

Wheatcroft School



Newsletter

December 2023



Mrs Miller's Message



The Autumn term is always a long one in the school year and is always 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 they will remember well. Earlier in the term, 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.

In the last couple of weeks, the children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed getting into the festive spirit with Christmas dinner day, 'Whoops a Daisy Angel', 'Prickly Hay', our KS2 Christingle service, decorations day and 'The Story Elves' pantomime! The children have shown how enthusiastic they are through their performing and it has been wonderful to be able to share this with you. These performances really showcase the strengths in our children's musical ability, their singing and dancing and their overall confidence to perform in front of an audience. My heartfelt thanks go out to all the dedicated members of the Wheatcroft staff team who put in so much extra effort to ensure the children are given these opportunities.

This term we wave a temporary goodbye to Mrs McLeod as she begins her maternity leave; we wish her and her husband well as they begin their exciting adventure awaiting their new family member. In January we welcome Mr Harwood to the team who will be UKS2 phase leader and the class teacher for year 5/6. We wish Mrs Seabrook well as she leaves us at the end of this term, and thank her for the work she has done as part of our MSA team and the support she has given to children as a teaching assistant in KS1 and LKS2.

My thanks go out to the parent body for your generous support towards the PTFA this term through our Christmas Fayre which was a great success. We look forward to using the money raised to enhance the provision in our school.

Following our most recent Ofsted report, we would like to invite parents to a meeting with our school leadership team including the Governors, to share with you our plans moving forward. We will ensure the date is sent to you early in the term. Currently, there are vacancies for parents to join our Governing body; if you feel this is a role you would like to know more about, please do make contact via the school office. Details on the nomination and election process will be sent out in the new term.

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.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Miller
Headteacher



Nursery



We have had a fantastic first term in Nursery making new friends, dressing up and exploring. We have met Jigsaw Jennie and Bertie Owl.



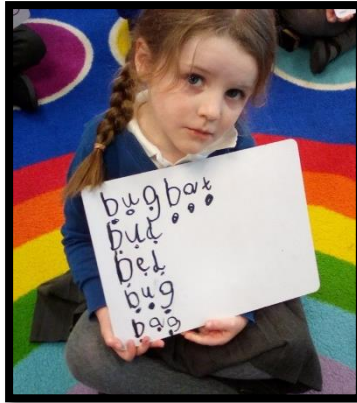
We have loved exploring the outdoor area, riding bikes, going to lower forest school and visiting the hall for PE. We are looking forward to lots more adventures next term.



Reception 1



Autumn Term in Reception has been filled with lots of fun learning opportunities both inside and outside our classroom. We have loved our role play home, small world areas, writing activities, number, patterns and shapes work, playdough, drawing, painting, construction, puzzles, outdoor climbing, exploring in our school forest and much more!



We have made so much progress with our learning since September. We have learnt how to read and write many letter sounds, words and captions in Phonics. We have enjoyed singing number songs in maths, counting groups of objects and ordering numbers. We share a new book each week in English. We particularly loved 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and imagined we travelled on a cold adventure to the South Pole!



This term we have met our Year 4 Buddies, who we really enjoy spending time with. We have made friendship bracelets together and shared stories with each other.

Have a lovely Christmas everyone!



Reception 2



What a wonderful first term Reception have had in school. We have been super busy learning about our two topics 'All about us' and 'Frozen'. The children have made so much progress already and below are just a few of our highlights over the last few months.



This half term in PE we have been focusing on ball skills. We started by learning how to control the ball by rolling it, then we moved onto throwing and catching. We particularly enjoyed a game called 'Target ball'. We have also been enjoying our weekly forest school sessions. Our favourite lesson was when we created hedgehogs using autumn leaves!



Every week in Reception we have a book of the week and the most popular story (voted for by the class) was 'Pumpkin soup'. The children really immersed themselves in this book and loved cutting open and exploring the inside of a pumpkin! We have also been working hard to improve our gross motor skills by spending time hanging and swinging on our school trim trail. This has ensured we have the strength in our upper body to start writing with resilience.



