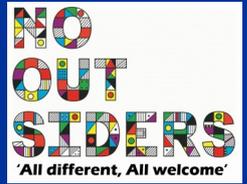




Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Here, children thrive...



Autumn Term 2022

Season's Greetings

*from all at
Boughton Heath*



Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Boughton Heath Academy

Here, children thrive...

Beckett's Lane, Boughton
Chester CH3 5RW

Principal: Jon Lenton BSc (Hons) NPQH
Email: admin@boughtonheath.cheshire.sch.uk
Tel: 01244 732000

Dear families,

It is always with great pleasure that I write to you at this most special time of year. Working within a primary school is a privilege whatever the time of year; however the excitement and anticipation which bubbles away in the run up to Christmas always makes things that little bit extra special.

As we enter the closing stages of the Autumn term, we have much to look back on and celebrate. Academically, school remains in a very strong position with our 2021 / 22 statutory KS2 data indicating 'significantly above national' attainment at the expected standard, putting us in the top 20% of schools nationally. Whilst educational performance is of course of paramount importance to both school and parents; this year we have also reshaped our vision to 'Here, children thrive...' This is in order to place a keen emphasis on all the vastly important things we must offer children during their primary years to help them grow and develop as a well rounded individual. We aspire for children to thrive not just educationally, but also through sport, the arts and a strong sense of community; displaying this through our school values of honesty, respect, responsibility, independence, determination and kindness.

Work is already well underway on giving our children more opportunities to pursue more exciting and varied activities through school. Following parent feedback, we have increased our extra-curricular activities this term and offered a broader mix of clubs to attend including football, gymnastics, judo, chess and netball. Such clubs have given children opportunities to try new sports they may not have engaged in before; and I am delighted that we have been able to increase the amount of competitive sport on offer also, through participation in external football, rugby and hockey events. Sport is most certainly thriving at Boughton Heath, being brilliantly led at break and lunchtimes by our superb sports ambassadors and play leaders.

We have continued our work in the local area, working and engaging with a wide range of partners to impart the importance of community and collaboration. We have once again supported West Cheshire Foodbank through harvest, during times of unprecedented demand being placed upon their service; and will run as reindeers (and a rather unfit Santa Claus!) to raise funds for the Hospice of Good Shepherd and the incredible work they do. Our children marked Armistice Day with the utmost respect, marking the occasion both in school and at Huntingdon memorial; and we have engaged with community partners such as the police and armed forces to learn more about the work they do and the impact they have on our daily lives.

In school, our wider curriculum has been redesigned and reshaped to include many more opportunities for our children to study their locality of Chester; particularly through History and Geography. In addition to this, we are taking a far more active approach to teaching and learning; following the latest educational research available to ensure we are offering the very best learning opportunities to our children. We were delighted to share such work during our recent 'share the learning' morning, and I am sure parents saw interactive books which reflected children's learning throughout a whole lesson, not just evidence of an outcome of learning at the end.

It cannot be escaped that we are living through challenging times. From the huge impact of COVID-19, the war taking place in Ukraine and the subsequent cost of living crisis; life has been incredibly tough for many of us. Such challenges make the work schools do with children and young people more important than ever, as we aspire develop children who will go on to make the world a positive and better place through their contributions within it. I firmly believe the offer we are making to our children is the first step on this journey and I look to the rest of the academic year with a real sense of optimism over what our children can and will go on to achieve.

Whatever your plans for the festive season are, I wish all of our children, families and staff a thoroughly well deserved break with friends and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Kind regards,

Jon Lenton
Principal

Reception

The children settled into school very quickly and made lovely relationships with peers as well as adults within school. The children are enjoying building their independence and are becoming more resilient trying things for themselves.

The weather does not stop us from learning outside and the children have access to the outdoor environment daily. Every day is a forest school day in Reception.

Our new tree top play den

Reception were so lucky to have the new sand pit open and the children have thoroughly enjoyed using it!

