

Wheatcroft School



Newsletter

December 2020



Mrs Miller's Message



As our Autumn term comes to an end, I am so pleased that we have been able to continue with some form of Christmas celebrations for our pupils. Key Stage 1 and Foundation have enjoyed a virtual pantomime, we have enjoyed Christmas jumper day, decorations day and every key stage has produced a wonderful Christmas performance. The children have shown how enthusiastic they are through their singing, dancing and performing; and it has been wonderful to be able to share this with you through our recordings. Our children have also still been given the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas dinner with thanks to our catering team led by Mrs Braddock and the organisation of Mrs Higgs, our lead MSA.

Awards assembly has continued this term albeit virtually and the children have worked hard to gain certificates for various reasons. Each week we observe the team points which has been a very close competition, but a huge well done to the Yellow team for being this term's winners. We have also seen the recent introduction of our Times Tables Rock Stars competition set up by Mr Wackett; well done to the children in Key Stage 2 who have made the monthly leader boards. Congratulations to Joshua T (yr6), Archie E (Yr3), Aidan P (Yr4), Aidan W (yr6) and Kyle (Yr4) for being our top pupils in the school.

As you are aware, this term we say goodbye to Mrs Carter, a long standing member of the Wheatcroft team for 15 years who will be greatly missed not only by the children, staff and parents but also the local community. The children recorded their own version of 'Thank you for the music' which was played to Mrs Carter this week with a backdrop of photos and special messages celebrating her time with us. We cannot thank Mrs Carter enough for her commitment to our school.

During this term, we have also said goodbye to Mrs Rampersaud who we wish well as she moves out of the area. We have welcomed an experienced teacher of 12 years to the Year 5 class, Miss Peffers who has been an asset to the Wheatcroft team.

From January, we require more MSA support during our busy lunchtimes. If you feel that this is the role for you and you are able to spare some time during lunchtimes, please speak with me or Mrs Higgs to share your interest.

My warm thanks go out to the parent body for your generous support towards the PTFA this term who have been trying to organise ways to ensure money can still be raised for the school funds. As Mrs Barnes steps down from her role, I would like to thank her for the time she has spent supporting and leading the PTFA during her time as Chair. If you are excited about leading a strongly committed group of parents in developing fun ideas and activities for our children which in turn raises much needed funds for our school, please ensure you speak to me or a member of the PTFA to find out more about the role.

My heartfelt thanks go out to our Wheatcroft staffing team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our children have made good progress this term as well as enjoying the festive cheer that the Christmas term brings. I cannot thank the staff team enough for their commitment to our school, and I am sure you will agree with me in wishing them a well-deserved restful and safe Christmas with their own families and friends. Thank you for taking the time to send in cards and presents to show your appreciation to our staff. I wish you all a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely
Mrs D Miller
Headteacher



Nursery



Nursery children have settled in to school life well, learning the routines of the classroom and making friends. The children spend lots of time learning outside, both during CIL and in Forest School.

In Phonics, they have been following Phase 1 of letters and sounds where they have been developing their listening skills. Activities have included going on a listening walk, body percussion and exploring the sounds made by different musical instruments.

Nursery have been learning lots of traditional rhymes and songs. The children enjoyed World Nursery rhyme week where they did lots of activities linked to different rhymes.



In Maths, Nursery have been working on their understanding of number, knowing that numbers identify how many objects are in a set. They have also been learning the names and properties of two-dimensional shapes.



Reception 1



We have had a really busy and fun start to our school year in Reception 1. We have made lots of new friends and learnt so much.



Every week we have been going to our Forest School. We have had so much fun learning about numbers, shapes, going on treasure hunts and making pictures with natural materials.



We have really enjoyed PE lessons, working on our ball skills including rolling accurately and playing games together. We had so much fun rehearsing and performing our Nativity production and making decorations on Decorations Day and wearing our Christmas jumpers.



Reception Two



In Reception Two we have had a wonderful start to the year. We have been busy making new friends, exploring the learning environment and having lots of fun learning! We have seen so much progress already in the children and they have coped really well with transitions to their new class.



We started the Autumn Term by learning about ourselves and our families. The children loved learning about babies and enjoyed looking after the babies in our role play clinic. The children fed them milk, changed their nappies and of course gave them lots of cuddles to make them feel better.