Year 1



We have had a lovely first term in year 1. In English the children have looked at a wide range of texts. Most recently we have been looking at instructions. We then reordered instructions for how to wash our hands.



In maths, we have done lots of work on addition and subtraction. We have learnt about all the different tools we can use to help us work out a maths problem. We have also been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. The children really enjoyed exploring 3D shapes and their properties.



In art we looked at Monet and had a go at creating our own versions of one of his pictures (shown above). We have been learning about our family in history and what it was like when our parents and grandparents were young. We have explored toys and other household objects and how they are different to now.



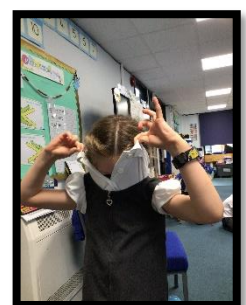
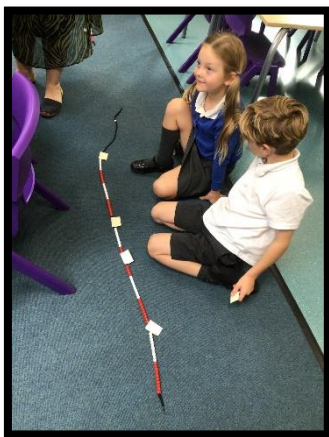
Year 1-2



We have had a great first term and the children have all settled well into the Year 1-2 class.



In Art this half term the children enjoyed looking at famous art work by Claude Monet (Water lilies) and Vincent Van Gogh (Starry night). They then used a range of mediums to recreate their own versions of these famous paintings. They worked very hard on these pieces of art and should be proud of what they achieved.



In Maths the children have been learning all about place value and the number system. They enjoyed working with the base ten and adding their own markers to our bead strings working with numbers up to 100.

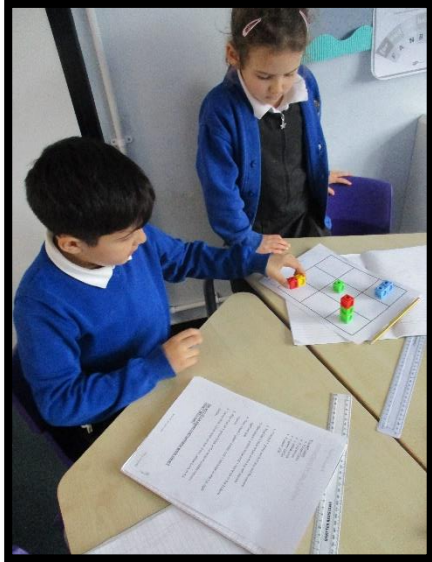
In Science the children have been learning all about materials, where they come from and the uses for each. They particularly enjoyed finding out if objects were transparent, translucent or opaque.



Year 2



It has been a wonderful beginning to the school year in Year 2! The children have particularly enjoyed decorations day and performing the Key Stage 1 Nativity, 'Prickly Hay'.



In English, we have focussed on how to follow and write instructions. This learning has been based around the fun book titled 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and the children wrote their own instructions of how to wash an animal of their choice.



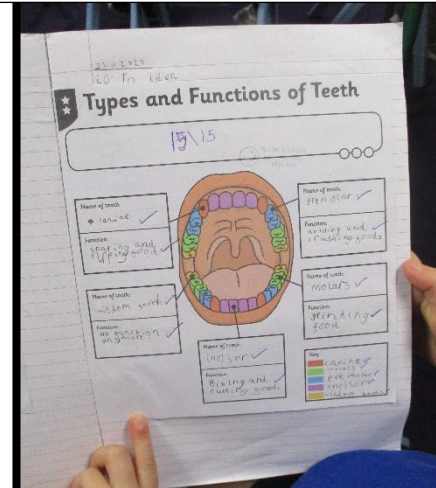
This term has been filled with fun practical learning. In computing, we have been exploring digital photography. Above, you can see some of our action shots. In art, we have loved painting in the style of Monet.



