



Harlington Lower School

Half Term School News - Autumn (2) 2023

Welcome to our Autumn edition of School News. This is our half-termly newsletter where we celebrate all the wonderful things that we have been doing over the half term. We hope that you enjoy reading about our exciting Autumn Term!

Message from our Headteacher

The Autumn Term is always a busy one! The school has been filled with the buzz of singing, dancing and performing as the children have practised for different performances: Music Assembly, the Oak Class Nativity, KS1 Nativities and Choir Concerts, to name but a few. We have included some photos and write ups about some of these events in this newsletter.

This term we have also had lots of exciting learning opportunities taking place, as well as opportunities for some of our classes to organise their own charity events. All of these events contribute to making our school the place it is – where we focus on values and personal development as well academic lessons. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this term, as always.

As we near the end of term, the children are excited to spend the holidays with their families. When they return to school in January, they will share stories of what you did together. This Christmas, please take the time to be together and enjoy making memories. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Oak Class

It has been another busy term. We have been busy learning lots of new songs and actions for our Nativity play. We have been fortunate to have a visitor from the Church, who told us the Christmas story, using her lovely knitted puppets. We have also been keeping a close eye on our cheeky elf, who has been visiting us from the North Pole.



Freddie: We have enjoyed sharing stories about Christmas.

Paisley: We have made Christmas cards in our writing area.

Our book this half-term has been The Three Little Pigs. We really enjoyed making and eating our Piggy Pancakes and constructing homes for the pigs. We have been busy learning all about numbers up to 5.



Rebecca: I loved building the houses.

Elliott: I really liked making the Piggy Pancake.



Golden Book 18.12.23

Luca



Wow work

Derin

Polly

Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class, we have been busy making fabric bunting in design technology. We have designed a bunting flag, drawn out our flag from a template, cut our flag shape out from material and even stitched a running stitch. We found threading the cotton onto the needle tricky but we displayed the values of patience and perseverance to complete the task! We then used other fabric pieces to create our design. We're looking forward to bringing our bunting flags home.



Ernie - The needle part was so hard, it was tricky to get it through the bunting.

Dylan - It was fun cutting the bunting out.

Zach - I like sticking the fabric on.

Lilly.G - I made a love heart for my bunting flag.



Golden Book 18.12.23

Chloe C



Wow work

Harper

Ibby

Hawthorn Class

Hawthorn have loved their History topic on The Gunpowder Plot. We have enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and the problems the plotters encountered. We had fun role playing their conversations too.



Finn - I liked learning about how The Plotters got to the Houses of Parliament and their plans.

Harlee- I enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes.

Elliot - I liked creating the 'Wanted' poster of Thomas Percy.

Charlotte - I liked learning about The Gunpowder Plot because it was exciting.



Golden Book 18.12.23

Zoe



Wow work

Charlotte

Aaraiz

Rowan Class

Rowan Class had a fantastic time during No Pen day on the 29th November. We took our learning, about the human skeleton, outside where we searched for twigs and pinecones to help build our own skeletons. We showed great co-operation and perseverance to correctly name the bones too.



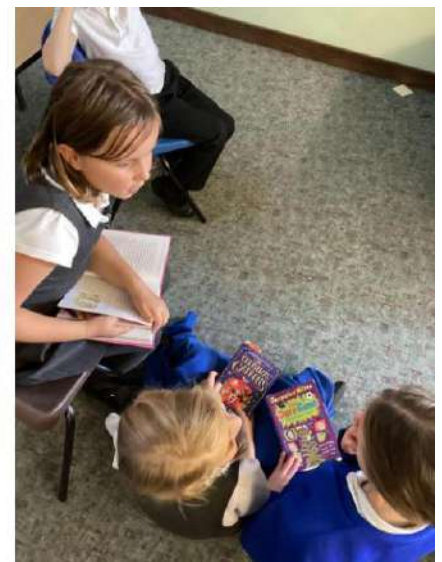
No Pen day continued in the classroom too, where we solved word problems for multiplication and division. It was great fun!



