



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Autumn (A) 2025

Message from our Headteacher

As we reach the milestone of the end of the first half term of the academic year, it is wonderful to reflect on the fantastic start that our children have made. This half termly newsletter is a celebration of the amazing learning and experiences that have taken place across the school this half term.

This term has been about establishing strong foundations: building crucial relationships in Oak Class, cementing core skills in Maths and English across all years, and using creative projects to make learning memorable, from our Viking wow day in Rowan Class to nature sculptures in Hawthorn Class.

We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Mackey who has joined our team this week. She will be working with children across the school, both in class and in small groups, and will also be working as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Please enjoy a rest and refreshing break. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 3rd November, ready for an exciting second half term.

Oak Class

Oak Class have spent much of their time in the learning environment (inside the classroom and out in the garden) exploring and building on relationships, old and new!



The children are becoming used to their routines and school life and they are enjoying learning and achieving.



Jasper: I love coming to school
Evie: I have made new friends



In phonics, Oak Class have been introduced to some earlier sounds and have been working hard to form the letters on whiteboards with pens and in other ways; such as wet sand, foam and in paint!



Robyn: I like learning
Sofia: I like writing new letters

As the weather had turned and the season changed, it made sense to go on an autumn walk; within the school grounds. Oak class enjoyed looking for signs of autumn and sharing their findings!



Charlie: We found lots of colourful leaves
Lola: I liked our walk in the field

Oak class looked amazing and a 'ray of sunshine' on Friday 10th October, when they came into school dressed in yellow for World Mental Health day. We spent the day focusing on different feelings and emotions and found that we were our happiest when dancing!



Noah: I liked coming to school in yellow
Daniel: I felt happy when I was dancing



Golden Book
Holly

Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have been thoroughly enjoying their new continuous provision areas. It has been wonderful to see the children developing confidence, independence and a real love of learning through these engaging activities which complement the children's formal lessons.

In Maths the children have been developing their understanding of addition and subtraction. They have been using a range of practical resources to help them solve problems and explain their thinking.



In English we have really enjoyed the story Meesha Makes Friends by Tom Percival. The story has linked beautifully with our PSHE lessons, helping us think about feelings and friendships. The children have been working hard on using finger spaces, capital letters, full stops and time words to help sequence their ideas in their writing.



In Geography, we have loved creating our own birds-eye view maps of the school and our village community. The children explored what maps are used for and learned how to represent familiar places from above using symbols and keys.



In science, we have been learning all about different types of animals and how they can be grouped and classified. They have had fun sorting and categorising animals based on their features, discussing where they live and what they eat. We then moved on to exploring our five senses and the importance of them.



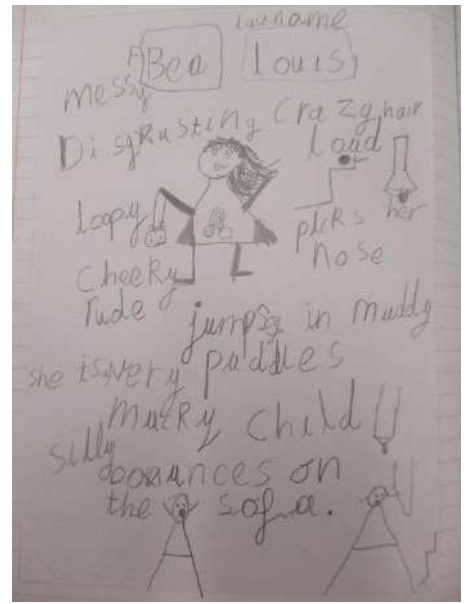
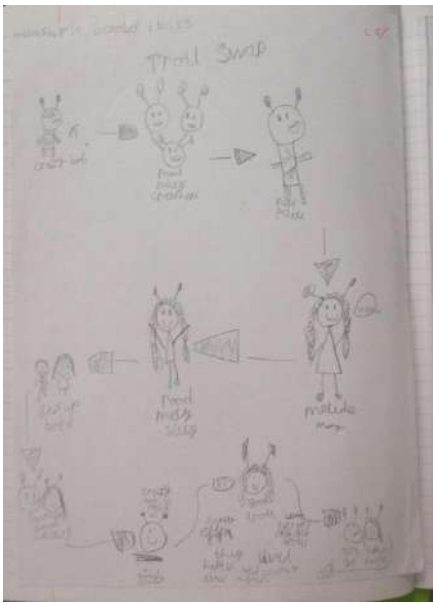
Woodwork Wednesday has quickly become one of the highlights of our week in chestnut class! The children have loved learning how to use real tools safely and carefully.



Golden Book
Talia

Hawthorn Class

Hawthorn class have had a very busy half term. They have really enjoyed our English lessons where we have been reading the book 'Troll Swap'. The children have created their own troll and child characters and written descriptions about them. They have drawn story maps and used them to retell the story. They planned and wrote their own versions of 'Troll Swap'.



Karis - I enjoyed writing the 'Troll Swap' story.

Sid - It was fun drawing the story map of 'Troll Swap'.

In Geography, we have been learning about the continents and oceans of the world. The children have loved singing a song to help them learn the names of the continents. They found out information about each of the continents and made a booklet. The children created journey lines and have looked at aerial photographs. They learnt some facts about France and enjoyed tasting some French food.



Teddy - I really enjoyed tasting the food.

Freddie - I liked learning and singing the continents song.

The children have loved their Art topic this half term. We have learnt about Nature Sculptures and we have looked at some sculptures made by the Artist Andy Goldsworthy. We started the topic by doing some observational drawings of natural objects. The children then collected some natural objects and created their own Land Art. They really enjoyed trying out different techniques using clay and then making their own models. They had fun making sculptures on the field using natural objects.



