



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Spring (A) 2026

Message from our Headteacher

It is a pleasure to share this latest update on school life at Harlington Lower School, reflecting on a half term filled with 'I can' attitudes and fantastic achievements. It is wonderful to see the progress that the children are making across the curriculum, from our youngest learners in Oak Class, who have wowed us with their writing inspired by the 'Naughty Bus', to Beech Class, whose historical research into Pompeii has sparked extra learning at home. We have also seen wonderful focus on community and values this term; whether it was Rowan Class demonstrating fantastic teamwork to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, or our 'Stay and Read' sessions which continue to nurture a lifelong love of literature.

We are so proud of our children and what they achieve, both academically and in wider school life. I hope you enjoy reading these highlights from our busy and productive half term.

Oak Class

This half term has brought opportunities for shared reading experiences in Oak Class. Early in January, Oak Class were thrilled to be joined by their older peers in Beech Class, who spent a session reading and sharing books. Oak Class eagerly awaits for this opportunity again - they really are developing their love of reading!

Later in January, Oak Class were excited to start a morning in the company of their parents, when they were invited for a Stay and Read working together session.



Sofia: I really love reading to my mummy

Jasper: I really loved it when I sat with my mummy

Oak Class has astounded the staff with their growing confidence in writing. The children are now writing captions and short sentences! Their willingness to persevere and their *I can* attitude has been an absolute delight to witness.

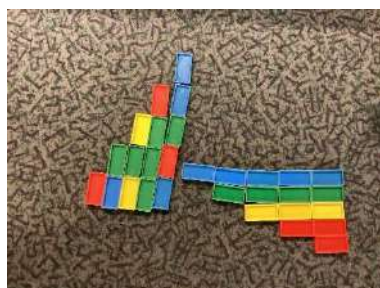
The stimuli of a *Naughty Bus*, which was delivered to Oak Class, has brought lots of opportunities to write creatively.



Thomas: I love writing about the naughty bus

Robyn: The naughty bus made a big mess in the home corner

Oak Class have worked hard in their maths lessons this half term and they are now beginning to understand the composition of numbers to five. They have loved using Numberblocks to aid their understanding.



Kady: I liked building the numberblock stairs

Amelia: I liked making dot patterns

Oak Class have been working on balance and coordination skills during their weekly PE lessons. They have also learnt how to safely set up and put away equipment, such as floor mats, benches and agility tables. The children have demonstrated values of respect and responsibility.



Charlie: I like helping to set up
Lily: I like going on the PE equipment

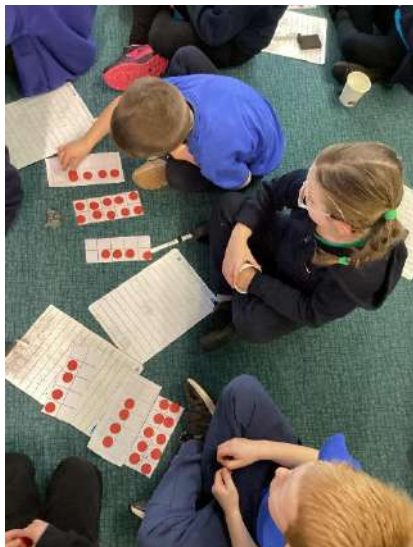


Golden Book
Edward

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class has had a wonderful term and have been working incredibly hard.

