



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Autumn (B) 2025

Message from our Headteacher

At the end of a busy term, it is always lovely to reflect on all the wonderful things that have taken place across our school community.

This half term has particularly focused on enriching the children's experiences both inside and outside the classroom. We were delighted to take the children to the pantomime, providing a fantastic shared experience that brought laughter and excitement to everyone. Our choir has been busy bringing festive cheer to the community, and we were thrilled to see our pupils perform so brilliantly with the Ampthill Town Band yesterday. We have also had wonderful learning experiences within the curriculum as well, including our Viking Day.

As always, the children have shown tremendous enthusiasm, resilience, and creativity, embracing every challenge and new opportunity this term has presented. I am immensely proud of everything they have accomplished and grateful to our dedicated staff for their hard work and to our families for your unwavering support.

Finally, as the term draws to a close, I wish you all a truly restful and merry Christmas break. I hope the coming weeks offer quality time to disconnect, celebrate, and enjoy time with those closest to you. Thank you, once again, for your partnership this term; we eagerly anticipate the adventures that await us when school resumes in the New Year!



Staffing

Ms Shah will be joining the Chestnut Class team for the first half of the Spring Term. She is a student teacher completing a placement with us. We look forward to her being part of the team!

Oak Class

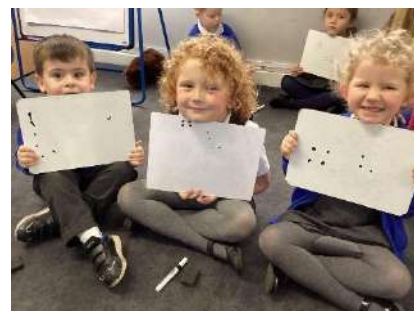
It has been another busy, but fun-filled term in Oak Class. This term we welcomed two new members to our class and it was absolutely wonderful to see so many children help the new children settle in. We have continued to establish routines and have enjoyed learning times, on the carpet, and are beginning to grow in independence when in our learning areas too. We have focused on the story of Three Little Pigs during our English lessons. Our favourite lesson involved hunting down the three pigs!



Evie: I saw a piggy in the mud kitchen.

Edward: I found a pig in the sand pit.

In maths we have consolidated our learning to 5! We have learnt how to use mathematical resources, such as the tens frames and have really enjoyed the lessons being practical.



Fatimah: I have been learning my numbers.

Robyn: We have been counting up to 5.



We have worked extremely hard during our phonics lessons. We now know 24 sounds and can read three-sound words. We have also been practising how to write three-sound words and short phrases!



Charlie: We know lots of sounds.

Bradley: I can write some letters.

We have learnt how to safely use the gym equipment in PE this half term. We look forward to further developing our balance and coordination skills.



Amelia: We were crawling.

Ianis: Ianis climbing!

More recently, we had a great time wearing our Christmas jumpers and enjoying our first ever Harlington Christmas lunch. We were also buzzing with excitement last week, when we put on our very first nativity and performed to parents and then again to our whole school. Thank you for coming to watch us!



Daniel: I had a lovely dinner.

