

Wheatcroft School



Newsletter

December 2022



Mrs Miller's message



As our Autumn term comes to an end, I would like to start by thanking you all for sending cards, gifts, emails of thanks and your ongoing support as our parent body; it is very much appreciated.

The Autumn term is always a long one in the school year and this one has certainly been action packed! It seems like a long time ago when our Year 5 cohort took part in their 3 day residential trip to Bushcraft; an experience that they will remember well. Our Harvest Festival was a lovely way to involve our children in the community. The Year 6 children represented our school extremely well and their ability to entertain our guests at their tables as well as on the stage was very well received by the visitors. As well as our key events that we have welcomed back, our staff have continued to bring the curriculum to life as much as possible through events such as the Planetarium visit and The Great Fire of Wheatcroft. We look forward to many more opportunities in the year ahead.

Our School Improvement Partner was able to visit us this term with a shared focus on PE across the school. His report was very positive and celebrated the amount of work that has gone into our PE curriculum and provision. *"Practice seen shows that staff subject knowledge is strong and pupils make positive progress through the PE curriculum. Pupils were well behaved in PE lessons and were unfailingly polite to adults and held doors open for others without prompting. Feedback from pupils indicates that they have access to a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and inter-school sporting activities."* Well done and thank you to Mrs Woodier and the staffing team for the commitment they show to providing these opportunities for all our children.

As a school we have thoroughly enjoyed our first 'proper' Christmas term since 2019 and know that all of the hard work gone into organising our Christmas events has truly been worth it as we have watched the excitement build and the joy on the children's faces. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting into the festive spirit with Christmas dinner day, nativity plays from EYFS and KS1, the KS2 Christingle service, Christmas jumper day, decorations day and the PTFA Christmas Fair. It is hard to believe that for our younger children, our nativities would have been their first public performances; they made us all so proud. They shone with enthusiasm through their singing, dancing and performing, and it has been wonderful to be able to share this through live performances with you. Thank you so much to everyone on the Wheatcroft team who has put in so much extra effort to ensure the children are able to have these wonderful experiences.

Thank you to those of you who responded to our behaviour survey earlier in the term. We are extremely pleased to report that 100% of those surveyed stated that they agreed that their child felt safe at school. We have looked closely at the results which show that some of you have shared that you are unsure about your child's knowledge of keeping themselves safe online and online bullying. Every half term we have an online safety focus across the school to teach children about online safety at an age appropriate level. Online safety is also a key part of our IT and PSHE curriculum. We also send out online safety newsletters each term so do make sure you look out for these in our emails. During parent consultations, we have an online safety table for you to spend time browsing websites and resources. If you have any questions or concerns regarding online safety or online bullying please do speak with your class teacher. All online incidents are reported to our E-Safety lead Miss Brown.

As we come to the end of a very long and busy term I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their continued commitment and support towards educating the pupils of our school. Thank you so much to the Wheatcroft staff team for their commitment to our school; I am sure you will agree with me in wishing them a well-deserved restful and safe Christmas with their own families and friends. I wish you all a very special Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 5th January.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Miller
Headteacher



Goodbye Mr Dicker



This term we wave a fond farewell to Mr Dicker as he begins a well-earned retirement.

Mr Dicker joined Wheatcroft School in June 2018 and has been a huge asset to the Wheatcroft community during his time here. He has been a welcome sight at the gates with his warm smile, a hello for everyone and a few great jokes!

As well as carrying out his everyday tasks as site manager so efficiently, Mr Dicker has been involved in a substantial amount of building projects. We have been extremely fortunate to have him at the forefront supporting the work and ensuring the site remained well organised, safe and open. His ability to manage and liaise with the many companies that we have had working with the school has been excellent.

During our time in lock down, Mr Dicker helped support the school to ensure that social distancing was carried out and that the site was well maintained. He conscientiously monitored the cleaning and organisation as we began to welcome our school community back.

Mr Dicker has been an integral part of the running of our school as well as kind, caring and friendly. A true gentleman. He leaves us with a safe, welcoming environment which our visitors are always quick to comment upon and for which we are all truly grateful.

On behalf of us all, thank you Mr Dicker.