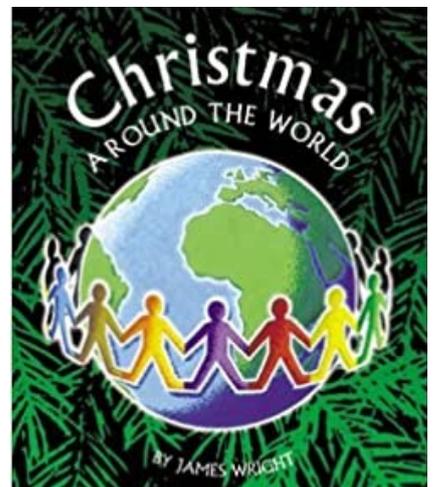


Class time

The children have had a whole term learning new skills, information and facts. They are fantastic in phonics and are enjoying applying these new skills when reading and writing. The children have been busy working independently and in small groups.

Christmas Around the World

A huge well done to Reception for such a fantastic performance of our nativity production, Christmas around the world.



Forest School

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Autumn Forest School activities, they especially like having hot chocolate outside to warm them up! The children enjoy being outside and being creative.

Having not been able to put on nativities over recent years, everyone was so happy to once again be able to welcome parents in and we were all so proud of how all the children performed.

It has been a pleasure to see the children find their feet during their first term at BHA. They have achieved so much already. Enjoy your Christmas break and continue being your wonderful selves in the New Year. You are all superstars!

We have learnt to segment and blend to read and write simple words – we will continue to practise this key skill throughout the year. The children enjoy applying their new mathematical skills to practical activities. The children are developing their negotiation and teamwork skills.



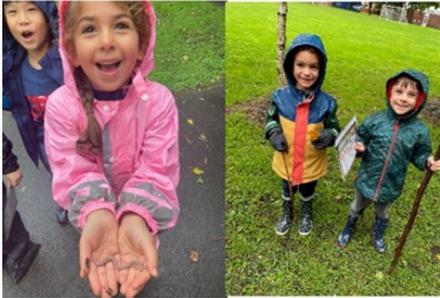


Year 1



Wow! What an incredible Autumn Term we have had in Year One. It has been full of fun, laughter and learning. Here are just a few of the many highlights that we have had.

Forest School



"Everyone needs a Forest School Day" said Mrs Woods and what a wonderful (if not a little soggy!) day we had. The children were not put off by the weather and we started off by heading out on a scavenger hunt. Lots of interesting items found and lovely language used. Next it was time to begin our "Magic" theme by making some wands.



Later in the day we created potions by carefully collecting the ingredients needed, before adding the magic "juice" and "powder" which brought our potions to life.

We finished off the day with a treat of ghoulish grins! Yum!

Chester Zoo

Year One enjoyed a brilliant day out to Chester Zoo in the first half of the autumn term. This visit enabled us to look at the Zoo now and compare it to the past using maps and the information around the Oakfield Estate. It was fascinating to find out how the zoo started and how it is different to now. Some of us would like the zoo to still offer elephant rides!



As our science topic was learning about the animal groups, we were able to make close observations of birds, fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. The penguins, giraffes and butterflies were our favourite animals of the day!



Animal Art Day

We had a wonderful animal art day which linked with both our Science topic of Animals and our History topic of Chester Zoo.



The focus of the art day was on mark making and drawing. We investigated a range of different marks. We began the day responding to music before exploring the different types of marks we may have used. This led to us all thinking about what marks we would make in response to different words. After that we looked at how to draw different animals and use marks to create texture. We each created an individual animal, as well as working on larger animals in groups.



The result was wonderful and we are very proud of our display.

Literacy

This term we explored the book "Nibbles the Book Monster" and what an adventure we had. Nibbles created chaos in the classroom chewing holes in all sorts of things; from our displays to a tissue box! We created wanted posters

to help the school keep an eye out for him, and then explored how different characters, from different books, felt about him chewing his way through them. We finished the unit writing wonderful diary entries as Nibbles, all about his day and what he thought about it.



