



# Wheatcroft School



End of Term

Newsletter

December 2019



# Trips and Events



Harvest Festival



KS1 Hertford Castle Trip



Decorations Day



# Mrs Miller's Message



The Autumn term is always such a busy time but it always ends in such a lovely way with all our fantastic Christmas celebrations. I hope that you were able to join us in celebrating how wonderful your children are through their performances of 'I'm Gonna Shine', 'The Bossy Kings' and the Christingle service. 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. A huge well done goes out to all our pupils who always impress me with their bravery to stand on the stage and perform in front of an audience.

This academic year, we have developed many ways to ensure you have a chance to engage with your child's learning as well as their emotional wellbeing. I hope that you have found our 'Natural Flair' parent meetings useful. Our wellbeing days are so important for our whole school community and Miss Brown is already busy organising our next one for the month of February. Our '**Take a Break Day**' was a great success and I hope that your children are finding their mindfulness jars useful. As part of this theme, we took part in a staff bake-off. Well done to our star bakers, Miss Jones for the tastiest creation and Mrs Leishman for the most creative. Our **Forest School family days** have been a huge success thanks to Mrs Waller. We look forward to seeing many of you at our **shelter-building or orienteering sessions in the Spring & Summer terms**. Please look out for the dates of our next **family reading sessions** held in the first half hour of school time. These provide a great opportunity for you to spend some quality reading time with your child before the start of your day.

Our Autumn Celebration event was a lovely way to involve our children in the community. We have received a number of compliments from various members of the community including the Mayor of Hertford who, in her Christmas card to us, wrote "It has been a delight visiting you this year, thank you for inviting me."

Our new School Improvement Partner has enjoyed getting to know us this term. During his visits I have enjoyed our discussions around the successes and next steps for Wheatcroft which are reflected in his reports. "*Pupils' attitudes to learning seen during the visit were excellent. This was because teaching was*

*consistently good and tasks were well-pitched to learning needs. Leaders have a clear overview of the school's strengths and next steps. The school promotes high expectations for pupils of all abilities." "Discussions with pupils showed that they do, indeed, love reading. They enjoy choosing books about subjects in which they are interested and grappling with challenging content."*

There have been some recent changes within our staffing team. We were very pleased to welcome Miss Clarke and Mrs Pierce to our MSA team as Ms Miller stepped down from her MSA role due to her wonderful new baby news. Miss Gray has returned from her maternity leave and is now back with our foundation stage team. In the next couple of months we will also see the return of Mrs Smart from her maternity leave, returning to teach within the Reception classes. We are always sad to see anyone from our Wheatcroft team leave, however Miss Suckling will be leaving us after Christmas as she has taken the opportunity to go travelling in the New Year. She has been a wonderful asset to our foundation stage team and we wish her well in her adventures.

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 the school community for their continued commitment and support towards educating the pupils of our school. Thank you to everyone who supported us during Decorations Day to prepare the school for the Christmas fair where it was lovely to see so many of you in attendance. My thanks go out to the PTFA for their continued commitment to organising these events which help raise much needed funds for our school. We have great plans to spend the money in the new term and are excited to be sharing these with you at the next AGM.

I wish you all a very special Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Miller*

Headteacher



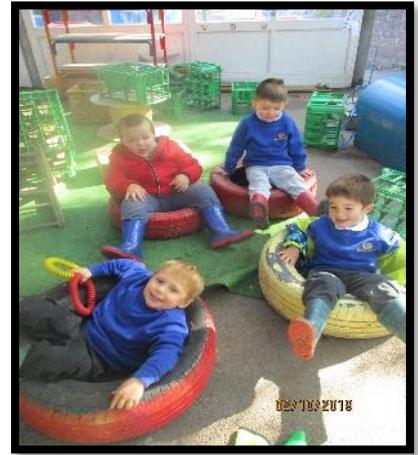
# Nursery



Nursery children have settled in to school life really well, quickly learning the routines of the classroom and making friends.

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

Nursery have been learning lots of rhyming songs and 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've also been learning the names and properties of 2-dimensional shapes.

Nursery worked hard learning the song Big Yellow Moon for the Foundation Stage production of The Bossy Kings. They also enjoyed watching a production company perform the pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.'



# Reception 1



We have been so busy this whole term, enjoying all of our topics, and learning inside and outside of the classroom.

We had a visitor to talk about teeth, watched a performance of Goldilocks, had reading mornings with our parents and enjoyed activities on Decorations Day.