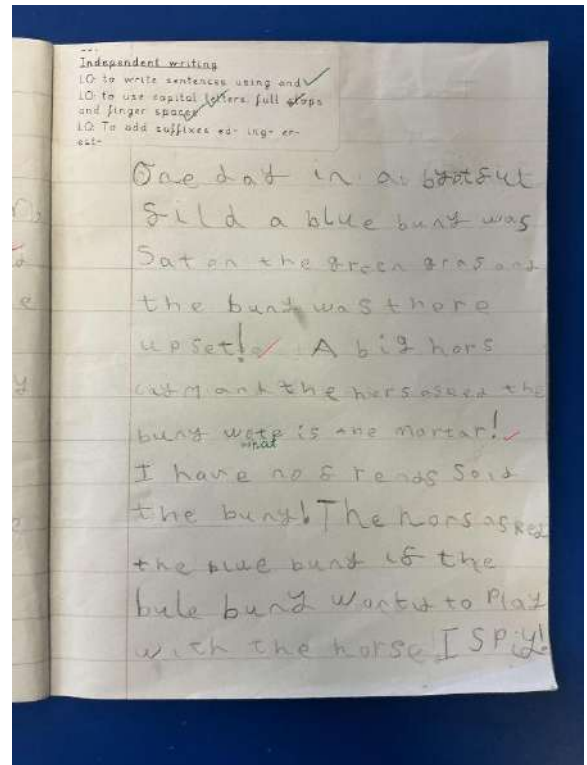
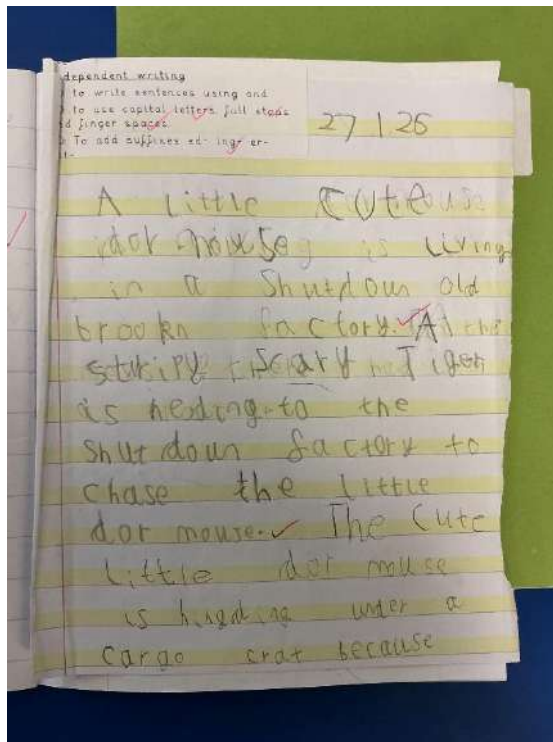
In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction within 20. We have been using number lines, tens frames and bar models to help us understand and solve calculations. These methods have helped us see numbers in different ways and check our answers.



Elsie: I enjoyed making double butterflies with Sophie and challenging myself to double 12.

In English, we have been reading *The Lion Inside* and exploring the savannah desert. We have been working towards retelling the story using two different animals. In our writing, we have been focusing on using the conjunction **and**, full stops, finger spaces and capital letters, as well as applying suffixes **-ed**, **-ing**, **-er** and **-est**, and using descriptive adjectives. The children have truly wowed us with their confident, independent writing, creating imaginative, detailed and beautifully written stories.

Sumaya: I enjoyed how they became friends in the story and I enjoyed writing about how the mouse was so brave.



In science, the children have been exploring the weather by making predictions about what they think will happen. They have been using simple equipment to make careful observations about the weather and recording their data in a table.

George. R.: I discovered that the wind was not very strong because my wind gauge didn't move a lot.



We have now moved on to learning about everyday materials, where the children have been using equipment correctly to investigate different materials. They have been recording what they observe, identifying materials that are waterproof, and using their observations to answer simple questions.



In History, the children have been learning about old and new toys to help them identify changes within living memory. They have been exploring how toys have changed over time and recognising the differences between toys from the past and toys we use today. The children have really enjoyed investigating old toys and are very excited about their grandparents coming in this week to share their experiences.



In PE, the children have enjoyed learning how to perform basic jumps, shapes and rolls on the floor and on apparatus. They have been practising showing different body shapes when jumping and landing safely with control. The children have shown great enthusiasm and growing confidence during these activities.



In Art, the children have been exploring a different artist each week. One of the artists they explored was Marc Quinn. The children created their own bread sculptures inspired by his work and really enjoyed making them - and eating them too! The children have also been looking at different styles of art and experimenting with a range of materials and techniques.



Sophie: I loved making the bread dough but it felt very sticky.
Kian: I loved putting nutella on my bread at home.