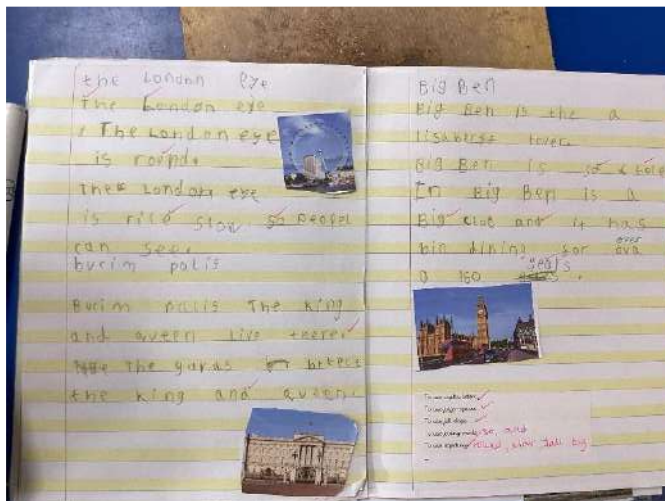
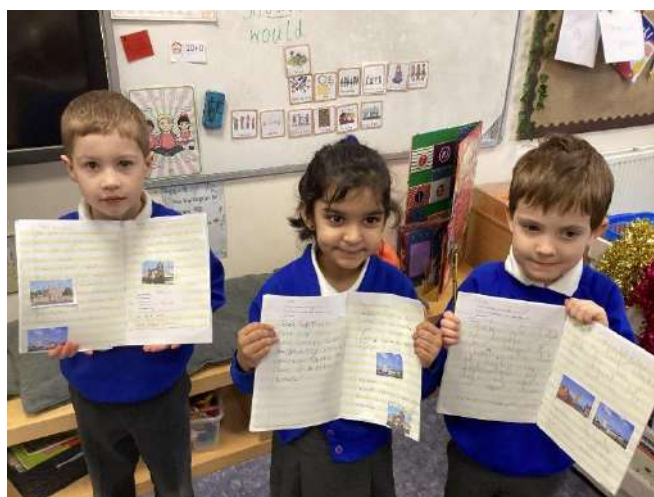
Mrs Ghuman: A special thank you to Charlie for playing the part of Mary on our final performance to the school.



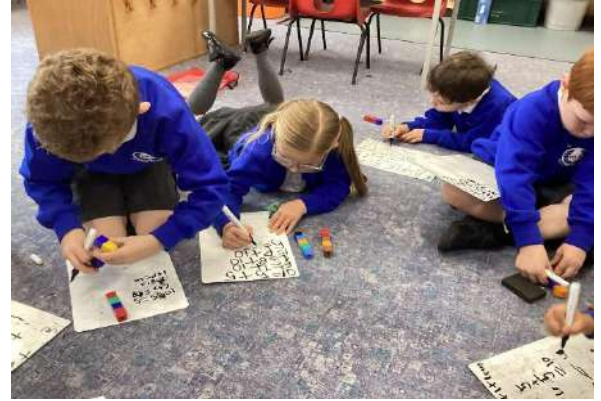
Golden Book Oak Class

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have been working incredibly hard, and we, as adults, are so proud of their determination, perseverance, and positive attitude toward learning. In English, we have been learning all about London and have been working our way up to writing a fact file. We learnt lots of information from the story of 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. We really enjoyed being tour guides and teaching our friends interesting facts about London.



In Maths, Chestnut Class have been really enjoying their learning. They have worked hard on addition and subtraction, showing great focus and determination, and have also had lots of fun exploring shape. The children have enjoyed recognising, naming, and talking about 2D and 3D shapes.



Chestnut Class had a wonderful time exploring the signs of autumn as part of our Science learning.

The children explored seasonal changes by observing the different colours of the leaves, cooler weather, and changes in temperature. We also talked about migration, hibernation and how different animals prepare for winter.



In History, Chestnut Class have been exploring the timeline of different types of transport, including planes, cars, and trains. The children enjoyed learning how transport has changed over time and comparing past and present. We also loved exploring the Vikings, where the children had great fun learning about Viking life and making their own Viking longboats. To finish our Transport topic, Chestnut Class are very excited to be having a WOW Day on Wednesday afternoon this week. This special afternoon will celebrate all of the learning we have done about transport, and the children are really looking forward to ending the topic in a fun and memorable way.



In DT, the children have really enjoyed evaluating different types of bunting and then making their own. They worked carefully to sew, cut, and stick felt, showing great concentration and creativity.



In RE, Chestnut Class has been learning about Advent and Nativity. The children enjoyed exploring the meaning behind the Christmas story and took part in making Christingles and Advent wreaths: learning about what each part represents. They showed great interest and thoughtfulness during these activities .



Golden Book *Freya*

Hawthorn Class

We have been very busy in Hawthorn Class this half term and the children have worked really hard. In History, the children have really enjoyed learning about 'The Gunpowder Plot'. The children have learnt about Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy and some of the other plotters. They have sequenced the events of the plot and acted it out in groups. The children had a fantastic afternoon learning about why we celebrate bonfire night. They created firework pictures using pastels and made sparklers and rocket bookmarks.



