



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Spring (1) 2023

Welcome to the first issue of our School News. This will be sent at the end of every half term to let you know what has been going on in school.

Oak Class

In Oak Class we have had a busy half term. We have enjoyed lots of cooking activities such as baking bread and gingerbread men.

The children enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year. The week started with an invite to wear red clothing, sampling prawn crackers and noodles, dragon dancing and making lucky money wallets.



Pietro: I liked tasting noodles with chopsticks.

Lilly: I loved the dragon dance and dancing with the dragon costume on.

Zach: I liked eating the prawn crackers.

Holly: I wore a red dress to school.

Ebube: I loved the prawn crackers so much that I could not stop eating them.

Oak Class had a fabulous time on their village walk. The sun was shining and the children had a wonderful time exploring the local area.



Dylan: I liked spotting things for our winter hunt.

Sophia: I found a baby acorn.

Ibby: We had to wear yellow jackets.

Georgia: I loved the walk because I went with my friends.

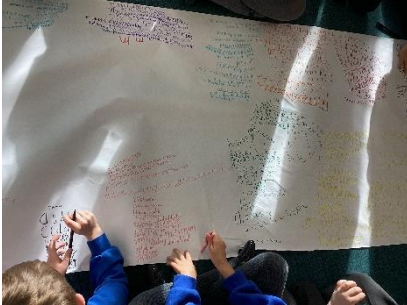
Oak Class are looking forward to ending the term with a Pyjama Party, to end our winter topic.



Oak Class Wow work
Pietro and Elijah

Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class we have been working hard this half term on correctly forming our letters and numbers. The children enjoyed listening to music and writing on a large roll of paper with colourful pens.



Robyn – It makes handwriting fun.

Riley – I like active learning and this is active learning.

Archie – It makes me happy and my fingers strong.

Alice – It makes me feel calm and happy.



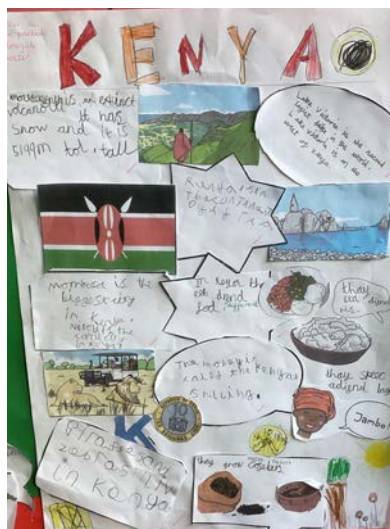
Chestnut Class WOW Work

Ellie and Dante

Hawthorn Class

Geography

Hawthorn Class have been learning about Kenya. They created passports and plane tickets and then boarded their flight to Nairobi.



Working in table groups the children have created some amazing posters sharing all the facts they have learned so far about Kenya.

We were also lucky enough to have Mr Kingham visit to share his experiences of life in the Kenyan countryside. The children enjoyed sharing their learning so far and asked Mr Kingham lots of questions too. Some children were selected to play the African instruments.



Alec - I really liked the lesson where we looked at Kenyan instruments because they were very different to the instruments we have. They work in the same way, but are very oddly shaped.

Ava - I learnt about lots of animals that live in Kenya, not just the big five. I also learnt that rhinos are endangered but there are lots of buffalo left in Kenya.

Anthony - I liked the [Maasai] Jumping dance best. We watched a video and then tried doing the Jumping dance. Then we made up our own dance and coloured in our [Maasai] necklaces.

Mila - My favourite part in Geography was learning about the big five. The big five are buffalo, lion, leopard, elephant and rhino. I didn't know there were only 3 [Northern White] rhinos left in Kenya.

Science



The children have been learning about materials and their suitability for different tasks. For the first time the children work independently in their table groups to answer: What material is the best for clearing up a spillage? They all worked hard to conduct the enquiry in a scientifically fair way using: the same size material, the same amount of water and the same amount of time.