Golden Book:

Hawthorn Class

Hawthorn Class has had another busy half term. They have worked really hard and produced some excellent work in all subjects. In English, the children loved coming into school and finding a dragon's egg in a nest. They enjoyed finding the dragon in the classroom and thinking about the mischief that dragons can get into. The children wrote some brilliant stories based on the story 'The Dragon Machine'.

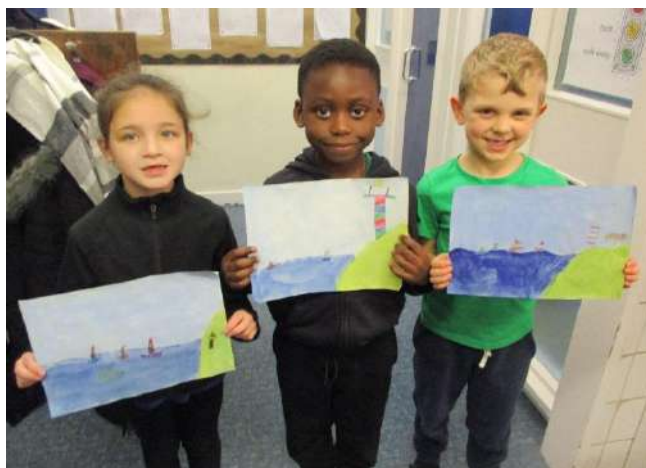


In PE, we have been continuing with our gymnastics unit of work. The children have learnt a variety of different movements, balances and jumps. They have created and performed sequences working with a partner.



Polly - I like gymnastics because I'm flexible.
Decarlo - I liked doing leap frogs and different jumps.

Hawthorn Class have really enjoyed their Art lessons this half term. We have been learning about the artist L.S. Lowry. The children have painted seascape pictures. They have recreated one of Lowry's industrial pictures by painting the background, drawing the buildings and then adding the matchstick people. They created some excellent artwork.



Lacey - I liked learning about Lowry and making a collage.
Freddie - I enjoyed making the Lowry painting.



Rowan Class

Science

This term in science, Year 3 have been learning about rocks and exploring fossils and soil. The children learned how fossils are formed through an exciting edible fossil lesson, using bread and gummy sweets to represent the fossilisation process.

Keziah - I liked making the fossils because it was exciting to see the end result.



They also investigated the different layers of soil, including bedrock, parent rock, subsoil, topsoil and organic matter.

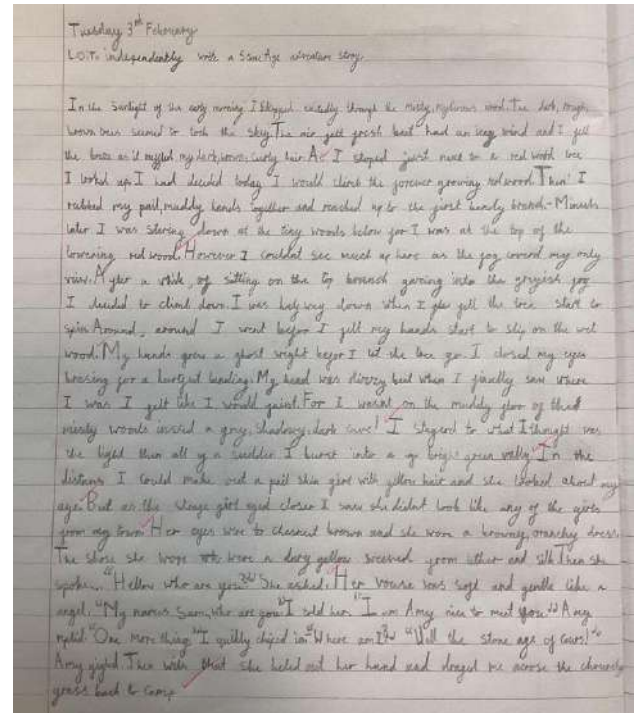
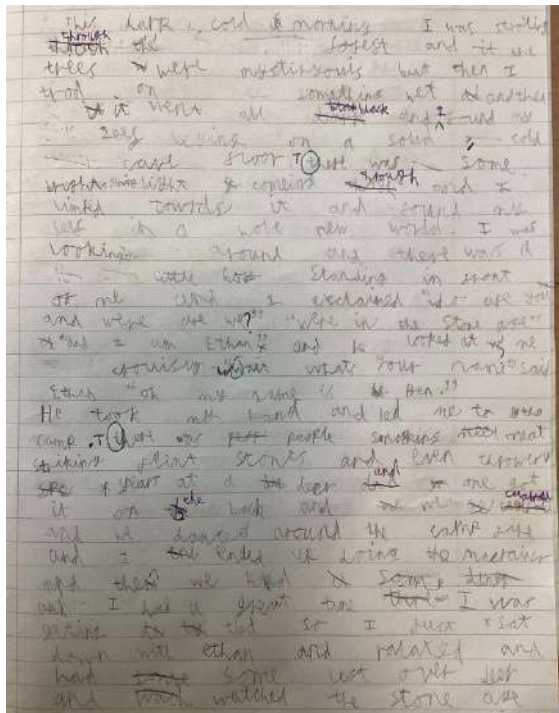
To bring this learning to life, the children made their own edible soil, using Oreos, chocolate pudding, chocolate chips, Matchmakers and gummy worms to represent each layer. The children thoroughly enjoyed these hands-on activities and loved eating their creations even more, while developing a strong understanding of the topic.