Year One Multi-Skills Festival

Last week, Year One went to Northgate Arena to take part in a Multi-Skills Festival with lots of other Year One classes in the local area.



There were a range of great activities, including throwing and catching, aiming, balancing, dodging and cup stacking!



The children were all marvellous role models and represented our school perfectly. We all enjoyed a wonderful morning of physical activity.

We wish all families a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing the children again after the holidays.



Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic first term with lots to be proud of. They have all shown a super attitude towards school and have worked their socks off this term.

Geography—The United Kingdom

In Geography this term, they learnt all about the United Kingdom. They used maps to find the different countries and compasses to describe their positions.



During lessons, they spent lots of time discussing different places within the UK that they had visited and looked into both physical and human features.



Maths & Writing

During Maths, they have tackled the tricky concept of exchange and have worked hard to apply this to problem solving too. In Writing, the children initially started with story writing about two cheeky trolls but it was the Owls that really got their attention. They all wrote an incredible fact file which are proudly up on our writing wall in class.

History—The Gun Power Plot and The Great Fire of London

After kicking off our History topic with a trip to Nantwich museum, the children have got fully engrossed by the stories of both the plot and the fire.



Hooked from the beginning, they have loved learning about what, why and when this happened.



Science—Materials & Animals

Science lessons have seen lots of group work which has shown great team work amongst the children. They showed great confidence when looking at materials, knew lots about their properties and finding the best material to fix Mr Lenton's broken umbrella! They looked at making their experiments fair tests which



was rather tricky but they showed great determination. After half term we moved on to Animals, which engrossed them from the start due to the cute offspring.

Jigsaw

The children have worked well in Jigsaw this term, there has been a strong focus on kindness. They have heard many stories, created their own scenarios and discussed how to be a good friend. This has helped in the playground and lots of children have enjoyed playing with different groups and pushing themselves to have a go at different games.

I have received super feedback after each session from Mr Woodman about the PE sessions and it has been nice to see some children playing some of the games learnt at break and lunch times.

I would like to say a huge thank you for all of your book donations to our class this term and also for your continued support. I have loved my first term in Year 2, I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to seeing all of the children's smiling faces in January.



Year 3



using Lego and Mobilo to recreate how canals were made in the past. We learnt that canals were built by people called Navvies (which was short for Navigators).

children and families a safe and happy Christmas.

The Navvies would use pick axes, shovels, hammers and sledge hammers to help create the canal. Once they had dug the area, they would use horses and animals to tread down the land. They realised they needed to put clay down to line

As part of our R.E. topic, we were looking at how Hindus celebrated Diwali. We were very fortunate to have some local Hindu families come in and share how they celebrate Diwali.



the canal before they filled it with water from the local rivers. We learnt that canals were built near factories or industry or industries were built near the canals so it was easier for trade.

We linked our DT topic to our canal work and made waterproof bags. Firstly, we were given our design brief and purpose and then created our own success criteria. Once we knew what we needed to be successful, we started researching different waterproof materials, handles and fastenings.

Firstly, we learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and how the festival became the festival of light. Next, we saw some fantastic dancing which showed authentic Hindu movements to music. After that, we were part of many different activities like Diwa candle painting, Rangoli patterns, Mehndi patterns on our hands and card making. We finished off by joining in with some dancing. We loved the morning and loved being part of the celebrations.



Next, we drew different designs for our bag thinking carefully about our success criteria.

Once we had decided on a design, we made a template and drew around it to make the bag outline.

We used different stitches to sew the material together to make the final product.

As part of our history topic, we have been learning all about canals, the history of Chester Canal and how it became the Shropshire Union Canal. In the pictures that follow, we were

It has been a super autumn term, and I look forward to seeing the children in January. Wishing all



Year 4



We have done a lot during the autumn term in year 4! We have enjoyed science and all the experiments that come with it!



Melting and freezing chocolate experiment



Sorting Greek life pictures to statements

Did you know they had windows but no glass? We have learnt that the Greeks progressed many things we use today such as maths, medicine and architecture! Did you know the Greeks invented the Olympics to honour Zeus?