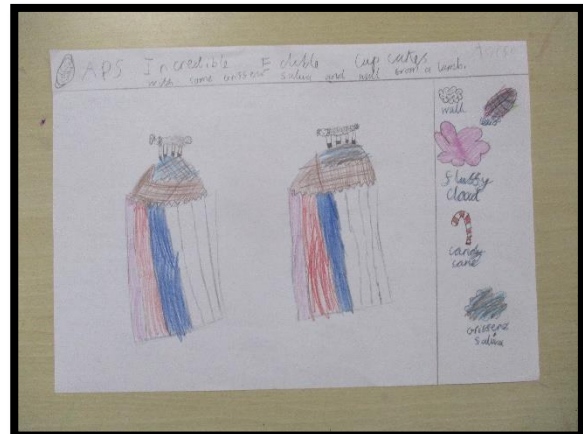
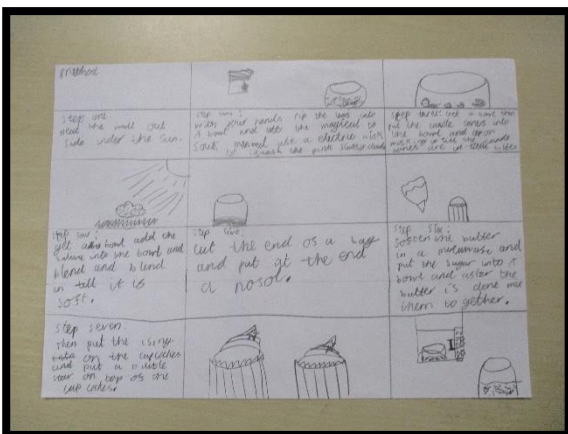
Year 3



We have had a fantastic Autumn term. In Science, we have learnt about healthy eating and designed a healthy balanced meal. We have learnt about different types of teeth and did a yucky investigation modelling the digestive system!



We have also enjoyed writing magical recipes in English, learning about the Egyptians in History and the Americas in Geography. Year 3 performed our song 'Harvest Rock and Roll!' brilliantly at the Harvest Festival.



We have lots more exciting learning planned for the Spring Term, including Roman Britain and Rivers. Have a lovely Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing all the children back in January.



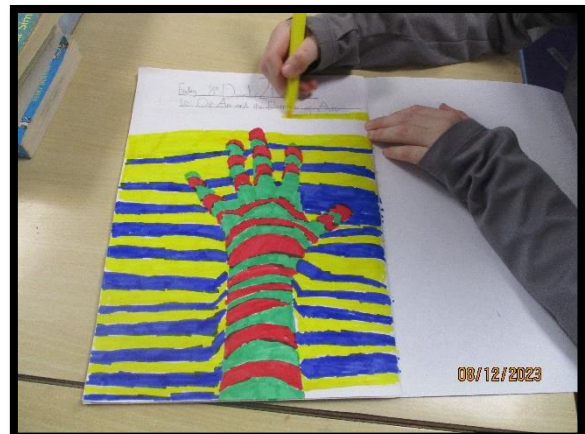
Year 3 / 4



We have had a fantastic Autumn term. In English, we enjoyed reading 'How to Train Your Dragon', writing reports on dragons and creating dragon's eyes from salt dough in Art.



Year 4 were presented with dictionaries by the Rotary Club. We have also enjoyed creating optical illusion pictures in Art, learning about the Egyptians in History and the Americas in Geography. Year 3 /4 performed our song 'Conkers!' brilliantly at the Harvest Festival.