Tillie - I loved making the edible soil and me and my friends carefully formed each layer.
The best part was eating it at the end, it was so yummy!



English

In English, Year 3 have been studying the story *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. Over the past six weeks, the children have produced some fantastic pieces of writing inspired by the text. They have written diary entries, learned how to punctuate speech correctly, and worked hard to extend their vocabulary and apply this to their writing. This culminated in the children creating their own Stone Age adventure stories. Through strong cross-curricular links with our History topic *Stone Age to Iron Age*, the children have developed a full understanding of life in the Stone Age, which has helped them add detail, imagination and historical accuracy to their writing. The children then learned how to edit and improve their writing with a purple pen thoroughly which they will then learn to do this independently in the future.



Charity Week Event

During Charity Event Week, Rowan Class worked incredibly hard to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. The children took full responsibility for the event by creating posters and advertising their cake sale around the school. They organised and ran the cake sale themselves, showing great teamwork and independence. A huge thank you and well done to all of Rowan Class and their adults for making, providing and donating such wonderful treats to sell. We raised a fantastic £229, an amount the children know will make a real difference to such an important charity. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the cake sale and donate so generously.



Golden Book

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. So many of us have found this really engaging and have done some of our own work/research at home! In our reading lessons, we've been reading a non-fiction book about volcanoes and we've loved finding out more about them.

It linked to our Year 3 Geography lessons from last year and the extra knowledge has helped with our descriptive writing. 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. Here is some of our fantastic writing:

Vincent: I loved describing the volcanic eruption using rich vocabulary.

Zoe: My favourite part about learning about Pompeii was seeing the pyroclastic flow on the videos.

Logan: I am going to look at some photos my parents took when they went to Pompeii.

1. punctuate speech accurately.

"T-T-T-T-T I'm so scared!" sobbed Livia into the pillow intricately, inhaling, as she was lying on.

On Livia, "T-T-T-T-T" Trinio sighed softly as he lay a palm on her head, "we'll be safe as long as we stay together."

Livia nipped her lips and blew her nose.

Livia smiled weakly, "Do you really mean it?"

"Live your life as sister to me!" Trinio grinned as he wrapped an arm around her, "I would never let anything happen to you."

"But where are we going?" Livia whispered eagerly.

Trinio thought for a moment then said, "I'm not sure yet, but we will get there safely so we can have a proper rest."

Suddenly, Livia's panic started to rise once more as she started to ask more questions, "But what if we don't make it in time? What if we run out of food? What if we run out of water to drink? We can't drink from the sea! And what if the boat breaks? I can't swim!"

"Don't worry Liv! I am with you now and I always will be. And nothing is going to change that," Trinio brought her in for a hug, "you are the greatest friend in the world and nothing anyone can do is going to change my mind."