For Wellbeing week, we made some special jars to shake with glitter in. We also dressed up in green to raise money for the NSPCC, did litter picking around the school, everyone showed the class one of their special skills and Year 3/4 read us their stories about friendship.

We worked hard practising our lines and songs for our Christmas Nativity too.



# Reception 2



This term we have really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit! We had a wonderful visit from the Hobgoblin Theatre Company who performed Goldilocks for us and then gave us an acting workshop! We loved using our new acting skills to perform our Christmas play – The Bossy Kings!



We have enjoyed sharing our classroom with parent visitors – especially for reading mornings! These have been very popular and we have loved sharing our favourite stories and reading areas in the classroom!



# Mental Health Awareness Day



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October we wore yellow to help support and raise awareness for Mental Health.



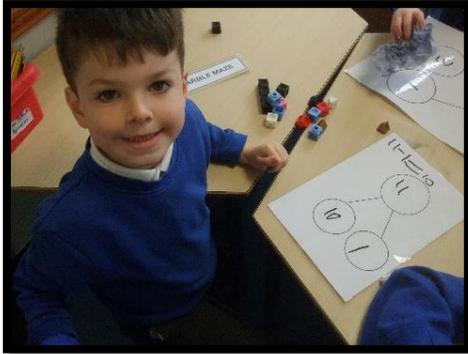
Thank you for all your support on this day. Don't forget to always be looking after your own mental health, try to take 5 minutes for yourself during this busy period.



# Year 1



This term in Year 1 the children have settled into the new routine of KS1 really well and I have been super impressed with all of their hard work so far.



We loved our castle topic this term and children came back from the summer holidays with lots of their own knowledge. We were lucky enough to have a tour of Hertford castle and ended the topic with Castle Day.



In Science we have been learning about materials. The children have been thinking about the suitability of different materials and the best materials to build with.

In Music we learnt about different instruments and whether they were tuned or not. We made a guitar which could play more than one note and a kazoo with only one note.



In English we have been learning about "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We now understand plurals, how to sequence the days of the week and the life cycle of a butterfly. We wrote our own versions of the story called "The Very Hungry Ladybird".

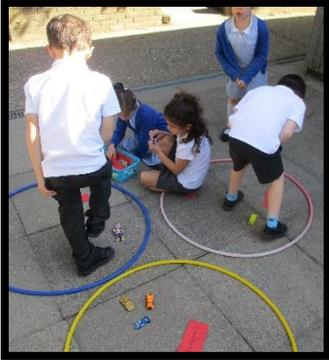
I hope all the children have a well-deserved Christmas break and come back ready for more in the New Year.



# Year 1/2



We have had a busy first term in Year 1/2 class. Here are some of the fun things we have been learning.



In Music, we have been exploring musical instruments, how they can be played and what sound they make. We even made our own guitars and kazoos!

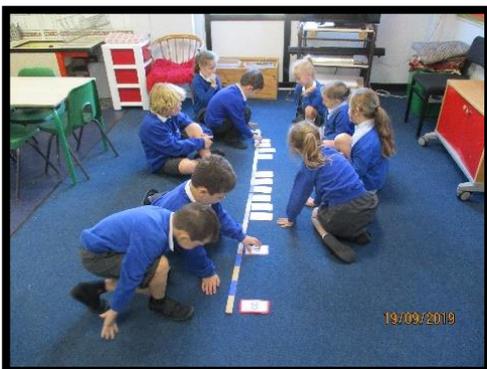
Outdoor learning is so much fun, as we get to learn in different ways.

Our Science topic was materials, so we had to sort different objects by their material into three different sorting hoops.

In November, we went to Hertford Castle and learnt about the history and features of our local castle.

Maths is one of our favourite subjects because we get to use different resources to support our learning. We have been focusing on making numbers in different ways, tens and ones and problem-solving.

In English, we have been finding features of non-fiction texts and loved looking at different information books.



Have a restful Christmas break and enjoy spending time with your family and friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Autumn in Forest School



Children across the school have taken part in a variety of forest school activities this term. LKS2 have been developing their team-building skills. They played several different games and then learnt three different knots to use when constructing shelters with tarpaulins. They also made some fantastic winter tree decorations.



We held two family forest school mornings where KS2 children learnt how to set, light and extinguish fires using their knowledge of the fire triangle and safety rules. KS1 and FS had a session using natural materials (and lots of glitter) to make decorations for their homes. Thank you to all the parents who have come in to help us this term, we really appreciate your support.



# Year 2



This term we have had great fun exploring everything to do with castles. We got the chance to visit Hertford Castle as well as building our own castle on Castle Day. In English we wrote information texts about castles and in Maths we have been exploring the value of a number and looking at different ways to add and subtract.



