



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Summer (A) 2026

Message from our Headteacher

This term has been a fantastic showcase of the range of learning taking place across our curriculum. From Oak Class mastering their numbers and Chestnut Class writing insightful texts on plastic pollution, to Hawthorn Class exploring famous artists and Rowan Class designing fashion inspired by Vivienne Westwood, our pupils have thrown themselves into every subject with wonderful enthusiasm.

A particular highlight this half term has been how our history learning has come to life. Whether it was Chestnut Class experiencing a lively medieval banquet, Hawthorn Class researching historical nurses, or Beech Class having a brilliantly 'disgusting' hands-on Egypt Day mummifying tomatoes, these 'wow days' have sparked so much curiosity and joy.

We also love seeing our learning being complemented by our environment. The warmer weather has allowed our classes to thrive outdoors, and we are delighted that Forest School sessions will continue into June as Oak Class take their turn in the woods. Indoors, our environment has been wonderfully enhanced by our brand-new, high-quality Sensory Room. Made possible by the Inclusion Innovation Fund, this space is already providing vital, tailored support to help our children flourish.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy term. I wish you all a wonderful, restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the rest of the Summer Term.

Oak Class

It has been another wonderful term in Oak Class. The children truly do amaze us in all that they achieve. They are very independent in their learning and their resilience continues to grow.



Evie: Aria and I were sharing the dolls.

Holly: Lily and I were writing.

The warmer weather has allowed us to spend much more time learning and achieving outdoors. Our gross-motor skills have continued to develop and our understanding of sharing and turn-taking and demonstrating the values have developed.



Noah: I enjoy playing with my friend Thomas.

Lola: We roll on the path, with the big truck.

During carpet time, our English learning has enabled us to begin to write short sentences. We have learnt to read and write many tricky words in phonics, which is beginning to support us with our writing. In maths our understanding of numbers to ten have deepened and we have been working on learning number facts.



Kady: I like number work.

Robyn: We know all about numbers to ten.



Golden Book
Mason

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have been working hard in their Maths lessons, learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. They have also been learning to complete multiplication and division by grouping and sharing.



The children have been developing their throwing, hitting and catching skills in their P.E. lessons. They have loved using these skills to play mini games of cricket.

Whales are in danger
They have been eating
plastic and people
are not respecting
oceans and rivers.
Whales live in oceans
and their tongue
is as heavy as an elephant
Whales are amazing!
Whales eat krill
What colour are they
They are blue?

In our English lessons we have been learning about different sea creatures and how plastic pollution is having a devastating impact on their survival. The children have ended our book 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' by writing information text about sea creatures and plastic pollution.

Whale
Whales live in polar seas
and they eat krill.
Blue Whales eat fish.
They are animals
and their tongue is
as heavy as an elephant
They have six legs
because of plastic.

We have really enjoyed learning about Kings and Queens throughout British history like Henry VIII, Queen Victoria and Richard III. We completed our topic by learning about a medieval banquet. We learned about Medieval table etiquette like 'Don't scratch your head', 'If you are full, throw your food on the floor' and 'Remember to spit away from your food!' We then had lots of fun taking part in a mini banquet. Some children even entertained us by taking on the role of a jester.



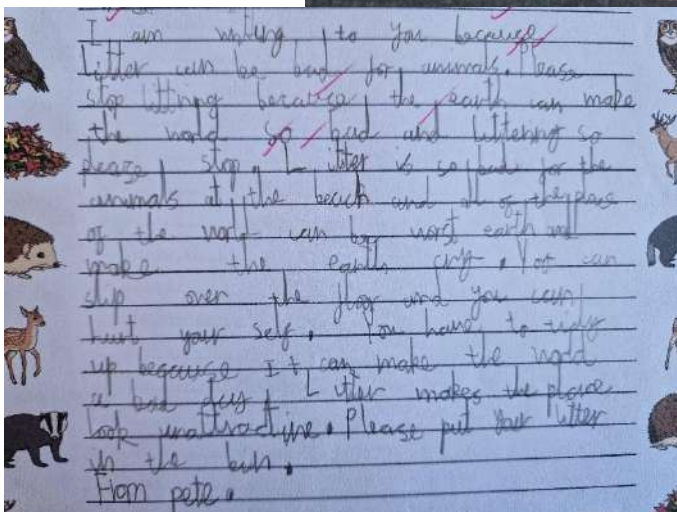
Chestnut Class has been lucky to enjoy outdoor learning opportunities this half term. They have faced the challenge of learning to climb trees and problem solve the best way to get down. They have weeded the flower beds and planted seeds. Hopefully with the weather we are experiencing lately they won't take too long to grow. They have really enjoyed exploring the outside, taking part in scavenger hunts, creating dens, digging and creating nature bracelets.