Dear parents,

Are you safe? I'm worried about you. Have you got away from the volcano? I am on a boat with Trinio. We are safe. I've been on this Greek cargo ship for hours.

Now let me tell you about the eruption. When the giant shot Trinio ran down the street to get me. We ran sprinted down the road and jumped onto a boat. It was a very wobbly boat. As the boat shuddered we managed to get to sleep for an hour. When we woke up we were in horror at Mount Vesuvius. We have blankets over our heads because of the pumice stones falling from the sky. Lightning struck Pompeii and we were petrified. Great red fire licked the side of every building in the city. Mount Vesuvius was terrifying. What was it doing? This was the most scary that has ever happened to me.

I have lived a long, happy life full of smiles with Livia. I still remember the devastating day when the kind Greek cargo ship captain took us in and brought us up. When we first reached the city it seemed like everything was lost but we had Livia. Livia built a small house from the wreckage. It is not like my previous home but it is a place with shelter and has an orange grove on next to our house. I am grateful that I survived the destruction but from now on I will always believe.

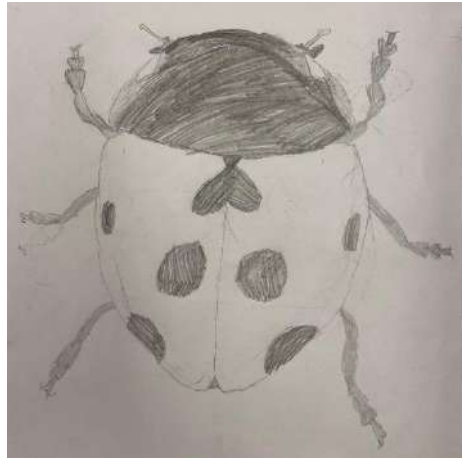
Our lives have massively changed we are no longer in jostling streets but a deserted city. A city we called Pompeii. A city I will never ever forget. My memories will stay forever. It all was destroyed on the 24th August AD 79. A day I will never forget.

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 and made insect sculptures. We have really enjoyed this unit and are so proud of the artwork we have created.

Alice: I didn't know I could draw butterflies like that, I am so proud.

Robyn: I liked doing the piece of work where we created insect mosaics.

Georgie: My favourite part of the insect topic was when we had a snapshot of an insect and we had to draw the other half.



In Science, we have been learning about states of matter. We know how the particles move in solids, liquids and gases and how materials can move between states. We can demonstrate how the particles in a solid change when they are heated. We did some experiments with balloons 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. We also watched evaporation and condensation happen in real life when Miss Hines held a metal sheet over a boiling kettle and we saw the water vapour and then the water dripping down the cold metal.

Riley: I liked it when we pretended to be particles and we moved around the room and other people had to guess which state of matter we were.

Elliott: I liked when we had to sort the solids, liquids and gases out into groups.

Aaraiz: I liked it when we did the condensation lesson because it was interesting learning about evaporating water.



In PE, we have been choreographing a dance based on snakes. We have had to think carefully about the way we move, our facial expressions and how to work together as a team to represent snakes in different ways. We continued to develop our skills using canon and unison from last half term's learning and have recently been focusing on adding contact, different levels, different formations and dynamics. Our final dances were amazing!

Tabitha: I liked it when we added new moves to our dances to improve it even more.

Eris: I really enjoyed doing the snake dances because I liked working with new people that I wouldn't normally work with.

Dante: Our teamwork was pretty good so our dance looked brilliant.



Golden Book

Voice in a Million

The Harlington School choir are performing at the Wembley OVO arena with Voice in a Million and are fundraising for their event by running a sweet and craft stall outside the Hub and Spoke on Thursday 19th February between 9.30am and 11.00am. Please see the attached poster will all the details.

Thank you

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Sundon Park Dental Clinic

We are pleased to let you know that the Children's Dental Clinics are running a clinic in the upcoming school holiday to improve access to Dental Services for children in the local area. Sundon Dental practice are taking bookings for check-ups.

Please see the attached poster for further information.