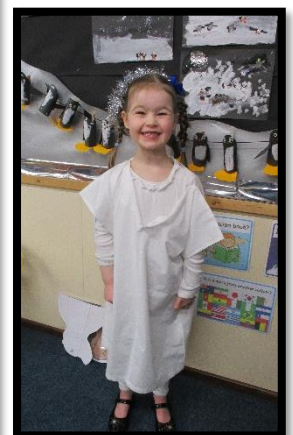
During the second half of the Autumn term we have been learning about celebrations and winter. We learnt all about Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night and the children enjoyed making their own fireworks using a range of building materials. We also really enjoyed listening to the story "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers and then we created some winter pictures decorated with glitter and sequins.



Foundation Stage Nativity



We really enjoyed performing our play "The Nativity". We even went outside to film some of the scenes!

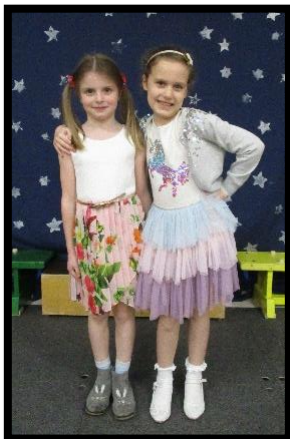




Key Stage 1 – It's A Miracle



This half term Key Stage 1 have all had lots of fun learning our lines, songs and dances for our production of 'It's A Miracle'. We hope you enjoy watching the DVD at home. Here are some photographs of all of us in our costumes.





Key Stage 1 – It's A Miracle



Thank you to all the parents who have helped with practising lines and songs at home and for providing costumes.

Thank you to all the KS1 team for all your help in rehearsing and preparing for the production and to Miss Morris for recording and producing the DVD.



Music



The children in Years 5 and 6 have been working hard composing music based on Holst's Planet Suite. They used a range of digital sounds, body percussion and vocal chants.



Throughout the school children have been practising their performance skills either by learning songs for their production or performing a piece to celebrate Christmas.



All the children have been making music, listening to and appraising or performing music. The children in Years 3 and 4 have been developing their glockenspiel skills and are beginning to read musical notation.



Class 3



The Year 3 class have settled in to school excellently. They have loved being back in the classroom learning and spending time with friends.



In English we have read a range of new books that the children have really enjoyed, especially 'Dr Xargle's Book of Earth Hounds'!
In maths the children have liked using resources to support their learning about angles and lines.



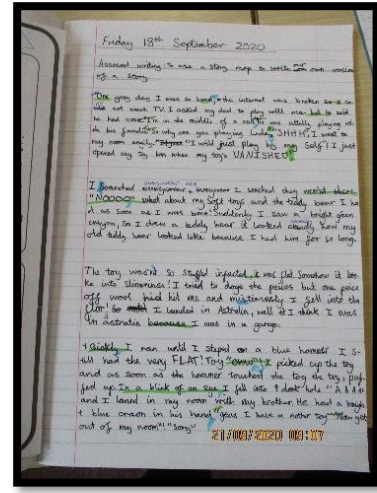
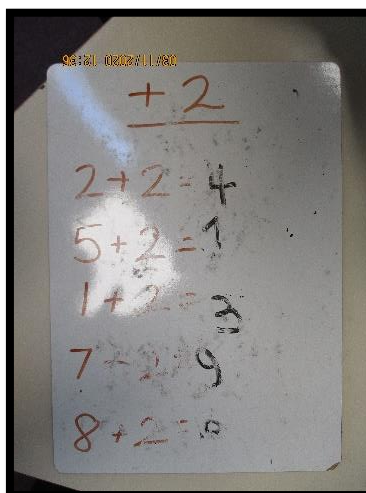
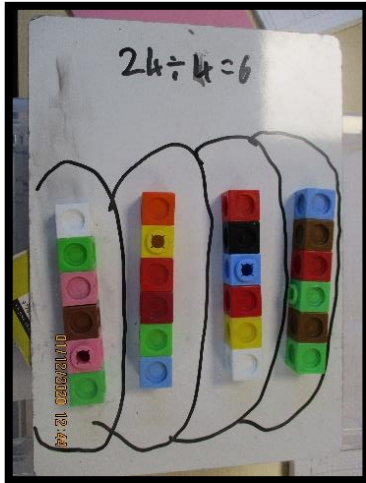
We spent some time searching for invertebrates outside the classroom which was fascinating!
Their attitude to learning this term has been brilliant.



Class 3/4



The children in the 3/4 class have settled back into school really well and have enjoyed building friendships with each other and participating in different activities together.