Anwen - I really liked using nature to make things.

Rebecca - I liked making my clay model and the nature sculptures.



Golden Book
Maia

Rowan Class

English

In English, Year 3 have been inspired by *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. The children have produced some excellent and detailed writing, showing great care in their use of paragraphs, prepositions, and accurately punctuated speech. Children have also learnt how to use a thesaurus to make their writing more detailed and interesting by finding alternate words.

History

Year 3 had an action-packed Viking WOW Day filled with creativity, history, and fun! Pupils started the day by becoming reporters and wrote their own Viking newspaper articles, sharing exciting stories of what was witnessed as the Vikings came to England for the first time.

Children then carved their own runes from salt dough, learning about the Viking alphabet. They then made colourful Viking wool bracelets, just like the arm rings worn by Viking warriors to show friendship and loyalty.

The children tried Viking food, trying traditional Skyr and honey, just like real Vikings might have eaten.

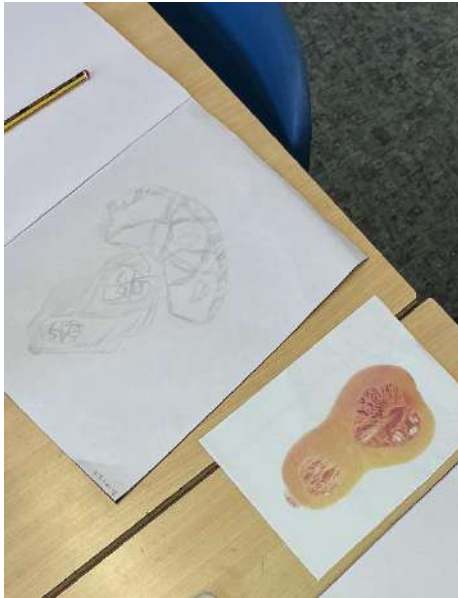
Finally, everyone got active with a thrilling game of “Trade or Raid”, making strategic decisions to raid treasures or trade goods with other clans — teamwork and clever thinking were key!



Art

This term, Year 3 have been celebrating the beauty of Autumn in their art lessons. The children have been observing the changing season closely — sketching and painting colourful leaves, experimenting with chalk to capture their textures, and even studying the inside of pumpkins to draw detailed cross sections.

They've also explored the vibrant colours and patterns of different vegetable skins, using paint to bring them to life.

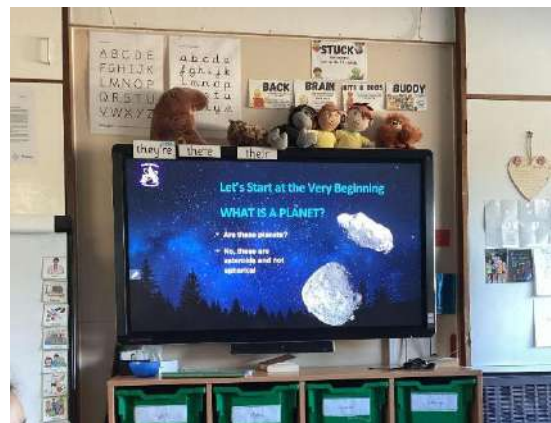


Golden Book
Georgia

Beech Class

Beech Class have had a great start to the new school year.

In English, we have been reading about Katherine Johnson and her incredible achievements working with the Apollo missions. Our focus has been on expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials and we have used lots of these in our work. We even had a visit from Mark who came in to tell us all about astronomy. He brought in a telescope to show us, explained some technical vocabulary like 'galaxies', 'black holes' and 'meteorites' before completely shocking us all with how many stars might actually be out there. We even made a scaled model of the solar system using a large yellow exercise ball as the sun! Thank you, Mark!



In Art, we studied some famous European artists from Le Corbusier and Anselm Kiefer to Coco Chanel. We then worked in pairs to design and make our own paper hats which we modelled in a very funny fashion show! We were only allowed to use paper but we were extremely creative and Miss Hines was really impressed with some of the ideas we came up with!



Our Science lessons have been all about teeth and digestion. First, we discovered the names for our different teeth and the jobs they do - we loved making a model of this out of plasticine. Then, we watched some funny videos which helped us to understand what each part of the digestive system does and what happens to our food once we've eaten it. We also did a Science experiment where we investigated the question 'What effect do different liquids have on our teeth?' We used eggs and put them into different liquids such as milk, orange juice and cola for a week. Then we looked at changes and discovered that the liquids with the most sugar had the biggest effect on the eggs!





In History, we have been learning about life during World War 2. We drew our own propaganda posters and loved listening to some 1940s music by artists like Vera Lynn, Glenn Miller and Jack Buchanan. We thought the tune of 'Run, Rabbit, Run' was really funny.



Golden Book
Sophia

Macmillan Coffee Events

Thank you to everyone who attended our Macmillan Coffee Events.
It was wonderful to see some many parents, carers and family members in school and to spend time together with you and your children.

Between Harlington and Sundon Lower Schools we raised
£484 for Macmillan Cancer Support!



Message from St Mary's Church

St Mary's Messy Church: Sunday 16th November at 9am in the Parish Hall. Breakfast, Bible story, song and craft, all welcome.

Art Attack: join us for some fun creating Christmas themed paintings and Christmas decorations. Saturday 29th November in St Mary's Church, from 10am -1pm. Pop in at any time. Refreshments available all morning.