

Newsletter 18

Spring Term 2023

A message from Susannah Connell, CEO.

Easter is now upon us. We have had a very busy month in March and I know you will all be looking forward to a break, ready to return to school feeling refreshed on Tuesday 18th April to start the Summer Term.

The Spring Term is always a short one, but it's never boring. The Year 6 children from across the Trust travelled to London for the Young Voices concert at the O2. This is an event where all schools are invited to join together and create one big choir. Each night, between 5,000 and 8,000 children perform as a single choir to a sold-out audience. I am pleased to say that every time we attend, the behaviour of our Year 6 children is impeccable. It was lovely to look at the photos of such a fantastic day.

We had a wonderful World Book Day across the Trust. I know that everyone was very creative with their costumes and all the children and staff looked fantastic. This has helped raise money for the schools to spend on books for the children across both key stages. Thank you for supporting this.

There are so many other things I could write about, but that would spoil the rest of this newsletter. I would like to thank the children for working so hard and being a credit to their school, which leads me on to thanking you as parents for having such wonderful children. I would also like to send my appreciation to all of the staff in the Trust who work tirelessly to ensure every child has the education they deserve.

Have a lovely Easter break.

Regards,



Susannah Connell



Braybrook

Braybrook Primary Academy has had yet another jam packed term! Throughout this academic year, we have been focusing on reading as a school. After the positive response to our Friday Family Reading sessions in the Autumn term, we now welcome our families in to read with their children three times a week and this is really helping the children to foster a love of reading. It is heart-warming to see our parents and younger siblings come into school to share books with the children.



On Tuesday 17th January, the choir accompanied by Mrs. Stork-Browning and Mrs. Blackhurst, went to the O2 Arena in London to perform as part of the Young Voices choir. We performed a great repertoire including a Nile Rodgers medley, a Trolls pop medley, Just Around the Riverbend and even accompanied Heather Small singing 'Proud'. There were 8787 children in the choir, as well as a number of guest artists including Heather Small, Urban Strides and the Beat Box Collective. Although it was a very late night, the children behaved beautifully and it was a pleasure to share in the fabulous experience with them.

On Friday 10th February, we held our second Passport to the World Day of this academic year. At Braybrook Primary Academy, we encourage and celebrate each other's differences and cultures and embrace the world that we are part of. Not only do we celebrate each other's home countries, we want children to celebrate countries from all around the world and be able to recognise similarities and comparisons between them. This time we focused on England, Italy, Mexico, Turkey, India, Greece and China. Our first Passport to the World Day in October had a music and arts focus. Our most recent one looked at aspects of the Geography curriculum and Design Technology – Food Preparation curriculum. The



children enjoyed learning about the physical and human geography of their focus country, but they really loved cooking and tasting some of the national dishes from their countries! It was, as always, fantastic to see the children embrace the day by wearing the colours of the flag for their country. We are already looking forward to our final Passport to the World Day which will take place on Friday 26th May.



Glebelands

What an amazing term we have had here! It may have been short but has certainly been very busy. Year 4 enjoyed a trip to Burwell in January and although it was very cold, everyone had a brilliant time. Year 6 also went on their residential to PGL in February. They were particularly lucky with the weather as it stayed warm(ish!) and dry for the majority of the week. We have also had EYFS go out on their first trip to the farm which they absolutely loved! The children here are all so well-behaved when they are out on day and residential trips and the staff and children all thoroughly look forward to these outings.



This term, we have also continued on our quest to promote a love of reading across the whole school! World Book Day was a particular highlight. The children and staff came to school dressed to impress as their favourite book characters. We started with a whole-school assembly to celebrate, took part in lots of book

activities and paired up in classes across the school to read, share and more enjoy books! We also had The Book Fayre in school all week and raised over £900 in commission which we have used to re-stock some of the library shelves in the school.



Children from year 5 and 6 attended Young Voices at the O2 and children from year 3 and 4 went to Voice in a Million at Wembley Arena. All the children loved the experience: singing and dancing their hearts out! Their commitment to learning all of the songs has been great to see. We are already looking forward to taking part in both events next year.



Gorefield

The Gorefield family has embraced the Spring term with verve and vigor in all areas of our school. We started the term immersed in Our World Week, where children considered different challenges that our planet is facing and worked hard to not only understand these but also to see if they could help in some way. We learned about recycling, made some rubbish bins and also considered the impact of global warming on the arctic regions and animals.