Hawthorn Class WOW Work
Connor and James W

Rowan Class

Year 3 Swimming

For the past 5 weeks, Year 3 have attended swimming lessons at Flitwick Leisure Centre. Each child has worked on a variety of skills developing a variety of strokes, building stamina and confidence to swim lengths, improving water safety and lastly to gain confidence in being in the water. It is fantastic that we can offer this as part of the curriculum and provide the children with this opportunity. The children have enjoyed these lessons and it has been a super way to encourage physical activity in a different environment.

Rylee: I like swimming.

Leo: I've enjoyed the back stroke because our coach had taught us in separate lessons so we didn't have to learn it in one lesson and she encouraged us.

Ava: At swimming I did frog legs. It was really fun but the pool was really cold. I like swimming so much it is the best sport I've ever done.

Lucy: I really liked jumping in the pool. I also liked the sinkers and we got to try to swim on our own. The swimming teacher was very kind and helped us when we needed it.

Alfie: We used the floats to try and swim backwards. I like swimming in the pool and we jumped in the pool.

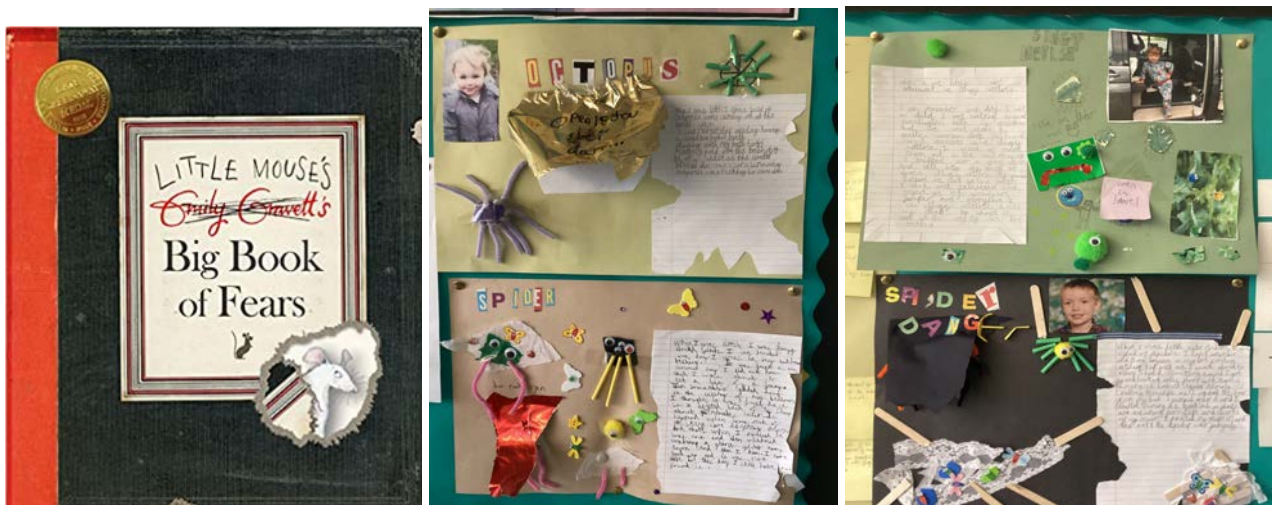


Rowan Class WOW Work

Ava and Grayson

Beech Class

We have had a busy half term. In English, we looked at Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears, using it to inspire our own scrapbook based on childhood fears and then to write recounts of a narrow escape. Clay and Esmae produced some amazing work, making use of similes, fronted adverbials and other techniques to build tension.



In Science, we have been studying States of Matter. We discussed the different properties of solids, liquids and gases, sorting a range of familiar items into the appropriate category. The children had fun working in groups to act out how the particles in each behave.

We did three different experiments to investigate gases. We considered an “empty” plastic bottle, and realised that even though it has no liquid in it, it is full of gas, which we could feel when we squeezed it. The children weighed first an empty and then a filled balloon, proving that gases do weigh something (even if we can’t see them). Finally, we squeezed a sponge under water and observed the bubbles coming out and rising to the surface. We talked about how this shows there was gas in the holes of the sponge.