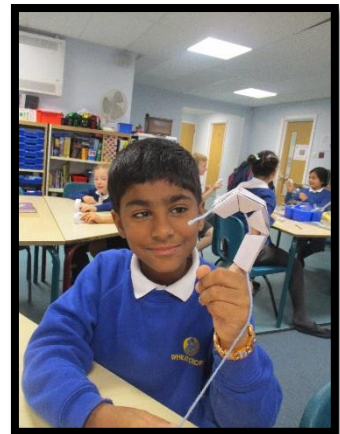
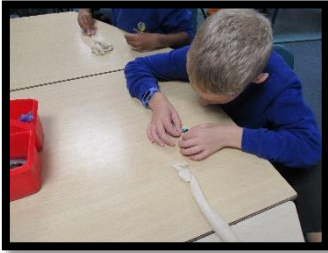
We have lots more exciting learning planned for the Spring Term, including Roman Britain and Rivers. Year 4 will be swimming every Wednesday. Have a lovely Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing everyone back in January.



Year 4



We have had an amazing first term in Year 4! In English we created a guide to dragons and described their appearance and personalities, now you know what to look out for! In Art we used salt dough to create a close up of our dragon's eye and painted them after they had dried.



In Science we have investigated our bodies and looked closely at human skeletons. To demonstrate how tendons, joints and muscles work, we built a robot finger!



Year 5



What a fantastic Autumn term we have had in Year 5. The children started the year with a wonderful trip to Cuffley and it was great to hear all about it during the assembly that they put together themselves. They worked so well as a cohort and have made memories to last a life time.



The children have really enjoyed their PE units this term with a particular enthusiasm for dancing. They have worked hard to put together a “Samba School” introducing each member of the group through dance, learning basic Samba moves and finishing their sequences by making skylines of Rio using their bodies.



In English we read the story “Darwin’s Dragons” and then used clay to create our own dragon eyes.

In History we have been learning about the Maya and during our Art lessons we made our own Mayan headwear using papier-mâché.



In Maths we have been building our knowledge of multiples and factors and working on our times tables to support our learning.

Also this term, Year 5 have been learning how to become effective play leaders with the support of Mr Rock. They listened well during training and are excited to support the younger classes with their play during lunch times.

We wish you all a restful Christmas and happy new year.



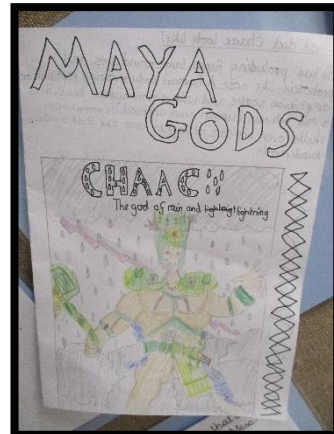
Year 5/6



What a busy term! We started off with Year 5's trip to Cuffley where they enjoyed lots of fun activities, having a great time under the trees.



In English, we really enjoyed our book 'Darwin's Dragons' and making clay dragon eyes to finish this; it was fun to make scales and push the clay to make different layers and a lovely way to finish a wonderful topic.



We have also found out lots about the Amazon and South America in Geography and really enjoyed our topic about the Maya in History. This tied in well with our Art to make beautiful masks (although the papier mâché was very messy!) and we are proud of our work.

We wish you all a very restful break and are looking forward to working with Mr Harwood next term.



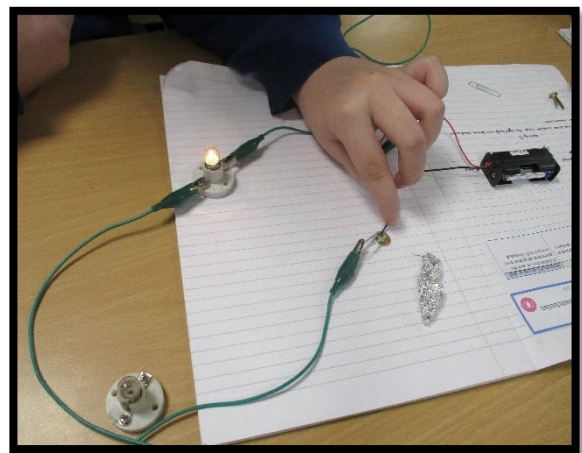
Year 6



We have had a brilliant Autumn term, with a particular highlight being organising the Harvest Festival. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing the celebration with members of our local community, sorting donations for local food banks, creating flower arrangements for the picnic tables and creating raffle prizes for our guests.