In Science we have been exploring materials and looking at their different properties. In Art we learnt about primary and secondary colours and used our colour mixing knowledge to help us recreate pictures by Monet.

Thank you to all the parents who have come in to help us this term.



# School Council



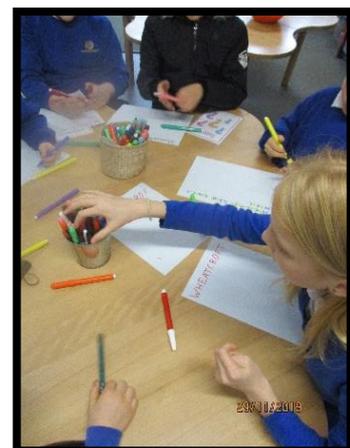
The Autumn Term always sees the selection of a new School Council. Our first job was to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair. Year 6 and Year 5/6 children gave a short speech on why they should be Chair of the School Council. We appointed Molly as Chair and Max as Vice Chair. We have 17 members in total.

Throughout the year, we have meetings to help make decisions about the school and take part in different events.

Our chosen charity for this term is the NSPCC. We managed to raise over £650 for the charity by having a 'wear green' non-uniform day and a sponsored daily mile run. Thank you to all the parents for your generous contributions.



For the Christmas Fair we decided to have an Advent Wheel of Fortune stall. We enjoyed making posters and helping to run the stall. It was a very busy stall and we raised lots of money for our school.





# The Bossy Kings



# I'm Gonna Shine





# I'm Gonna Shine!





# PTFA



Christmas is nearly upon us and the PTFA is celebrating a busy term of fundraising.

When the rain stopped we re-arranged our Fun Run and raised a whopping £873. This really is beginning to be a staple in our fundraising efforts and it was great seeing so many children, and adults too, enjoying running round Hertford's beautiful meads.

The Magic Show worked its magic and brought in £166. The Movie Nights raised £478, "The Emoji Movie" and "Elf" didn't fail to amuse our children for another year.

But it's not all about children's activities here at the PTFA. The annual Quiz Night crowned some new winners and raised an impressive £686. We munched our way through £134 worth of cake over the many events this term. Finally our theatre trip to see School of Rock netted us £725 and those that attended can vouch for the singing on the way home!

We finished off the term with the annual Christmas Bazaar raising a whopping £3,100 through this event alone! This money will be spent on refreshing the school library.

Combined funds raised from this term and the previous school year has enabled the school to purchase new chrome books for a whole class. By raising money through these events we are donating towards our children's education as well as encouraging our children to think about fundraising to benefit all.

Next term we are going full steam ahead to raise enough to improve the playground. If you want to get involved, as the PTFA is nothing without its volunteers, then find out more and come along to our **AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> January**: held straight after school drop-off, all welcome, including younger siblings.

All that is left for me to say is a huge thank you to everyone who gave their time and donations to make our events a success and have a very happy Christmas.

*Katie Barnes*, PTFA Chair

## **Dates for your diary:**

31st January: Magic Show & Disco

5th March: World Book Day

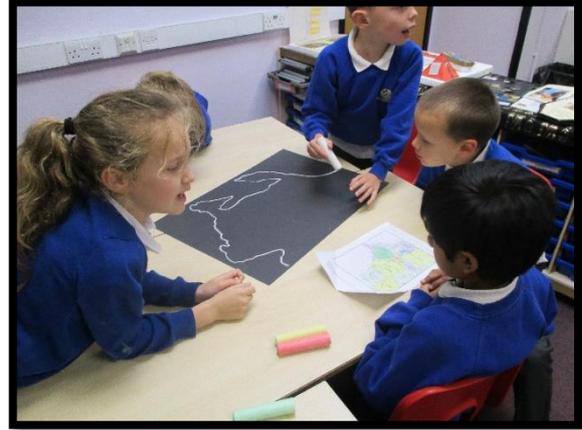
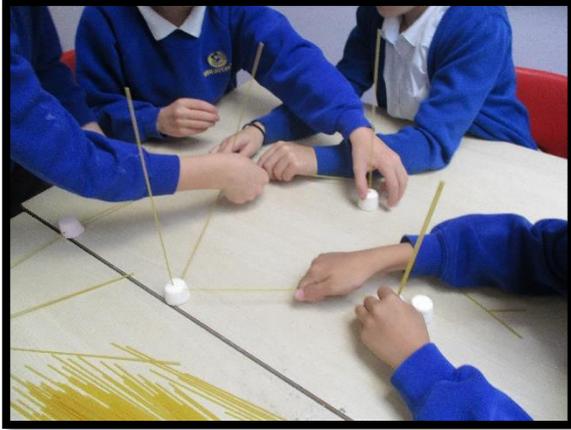
3rd April: Easter Egg Hunt



# Year 3



It has been busy this term, settling in to Year 3 and joining KS2. As a class, we have really grown and are showing off new skills and knowledge every day.