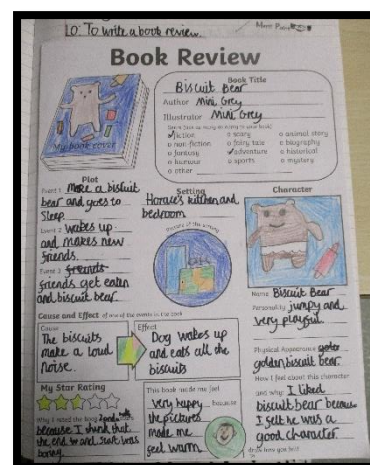
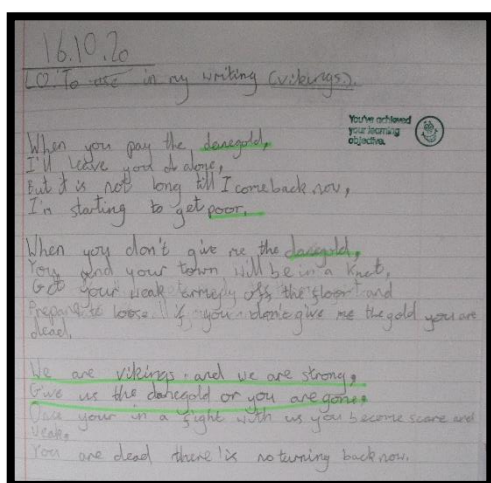
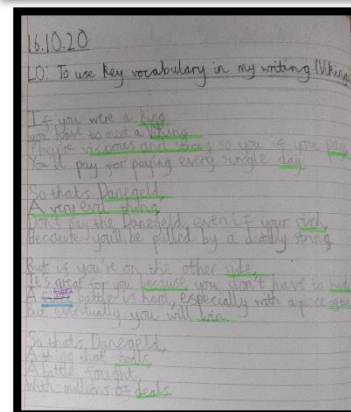
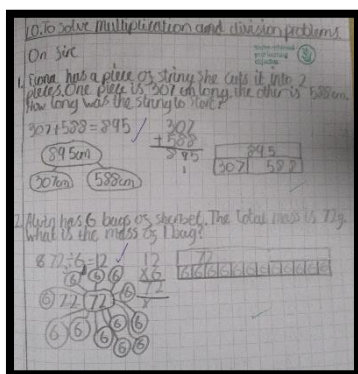
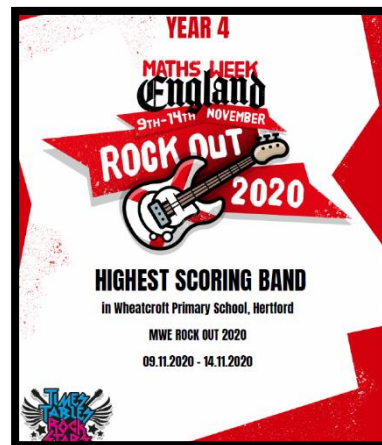
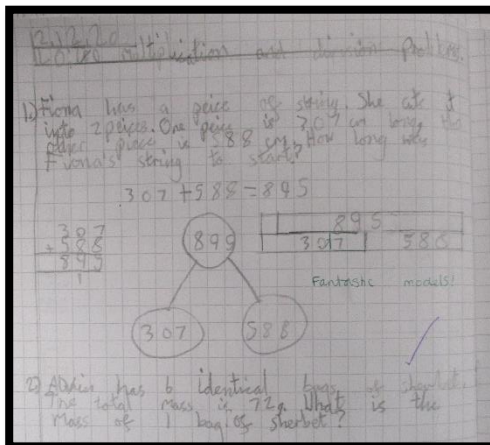
We have enjoyed using picture books to support our writing in English and revisiting place value and the four operations in Maths. We have also spent time learning outside and getting involved in various school activities.



Class 4



The children have settled well this term, making fantastic progress in the transition from the previous year. They have enjoyed our learning topics, some of which you can see in the photographs below.



We have enjoyed reading 'The Paper Bag Princess', 'The King Who Banned The Dark' and 'Biscuit Bear' amongst other picture books.

We are proud to have finished as the top class in the school in the recent TT Rockstar national competition.

We have loved using technology to help us learn in lots of our subjects. We have used Spelling Shed to improve our spellings and Google Classroom to share learning resources in class.



Class 5



What a different yet exciting term! With a strange start to the year, the Year 5 class have managed to work really hard and have lots to be proud of.



In Science we have been learning about light and how it travels in straight lines. However, it can bounce off reflective objects making the light appear to be bending.



We have been busy working collaboratively to plan, produce and test Rovers.

We have had lots of fun making Christmas decorations, singing and performing for our Christingle as well as producing beautiful Christmas cards.

I am so proud of all your hard work and wish you all the best in the New Year.



Class 5/6



Class 5/6 have had a busy Autumn term; we have worked hard and had lots of fun at the same time.

We have enjoyed our topic on Space in Science and History and even watched a live Q & A of Tim Peake.