In recognition of this our School council, who also enjoyed a visit to the Houses of Parliament, hosted by our local MP and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, redoubled their litter picking task. With Mr Thatcher, a local historian, they planted some trees in a local park and were rewarded with a nomination for a local Community ECO award. Our children were nominated in the category of Young group volunteers.



Continuing to work hard in our PE skills, we were lucky enough to attend a Hockey tournament at Wisbech Grammar school. Our Year 6 children superb ambassadors for our school. During our PE lessons all classes have learned a dance which we have been working hard on in preparation for a dance extravaganza in the Summer term to be hosted at Murrow Primary.

Our school continues to share its work with our parents and we have hosted a reading café this term, as part of our World book day work. We used the opportunity to share with our parents how we read, why we like reading and also to just spend time reading in school. One evening after school we also had a Bedtime stories event, where we had hot chocolate and shared books with our teachers.



Our school took part in some Mental health week events, including a MAD HAIR day where we were allowed to have mad hair for a day.... even Mrs Bailey joined in. We spent time thinking about what makes us special and created class flags reminding ourselves of our value and what makes us us! Singing also makes us happy and our amazing choir have taken part in Young Voices this term as well.



We are planning a whole school bake off for the last week of the summer term and the monies raised is going towards us buying a new equipment for our lunchtime play. Parents and children are able to take part, and the judging is going to be undertaken by our Governors.



Great Staughton

It has been an exciting term for us at Great Staughton. Towards the start of the term we enjoyed a whole school day visit to Grafham Water Centre where the children from Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn classes all had an amazing time undertaking a selection of age appropriate indoor and outdoor adventurous and team-building activities such as indoor rock climbing, den building, mountain biking, archery, low ropes and traversing. It was amazing to see how well all of the children worked as a team, pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and showed excellent communication.



Our Year 6 children have been lucky enough during this term to have two trips to London. The children enjoyed their trip to the O2 arena to take part in Young Voices, where they all had an amazing time singing along to a variety of songs. It is a once in a lifetime experience and we were all so proud of their behavior and performance. The following week, they attended the Royal Opera house, with our Year 5 children to watch a performance of a German opera with English subtitles, called the Magic Flute.



We celebrated British Science week by focusing on this year's theme of 'connections' and what connections may mean in Science and our own experiences of connections. What a super finale to British Science week we had, with us running a photo competition based on our theme and hosting a family Science fair after school. There was such a variety of different presentations, experiments, fun activities and learning opportunities at the fair. It was enjoyed by many families and friends, who all voted for their favourite presentation.

This year for World book day our theme was bringing books to life. We created this by each class designing and making their own pop-up books. All of the classes, chose to use different mechanisms appropriate for their age groups, with Mars class creating books on castles, Jupiter class on ancient Egypt and Saturn class on extreme earth. Then on World Book Day, the children spent the day making their creation come to life! We were so impressed with how focused the children were and the quality of work created was amazing! On the evening of World Book Day, we enjoyed bedtime stories. Where children and parents were invited back to school to celebrate stories, whilst drinking hot chocolate in the pyjamas.





Kimbolton

It was a busy start to 2023 here at KPA. We all spent the day at Grafham Water Centre where we went on mountain bikes, high ropes, climbing walls, practised our survival skills and took aim in archery. We are sure it has inspired many a budding climber, mountain biker and Bear Grylls!! It all made for an exciting and adventurous start to the new year, even if it was rather muddy and lots of washing machines were kept busy for weeks.



Year 6 went off to Young Voices at the O2 having practised the songs, the moves and grooves for this very special event. They had a wonderful time before returning very late, tired, but exhausted from this exceptional day.

This term has seen KPA enter several netball tournaments which have kept our pupils on their toes and have been fun to be involved in which has been good practise and experience for our sports people.



Some extremely lucky children from years 4 & 5 have been very busy designing, building, programming and practising for the Institute of Engineering Lego League challenge in Peterborough which resulted in them coming back with the Innovation Project Cup, so a very well done to Zak, Sophia, Olly, Jackson, Eva and Bella. Also, a huge



congratulation to Mrs Tickle who was awarded the 'Best Coach Cup'.