Our DT topic this half term has been Edible Gardens. The children have learned about different types of herbs which led to the children making Pesto Pasta with basil as a main ingredient. We also learnt about strawberries and the seasons in which they grow. In this session the children focused on their preparation skills, cutting, mashing and mixing the ingredients to make strawberry smoothies. Finally, they learned all about tomatoes, different varieties which the children observed and tasted. Next week we'll be making our final recipes!



This half term Rowan Class have been very enthusiastic about reading so wanted to have some time in the day to read their favourite books. We moved the tables so children could get comfortable to read, put an ambient fireplace on the screen and had some biscuits! The children really enjoyed this and it was lovely to see so many of them engaged in reading and explaining with their friends why these books were their favourite.





Golden Book 18.12.23
Anthony



Wow work
Alec
Maisie

Beech Class

In Beech Class we had a charity week where we decided to have a toys, games and books sale to raise money for a charity of our choice. We donated some of our old toys, books and games from home for the sale. There were lots of puzzles, soft toys, colouring books, action figures and books for older and younger children.

To choose the charity, we all had a vote so it would be fair and narrowed it down to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All money made from the sale was donated to them. Make-A-Wish is a very kind charity that helps to grant some poorly children's wishes. The sale was really successful and in the end, we raised over £70 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We are really proud and hope the money is useful for helping poorly children have their wishes granted.

By Ava, Lucas and Phebe



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 always full of rich vocabulary, apostrophes for possession, conjunctions and fronted adverbials. Here are some examples:

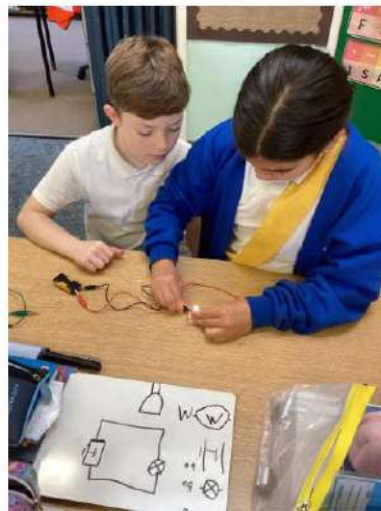
After the purple smoke cleared, a mysterious man jumped on the wooden stage. Suddenly the man's pretty white cape washed into the air while white light glitter came out of his finger tips. Seconds later, plastic neckties came out of his sleeves then the neckties turned into white doves. As the dove came out off his sleeve, paper flowers blossomed from his sleeve to the colors where lime green pink and ruby red. Then his eyes lit up and his favorite red hat fell off. His emerald ring glowed in the bright moon light which made a shimmer on his finger. Then in large letters it said **LEI THE MAGIC BEGINS**

Dear diary

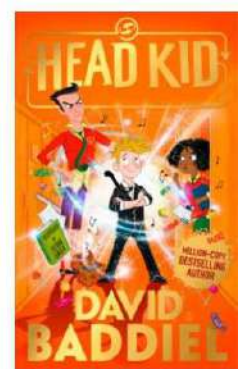
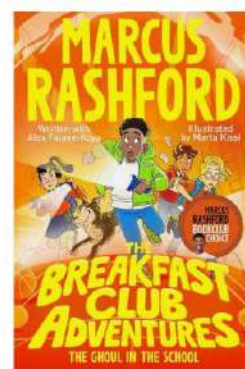
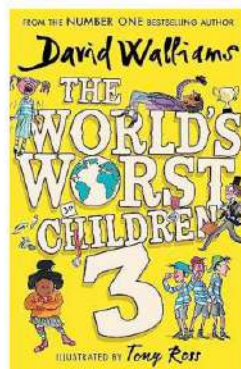
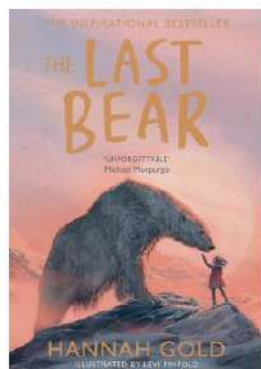
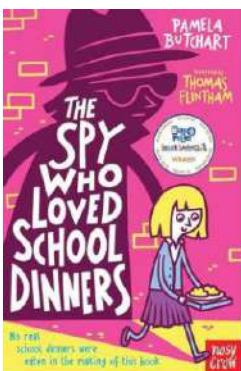
Today has not turned out the best for me as I was all packed to travel the world in my specially chosen hot air balloon. I was ~~in~~ ^{in the air} in a nice room with a special bed coming my way. I suddenly ducked down and noticed the storm about to hit but it didn't. As I stood up I could see the house like being ripped off by the storm's force but none thing I knew I was knocked unconscious in a blink of an eye. A strong wind hit me in the back of my head. The storm hit me and the room was pushed me to the ground with a thud. I woke up and all I knew was I was in a room. I was I didn't know where I was all I could see is strange shaped trees and waterfalls but there was something that caught a glimmer of my eye. It was a glowing green palace. Spelling: 22.