**Golden Book
Alfie**

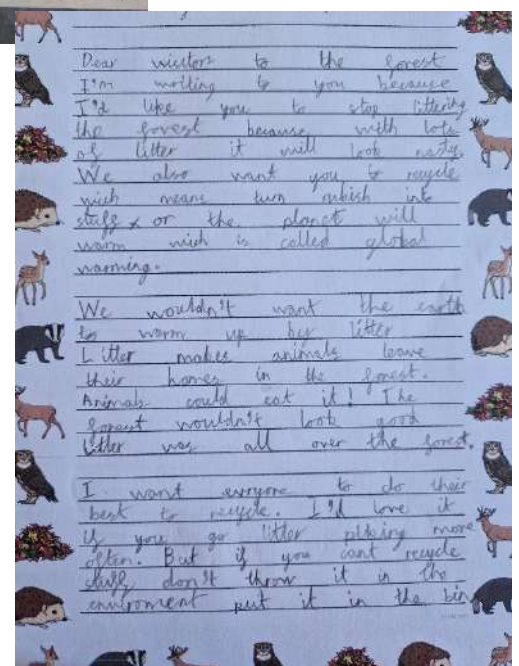
Hawthorn Class

Hawthorn Class have been very busy this half term. In English, the children have enjoyed our unit of work based on the story 'Tidy'. We began the unit by doing some litter picking around the school, the children loved this and did an amazing job at collecting litter! The children have thought about the impact of litter on the environment. They have worked really hard on writing diary entries, letters, poems and facts.



Ally - I liked writing about Pete, the badger.

Violet - I liked learning about the environment and writing the letters from Pete.



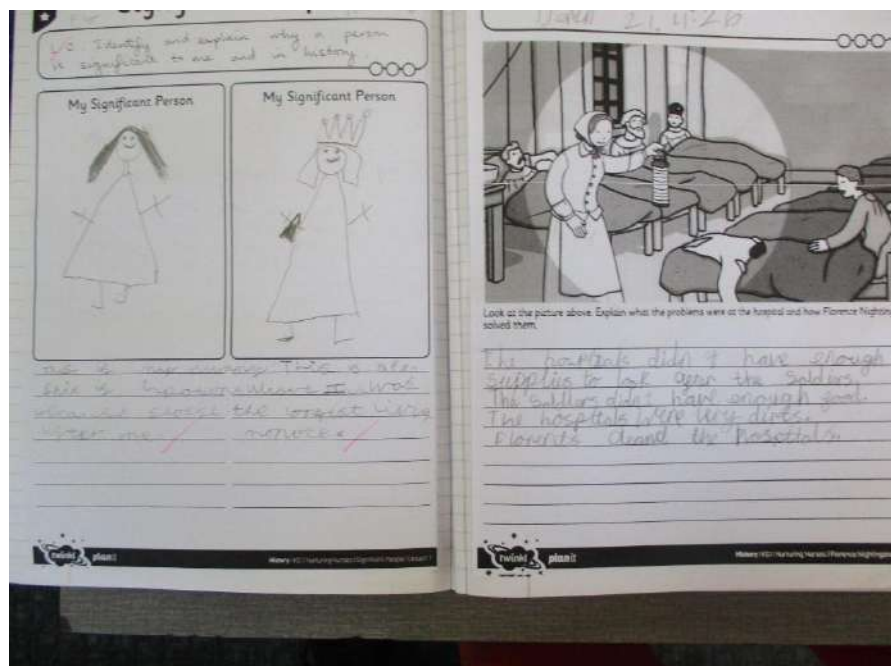
The children have enjoyed their Art topic on landscapes and cityscapes. They have learnt about different artists and their styles of Art including Monet, Van Gogh and Metzinger. They have recreated Art work by each Artist and have painted pictures, used pastels and made a mosaic.