In English, we really enjoyed our book 'The Midnight Fair' and wrote lovely figurative language poetry based on this. We also loved reading 'Darwin's Dragons' and we made clay dragon eyes to end our unit; it was really fun to be creative with our designs! We have also learnt lots about the Maya in History and the Amazon and South America in Geography. We created Maya codex's and papier mâché headdresses to showcase our fantastic learning.



In science, we have learnt all about electricity. We carried out many practical investigations to show our learning, including creating circuits using conductible materials and using alternative battery sources, such as lemons. It was great fun (although our bulbs did not all light up and we had very sticky hands afterwards!) and we are proud of our hard work this term. We wish you all lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in January.



PE



We have enjoyed a very busy term of PE at Wheatcroft. Year 6 have completed their water safety at the pool, Year 5 have had their Play leader training and Mr Rock has been into school to lead some PE lessons.



Our football team have played matches in our inter school league and looked very smart in our new kit. Our Year 3-6 cross-country runners came second overall with lots of individual runners bringing home medals. A group of children participated in the Every 1 in festival where they tried many different sports.



Thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who make these events possible by giving up their time to train the children, drive minibuses and come along to events to support the children.



KS1 Production



KS1 had a fun time rehearsing and performing their nativity play, Prickly Hay. The year 2 children were amazing actors and the year 1 children had lots of fun dancing to their favourite song. All of KS1 looked fantastic in their costumes.



Thank you to all the staff for their hard work helping the children to learn the songs, dances and lines. Also a big thank you to all the parents and family who came along to watch our shows. We hope you have a fantastic Christmas.



EYFS Production



Reception and Nursery had a fun time rehearsing and performing their Nativity play Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. They all sang the songs and said their lines really well and looked fantastic in their costumes.



Thank you to all the staff for their hard work helping the children to learn the songs and lines and a big thank you to all the parents and family who came along to watch our shows. Have a fantastic Christmas.



Message from the PTFA



At the end of another busy year, huge thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts by coming to events, making donations, ordering artwork and more.

We're especially grateful to anyone who has volunteered to run or help at an event.

The PTFA are a small team and without your help it simply wouldn't be possible to organise so many fun experiences that make such happy memories for our children.

We need you!

Last term, we said goodbye to several long-standing PTFA members whose children moved onto secondary school. We now desperately need more people to join our friendly team to continue offering a packed schedule of fundraising events.

You don't need to commit lots of time! Maybe join our WhatsApp group to get an idea of what we're working on? Then just volunteer as much or as little as you feel able.

We will be holding an AGM in the New Year and are seeking a new Chair and Treasurer, so please get in touch if you have some spare time, organisational skills and a passion for helping enhance the school experience and facilities for our children.

Please contact your Class Rep for more info or email ptfa@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk.

Fundraising events

Earlier this term, we enjoyed the Magic Show and Discos which were a huge hit. We always need parent helpers to manage the large numbers of children attending - and it's great fun! So please look out for more dates coming up next year.

In November, over 100 people joined our fantastic trip to see The Lion King in the West End, raising £1,073 for our school. It's such a joy to share the experience of live theatre with our children and parents, a real highlight every year.

As the festive season got underway, we were delighted to see the artwork produced by the children for our Christmas card project. What a talented bunch they are! We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to order cards and share their talents with family and friends.

Finally, we were thrilled that so many of you came to our Christmas Fayre, supported by several local businesses and attended by the deputy Mayor of Hertford. The school was filled with fun and festivities and we raised an incredible £2,754.33.

It's no mean feat to organise an event on this scale and this year, for the first time, we asked parents from each year group to run their own stall. This was a huge help to the organising committee and it was wonderful to see so many of you pulling together to gather donations and organise crafts, games, volunteers, etc.

We hope to adopt this model again for future events as it's a great way for the school community to get involved with the PTFA and for parents to get to know each other too.