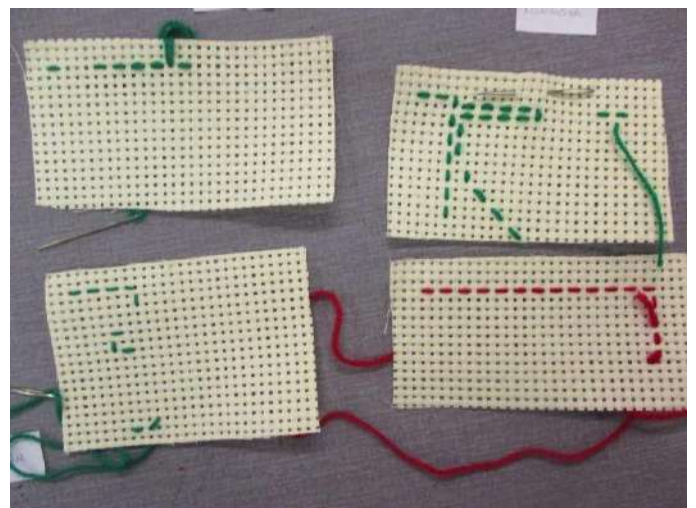


Maia - I enjoyed writing about 'The Gunpowder Plot'.

Owen - I liked learning about the people in the plot.

Jude - I liked ordering the pictures in 'The Gunpowder Plot'.

In DT, the children have loved the unit of work on fabric faces. They have looked at different fabrics and learnt about ways to join them together. They have explored how to make hair using different materials and they have practised running stitch. The children really enjoyed designing and making their fabric faces.





Flo - I enjoyed planning how to make my fabric face.

Elliot. R - I liked doing the sewing.

Lacey - I liked designing my fabric face, it was so fun.



Golden Book
Rumaisah

Rowan Class

We have had an extremely busy half term in Rowan Class but the children have worked incredibly hard! We have had our first DT Unit all about Edible Gardens. The children looked at many different ingredients that can be grown in a garden and how they can then be used to create delicious recipes.

We first looked at herbs, in particular basil which the children then made a wonderful pesto pasta!



Secondly the children looked at strawberries, describing them considering all of their senses and then created a strawberry smoothie using a simple recipe.



In PE our topic of this half term was Dance and looking at how we can show narrative, plot and character through movement. Our focus was on the book Matilda and each week we explored different dance techniques and skills to build a routine. The children really enjoyed using chairs as props to develop their movement and contribute towards each character's personality. The children then performed their routine in front of Beech class which was a wonderful opportunity to experience showing off their performance skills.



Golden Book
Annie

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:

From behind Abdul Kozam's violet cloak an intricately patterned box appeared. I held my breath, ^{curious and gasping} ~~curious and gasping~~ ^{whispered} ~~whispered~~ ^{step into the magic} ~~step into the magic~~. I looked inside it as pitch black light from a worm glowed a majestic lantern at the back of the lavender box. Without warning, my brother Leon lunged towards the richly adorned reacher out to grasp him, until his fingers slipped but of my hand. I had butterfly flaps in my humming fluttering around. There was a gasp from the audience as Leon disappeared into the darkness of the box. The dam door shut behind him and he was gone.

★ ★ Amazing work

As the sound from the bagel organ grew steadily louder, the wooden animals hurriedly started to duck and duck to the beat of pop music. One prong after the other started to climb to their feet, stretching and yawning. Suddenly the shiny green started to turn when the silver unicorn's glimmering golden horn lit up. Without warning, the tiger pounced hungrily and leaped towards the crowd. ^{with} his mouth open. The audience's heads spun to the other side of the stage where a beautiful ballerina performed a perfect pirouette in the middle of the monkey's metal palace.