In the second half of the Autumn Term we have been busy 'coming back down to earth' and learning all about the Earth's structure and its natural disasters. We thought about whether we would want to live near a volcano – with surprising results!



We have also managed to get outside and enjoyed collecting sticks for Decorations Day, creating our own Outdoor Art and trying to improve our fitness by increasing our laps in the daily mile!



Class 6



What a busy term! Although it has been a strange start to the year, the Year 6 class have worked really hard and have lots to be proud of.



Decorations Day saw the usual paint, glitter and fun and we produced some beautiful art.

We are also very proud of our Harvest artwork and also of the whole school for how much food Wheatcroft collected for our community.



Outside the classroom, some of us enjoyed working with Mrs Waller to create a natural piece of art based on our geography topic.

We are grateful to Mrs Carter for helping us with our Christingle track 'Hope of Heaven' and worked really hard with the instruments to create it. We are also grateful for all the work she has done with us on Tuesdays and will miss her very much.

We are very proud of our hard work so far this year and wish everyone a restful break and a happy 2021!



Letter from the PTFA



Dear Parents and Carers

As we all know the restrictions this year have meant that we have been unable to run some of the big events which bring in significant monies to PTFA funds.

We have been working with the school to come up with some safe and creative ways to fundraise. I was amazed at the generosity of parents on non-uniform day, thanks to you, the final total raised for the pyjama day reached over £900. Can I also thank some parents who have just donated money to the PTFA your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA by donating and taking part in the Christmas trail around the Foxholes estate - we hope you enjoyed it! We are so pleased to announce that we raised just over £220 - so THANK YOU!

The Christmas word was 'snowflakes' - all correct entries were entered into the draw, here are the lucky winners!

Personalised elf bottles - Esmé G (R1), Joe G (Yr4) & Alice O'D (Yr1/2).

Reindeer hot chocolate cones - Andreas I (Yr3), George S (Yr3), Isabelle M (Yr1), Amelie P (Yr2) & Rory S (N)

Special thanks goes to The Event Sisters for donating the brilliant prizes!

Regrettably, after two years as Chair I feel it is time to step down. If anyone is interested in the role please contact me for more information. We have an amazing supportive team of parents, allowing the load to be evenly spread.

Next year the plan is to run a few remote events such as a virtual disco. There will be more information about this in the New Year.

Once again, thanks for all your support.

Merry Christmas to everyone, see you in the New Year.

Katie Barnes

PTFA Chair

Chair of Governors



Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the Governors I would like to thank you for all your support to the school this year. I am sure you all enjoyed “Home Schooling” but were very happy for your children to return to school! This has been the most challenging time for all schools and I am sure you will join with me in thanking all the staff at Wheatcroft for all their hard work. The children too have been fantastic in adapting to the new normal!

The Governors have been working behind the scenes but have been unable to visit the school. The Governors have had regular meetings and some of the items discussed were Pupil Progress, Finance, Premises and Health and Safety. All staff and Governors undertook Safeguarding training in November.

I was delighted to receive the feedback from our School Improvement Partner following his visit to the school at the beginning of December showing how effective the “Catch-Up” curriculum has been and that pupil progress is where he would expect for this end of the term. Well done to all!

We have welcomed new staff to the school but will be sad to say goodbye this week to Mrs Carter and Mrs Rampersaud and wish them well for the future.

Although we are not able to be in school, Governors can be contacted via the school office.

It may not be the Christmas we usually experience this year but I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Sparks

Chair of Governors



Wheatcroft School



Notices:

Parent Contact information: please ensure that your contact information is kept up to date with the school office. Priority number one contact for each child will be the person who receives email and text notifications from the school as well as being registered on our school payment system School Gateway.

Communication to school: all items sent into school are quarantined before sending to the school office for processing. To assist with this process, we ask that you please promptly send in communications to school. Thank you.

Absences: please phone the school between 8:30 – 9:15am to report an absence, this should then be followed up with an email to admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk to confirm the reason for your child's absence.

School Lunches: Herts Catering kindly request that payment for school meals is made in advance. Various payment methods are available. Payment can be made via our payment system School Gateway. You can also pay directly on the school meals ordering system School Grid, alternatively you can set up a Direct Debit on School Grid and you will be billed monthly for the meals your child has taken that month.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2021

Tue 5th January

Start of Spring Term

Mon 15th February to Fri 19th February

Spring Half Term

Fri 26th March 2:30pm

End of Spring Term

Summer Term 2021

Tue 13th April

Start of Summer Term

Mon 31st May to Fri 4th June

Summer Half Term

Tue 20th July 2:30pm

End of Summer Term