Nursery



This term, the children have settled well into Nursery. We have focused lots on building relationships, following routines and exploring the setting independently. We have enjoyed exploring the indoor and outdoor environment.



In Phonics, we have been developing our listening skills. Activities have included distinguishing the different sounds in our environment, body percussion and exploring the sounds made by different musical instruments. We have also loved sharing lots of stories together such as Owl Babies, Peace At Last and Whatever Next! We enjoy singing every day in the Nursery. A few of our favourites include: Hickory, Dickory, Dock, Wheels on the Bus and our 'jazz' version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star!



We are so proud of the Nursery for their involvement in 'A Wiggly Nativity'. What wonderful singing they did as angels!

On behalf of the Nursery staff, we would like to thank you for all your support this term. We wish you all a lovely, restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Reception 1



We have had a fantastic first term in Reception 1. We have made lots of new friends and learnt lots of new routines. We have really enjoyed playing with our Year 4 buddies.



We love listening to stories and have enjoyed a wide variety of books this term. We even had a visit from the librarian.



We really enjoy going to Forest School and we loved our forest school evening where we made S'mores and drank hot chocolate around the campfire. We are looking forward to another fun packed term in January.



Reception 2



This term the children have settled wonderfully into their new routines and have made lots of new friendships across the Reception classes. We have been focusing on phonics, writing our names, numbers to 10 and 2D shapes this term and have seen lots of exciting progress through the weeks.



This term Reception have enjoyed exploring their environment both inside and outside. Outside the children's favourite area is the construction site. Alongside our topic of 'Blast off' the children enjoyed making space rockets in the construction area and dressed up as astronauts using tabards and foil helmets.



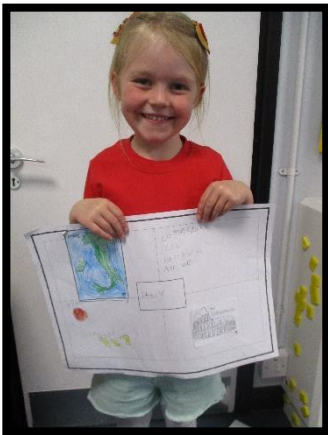
Another highlight for the children during December has been practising the Nativity and experiencing Decorations day for the first time. The children enjoyed going to different classrooms and making some wonderful decorations to place around our school.



Year 1



We have had great fun this Autumn Term. We learnt lots about the Great Fire of London and created our own artwork as well as having our own Great Fire of Wheatcroft.



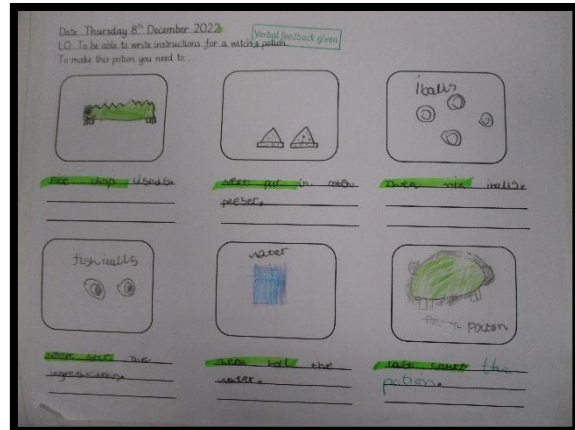
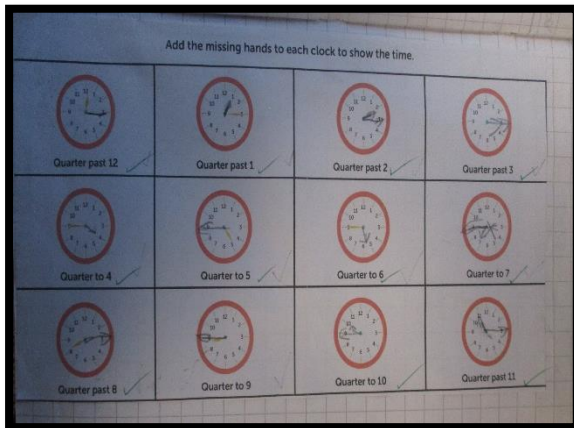
This term some of us also had the chance to practise our balancing skills as well as exploring different ways to travel and climb on the apparatus in PE.