Sadie: I really enjoyed acting like a solid.

Lydia: To be a solid we had to stand still together and move as a group.

Roopjot, Ruth and Joe W: As a liquid we could move around but had to stay close to each other and fill the space.

Lily-Mae: To be a gas I could move anywhere but if i hit something I had to move in a different direction.



Beech Class WOW Work

Clay and Esmae



Nut Allergies

Please note that we are a school with a managing allergies policy as we have children with nut allergies/intolerances. Please do not send anything in lunch boxes or into school that may contain nuts so that we can keep everyone safe. Thank you.

Library News

Well done to everyone who managed to do some of the challenges in the **Library Reading Bingo Challenge** that went home over the Christmas holidays. Children who had completed 20 or more challenges were chosen randomly for a special library treat, so I was pleased to invite Sadie, Riley, Emilia, Vincent, Camilla, Arthur, William, James C, Ralph and Lily T to come to a 'Milkshake Break' in the Library.

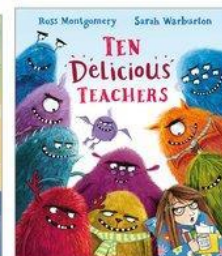
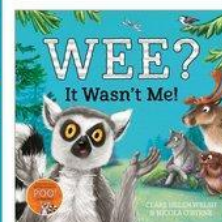
As well as enjoying milkshake and biscuits, the children talked about books that they read for the challenge, books that some of them are writing, and I read one of our LOLLies shortlist books (see below) to the group. It was called 'Ten Delicious Teachers' and we liked spotting the monsters and guessing what lessons the monsters could be learning in their monster school.

James C. - This is my best day ever



LOLLies Awards

The LOLLies Award is run by Scholastic books to choose the funniest children's book that has been published in the past year. In school, we are sharing the shortlisted picture books with everyone and asking them to vote for the one which they think is the funniest. If your child hasn't seen the books yet, they will soon! Once everyone has voted, we will send our results into Scholastic and I'll let everyone know who our School winner is. These are the books on the shortlist:



Library Ninjas

Some wonderful Year 4s have volunteered to help me in the library. Some of them will be helping me to shelve returned books, keep the library tidy, check the books are in the right order on the shelves, put up displays and catalogue books. Others will help me with special activities such as some of our plans for World Book Day week. They voted on what they will be called and they chose 'Library Ninja'. They will get a badge or lanyard – I am in the process of designing something but it could look like this!

Values Tree Mural

In order to celebrate our values that underpin everything we do here at Harlington Lower School, we have had a Values Tree painted in the school building. We are very grateful to Vicky from Arty Farty Wall Murals for producing such beautiful artwork and to a member of the community and the Friends of Harlington Lower School Association for their generous donations which have made this possible.

Duke: I think it makes me feel like I should really follow the values and plus it is really detailed. It's amazing!



Lost Property



Above is all the lost property that we have. None of it is named. Please let the Office know if it is yours.

Diary Dates for Spring Term

DAY	DATE	MONTH	DETAILS	Time
Mon	13th	February	Break for half term	
Mon	20th	February	Pupils Return to School	
Tue	28th	February	Music assembly	9:10am
Wed	1st	March	Book Swap	
Thu	2nd	March	World Book Day	
Mon	6th	March	Parent consultations	3:40pm - 6pm
Thu	9th	March	Parent consultations	8am - 10:30am
Wed	15th	March	Y4 Children leave for Caythorpe residential trip	
Fri	17th	March	Y4 children return from Caythorpe residential trip	
Fri	24th	March	WOW Tea Party with Miss Paulding	
Wed	29th	March	Easter service at St Mary's Church, Harlington	10am
Mon	3rd	April	Easter holidays start	
Mon	17th	April	Training day - school closed	
Tue	18th	April	Pupils Return to School	
Fri	21st	April	Class newsletters to parents	
Thu	27th	April	Y3 meeting about residential trip in 2024	TBC