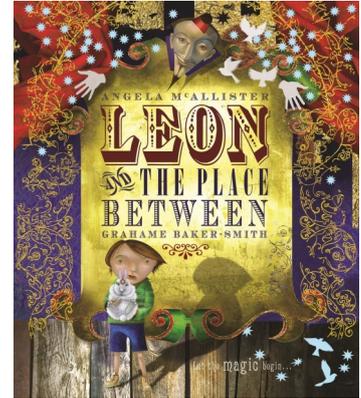
We carried out experiments from observing the effect different drinks have on our teeth using eggs, looking at how the digestive system works and timing how long it takes to melt and freeze chocolate. We easily saw the connection between condensation and evaporation as we discussed the condensation forming on our windows this winter.

We have explored Italy and the different features in Europe such as the Alps and Tundra. We particularly enjoyed learning about the Italian culture from art to fashion to food! Turns out we are all big fans of pasta! Falling back into the Ancient Greek times, we have explored their homes and how far we have come since.



Researching physical landscapes in Europe.

Building on the skills they developed in Autumn 1, we studied Leon and the Place Between this half term. I am sure this book will be a firm favourite of the children's for many years to come; and they wrote fantastic narratives and descriptive writing based on its themes.



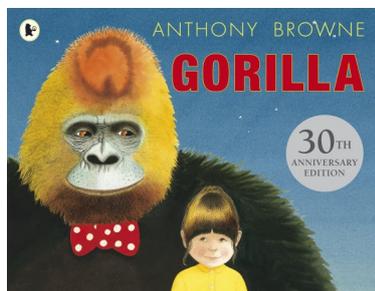
During Art the children enjoyed learning about Amedeo Modigliani and developed sketching skills. We particularly found shading with our fingers messy and thought our self portraits looked amusing with extra long necks and other out of proportion features!



During DT, we researched different CAD structures (computer aided designs) in order to design and make a Christmas gift box! We learnt new skills, such as how to design a box structure using word and then practical skills such as scoring card to make it fold easier.

In Literacy, we have studied two fantastic books this term. Firstly we looked at Gorilla, by Anthony Browne. The children really enjoyed the story and engaged well with the text through a variety of reading and writing tasks.

Merry Christmas to all Year 4, I look forward to seeing you again in the new year.





Year 5



This term, Year 5 have made a fabulous start to the year! The children have all shown fantastic attitudes towards their learning and have been a delight to teach!

Topic: Geography and History Science

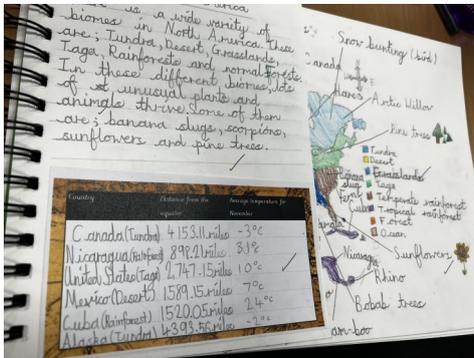
In our North America topic, we have learnt many geographical skills, including map work, locating human and physical features and understanding land use. The children compared different parts of North America to understand land use and settlement. We also looked at biomes; what they are and which existed across North America. This allowed us to understand the diverse range of weather and climate that North America experiences.

This term, we have studied Living Things and their Habitats and Animals Including Humans. In Autumn 1, the children learned about different life cycles and life expectancies of a range of living things. We looked at how animals change over their life span and compared these to other animals. In Autumn 2, we learned about how our bodies change, as we get older. We looked not only at bodily changes, but at mental changes too. We also looked at gestation periods in a range of animals and compared length based on animal classification.



English

In Autumn 1, we learnt about the infamous Annie Edson-Taylor; the American school-teacher who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Our lessons, based on The Queen of the Falls, inspired us to write a variety of quality recount pieces, including letters, diary entries and newspaper articles. This half term, our lessons have been based on traditional tales. After reading The Lost Happy Endings, the children have produced traditional tales with a twist and well-developed character descriptions with exciting characterisation, similes and expanded noun-phrases.