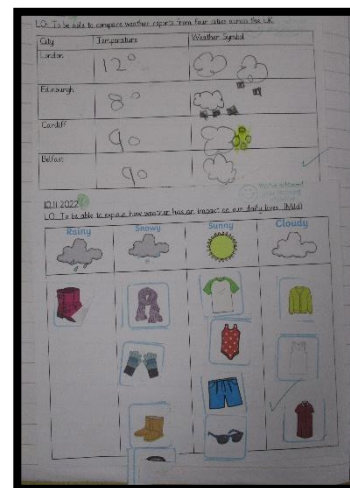
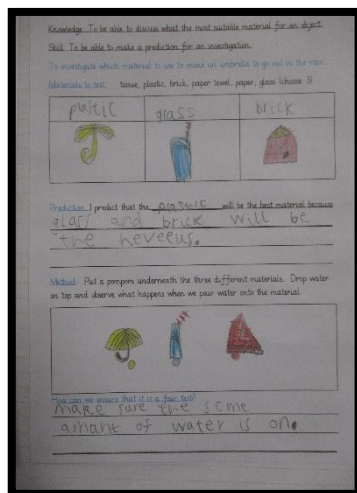
Year 1/2



We have been exploring many exciting topics this term. Here are just a few examples of all the wonderful things we have achieved.



This term we have been writing instructions on how to make our own potion. We used adjectives and time conjunctions to make our instructions more interesting. In our Maths lessons, we have been learning how to tell the time using o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past.



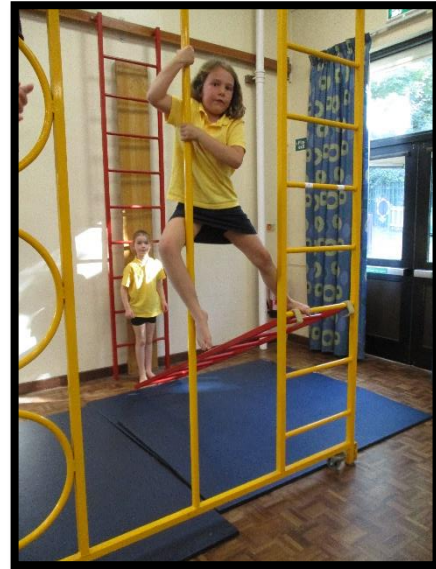
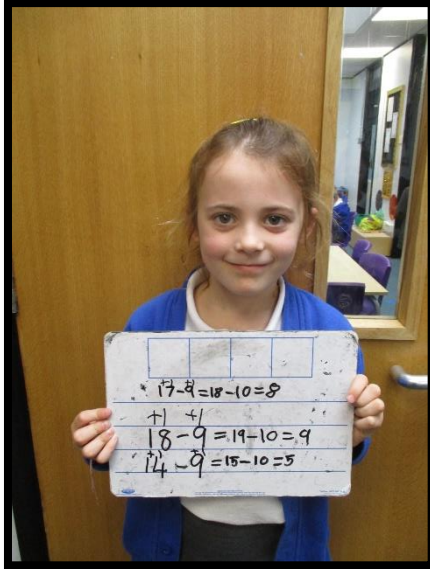
In Geography, we looked at different types of weather and compared countries from around the world. Then, we looked at weather data from cities in the UK and discussed how they are similar or different. In Science, we planned our own investigation to explore suitable materials for a waterproof umbrella. We made sure it was a fair test by using the same materials and the same amount of water each time.



Year 2



Year 2 have had an exciting and fun filled first term. We loved learning about the Great Fire of London and recreating this!



We have been very creative this term, creating artwork based on the fire and self-portraits in Computing. We developed this skill to create our own animated stories. We have read lots of books to help with our writing!



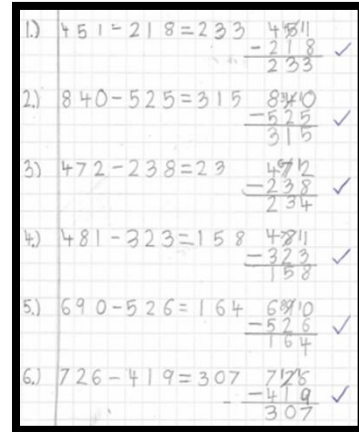
We have also enjoyed learning different games to play at break time and gaining new skills in gymnastics.