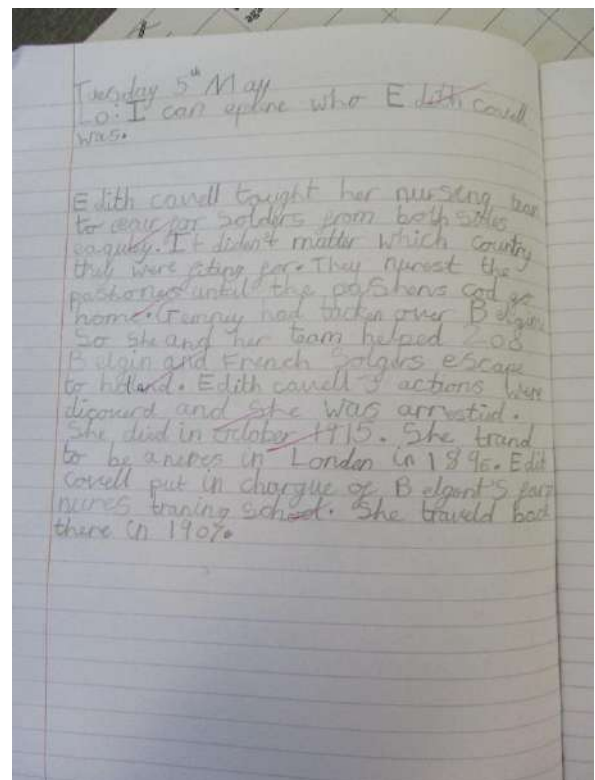
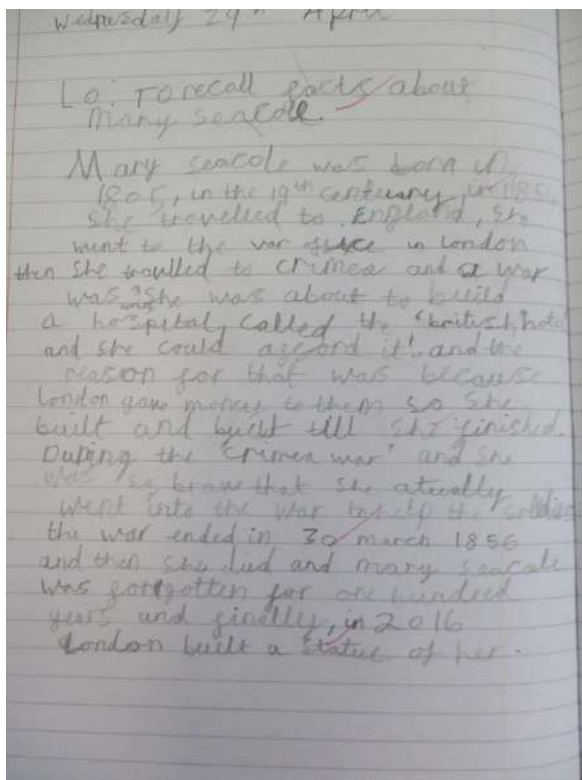


Paisley - I liked making lots of different paintings.

Elliott. L - It's interesting learning about the Artists. It's great looking at their paintings.

In History we have been learning about Nurturing Nurses. We have learnt about the lives of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. The children have been very enthusiastic about learning about why these nurses are significant people in History. They have completed some excellent work including making posters of their significant people and significant people in History, writing information about the nurses and making comparisons between what the different nurses achieved.





Nell - I liked learning about how the nurses helped other people.

Indiarose - I liked learning about Florence Nightingale going to the Crimean War.



Golden Book

Jude

Rowan Class

This half term in PE, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed developing their cricket and rounders skills. The children have been working hard on their bowling and batting techniques, focusing on accuracy, control and teamwork. They have practised a variety of fielding skills, including catching, throwing and stopping the ball quickly to support their team during games. It has been wonderful to see the pupils growing in confidence, showing great sportsmanship and applying their new skills in fun, competitive matches.



Year 3 have been very creative this term in their “Bodies” Art unit, where they have explored the human form using a range of materials and techniques. The children have built their skills as artists by producing observational drawings in pen, experimenting with charcoal to explore body shapes, and using their sketchbooks to develop and reflect on their ideas. They created maquettes influenced by the Terracotta Army and also became fashion designers creating paper clothes and learning about Vivienne Westwood.



Golden Book

Boden

Beech Class

In Science, we have been learning all about living things and their habitats. We explored the seven life processes and thought carefully about how living things grow and survive. We also learnt how scientists classify animals and used classification keys to sort vertebrates into different groups. One of the highlights of our learning was going outside on an invertebrate hunt armed with magnifying glasses! We searched carefully for mini beasts in their habitats and then used classification keys to help identify what we had found. We really enjoyed being scientists and investigating the world around us.

Robyn: I liked doing the different classification keys and learning what characteristics different animals have.