During our Anglo-Saxons topic, the children used primary and secondary sources to investigate this period in time. They investigated why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain, discovered what life might be like in Anglo-Saxon Britain and learnt about the Anglo-Saxon's relationship with the Vikings. We learnt about the devastating raid on Lindisfarne as well as why the era ended.

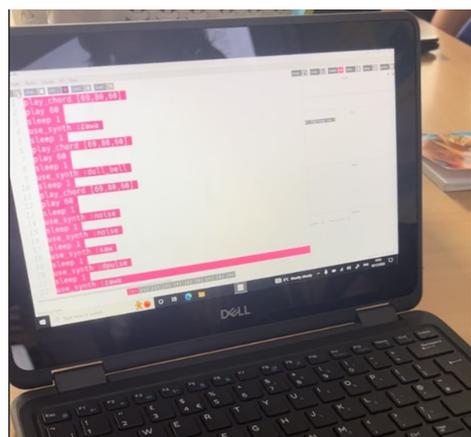
Art

In Autumn 1, we practised our drawing skills and drew portraits of ourselves, inspired by Grant Wood!



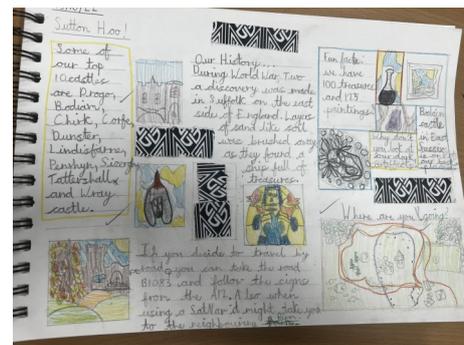
Maths

We have covered lots of Mathematics strands this term, including Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Statistics and Measure.



Forest School

In Autumn 1, after studying the Anglo-Saxons, we weaved string around a cardboard template. This was similar to how the Anglo-Saxons made clothes!



A huge well done to all members of Year 5. It has been a pleasure to get to know you this term and I'm excited for what the rest of the year brings! Have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Year 6



Science

Science has been exciting this term in year 6. We started the term learning about electricity and associated the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit. After learning to draw a circuit diagram, the children investigated a number of circuits by building them to see whether they would work or not. Finally, the children designed their own experiments identifying the effect of changing just one component at a time and giving reasons for the variations in circuits, such as the brightness of bulbs when the number of cells was increased.



Our next science topic was light and we began by studying a scientist from the Golden Age of Muslim civilisation: Ibn Al-Haytham. The children learnt that while under house arrest, Ibn realised that light travelled in a straight line; a hole in his wall acted as an aperture and projected an inverted image of the pyramids on the wall of his room.



After learning this, the children built their own pin-hole cameras during forest school to test this theory for themselves. We also enjoyed banana, chocolate and marshmallow cones warmed on a camp fire while drinking hot chocolate and singing. The weather wasn't too cold and everybody, teacher included, had a wonderful day.



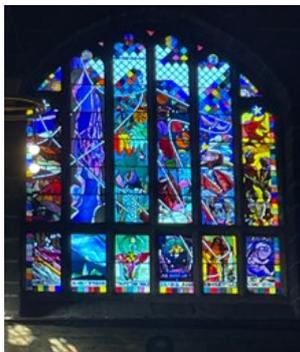
History



As part of our WW2 learning in history, we walked to Chester Cathedral to see the various War Memorials. There were many and all were very different. Outside the Cathedral stands a 10 metre high cross constructed of sandstone from Delamere and a memorial garden to those from the Cheshire Regiment who have lost their lives. Also in the grounds of the Cathedral is an oak tree, special because it deploys the symbolism of a tree as a metaphor for 'growing remembrance' and because the tree was taken as a sapling from Tyne Cot cemetery in Passchendale, which is the home to more than 12,000 Commonwealth war graves.