Year 3



The Year 3 class have settled fantastically into their new class. We have all thoroughly enjoyed an autumn full of exciting learning.



During Autumn we have had lots of practical and outdoor activities such as our forest school sessions and testing the reflectivity of different surfaces. We have also had many outdoor opportunities in PE, learning about netball and football.



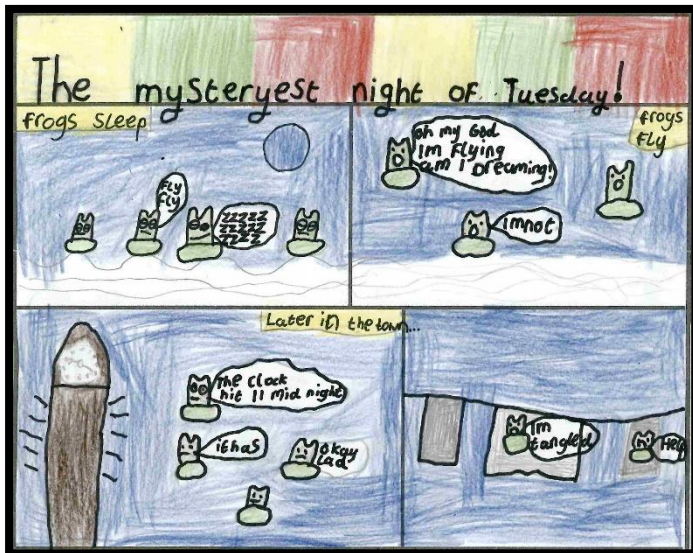
The Year 3 class are confident and love sharing their learning, which was clear in their class assembly. The children have also worked incredibly hard on their harvest and Christingle performances. Despite being nervous, they performed brilliantly to our local community on both occasions.



Year 3/4



Year 3/4 class have had a fantastic term, settling well and enjoying a broad and exciting curriculum.



4:10:20:22

LO: To Solve problems using column subtraction

569	346	774	65
-310	-175	-453	-478
259	171	321	172

You've achieved your learning objective!

628	973	832	549
-305	-512	-732	-467
323	461	100	82

298	687	988	758
-136	-471	-576	-251
162	216	412	507

555	540	368
-345	-374	-770
210	166	148

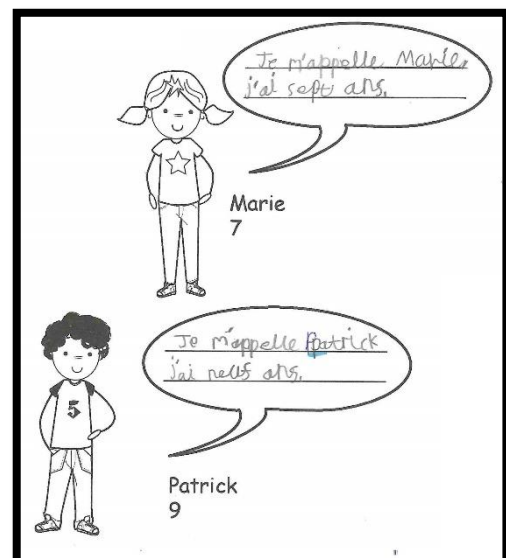
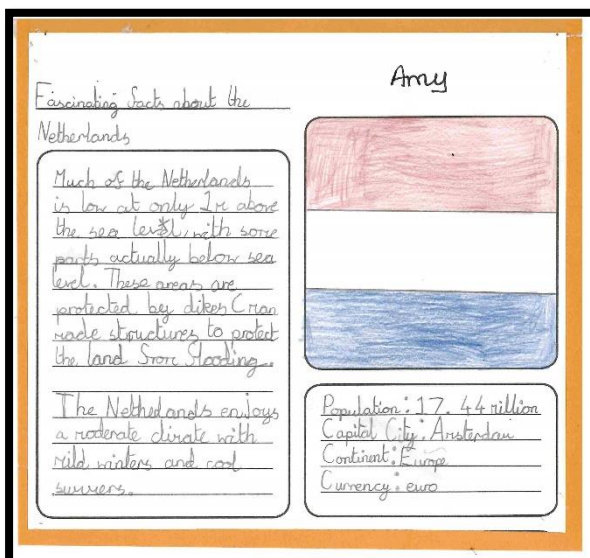
4-digit numbers