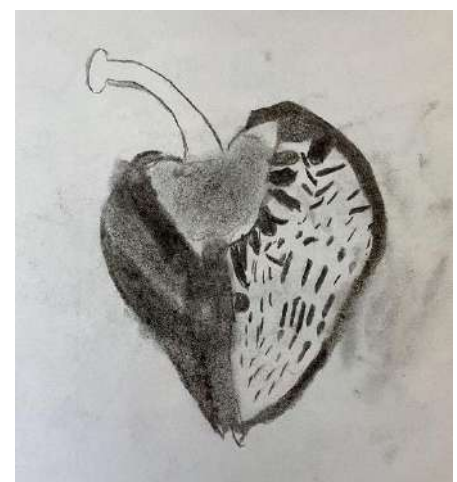
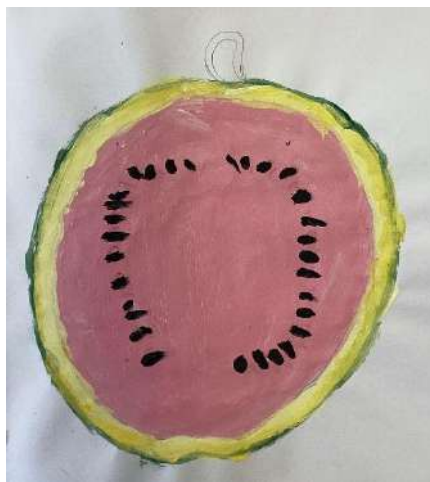
Georgie: It was fun to go on a hunt for invertebrates outside looking for all the different types.



In Art, our focus has been fruit and vegetable artwork. We explored the work of artists such as Carl Warner and his amazing 'foodscapes', as well as Caravaggio and his dramatic use of light and shadow. We developed our sketching and colouring techniques by using charcoal to draw peppers and coloured pencils to create detailed drawings of real fruit. We also experimented with painting and mixed media before designing our own foodscape masterpieces. We are incredibly proud of the creativity and effort that has gone into our artwork this half term.

Dante: I liked drawing the foodscapes in coloured pencil for the art exhibition.

Harlee: I really liked drawing the details on the different fruit and vegetables like the lighter and darker shades.

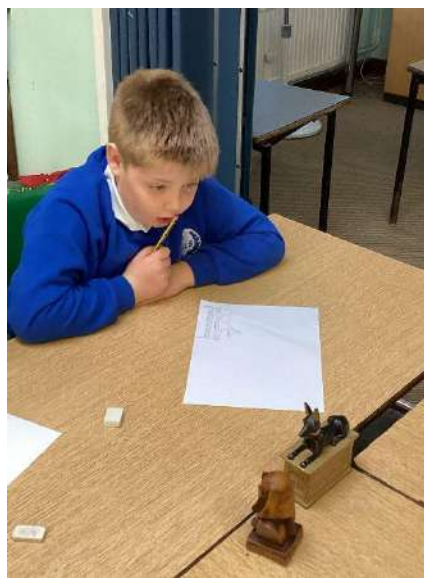


In History, we had an exciting Egypt Day where we spent the whole day learning about Ancient Egypt. We discovered how the Egyptians prepared bodies for the afterlife and even had a go at mummifying our own tomatoes. It was disgusting but fun! We learned how to write in hieroglyphics and found out about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We studied some Egyptian artefacts and had a go at sketching them like archaeologists. We also enjoyed reading Egyptian myths and learning about the different gods and goddesses that Ancient Egyptians believed in. It was a fantastic day that brought our history learning to life.

Tabitha: I loved mummifying the tomatoes because I liked scooping out the insides and measuring out the salt and bicarbonate of soda to fill it with.

Logan: I really liked making the cartouche and finding out the letters in my name in hieroglyphics.





Golden Book

Aoife

Forest School

Please remember that Forest School sessions for Chestnut and Rowan Classes will continue for a final week on Thursday 4th June. From Wednesday 10th June, Oak Class will begin their Forest School sessions. Further information regarding kit and what to expect has been sent out separately.

Sensory Room

Over the last term we have been thrilled to be able to transform a former office into a dedicated, high-quality sensory room. This project was made possible by funding from the Local Authority's Inclusion Innovation Fund, which allowed us to install a variety of equipment including an interactive bubble tube, mirrors, sequin panels and a dark tent. This is a fantastic addition to our school as it allows us to better support children with special educational needs and social, emotional and mental health needs. A few of our children have started accessing this, and we look forward to being able to offer it to more children.