★ ★ Fantastical work
✓ Apostrophes

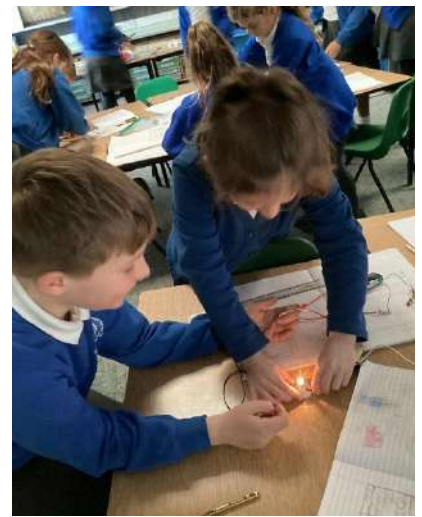
As the Indian curtains slowly began to part, there was a hiss and violet smoke crept up the stage and... BANG!!! A man in a damson cloak spoke in a loud booming voice. "Trust nothing but believe... Everything I and silver sparks shot from his belt, whirling, zinging, and the smoke broke suddenly and disappeared as it hit the ground. He thrust his arms up theatrically and in less than a millisecond, violet powder billows blossomed from his sleeves as the ground's scythes slew off their necks and changed colour to a whistling word. He popped into his hat and it morphed into the night air and then with a wave of his hand, he morphed white handkerchiefs into glittering doves. As he took a bow, his copper eye glided on his chest.

★ ★ Amazing work - I'm so proud of you!

As the cloudy dawn lavender curtains slowly parted a puff of purple smoke wafted around a hunched over figure. The audience gasped the sudden swirl. Very carefully, so they didn't fall out of their seats, they squinted trying to catch a glimpse of something wonderful or magical. Trust nothing... but believe everything a snake's voice hissed coldly. Immediately uncomfortable, feeling dried wound circling people like a bird. A second later at a whisper word, beautiful blossoming flowers puffed shot from his sleeves like thin silk scarves switched from yellow to blue, blue to green, green to orange and so on. Now the Moroccan map evolved into white handkerchiefs into glittering white doves. Suddenly he thrust his long hands forward and fizzing sparks zipped from his fingertips. Finally he poured clear water his blood-red hat and by magic the water morphed and all that was left was chilly night air.

★ ★ Amazing vocabulary choices

Science has been all about electricity. We have 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 that all of the metal materials that we tested were conductors. It was really exciting seeing the bulb light up when we added the materials to our circuits.



So many of us have been working hard on our times tables using TT Rockstars, making sure we do our 15 minutes each week. We have also been enjoying listening to some amazing times tables songs which are helping us with this too! It is really paying off as our heat maps are looking more and more green and we are rising up through the ranks quickly. Soon we will have a class full of Rock Stars and Rock Legends!



Golden Book
Vincent

Reading Event

This term, we held an incredibly successful 'Cosy Reading Morning', and it was a joy to see so many families join us! We loved having parents come into school to share books with their children and settle down for a relaxing read together. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote a love of reading and share special time together. We certainly proved that We love reading! Thank you to all the parents who came along to make it such a lovely event.





Choir

Over the past few weeks, the school choir has been busy bringing festive music to the community. They performed carols at Luton Airport, providing a cheerful welcome for travellers, visited the Bright Hour at the Methodist Church in Harlington to share some Christmas joy, and sang at the Hub and Spoke Cafe.

The children also had a fantastic time performing in a concert with Ampthill Town Band, alongside our brilliant brass players.

We are already looking forward to next term, where we will be rehearsing for and performing in Voice in a Million!



Calling all brass players!

Amphill Town Band, with sponsorship from Amphill Town Council, is setting up a Learner Band in January 2026. This provides a fantastic opportunity for your children to learn to play brass instruments together in a supporting and fun environment, building confidence, and developing knowledge and skills in musicianship that will serve them well in later life.

About the Amphill Learner Band:

- Open to all beginner brass players (up to grade 4)
- Weekly early evening rehearsals in Amphill with qualified experienced tutors
- Focus on ensemble playing, musical development, and enjoyment
- Opportunities to perform locally and build friendships through music
- Comprehensive risk assessment and safeguarding arrangements
- Instruments may be provided, subject to availability

If you would like to know more, please email at amphilltownband@virginmedia.com to express an interest, marking your correspondence ATB Learners and we will reply. The Band will hold an Open Session on Tuesday January 13th 2026 at 6 pm in Amphill (venue to be confirmed) that will be free for all to attend and will be an opportunity for you and your child to get a feel for the Learner Band and ask any questions you might have.