8017	6276	8068	9894
-5004	-3153	-2044	-2452
3013	3123	6024	7442

6558	8302	8969	8568
-4341	-5201	-4873	-2572
2217	3101	4146	6046

6482	6143	9663	6527
-4151	-3072	-6741	-3704
2331	3121	2922	2823

In English, the children enjoyed 'Love That Book' Above is the beginning of a comic strip a student made for the stories Tuesday by David Wiesner.



We have had exciting curriculum days, where we spent a whole day immersing ourselves in one area. One of our favourites was 'European Day of Languages'.



Year 4



We have had so much fun this autumn term! In science we have been learning about classification. We visited the upper forest school to see how the local habitat may have changed and what could be threatening the local wildlife.



We have loved meeting our Reception buddies. We can't wait to spend more time with them in the New Year. We have been practising gymnastics in PE and loved using the apparatus.



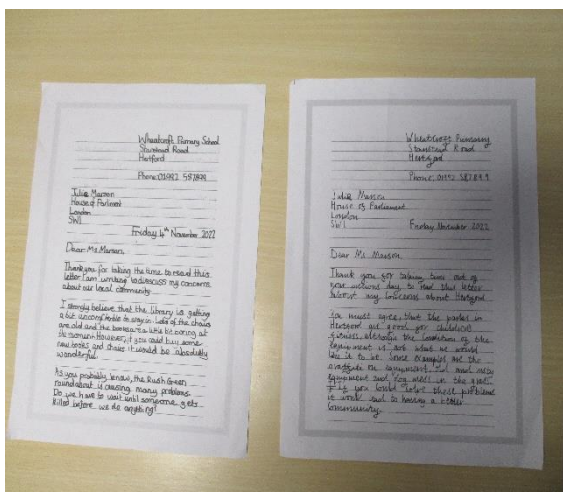
Year 5



It has been an incredible term in Year 5. It has been a non-stop few months and September seems like a distant memory.



The highlight of the term has to be our visit to Cuffley Camp for our Bushcraft residential trip. The children came away with a plethora of new skills and everybody had an amazing time



We have finished reading the book Clockwork by Philip Pullman and have used it as a stimulus for writing postcards, travel brochures and our own suspense stories. In addition, Year 5 spent a morning in a planetarium gazing at the stars. We have written to our local MP to complain about the McDonald's roundabout and more importantly, had lots of fun together.



Year 5/6



We have had so much fun this term. One of our topics has been about Space and we loved being inside the visiting Planetarium.



The Year 6 welcomed visitors to celebrate Harvest Festival and everyone performed an autumn poem or song. The Year 5 camped at Cuffley and survived Bushcraft.



We loved mixing with our friends across the school for Decorations Day and performing at Christingle.



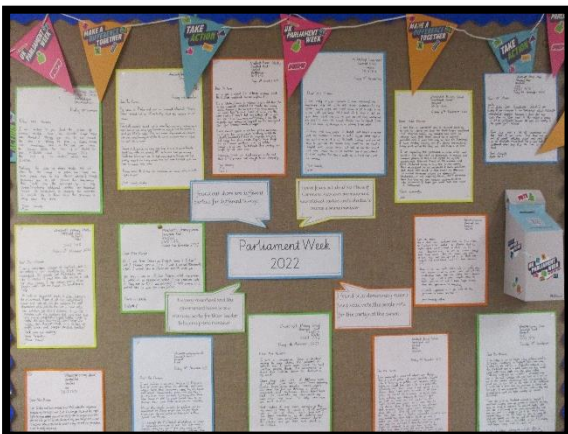
Year 6



What a busy term we have had! We were so pleased to be able to hold our Harvest festival again and received lovely guest feedback.



Decorations Day was another highlight and it was great to be able to mix with our younger children. Anti-Bullying Week had lots of odd socks and we also marked Remembrance with some Art.