In English, we all wrote our own fables based on The Lion and The Mouse. We collated this into a class book which we have enjoyed reading over the past term.

In Maths, we have been learning about different written methods and have really progressed our skills in place value.



We have spent lots of time being creative this term. We have made shelters and decorations in Forest School. We also created our own copies of famous artworks and made our own maps of the River Nile.

Also, we enjoyed taking PE out of school by participating in the Sports Hall Festival at Wodson Park.

It has been a busy term in Year 3, but we have enjoyed it so much and are looking forward to our Spring Term which will include preparing for our Easter Production.



# Year 3/4



In Year 3/4, we have had a very busy start to the year. Our topic this term has been Egypt. We have been busy learning about the Egyptians and the River Nile.



We had some opportunities to get outside and complete activities in our Forest School area as well as completing the daily mile challenge to raise money for the NSPCC.

Our reading mornings have been very exciting and we have shared our favourite books and read them to each other.



During Well-Being Week, we looked at our friendships and created our own puppet shows. Also, we took part in litter picking and looked at how we can care for our environment.



# Music



Across the whole school all the children have worked hard this term to prepare for their Christmas performances.



Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 displayed some wonderful singing in their Christmas Nativity productions.

The annual Christingle service in All Saints' Church showcased all the talents of our Key Stage 2 children with beautiful singing and excellent performances from our orchestra, ensembles and instrumental solos.



The school choir have been taking their repertoire out into the community. They have performed at the All Saints' Church Winter Bazaar, our own School Bazaar, for the residents at Braziers Field and at the Ware Road Day Centre.



# Year 4



We have had a fun-packed term in Year 4 and have been learning lots of new skills and helping our Reception buddies settle in to life at Wheatcroft.



In English, we enjoyed reading *The Spiderwick Chronicles* and writing reports based on a creature we had created. The whole school read *The Day the Crayons Quit* and enjoyed creating our display.

In Maths, we have been learning about different written methods and we have been focussing on our multiplication skills.



In History we enjoyed learning about the Egyptians and creating a cartouche.

We have really enjoyed our forest school lessons where we have learnt to work together as a team and build shelters.

In art we looked at the work of Georgia O'Keefe and recreated one of her paintings.

We have also enjoyed learning how to play hockey and had a great morning at Wodson Park at the Year 4 development day where we learnt how to play Ultimate Frisbee and took part in an orienteering activity.



# Year 5



Autumn term has flown by, settling in to Year 5 and UKS2. We have been really busy learning lots of new skills and really challenging ourselves in all areas of the curriculum.



In English we have been in court, investigating the true story of the Three Little Pigs and whether the Wolf was guilty or not guilty. We then reported on the crime as journalists, writing our own newspaper reports.

In maths we have continued to investigate place value and have more recently been using our reasoning skills with long multiplication.



In History and Geography we have been learning about the Aztecs and Mexico. We spent a day dressed as Aztecs on Aztec day, learning how to play Aztec games, singing Mexican songs and making our fantastic Aztec masks!

We have worked very hard this term in Year 5 and are looking forward to all the new and exciting challenges ahead in the Spring Term.



# P.E.



We have had a packed term of PE activities and matches this term. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who have given up their time to ensure we can attend all the events and supported our teams and clubs. We have also enjoyed working with Mr. Nicholls in our P.E. lessons.



We have attended a number of events at Wodson Park this term. Year 4 participated in a development day trying out 4 new sports. Year 3 completed a skipping challenge and indoor athletics. Year 1 enjoyed their agility day too. Our final event was the Every-1 In Festival attended by Year 5 and 6 children.

Mr. Nicholls and Mrs Waller took our KS2 teams of cross country runners to Haileybury where each participant ran 1 mile.



Our football and netball teams played in some exciting matches this term. We have played St. Catherine's Ware, Morgans, Christ Church, Bengo and St. Mary's. We are looking forward to our matches next term and will be playing in The Hope Cup and Evans Trophy too.

Have a great Christmas and New Year and we are looking forward to lots more P.E. next term.



# Autumn in Year 5/6



The Autumn Term has flown by! We have covered a wide range of topics and enjoyed getting creative both inside and outside the classroom.