The Great British Bake Off has been to KPA!! The PTA organised our very own bake off. All pupils made cakes for this very well supported event, the lucky judges had the enviable job of tasting, sampling and tasting a bit more to reveal our winners of this year's challenge. All of the cakes were then sold at break time and helped raise money for our school funds.



This year for World Book Day we invited parents in for a bedtime stories evening to celebrate all the books that the children had made. Nursery class made pop up books. Ash class designed books with moving pictures. Oak class put levers in their books and Rowan class made 3D ones.

Recently we celebrated British Science Week here at KPA where we were visited by an Aerodynamic Engineer from Cambridge University, a Biology and a Physics teacher from Kimbolton Senior School, a renewable energy expert and a Metaverse AR consultant. They talked about their fields of expertise and we also had live lessons from scientists. This truly inspirational week finished with our own Science Fair where pupils and teachers demonstrated their scientific experiments for parents and pupils alike, including our recent experiments which were made as a result of our recent extreme earth topic where children made exploding volcanoes. Our very own science ambassadors' also treated us to a very informative assembly on women in STEM.



King James Academy Royston

A huge congratulations to many Year 11 pupils studying the Cambridge Nationals in iMedia and Enterprise & Marketing for gaining excellent results'. 89% of pupils gain their target or a grade above which is testimony of their hard work and the strong partnerships with their teachers. Well done all.



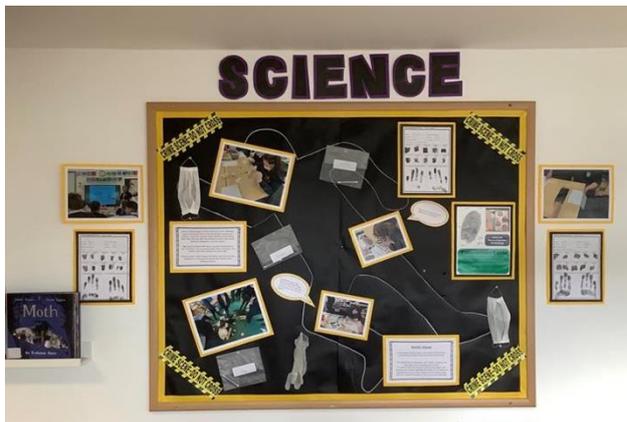
The Year 10 football squad travelled to Poole for their semi-final in the ESFA U15 Small Schools' Cup final but returned with a 5-2 win over LeAF Studio. Their run to the final has seen them score 34 goals in the five rounds, knocking out teams from Cambridge, Enfield, Kensington and Canterbury. The Dorset hosts started the game convincingly with some good quality possession but the KJA defence made it difficult for them to get any shots away.





Leverington

We have had another extremely busy and exciting term here at Leverington. The term started with Year 6 making their annual trip to the O2 for 'Young Voices'. A great time was had by all. They were overwhelmed by the size of the venue, the acoustics and the excitement of performing in such a large group of performers. A once in a lifetime experience!



Once back in school and after the excitement of singing with Heather Small, Year 6 had more worrying matters to deal with. There had been a murder and their challenge was to solve the crime. Alongside experienced MET officers and staff from Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, they collected DNA evidence to support them in their crime fighting mission.

The 'Arts' have continued to play a large part in our activities here at Leverington. We have been fortunate enough this term to for all the school to experience a live production in school. Our hall was transformed into a theatre, with staging and lighting. All pupils enjoyed a lively performance of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*. Years 5 and 6 also provided our local secondary school with an audience for their production of 'High School Musical'. It was a welcome opportunity for our current Year 6 pupils to visit their potential secondary school.



Year 4 have been completing an English unit based on the classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. This unit has been based around writing a persuasive advert for a bar of chocolate and a biography for Willy Wonker. Obviously to ensure they were chocolate experts, a trip was required to the only place to see how chocolate was made – Cadbury's World! They spent the day sampling chocolate, designing chocolate pots and toppings and learning about the history of chocolate. A great day was had by all!

Reception have been learning about how things live and grow. The excitement began with a baby photo 'Show and tell'. Everyone was amazed at how much everyone had grown. The class were given a special assignment with the delivery of 10 eggs and an incubator. They patiently watched and waited for the chicks to hatch, and once they had, they enjoyed handling the chicks before they went to their forever homes. Reception's learning about the farm continued with a trip to Church Farm where they fed the pigs, lambs and handled baby rabbits. Miss Garner had a very near miss, as they all wanted to bring her back an Alpaca as a school pet!!!

As the term draws to a close, we are looking forward to welcoming our parents back into school for our annual Chocolate Easter egg tombola and Easter Church service.



Middlefield



With the temperatures dropping below zero at the beginning of term (and at the end!), it was the perfect opportunity to have a fire at Forest School. And with the snow – in true Middlefield style, the sledges came out where the children learned about teamwork with a lot of giggles added!

Year 1 and 2 have had a wonderful day with 'History off the Page' to kick start their 'Castles' topic. The children and staff looked incredible in their Tudor costumes. The children learned all about life in a medieval castle. They got to carry out lots of tasks which people who lived in the castle would have undertaken. They made lamps to light the castle, made their own ink to write letters, created clay gargoyles to frighten away the enemies and lots more! In the afternoon, there was a banquet and a show with jousting, jesters, singing, dancing and a play.



World Book Day was just the BEST! The children and staff all made such an effort with their costumes. The last time we all managed to be together, dressed up as characters for World Book Day was just before lockdown 2020. There was a great buzz around school and the teachers were able to share their favourite books with the children. Mr Smith organised some quizzes for the children to take part in. the children love reading at Middlefield! The children also shared their #Takeashelfie pictures with their classes. This is one of your Year 3 children on his

throne of books.

London was a popular destination for us this term with UKS2 visiting O2 and the Royal Opera house in a space of two weeks! Our visit to the O2 with the Year 6's was incredible and when Heather Small belted out 'Proud' it was a goosebump moment!

The whole school spent some time at St Neots Library this term. We were so proud of all of the children, especially the EYFS with their stamina on a very long walk! They particularly loved crossing the bridges in Riverside Park and spotting some wildlife. At the library, the children had the chance to look at the books and listened to a story read by one of the librarians. Their behaviour was outstanding throughout and we were pleased that the children found some books to share with parents at home.





Murrow

Murrow Primary Academy has had a fulfilling and jam packed term. Like the children at our sister school, Gorefield Primary we started the term off with the "Our World week". Our work is now proudly displayed in our school.



Continuing the theme of saving our planet we again entered a team to the annual Lego League challenge run by Caterpillar. We have three representatives from the Peterborough based company who worked with us to develop a solution to the challenge presented – reduce the energy journey of the energy we use in our school and our village. Once the idea of energy journey was

understood the team developed a solution using bio fuels captured by the council from our food waste. Dressed in self designed T Shirts, the project was presented at the event held in January.



As well as the project the team were tested on their team work, our presentation skills and finally and most excitingly we had the chance to program our robot to take part in a Robot race with other participants. The board was full of challenges and we had to program the robot to then conquer these in the fastest time possible. The scores of all the challenges were added up – we did not win overall but we did win the Robot race – showing teamwork, resilience, focus and nerves of steel.



Our school council visited the Houses of parliament, where they were given a tour of the house of commons and Lords, and once that was finished they went in search of famous landmarks – finding the statue of Winston Churchill amongst other things. All had a great day and they used the

time to get to know the school council from Gorefield as well. Another trip to London this term has been made by our wonderful school choir who were able to attend their event of the year – Young Voices. The performance was incredible and enjoyed by all.

We have also been spending time in our woodland area – den building, planting seeds for the Springtime, making mud pies and cakes, and working hard on our team work. Over half of the children at Murrow come into the Wide awake club every day where they get the chance to play with their friends and also get a bagel – before lessons start – such a great way to get ready to learn.



Roman Way

At Roman Way, we have enjoyed a busy term, full of exciting learning!

Our nursery children have been out and about exploring our school grounds, going under, over around, in and out! They have been making maps and exploring journeys through stories.

Reception loved reading the book Blue Penguin by Peter Horacek. They have been fascinated to learn about Antarctica and find out about the animals that live there.

Our older children have particularly enjoyed their learning in design and technology. The delicious smell of freshly cooked bread has been wafting through the school! Our KS1 children loved learning about the process of making bread and we all enjoyed eating it!

Our KS2 children have been constructing kites, using a variety of materials. They have been learning to measure and cut wood using hacksaws. ICE Zone 2 has been a hive of activity, like a real carpentry workshop!

Our clubs have been very successful this term. Woodland Club have been building rafts, decorating stones and creating a magical woodland village. Our Languages Club have been learning French, Spanish, Welsh, Polish, Ukrainian, German and Italian. The children in our Sports Club have tried some sports which are new for our school including volleyball and curling.

Cookery Club has been hugely popular, with a variety of yummy dishes created including pasta bakes and chocolate chip muffins.





We all enjoyed our World Book Day celebrations with the children dressing up and book sharing between classes. The children created story jars, which were the inspiration for their Rocket Writing that week.



KS2 had a fantastic trip to the North Herts Museum in Hitchin. They took part in a 'Roman detectives' workshop where they had to find artefacts based on real ancient Roman finds in Hertfordshire. They also loved the BFG exhibition where they learnt how to draw the BFG like the illustrator, Quentin Blake.



All our children have been learning about Zones of Regulation. We have been so impressed at how the children have begun to use this to talk about their feelings and use effective strategies to get back to the 'Green Zone' when they have felt a range of emotions. We held a workshop to introduce this to parents, which the children helped to present. This was very well attended and many of our parents are now using the zones approach at home as well.



The Round House

It's been another very busy term at The Round House.

Young Voices

Year 6 had a phenomenal time on their trip to London's O2 Arena to take part in the world's largest youth choir, Young Voices. Singing their hearts out and showing off some fantastic dance moves, the children were amazed by the show after working hard to learn their lyrics and routines.



NSPCC

Number Day

During the NSPCC Number Day, the children took part in both PSHE and maths activities, where the focus was on team-work and resilience. KS1 pupils completed maths challenges both in the classroom and outdoors, working together to find an answer. KS2 took part in a 'Crystal Maze', led by the Year 6 children, where they had to solve maths problems in their teams to earn crystals for their year group, as well as completing various other problem-solving tasks throughout

the day.

During their PSHE sessions, all children thought about how to keep safe and who they could turn to if they needed support.



Year 5 Book Signing

Year 5 spoke to children in Year 2 and then wrote and illustrated a book based on their discussions. These were then sent to a professional printer, and their beautiful glossy anthology of stories were presented to them at the event in front of staff, pupils and parents.

Art Competition Some children were entered into the Cambridgeshire Young Artist of the Year competition with the final exhibition held at Hinchingsbrooke school. We are extremely proud of our young artists who showed their work.



World Book Day

Our World Book costumes were fantastic and everyone really enjoyed all the book related activities. The book sale and book swap were very well attended and it was lovely to see so many parents in school sharing books with their children. Across the school we looked at the book 'The Ink House'. All of the children produced some writing based on this text as well as using artwork to create their own bug for the story.



Years 3 & 4 Visits to St Neots Library

Years 3 & 4 visited the local library and were introduced to the variety of books on offer and were allowed to borrow books to take home. Whilst in the town, the



children conducted a transport survey for their geography fieldwork. The children observed the different uses of transport ready to present as a bar chart. Also, the children enjoyed taking part in a history tour of St Neots and went around the area discovering hidden items of history and enjoyed learning the facts behind them.



Year 3 & 4 Performance



Year 3 and 4 performed an incredible production of 'Shakespeare Rocks'. They worked extremely hard to learn their lines, the songs and how to project from the stage with feeling. The performances went incredibly well and at the end they received a rapturous applause.



Snow

The children really enjoyed an opportunity to get out in the snow for their outdoor learning earlier this year.



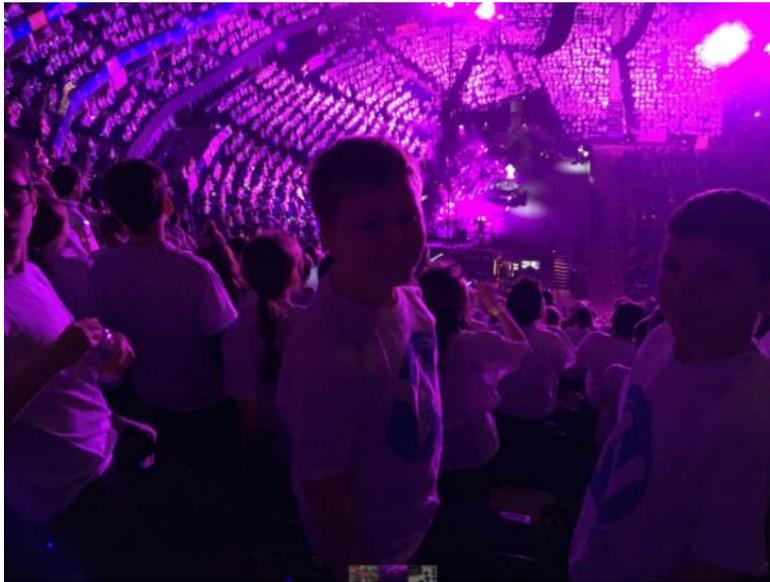


Thomas Eaton

It has been a busy and successful term at Thomas Eaton Primary Academy. The children have approached their learning positively and enthusiastically, and have been so welcoming of their new headteacher/s.

Our oldest pupils have had the opportunity to visit two wonderful venues this term in our Capital City.

Year 6 had an amazing time 'gigging' at the O2 for Young Voices. Despite the long



day, it was such a brilliant experience and one that the children will remember for years to come! Keller class had the amazing experience of visiting the Royal Opera House with front row seats, where they were transfixed watching the performance of 'The Magic Flute'. It is experiences like these that both pupils and staff remember, much to the envy of so many people all over the world.

On Thursday 2nd March, we celebrated World Book Day. The whole school based their learning around the same key text this year, the beautifully written 'The Black Book of Colours' by Menena Cottin. The book conveys the experience of a person who can see only through their sense of touch, taste, smell or hearing. The beautifully written text is translated into braille, breaking down barriers and gives young readers the ability to experience the world in a whole new way. All the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the book and created some wonderful written work as well as artwork inspired by the text.



What has been happening in our classrooms...

In Nightingale class, their topic study has been 'Food, glorious food'. They have learnt where our food comes from, how plants are grown and the different types of food we eat and enjoy. They began their topic by reading 'The tiny seed' and have learnt how seeds grow and change, before making their own

flowers in the style of Eric Carle. The children have planted cress seeds and knowing that birds like to eat seeds, designed, and created their very own scarecrow! The children named her Rosie, and she currently lives in the Reception outdoor area, doing her job of scaring away the birds!

As part of the computing unit studied in Earhart class, the children used Sketchpad to design and built their own rockets using plastic bottles. They looked at the importance of instructions and how specific these must be and why they need to be in the correct order. The children were very proud of their creations as you can see from the photographs below.



Finally, in Johnson class, the children have been studying 'Rocks' and have had some exciting Science lessons based around this study. The children have used chocolate to replicate the rock cycle and formation of sedimentary, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, as well as becoming palaeontologists to investigate how fossils were formed, alongside trying to decide which animals have been fossilised. Here's to another busy yet exciting term ahead!

We have had a really busy Spring Term here at Winhills with lots of learning happening in school and opportunities for the children to take part in trips off school site. We started off with Year 6 visiting the O2 to take part in Young Voices. This is the largest children's choir in the world. The children came back very excited having sung with thousands of other children. The Year 5 and 6 children then had an amazing opportunity to visit the Royal Opera House. Here they watched the Magic Flute. The children couldn't believe how beautiful the Opera House was.



The children have taken part in lots of sporting events over the term. Some were organised by the DLPT and others were competing against other schools. The children all performed amazingly and were a credit to the school. Win or lose, the children kept going



throughout and across all of the events produced some remarkable results.



Across the school, we held a Science afternoon. The children all got to take part in different experiments. They had a great afternoon focusing on making connections linked to Biology.

Some Year 4 children returned to a farm where they were filmed digging up the cotton pants that they had buried earlier in the year. It was amazing to see how the creatures in the soil had started to break these down in such a short period of time.

Year 6 had the opportunity to visit Magdalene College in Cambridge. Here they had Scientists talk to them on a range of topics including Chemistry and the Black Hole before visiting the Scott Polar Research Institute. Here they were able to link with what was in the Research Institute to what they had been learning in class all about Antarctica.

The children helped support some wonderful causes over this term. They took part in World Book Day. The children had some fantastic outfits and accessories. The children then all got to wear something red to support Red Nose Day. It was great seeing all the children taking part in the assault course organised by the school council. Finally, we took part in Purple Day which is to raise awareness of Epilepsy. This finished with a bake sale in the School Hall. The children all helped to take part in these great causes.



Wintringham

What a busy and exciting term we have had at Wintringham!



Our Year 5 & 6 children had an amazing time at the O2 in London for the Young Voices concert. After a day of rehearsals, they sang and danced their way through the concert, and thoroughly enjoyed all the special performances on the night.

Everybody was very excited for the Lunar New Year, and we were very lucky to have a visit from Mrs Molyneaux who taught them about the history of Lunar New Year, as well as how the event is celebrated in China. The children tried a range of new activities such as calligraphy and fortune telling.



Reception have been busy developing their garden area and outside space. They all helped in carrying in the equipment, building new areas, and planting the new plants. They now have a lovely new interactive area with a stage, paths to follow through the beds, a wormery, a bug hotel, and a bird feeding area.

Everyone in Years 1 to 6 took part in a special Archaeology Day, where they learnt about a local archaeological excavation taking place on the A428. The archaeologists explained what their job entailed and set the children off on a weaving activity. The children all had an opportunity to ask questions at the end, and it was an awe-inspiring day.

The children have taken part in a number of sporting activities this term, including Quick Sticks Hockey and Gymnastics at Huntingdon Gymnastics club. We were very excited to host our very first Trust competition as well, as the other St Neots schools visited us for a Netball competition just before the Easter break.

Barrett Homes kindly organised a visit from Mark Fraser for National Storyteller Week. Children from both KS1 and 2 took part in a morning of traditional stories, and experienced first hand how oral storytelling has allowed stories to survive and evolve across thousands of years, as well as across different continents.



KS2 took part in a Zoom call with the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge. The scientists spoke to the children about the types of jobs that they do, and how microscopes play a key role in that. They lent

a microscope to the school for the children to try, and to take part in a competition where the children needed to take close up photos of items from their local environment.

The children in Pre-School had a fantastic couple of weeks looking at 'The Train Ride'. The children have thought about what they might see out of a train window and represented this as a drawing. They have role played in the train station as well as creating their own train to go on a journey. The children have also enjoyed playing with the small world train track.



All the children had a fantastic day to celebrate World Book Day. They joined together to hear the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. After reading the story, the children realised the crayons had been stolen and they were tasked with finding clues to discover the culprit. The children moved around the school working together to find the different clues. After lunch, the police came and asked the children about their investigation. They then saw the culprit, 'The Highway Rat,' and chased and arrested him. The children were very excited about this! Later, the children read with different children from other year groups.





- Continuous Professional & Leadership Development
- Initial Teacher Training
- School to School Support

We remain committed to the professional development of all staff, so it has been a pleasure to be able to provide a wide range of development opportunities for our own staff as well as teachers from the local area this term.

Our schools continue to work collaboratively, with many meeting together this term to share ideas and expertise to further develop their curriculum and to moderate work, for example.



We have delivered training courses and network meetings, which have been both face-to-face and online. Highlights include curriculum specific training, subject leader training and sessions for both experienced and new school governors. To date, we have welcomed nearly 280 participants to our courses this academic year. Evaluations show participants appreciate the networking

opportunities, as well as the practical strategies and up-to-date materials these sessions provide. This strong professional development offer only happens because of the hard work and commitment of our SLEs and the senior teachers who research, write and facilitate all of our events. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Our partnerships with Best Practice Network and the local Teaching School Hub enable us to deliver nationally recognised professional qualifications, which many of our staff have taken up.

Our current trainee teachers have completed an exciting term in their second placement, and they are now preparing to return to their original placement school to finish their training. Many are starting to apply for jobs, and some have already been offered positions within the Trust. Thank you to mentors for all the invaluable support and advice you have given this term.



We continue to recruit trainee teachers for next academic year and future trainees can still apply for places. If you would like to find out more, check into our website: www.diamondepl.org.

Along with professional development, we are providing support to a range of schools with the aim of raising standards and improving outcomes for pupils. In addition, work within a DfE project remit with additional schools in the Priority Are will start soon.