net Zero! These big creatures can be found on the beach and in the water. We know this because scientists have found them. One in Norway at 1982 orcas got protect.

What is happening to whales?

These poor creatures are eating loads of rubbish because it looks like food. A long time ago a sperm whale was found with 132 pieces of rubbish inside its stomach. In Norway 1982 orcas and whales weren't allowed to be killed. Sadly, when whales and orcas were getting entangled in fisherman's gigantic fishing nets trying to get food.

What can humans do to save whales?

Plastic is not fantastic! We could not put whales in captivity and orcas. Instead, whales, orcas and others should be able to leap, dance and sing! No whales or orcas should be limp and lifeless!

- So don't buy plastic. If you do

What can humans do to protect whales?

We can pick up plastic in the village or where ever you go. You can buy metal water bottles instead of plastic water bottles. Don't buy plastic!

In school ask your teacher if you can go to your playground and pick up rubbish.

In the winter blue whales mate when blue whales have babies the mom pushes the baby up for its first breath. The baby needs to grow bigger then it drinks 600 liters of milk a day.



Golden Book
Charlotte



Wow work
Emilia
Elliott

Beech Class

In March we went on our residential trip to Cuffley Learning Centre. When we arrived, we were greeted by a friendly instructor and sorted into our dorms of 8. After, we made a short walk into the woodlands where we learnt about how we could use camouflage to our advantage before he gave us the option to paint our faces in brown and green. He then explained that we needed to hide and try and make it to our home base whilst somebody tried to find us. We also did lots of activities including shelter build and zip line and to finish the day we sang songs around the campfire.

After a good night's sleep, we woke to our first activity of the day – rock climbing – shortly followed by fire building and S.O.S. On our final day we did crate stack and nightline before heading home.”
“In Cuffley the days are packed with all sorts of activities and fun stuff! The food is mouth-watering and the instructors are friendly. The beds in our dorms were comfortable and we had a shower in every dorm! Cuffley will keep you busy with fun activities that are safe and of course FUN! **Alec and Youran**



In Year 4, we love to read. We had such a fun World Book Day singing MC Grammar's songs, creating our own book covers, and forming bands to make up and perform our own songs like the children in Tom Fletcher's Space Band. We particularly loved the song 'Nothing Rhymes with Sausage'.

We also went down to Year 2 and to Oak Class to read stories to the younger children. Hopefully, they enjoyed listening to us as much as we enjoyed reading with and to them.



Science Day was another fantastic day where we moved around the different classrooms and completed lots of different activities and challenges. In our classroom we had to use a range of materials to stop a bucket (a yoghurt pot) from leaking. It was harder than we thought and very messy. Only a few of us managed to seal the hole successfully!



Golden Book
James C



Wow work
Lorcan
Evie

Special Assembly

This half-term we were delighted to learn about Ramadan in a special whole-school assembly. We truly hope that all of our families who celebrated Eid this week had a wonderful time with their loved ones filled with joy, happiness and peace.



Mothers' Day Tea

We were delighted to welcome so many mums and other family members into school for our Mothers' Day Teas, where they enjoyed a drink and a delicious piece of cake with their children. It was a lovely opportunity to pause, chat, and spend time moments together. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we hope you enjoyed this small but meaningful celebration of all that you do!



Sport Dance Show

Our children did us proud at the Pyramid Schools Trust Dance Show, performing two fantastic dances with energy, confidence, and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see their hard work and dedication come to life on stage, and they truly shone in front of the audience. A huge well done to all the children for their brilliant performances and a big thank you to everyone who supported them on this special evening and to Mrs Keeble for making it happen!



Cross Country

In the last week of term, 8 Y4 children represented our school in the Y4/5 Cross Country Competition at Alameda Middle. They took part in separate boys and girls races competing against Y4 and Y5 children and all did incredibly well! A very warm afternoon but each gave the 1.4km course everything and we are very proud of where they finished!



Library

We were delighted to host the Scholastic Book Fair in school at the start of March. A huge thank you to everyone who came to shop - as a result of your purchases, we were given over £400 of rewards to spend on new books for the school. There will be new books appearing in each classroom, as well as in the library, ready for the children to read and enjoy after the Easter holidays.

A selection of these new titles can be seen below.



As a reminder, all children in school are now able to borrow a book to read for pleasure 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.

The library will be re-opening on Monday 28 April.