The oak tree as a symbol of England also adds to its significance. We also saw the marquette for the Pity of war sculpture. The design of the memorial—a blindfolded head, without ears or mouth—powerfully symbolises the innocent civilians caught up in the horrors of war.



While at the Cathedral, we also went inside to look at the Creation window as the children had studied it in RE. The window is in the refectory of Chester Cathedral and was designed by Ros Grimshaw. The window depicts the hand of God moving through the six days of creation. The children's faces lit up when they saw the scale of the window and the vibrancy of the colours. They were able to share their knowledge about the piece with good understanding.



Thank you very much to everybody who supported the school book fair and the sponsored read. Your generosity has supported the school to raise an amazing £1474.73 towards new books for school! These books will not only



support every child's reading progress but the teaching of our whole curriculum, and especially our work with children's emotional wellbeing. Once again, thank you!

This term, as part of our work on World War II, we studied the work of Henry Moore and in particular his Underground Series of work. The children made studies of Henry Moore's work and looked at the different techniques he used to apply different mediums. After learning to use light and shade in their sketchbooks, the children applied their knowledge and produced their own self-portraits whilst imagining what it would be like to be sheltering from the Blitz underground. The drawings began with a loose line sketch using a charcoal stick and then the black background was added.



It took the children some encouragement to play around with the medium and to try adding texture with an eraser and with darker tones, but they soon started to relax and enjoy themselves. Using their knowledge of facial dimensions, many of the portraits look very realistic and quite haunting – especially as a whole class display in our homebay!



Other news



Staffing news

Sadly, we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to a much loved member of Boughton Heath this Christmas. Mrs Ralston will be leaving us to pursue a new career as a specialist speech and language teacher. I know this area of education is something she is



extremely passionate about and I am sure she will do an outstanding job for the children she works with. On behalf of the entire Boughton Heath community I'd like to express thanks for her hard work and dedication to school during her time here, and wish her all the very best in her new role. We welcome Mrs Jones as Reception teacher from January.

PTA

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful Friends of Boughton Heath PTA for all their support this term. They dedicate their time to fundraise and provide exciting and meaningful opportunities and experiences for



the children, this year funding all tickets for the StoryHouse trip! The Halloween disco was a huge success, and the Christmas Fayre really got us in the festive spirit with Father Christmas himself and a traditional brass band!



Progress postcards

As you know, we send home a progress postcard each term, as opposed to an end of year report once per year. This week we send the autumn progress postcard home, detailing your child's achievements and effort across the curriculum with comments for their teacher(s).



At Easter we will send home a comparator postcard which details their progress from this round of attainment to then. For further details regarding how to interpret postcards, please see the letter which will be pinged out to parents.

Extra curricular activities

I am delighted we have been able to revamp and revitalise our extra curricular offer to children this academic year. So far this term we have offered judo, chess, multi-skills, football, netball, gymnastics and puzzle clubs to our children. More clubs are on the way in the spring term—further details to be sent out by teachers and organisers.



In addition to the after school clubs on offer, we have also increased the amount of competitive sport we have engaged with.

This term we have participated in competitive football, rugby, and hockey.



A particular highlight was our Y5 & 6 football team achieving a fabulous 5 - 1 away win in their first game of the season.



Elsewhere we have given children who have never participated in competitive sport before the chance to represent school at sport festivals, some of whom have since gone on to join local clubs which is fantastic.

Our play leaders and sports ambassadors have also done a fabulous job in raising the profile of sport and physical activity during break and lunchtimes.



Thank you

I must give a huge thank you to the staff who have worked incredibly hard this term to provide not only an outstanding education to the children, but also the many wonderful experiences and opportunities detailed in this letter.

A huge thank you to you as parents also. The support you offer school each and every day is second to none and vital to an effective home school partnership. Particular thanks to those parents who have volunteered to help us this term on trips, visits and experiences in school.

Hoping you all have a lovely Christmas, we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 4th January.