As the thin cloud of purple smoke disappeared with a gentle puff, a shadowy figure glided smoothly ~~across~~ ^{across the} stage from behind the scarlet curtains. He bowed theatrically, his violet velvet cloak swishing on his broad back ~~as~~ ^{when} he did so. Then he politely raised his blood red hat, before twirling his long wand with a glowish. Miraculously, ~~paper~~ ^{vibrant} flowers blossomed under his wide, glowing sleeves. Sparks fizzed from his gold ring while ~~the~~ ^{the} sage green emerald in the middle glistened brightly in the silver moonlight.

Science has been all about electricity. We liked learning 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.



This half term we have been really enjoying chatting to each other about books. Miss Hines does lots of reading at home too and she has shown us some of her favourite books and shared what she is reading. Lots of us have been really excited to try new books too (especially the new ones in the library) and we have been reading lots more at home. Here are some books we have enjoyed reading recently:



Golden Book 18.12.23
Ronan



Wow work
Leo
Lucy

Music Assembly

We had a fabulous music assembly where our pianists were all able to play to an audience. The Year 3 and Year 4 recorder groups played and the assembly finished with an amazing performance by the school choir singing Power in Me.



Library News

It has been a very busy half-term in the library. Thanks to a very generous investment by the Friends committee, we have been able to purchase lots of new books for our collection. Several of these have been science and other non-fiction books, and we have worked hard to ensure that as many of these as possible are accessible to our younger readers.

It has been a pleasure to also be able to add to our shelves some fiction titles that were suggested by children across the school in the library user survey conducted in July. It has been lovely to see how much the children have been enjoying these new books during their weekly class sessions and when the library has been open at lunchtime or break time.

In addition, we have invested in a new storage unit for our picture books, which has been a popular addition to the library setting, allowing the children to choose their books more easily.

Further changes are planned for next half term - watch this space!



Choir

This half term the choir have been working very hard to learn some lovely Christmas songs. A group of children went on a trip to Luton Airport to sing these Christmas Carols to the public. It was an exciting journey which started with a walk to Harlington Train Station, a train ride to Luton Airport Parkway and then a trip on the The Luton Dart. The children were exceptionally well behaved, represented our school wonderfully and had a fantastic time. They raised lots of money for charity and brought joy to the many passengers at London Luton Airport who were off on their travels.



The choir also sung alongside Sundon Lower School and Silsoe Lower School at a concert with Amptill Town Band. The children showed the value of patience as well as enjoying themselves and bringing lots of festive cheer to their parents and the other audience members.



Does your child want to play a brass instrument?

Following on from the Harlington and Sundon Lower School choirs performing at Ampthill Town Band's Christmas Concert on Sunday 10th December, Mark Lowe came in to do a brass assembly on Thursday of this week.



There has been lots of interest in children wanting to learn to play a brass instrument. If your child has shown an interest to play the cornet, trumpet, tenor horn, euphonium and trombone (pBone), an Inspiring Music tutor can start these lessons in 2024.

We are very much looking forward to seeing lots of new children playing brass instruments, as they realise how enjoyable learning a musical instrument can be.

So, if your child is now interested in having brass lessons, please find out more information [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please do email Mark at Mark.Lowe2@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk