

Newsletter 23: Autumn Term 2024

A Message from Susannah Connell, CEO, The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of the Autumn Term and the close of 2024. The Autumn Term is always a long and busy one, but it's also filled with exciting moments and achievements. If you take a look at the news stories on your school's website, you'll see just how much has been going on!

This final week has been full of festive fun across all our schools. Some children have been lucky enough to visit London for a Christmas performance, others have delighted their families with wonderful shows, and the St. Neots schools are all walking to their church for a carol service on the last morning. These special moments capture the joy and community spirit that make this time of year so memorable.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks:

- To our staff, for their tireless efforts and dedication to giving our children the best possible experiences.
- To our parents and carers, for your unwavering support, whether it's attending events, volunteering, or simply encouraging your children to do their best.
- To our children, for their boundless enthusiasm, curiosity, and hard work—they make every day so rewarding.

I'm already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in January for the start of another exciting term. We've got plenty planned for the New Year and can't wait to see what 2025 will bring!

A big thank you to everyone who has completed the survey so far - it remains open over the holidays, so please feel free to share your thoughts if you haven't already.

A quick reminder: school starts back on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a well-deserved break with your loved ones. Enjoy this festive season, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Regards,



Susannah Connell - CEO



Braybrook

We have had a great start to the academic year at Braybrook! There has been a real buzz of learning around the school – from the learning in classes, to visitors and trips, and events with our PTA – it has been all systems go!

In classes, the children have enjoyed a wealth of learning across the curriculum with everyone making great use of the indoors and outdoors provisions. On top of this, there has also been a number of enrichment activities and visits: we started the year with our Year 4 and 6 children spending a day in Cambridge, where they spent half the day at the Fitzwilliam Museum enjoying workshops linked to their history topics on the Ancient Egyptians (Y4) and Ancient Greeks (Y6), and the second part of the day at the Scott Polar Research Institute, learning about Antarctic exploration.



The children in Year 3 also enjoyed a trip out by visiting Flag Fen, where they took part in learning day around the Iron, Stone and Bronze Age. Throughout their prehistoric life workshop, the children were able to handle artefacts and even complete their own archaeological dig. In Year 5, the children brought their studies on World War Two to life by a visit to the American War Cemetery at Madingley, Cambridge, before visiting the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. The children in Years 1 and 2 have also enjoyed trips out, with a visit to the local church as part of their RE lessons, and a trip to the theatre to see The Snowman and the Snowdog.



We have also enjoyed some themed days at Braybrook. For National Poetry week, the children in the school wrote poems to members of the local community (including the local nursing home and the local foodbank), before enjoying a Poetry Slam competition, with numerous children reciting poems in front of the whole school. During Black History Month, each class learned about a black author, by reading some of their books before researching their life stories and creating a mini-book in the style of "Little People, Big Dreams". Finally, the children also took part in a cultural "Passport to the World" day, where they were able to learn all about a specific country bringing elements of geography and languages to an exciting day.

The events did not stop there, with the Year 4 children performing a Samba drumming concert to the whole school and also spending a day at Peterborough Sings Rock and Roll day!



We have had a busy term with sporting events too, with competitive matches against other schools for our netball team and both boys' and girls' football teams. We also took part in YDP sports festivals for multi-sports, handball and dodgeball held across Peterborough.

It has been great to be involved in some different initiatives for the local community too. We collected food for the local foodbank as part of the harvest festival, collecting enough food for over 250 meals. We also held a number of fundraisers including the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need.

The children have also enjoyed a number of events held by the PTA, including movie nights, a Christmas Fair and a Halloween golden pumpkin competition!

We are looking forward to a restful break before we move onto the spring term where there are a number of exciting events planned ahead!



Burrowmoor

We have had a wonderful and busy term at Burrowmoor in March. The term started with our new class structure and new class names – this year all classes are named after famous British composers and musicians – Sullivan, Purcell, Britten, Bowie etc. The children learned about each one and spent time learning and listening to their music. This term we have also began our lunchtime music club and our Burrowmoor Orchestra. They will all be taking part in our planned Christingle / Carols round the tree, our Christmas visit to the Church and the Christmas celebrations at school. Our music lessons now take part in our specially allocated Music room – the Holst Room.

Our year 3 and 4 children are working on a new book in Writing – Leon and the Place Between – linking with this the children experienced a circus day. It was full of amazing sights and imaginings.



We have continued to spend time learning in our wonderful Forest school.

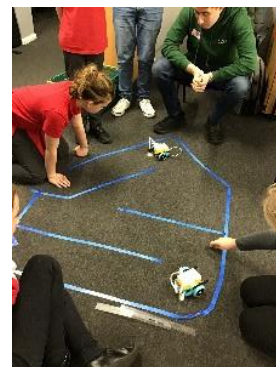
We have been fund raising a lot this term, our new Friends of Burrowmoor – FOBS group was formed. We held three cake sales to start this off and their other events have been an Autumn Spoon competition, colouring competitions and planned school disco. We also hosted an incredibly successful Doggy Waddle at Burrowmoor. 52 dogs enjoyed their walk around the school field with their child and family carers. We raised over £3000 which will be put towards paying for our whole school trip to the beach in June 2025.



Our lunchtimes have grown in complexity. All our Midday Supervisors have had two training sessions and we now have a wonderful variety filled playground. Every child has been given a skipping rope to take home and all have one in school. Dan came and taught us all how to skip, and he trained our Skipping Squad. It is a great picture to see the whole school skipping. Some of our parents have donated time and wood to build us a stage for our playground so we now can use our sound system to put on daily performances at lunch time.



We have started our School council this term – we have met and agreed our Chairperson. We will be involved in showing around our Member of Parliament – Stephen Barclay who will visit us on 21st November 2024. We have had a number of very new after school clubs. One is called Pet Club and it is run by the Pet Rescue Centre at Woodgreen. We have so much fun every week thinking about designing rabbit runs, pet toys etc. Another club is our PYE club – we are working on logging our rain, temperatures and electric usage and another group is working on an ECO Award. We met with Clean Ridgeway company who shared with us the way they are working in Fenland to build a new Wind farm. Our final great club is our LEGO League Club where we are designing and developing our own robots to complete missions and compete against other schools in March.





Glebelands

Merry Christmas from everyone at Glebelands! This school year has already been so very busy. Everyone settled well back to school life in September and began enjoying the experiences in their new year groups. We welcomed our new early years children to the school and they have picked up school routines quickly, even integrating into OPAL lunchtimes quicker than we had expected.

Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Ely Cathedral and Oliver Cromwell's House to learn about our local history.



We had an amazing Science Day where we were visited by The Royal Institute for a Science in Schools Day. It was great to be able to invite families in to watch a show in the evening too (even if we were momentarily stalled by the fire alarm!) The children were certainly enthused by the experiments shared and the staff also enjoyed some CPD on the day too!

Year 2 have visited The Raptor Foundation – they really enjoyed their day and now know even more about owls!

EYFS have had visitors in: Heather and her hedgehog were a highlight for all! Elephant Class are currently preparing for their Big Sing Event at Cromwell and EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are preparing for their Christmas performances. More about these will be shared next term!



Skanska and Graham's Traffic Management visited on Wednesday 27th November to visit Year 4. This event was organised to coincide with Road Safety Week. The team brought a VR headset and the children learnt about road signs and traffic signals. Graham's said that the children were courteous and welcoming and showed excellent problem solving skills! They have also written a climate pledge which they would like us to promote within the community.



It has been lovely to see everyone across the school enjoying their learning so much. The practical activities really capture their imagination! Year 1 have been learning all about how shops have changed since the 1950s with a variety of shops set up in the class!

This year, our school is 30 years old and we are starting to think about ways we can celebrate this. We have lots of ideas and are looking to plan these in across the next two terms!





Gorefield

"Productivity is being able to do things you were never able to do before," and this is certainly true of our Gorefield pupils who have made a fantastic start to their new school year. We are proud to celebrate another action packed and memory making term.

Early in autumn 1, our year 4 and 6 pupils visited Wisbech Grammar School to experience gymnastic coaches and equipment they wouldn't ordinarily have access to. These included the balance beam, large wedges for backwards rolling, trampolines for jumps and landings and the spring board for vaulting. The most popular activity was springing off the vault, with children demonstrating different jump styles such as the tuck and the star.

The latter part of autumn 1 welcomed a 'spooky' writing day where our pupils loved all things witch craft and wizardly! Children channeled their inner J.K Rowling to produce some terrifying writing.



We had an action-packed final week of autumn 1, with every class taking part in maths week; completing a range of activities and investigations to develop their problem solving skills and resilience. Reception children enjoyed learning about capacity, where they experimented with different sized containers and the number of cups it took to fill them.

Adding to the excitement of that week, we were very fortunate to have a visit from the emergency services, where all three emergency crews filled our tiny playground. Paramedics, fire fighters and the police gave children the opportunity to ask questions, learn about the jobs they do for our community and to test out some of the equipment; the sirens being the outright winner! We may have even signed a few children up to future careers!



In November, our year 5 and 6 children visited the New Theatre in Peterborough to watch the author Frank Cottrell-Boyce perform. What a great experience to be able to engage with an author in person and to receive a book from the man himself. With a whole school harvest festival behind us, we are now working hard to rehearse for a Christingle service, an EYFS and KS1 Nativity, a craft café and all things festive to conclude the autumn term here at Gorefield.



Great Staughton

This term has been wonderfully busy at Great Staughton with many trips and events to enrich our children's learning.

Our Year 4 attended a residential trip to Grafham Water where they had an amazing time as usual! With the children taking part in many activities such as problem solving and pioneering, which resulted in them having to work on their team work and communication skills. They mountain biked all around Grafham Water. They designed, made and tested their own raft and it didn't sink! And then finished off their trip with an archery and bushcraft activity, where they built their own shelter. A big well done to all of the year four children! The children worked really hard in all the activities and showed resilience, teamwork and determination during all the activities.



The children in Years 2, 3 and 4 had an amazing time during their Roman Day completing different Roman activities including role playing in groups, being Roman Soldiers and Roman dancers and re-creating performances of Romulus and Remus and The Hare and Tortoise.

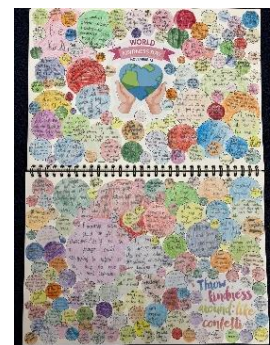


Our years 5 and 6 visited I.W.M. Duxford. The children were fascinated by the Ops Block, and found the audio re-creations to be incredibly interesting. We spent much of our time in the Battle of Britain hangar, where the class enjoyed exploring the aircraft and other vehicles, before squeezing into the Anderson shelter together. The Land Warfare exhibition, which features artillery pieces, tanks, trucks and other military vehicles, tells the story of the mechanisation of warfare - it was atmospheric and helped the children to understand the reality of war. Saturn class were particularly interested in the 'Forgotten War' displays within this exhibit. The beautiful weather was the cherry on top of the day - we were able to witness the take-off of many planes during our picnic lunch, including a Spitfire.

The Year 5 children attended a "Faith Tour", to experience different places of worship, first hand. The trip focused on three local faith communities and their places of worship. Each part of this 'Faith Tour' will include an informative presentation and tour of the place of worship, led by a member of that faith community

In celebration of World Kindness Day, our classes all chose a different way of focusing on being kind. Saturn class created kindness confetti. The children thought of lots of little ways they could show kindness -and wrote them on 'confetti'. We loved some of the quotes from our children, which included "Being kind to one person can have a ripple effect, leading to lots more kindness."

Mars Class created videos to help inform others of what they can do when faced with a difficult situation and Jupiter class focused on friendship and how you will always have a friend in us! Creating amazing videos to share with everyone.



And of course, we have been busy getting ready for the festive season, starting with our Santa craft fayre, where parents came in with their children to make Christmas crafts and visit Santa. We had our Christmas jumper day, where we raised money for Save the Children charity. Our Christingle service, our Christmas Rocksteady concert and not forgetting our children from Mercury and Mars classes who have worked so hard on learning their words and songs for their nativity, a Cheesy Nativity. They all performed like super stars, we are so proud of each and every one of them.





Kimbolton



We have had some fabulous visits this term to engage the children and enhance their topic learning, starting off with a Year 4 residential trip to Grafham Water Centre.

Years 5 and 6 had a wonderful day visiting the Battle of Britain and Land war exhibits at Duxford Imperial War Museum. Whilst Years 2, 3 and 4 had an amazing time taking part in a 'Roman Day' completing different activities

such as mosaic and clay charm making, creating perfume bags, soldier re-enactments and finishing off with a Roman performance.



Year 5 had a wonderful time on their 'Faith Tour' to visit a mosque, gurdwara and church to learn about the places of worship. These trips are so important in preparing our children for a diverse world.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a workshop with Cambridgeshire County Council learning about how to recycle and what can be put in blue, black and green bins and what should go to a recycling centre. They then reused empty milk bottles to make an elephant and a plant pot to put an onion bulb in.



KPA were invited to be involved in the village Remembrance ceremony. The children created a beautiful wreath, which was then laid by our School Council representatives. We were very proud for their respectful participation and the excellent manners they displayed throughout the ceremony.

Our PTA have been in full swing this term starting off with our annual KPA Bake-Off competition. This was shortly followed by a Neon Disco full of games, music, prizes, food and glowsticks, which raised a profit of £250. Bags 2 School was

also well supported and as a result of the previous years fundraising, we received a special delivery from the PTA for ten brand new i-pads. Their Christmas events were a Bauble Competition, an Elf Shop set up all week for the children to come and buy presents and a Christmas Craft Fair.



Staff also received a lovely surprise left for them in the staffroom from the PTA for World Teacher Appreciation Day so tummies were well and truly treated!

We enjoyed finishing the term with a Christingle service at the church, Year 5 and 6 completing their Level 2 Bikeability training, a trip to Kimbolton Castle to watch a production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', our school Rocksteady concert, Samaritans Christmas Jumper Day and of course our end of term Reward Day!

King James Academy Royston

King James Academy Year 7 Pupils Experience London's Iconic Sights on Educational Trip

Earlier this month, 130 enthusiastic Year 7 pupils from King James Academy embarked on an unforgettable educational visit to London. This immersive experience was designed to introduce students to some of the capital's most famous landmarks and encourage learning outside the classroom, building their cultural capital.

The journey began as students travelled by train from Royston to London, followed by an exciting trip on the London Underground to South Kensington. Their first stop was the world-renowned Natural History Museum, where pupils had the chance to explore captivating exhibits on planets, volcanoes, and geology including traditional fossils and dinosaurs. The visit to the museum was complemented by a picnic



lunch in the Basement Café, providing students with time to recharge and reflect on the fascinating exhibits they encountered.

The group then set out on a 3.5-mile walk, taking in some of London's most celebrated sites. Starting along Exhibition Road, they strolled through the picturesque Hyde Park, past Buckingham Palace, and continued down The Mall. The walk also included stops at Horse Guards Parade and the Palace of Westminster, offering students a rich view of British history and culture.

This experience provided not only an educational journey but also a chance for students to bond and build shared memories. Reflecting on the day, King James Academy Ms Plowman said, "Our goal was to create an inspiring, hands-on learning experience for the students. This visit to London

helped bring subjects like history, science, and geography to life in a way the classroom cannot. The enthusiasm and curiosity the students showed was truly wonderful to see."

After a fulfilling day of learning and exploration, the students returned to Royston, filled with stories and newfound knowledge from their day in the capital.

History Off The Page - 6 and 7 November 2024

Pupils in Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit from 'History Off The Page' to support their learning around the Ancient Greeks. It was lovely to see so many of our pupils immersing themselves in the experience in their Ancient Greek costumes.

During the course of the day, the children created Greek style artefacts, such as wax tablets, pendants and bags of sweet-smelling herbs. It was fantastic to see our children so engaged and enthusiastic about their learning - especially in the afternoon when we took part in a range of Greek theatre opportunities - the children were soldiers - learning a poem to march to, performing some Greek plays and a Greek dance to music!

In the afternoon the children had a Greek 'feast' of grapes, bread, cheese and "wine" (honestly blackcurrant squash!) in golden chalices. Feedback from our pupils on this event was very positive, with one child reporting: "We especially enjoyed the Ancient Greek food!"



Leverington

It has been a busy start to the school year at Leverington, with children working hard across the curriculum and already engaging in a range of activities!

This year, our classes are named after authors to celebrate our love of reading. Year 5 and 6 attended a webinar hosted by Waterstones with author, Katherine Rundell. Year 5 were also lucky enough to attend Peterborough New Theatre's workshop with the new children's Laurette, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, where they learned his inspiration comes from kicking nuns who look like Daleks!



Ahead of our Harvest celebrations, Year 3 had visitors from Peckover House, Wisbech Library and the museum for an Autumn festival. They learned about ways the Fens have been farmed in the past, crops that are grown locally and set up their own cress pots to grow at home.

Over the course of four weeks, a group of Year 5 pupils received their training and are now officially Well-Being Warriors. We now have a team of thirteen children who are ready to support children on the playground. The whole school took part in Odd Socks Day to celebrate Anti-Bullying week this November. We also watched the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe assemblies to remind ourselves of what to do if we don't feel safe.

The excitement of September continued into the spooky season with an action-packed final week. Every class took part in maths week, completing a range of activities and investigations to develop their problem solving skills and resilience. There were games, puzzles, problems and plenty of resilience! To get us in the mood for our Halloween disco on the last day of term, we had a whole school spooky writing day, too.



The whole school had a visit from the emergency services on the playground this term too! Children had the opportunity to speak to the people who help us, learn about the jobs they do for our community and even test out some of their equipment.



Our new Reception class have settled in to their routines and enjoy their VIP: Very Important Play! Their Festive Forest is open for fun and children are making the most of their outdoor provision!

Moving into December, we're looking forward our Key Stage 1 Nativity, Key Stage 2 Christingle and whole school trip to the pantomime! With Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and parents coming in for Christmas crafting, we're looking forward to our festive fun!

Middlefield

It has been a very busy term of learning. All the classes have adjusted well to working with their new teachers and impressive work has been produced across the whole curriculum! We also enjoy being able to provide opportunities above and beyond the regular curriculum. The Year 6's, for example, had an amazing morning with the STEM programme. By integrating LEGO, the children used critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. It was an excellent way to promote STEM education in a hands-on and enjoyable format.



It is credit to the EYFS staff and parents that the children in Attenborough Class feel like they have been in school for significantly longer than a term! They have taken the huge step of starting school in their stride and looked as though they thoroughly enjoyed Nursery Rhyme Week, especially the day when they dressed up as their favourite nursery rhyme character!

To raise the profile of pupil voice within the school, our school and eco councils have undergone an image change! We have combined the two to form the Middlefield Parliament, complete with its own Prime Minister, Deputy, Treasurer and Secretary! Their mission is to ensure that all children have a voice and that regular debates are held within classes to promote thinking about how the school can be improved. They have been allocated a number of projects and will be prominent throughout the year.



We were fortunate enough to receive a visit from a Paralympian this term! Sean Rose competed at the Paralympics in downhill skiing, missing a medal by half a second! He came to put our children through their paces in a fun-filled but exhausting circuit of physical activities and spoke to the whole school about how they should reach for their dreams and try new things as nothing is impossible. We were also able to raise some funds to buy additional physical activity equipment in the process.

Our Library/Box of Wonders continues to go from strength to strength. A well supported Scholastic Book Fair and a kind donation from the PTA have meant that more beautiful, funny, exciting, adventurous, moving, thought-provoking and a tiny bit scary books have been purchased. As a result, the volume of reading continues to grow as children are able to find their new favourites, sometimes with the help of their peers! Early Readers with parents is also still very popular and the children love it!



Our outdoor provision got the recognition it deserved when ITV featured us on their local news and on good Morning Britain! As a school passionate about outdoor learning, we signed up for the Nature Reserve Programme, a nationwide scheme encouraging schools to make effective use of their outdoor spaces. The children involved, mostly members of the Middlefield Parliament, showed our woodland area off proudly!





Murrow

As the first term of the new academic draws to a close in Murrow with the long road to Bethlehem nearly over, it has been a term of adapting and embracing new and old in Murrow.

We began the year with a sponsored daily mile every day for a week to raise funds for outdoor equipment which the school council chose. The school community raised £1122 in total!



The whole school took to the stage in the village hall for the first time to perform their harvest festival to their parents. The children read out poems and sang songs with pride and confidence in front of their doting parents. The families made donations to the Wisbech Foodbank for harvest.

There has been lots more exciting activities happening across school this term with visits from The Dogs Trust who held an assembly and visited classes to talk the children about how to be safe around dogs. We were also visited by the emergency services who talked to every class about how to stay safe as well as who and when to call for help.



After a fun-filled Halloween disco on the last Friday before half-term the children returned and immediately showed their respects at the war memorial for Remembrance Day. Two children attended on the Sunday followed by the whole school attending on Monday the 11th of November. This was quickly followed by great fun on 'Odd socks day' and 'Children in Need'.

Alongside all of the fun activities, the children across the school have been working extremely hard on their writing and presentation with our new 'Perfect Presentation' certificates and prizes going down a storm with the children.

As this term draws to a close, the children are working tirelessly on their Nativity and Christingle performances and looking forward to a trip to the Pantomime and class parties. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



Roman Way

Nursery and Reception children have been learning about people in the community who help us. We were lucky to have a visit from the Royston Fire Service, a policeman and our road crossing patrol person this term. The children were excited to see the protective clothing that the fire fighters wear and were allowed to see all the different equipment stored on the fire engine outside. They also learnt some important fire safety, including what to do if an item of clothing catches fire: Stop, drop and roll!



Our Nursery children were thrilled to have a visit from Binx and Boba, Mrs Inskip's guinea pigs. They learned about how guinea pigs behave and what we need to do to look after them. The children got to hold them, if they wanted to, and engaged in a question and answer session. In our Reception class, Rocket, our giant African land snail, has been with us since the Autumn term. Rocket had 40 babies, some of whom have been adopted by the children and the wider community. We continue to receive regular snail tales and photographs from the children.

Roman Way Academy hosted their very first sporting event for year 1. We were pleased to welcome St Mary's Primary School children and staff who enjoyed a fun speed stacking competition. The children learned new skills and games and are now able to continue this during their lunchtime play.



Year 3 and 4 children were invited to visit King James Academy to use their specialist cooking room. In preparation for this cooking workshop the children had to design and plan a pasta salad. They learnt how to use different types of cooking tools and used cutting and grating skills to prepare the pasta salad. Their dishes were thoroughly enjoyed as a takeaway by the children at home. A huge thank you to King James primary site for allowing the children to use this amazing facility.



Our outdoor learning provision continues to grow at Roman Way. This term we have opened an outdoor library which the children have access to during lunchtime. Thanks to the generosity of our school community as well as our PTA we have been able to fully stock the shelves with brand new books. In addition, our outdoor classroom has started to take shape.



The Round House

The whole school put on their colourful socks and ears for BBC Children in Need this year. We had over 200 entries in the Pudsey colouring competition and the Year 6 sports champions led an amazing fitness activity at lunchtime inspired by BBC Gladiators. We have raised over £700 for Children in Need!



Our Year 6 Round House Rangers have been busy looking after our new Weather Station at school. With thanks to the Pye Foundation, we have been lucky to have a new weather station on the grounds of the school. The rangers are currently recording the temperature, wind speed, pressure and rain fall. We will be getting more devices added such as a small wind turbine and a solar panel.



The whole school participated in a Readathon before half term. The children took part in a range of activities, including a fitness circuit session led by the Year 6 Sport Champions. It was lovely to see all the children and adults taking part and sharing books together. This has raised £3000 and is going to be used to develop our 'Reading Space'.



As part of our Harvest celebrations, we collected donations for the local food bank. Two members of School Council helped to deliver these to the food bank. The volunteers kindly gave them a tour and talked about what will happen to the food once we had donated it. We collected a total weight of £152.04kg, which equates to 3 days worth of food for 30 people or around 274 meals.



The Tag Rugby team had a victory against Wintringham in the tournament they attended at Middlefield. A try in the last minutes of the game secured the team the win. Well done to all the children who took part. The adults there were hugely impressed with all the children's attitudes, team spirit and resilience.

The end of the Autumn Term is almost upon us and what a busy and productive term it has been! Throughout this term we have enjoyed a variety of experiences and opportunities to learn. Here are some of our highlights.

A visit from Jane Considine



On 30th September, we had a visit from Jane Considine. Jane is an Education Consultant who energises and inspires thousands of teachers every year, helping them to transform the teaching of reading, writing and spelling in the primary education phase. We structure our writing curriculum through the delivery of her 'Write Stuff' approach and it was wonderful to see Jane teach our pupils using this approach. Pupil books showcase their writing at its best. During her visit, it was lovely to hear Jane commenting upon the good learning behaviours of the children and their enthusiasm for learning. We are very proud of them all!

Hilltop

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils began the term by undertaking their residential trip to Hilltop. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their resilience and determination whilst challenging themselves through participating in their programme of activities. Staff shared that everyone should be very proud of their achievements, whether it was scaling the climbing wall, completing the tree top trial, improving their archery skills or "swimming" whilst on the Big Zip.



Our Remembrance display

All of our 126 pupils worked hard to collectively create our Remembrance window displays, as a symbol to commemorate



Remembrance Day in honour of the service and sacrifice made by past and present members of the armed forces, and their families. Each pupil individually created a poppy which were then collated as a class display in each window. I think you will agree



that the window displays are a fitting tribute. On Monday 11th November, at 11am, we all stood collectively on the playground to pay our respects by participating in a two minute silence.

Christmas festivities

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we are very much looking forward to seeing our EYFS and Year 1 pupils performing 'Twinkly Nativity', with our Year 2 and 3 children participating in a Christingle service at St Peters Church. Year 5 and 6 are counting down the days until they visit The London Coliseum whereby, they will embark on a fantastical journey alongside Clara and her enchanted doll, as Nutcracker is brought to life by over 100 dancers and musicians.



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year at Winhills, and the children have been incredibly busy during the Autumn Term with a variety of exciting activities. Year 3 and 4 had an unforgettable Roman Day with History Off the Page, where the children embraced the experience fully by wearing impressive costumes and participating in hands-on activities like perfume making, creating clay beads, writing on papyrus, and making mosaic tiles. The day culminated in a lively banquet with entertainment that included acting, fables, and dances. Year 5 and 6 are eagerly anticipating their own History Off the Page event in January, with KS1 joining the fun in April.



The school also celebrated a special visit from Wood Green, who ran a series of workshops, and Winhills was honoured with the 'School Pets in the Community Award'. Throughout the term, we've worked hard to build a strong sense of community, hosting parent workshops that have brought families together. Parents have joined in various activities such as phonics sessions, Sums and Buns, and a delightful Christmas craft afternoon. It's been wonderful to see the children proudly sharing their work with their families. Meanwhile, Christmas play rehearsals are in full swing, with beautiful songs filling the air. Reception children are singing sweetly, KS1 is preparing a heart-warming nativity, and KS2 is busy organising their production, *No One Wraps Like an Elf*.



Our newly appointed sports leaders have been outstanding in their roles. Every morning at 8:30am, they kick off the school day with a Zumba dance session in the playground, inviting both children and parents to join in. Their enthusiasm and dedication are truly impressive – they arrive early, organise the music and speakers, and take on various roles such as instructors, supporters, and 'sticker givers' to encourage more children to get active. They also rotate their roles daily, showing fantastic teamwork!