We have enjoyed learning about the Aztecs this term. We have found out lots about how this ancient civilisation came into being and what their daily lives were like. This term we have also discovered lots about the geography of modern day Mexico. Aztec Day was a particular highlight of the topic!



In Science, we have been studying evolution, inheritance and life cycles this term. At the beginning of the term, we enjoyed looking at photos of ourselves with our families and identifying inherited traits. We also enjoyed carrying out an investigation into birds' beaks using raisins and a variety of man-made beaks!

In PE we have enjoyed tag rugby, Zumba and gymnastics this term. Most recently, we have been creating sequences with partners using counter-balance and counter-tension.



# Green Bees



Green Bees have been very busy helping our school to recycle. Each week, they go around the school collecting paper for recycling.



The whole school became Green Bees as part of Well-Being Week. We came together as a school and tidied up the grounds.

All children learnt that their environment is very important for everyone's well-being.



# Year Six



What a busy term it has been! We have worked very hard and achieved a lot; a particular highlight was our Aztec day, where we played patolli, made a god's eye and finished our Aztec masks.



We also enjoyed putting on our annual Harvest celebration, inviting guests from the local community and making afternoon tea for them. We received lots of positive feedback. We also took part in all the events arranged in Wellbeing Week.

We also enjoyed our final Christingle and Decorations Day.



Although we are really looking forward to a rest, we are proud of our achievements this term and are looking forward to new challenges next year. Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all from Year 6!

# Chair of Governors



Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for putting the classrooms back together after the summer break building works ready for the first day of term. I understand everyone who was in on the INSET day helped out. THANK YOU!

I thought I would share with you some of the activities the Governing Body have been involved in this term. One of the Governor roles is to link with subject leaders in school and to make visits to school. This term there have been many visits including English, Safeguarding, Foundation Stage, Learning outside of the classroom (Fire lighting!), Science, Mental Health & Wellbeing and SEND. Mr Suddick has coached the football team on a weekly basis as well as driving the minibus for the school. Mr Apostolos has been involved in refereeing football matches. These are other areas of school life where Governors get to meet and support the children.

Governors were also involved in our recent Autumn visit from Herts for Learning and I would like to pass on my congratulations to Mrs Miller, the Senior Leadership Team, staff and pupils on such an excellent review of our school, especially with regard to reading which was the focus of the visit. A special thank you to Miss Dienel, English lead, her knowledge and presentation of her subject across the school was very impressive and her excellence was commented on during the visit. As part of the visit it was lovely to hear the children being so enthusiastic about reading and their general learning in school.

Another thank you goes to Mrs Miller, the teachers, staff and pupils for the excellent educational achievement results over the last academic year. This may feel a little belated but Governors do not receive the overall achievement data until the beginning of the next academic year when it is officially published by the Government. It makes me so proud to see such high achievement results for our children and especially those who have moved on in their educational careers.

A highlight for myself was a visit to the School Council and being involved in interviewing and appointing House Captains. All the children who applied did exceptionally well and Mrs Miller and I decided to appoint them all, please ask the children what they have already been involved in as they are taking the responsibility of their roles very seriously.

Sadly Deborah Roberts has resigned as our Local Authority Governor this term due to her work commitments so we will be looking for a new Governor next term. If you know anyone who would be interested then please let a Governor know, unfortunately they can't be a parent of a child in school, however they could be a Grandparent or member of the local community.

A new addition this term is the introduction of a Finance and Premises Working Party where a sub-group of the Governing Body review and discuss the school financial accounts and spending to ensure we get best value for money in everything we do. Thank you to Mrs Coates and Mrs Miller who help us oversee the school finances.

If you have any comments for the school Governing Body please speak to your appointed parent Governors Richard, Rachael and David or you are welcome to contact any of the other Governors via the school office.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

*Jenny Turner*

Chair of Governors

Wheatcroft Primary School



# Trips and Events



Wellbeing Day



Y4 Rotary Assembly



Reading Mornings



# Term Dates



## Spring Term 2020

Tue 7th January	Start of Spring Term
Mon 17th February - Fri 21st	February Spring Half Term
Fri 3rd April 2:30pm	End of Spring Term

## Summer Term 2020

Tue 21st April	Start of Summer Term
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Early May Bank Holiday*
Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May	Summer Half Term
Fri 17th July 2:30pm	End of Summer Term

## Autumn Term 2020

Wed 2nd September - Autumn Term will not start before this date

\*Moved to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. This is an amendment to the Term Dates Card that was sent out with your child's end of year report.