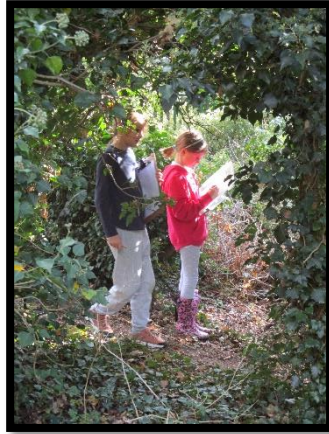
We have also marked Parliament Week and wrote letters to our MP and are looking forward to her response. We have had a really busy term and are ready for a good rest; thank you to everyone who has supported our learning. We wish you a restful break!



Learning Outside the Classroom



A busy term outside of the classroom - Year 5 residential to Cuffley Camp & School Council's trip to Remembrance service in Hertford Castle grounds.



We have also had bikeability & balanceability, several visitors in assembly, celebrated Harvest Festival, met our Year 4/Reception Buddies and had lots of lessons in the school grounds. Wow!



PE



We have had another term packed full of PE at Wheatcroft. We attended a basketball tournament, played netball and football matches, ran at the cross country event as well as taking part in lots of activities in our weekly PE lessons.



We have also had the opportunity to practise our bike skills with bikeability and balanceability sessions.



The Wiggly Nativity



We really enjoyed performing our nativity play to our families. Our singing and acting was fantastic. Well done everyone. We hope our audiences enjoyed the show.



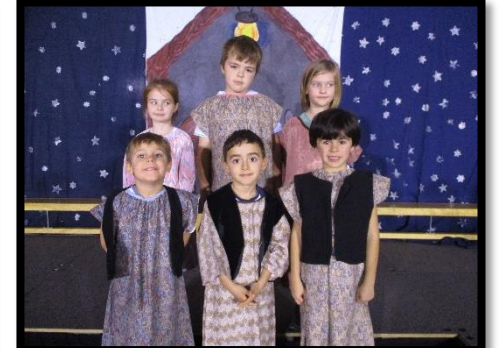
We hope that you all enjoyed watching our performances and that you have a lovely Christmas.



KS1 Performance



Thank you to all of those who supported the Key Stage One production of 'I'm Gonna Shine'.





KS1 Performance





Letter from the PTFA



It was so wonderful to welcome so many of you to the Christmas Fair in December, this event has not been held for 3 years so it was wonderful to see a full school, and it raised £3118! A huge thank you to the team who organised it, all the volunteers including the year 6 children and past students and everyone who donated items.

The trip to see Matilda raised £877 and this year no one missed the opening of the show, phew.

The Christmas card project raised £200, thank you to everyone who ordered, the quality of the products was great.

Next term we are looking at some event ideas, we will be hosting a magic show and disco in February and will be hosting a book sale for World Book Day in March, so please keep hold of your unwanted books until then.

The PTFA AGM will also be in April, date to be confirmed. As ever we need more volunteers both on the committee and to help at events. Many of our parents have children in year 6 and so are leaving the school in July, so we need more parents to step up and help. If you can join the team please drop us an email to: ptfa@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers and committee members. The whole PTFA wishes you a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Jo and David Pierce



Letter from the Governors



Dear Parents and Carers,

It might be very cold outside but what a lovely time of year to visit the school and share in all the Christmas activities and feel the buzz from excited children. The first Christingle at All Saints Church in 3 years was a special occasion and the Christmas Fayre was enjoyed by all. The Christmas plays were delightful. I am sure you will join with me in thanking all involved.

The Governors continue to be busy behind the scenes. As well as full Governor meetings we have a Finance and Premises working party and a Curriculum working party. This half term the curriculum working party looked at the new phonics scheme and saw it in action in the classrooms. Many of the Governors come into school on a regular basis helping in the classrooms.

We do need another parent on the Governing body, so please do consider if you would like to join us. Information and nomination forms will be sent to you at the start of next term. If you would like more information on the role of a school Governor then please make contact via the school office.

A huge thank you to all of the staff for all their hard work and commitment and thank you for your support this term.

On behalf of all the Governors can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a wonderful time with your children.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Sparks

Chair of Governors