This term, Winhills has already participated in several competitions and sporting festivals. The children have enjoyed competing in football and tag rugby, with the highlight being the swimming gala. In addition to these sporting opportunities, we have also welcomed Living Sport into school to run a 'Dragon's Den' workshop with our Year 5 students. Working in groups, the children brainstormed ideas for extracurricular activities they would like to organise for the Spring and Summer Terms, considering costs, equipment, space, and instructors. They then presented their ideas to Living Sport and Mrs. Smith. The winning clubs, chosen for their potential benefit to the school, will be supported by teachers next term. Thanks to Living Sport's generous donation of £1000, Winhills will offer basketball, tri-golf, and yoga clubs!



Winhills is thrilled to introduce the Golden Athlete award, a new initiative to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in Physical Education. Each term, one child from Key Stage 1 and one from Key Stage 2 will be selected for their exceptional effort in PE, with the award not only focusing on skill but also on sportsmanship and our school values. Mr. Franco is excited to present the awards during our achievement assemblies, highlighting the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and respect. The lucky winners will receive a special golden jumper to wear for the week, proudly showcasing their accomplishment to the entire school.

Wintringham

Wintringham have had another busy and exciting term!

We started the term with some History Off The Page events. The children in Year 1 and 2 experienced a day in Medieval England, and Years 3 and 4 took their places in Ancient Egypt. All of the children wore costumes to help them feel part of their respective time period, and then took part in a range of immersive activities to learn more about the histories.



We have also taken part in some sports events this term, including both football, tag rugby and swimming. For many of our children, this was the first time that they had played a match or represented the school and it was brilliant to see how committed and how determined they were to succeed.



In November, all the children helped raise money for Children in Need through different fun activities. There was a Pudsey competition, where the children coloured, designed and made their own Pudseys in innovative ways. Our School Council judged the competition, and the winners were given prizes. In the afternoon, the whole school took part in a 200-mile challenge. During this each child had to run laps of the playground so the total distance covered by all children was over 200 miles. They were hugely successful and ended up running 212.3 miles. A great achievement. Through all these events, we raised a massive £167! Thank you for all your support.

This term, we have been fortunate to have a specialist cricket coach from Chance to Shine in school. He gave a whole school assembly about Cricket as well as how this could feed into important life skills. Years 3 and 4 also got the chance to have some specialist cricket coaching as part of their PE lessons.



We were very lucky to have The Support Dogs Charity come to visit us, along with a furry visitor. In a whole school assembly, 'Burnsy' and his handler explained to the children who The Support Dogs Charity are and what these dogs can do to help people. The children learnt that the dogs are trained from a very young age and then are placed with someone that may need help picking things up, walking safely along the road or helping people to keep safe. Year 2 then all got the chance to stroke Burnsy as well!



- ◇ Professional Development & Learning
- ◇ Initial Teacher Training
- ◇ School to School Support

One of the strengths of our Trust is the professional development offer we provide for all staff so we can continue to improve pupil outcomes across all of our schools and retain the best staff. We provide a wide range of training and development opportunities to staff with all levels of experience. They collaborate and share good practice whilst enhancing their knowledge and progressing in their roles.

Our strong partnership with Best Practice Network means we can offer National Professional Qualifications to teachers both in the Trust and other Cambridgeshire schools. Our Early Career Teachers are now receiving training through Teach First as part of their statutory induction. This provides research-informed development in the form of seminars and self-directed study.

We are very pleased we have an increasing number of DLPT staff training through apprenticeships, ranging from Early Years Educators and Teaching Assistants to business administrators and accountancy technicians.

This term, we have trained 242 individual participants on courses and networks in addition to Trust Professional Development Meetings and a Big Moderation event. Thank you to all course facilitators.

Testimonials:

'Liked the opportunity to talk and share ideas with other subject leads.'

'Well organised and lots to take away from it to use in class.'

'Good enthusiastic teacher leading it to get us all involved.'

'Informative, friendly, well organised, professional.'



If you know anyone, or are interested yourself, in training to teach please contact us. We train and provide placements to student teachers every year. Our mentors are highly skilled, and placements give plenty of opportunity for students to hone their teaching skills to gain Qualified Teacher Status.



Recruiting NOW!

We are a Lead Partner for Initial Teacher Education.

**More information:
www.diamondepl.org**