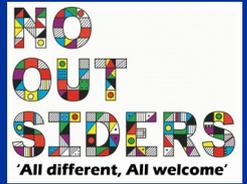




Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Spring Term 2023

Here, children thrive...



Spring 2023

Reception

Stay and Play sessions

Just before half term, we were very excited to invite our grown-ups to join in with our learning. We played helpful word bingo, an adding game as well as working with our grown-ups to write captions, share stories and build using the large blocks! It was lovely for us to share or learning and for Mrs Jones to get to know our grown-ups better too.



Snow!



We were very excited waking up to snow in March! It was a great opportunity to get outside and explore. We had great fun playing with the snow, moulding it

and watching it melt. We also made a snowman - Mr Frosty!



Spring hunt

In reception, we learnt all about Spring and then went on a spring hunt in our school grounds.

We talked about what we might find before we went and then recorded what we did find on a checklist and took photos too. We found daffodils, other



flowers like daisies, green leaves growing on the trees and even a birds nest!

Reading!

We love reading in reception. Our phonics lessons are helping us learn to read. We use ipads and QR codes to listen to stories linked to our topics.



Pirates

Our book this half term has been 'The Pirates are Coming!' so we have been learning all about pirates. We found a treasure map and clues in our classroom. We then read these and followed them to find the treasure



We have been busy in the creative area making pirate hats and eyepatches. We also made our own pirate maps to use outside! We dressed up as pirates, we made the stage outside into a pirate ship and we made a feast fit for a pirate at the mud kitchen.

Expressive arts and design

We have learnt about the artist Genevieve Griffiths which inspired us to make our own creations based upon her work. We learnt sewing



skills to create wonderful pieces of artwork.

We have had a lovely term with Mrs Jones and Mrs Hurst and we are looking forward to a busy summer term!

Year 1

The Spring Term has been a blast in Year One! So many memories made. Here are just a few of the many highlights that we have had.

Forest School

The children had lovely spring weather for their Forest School day. We had a



focus on art, science and history! In the morning, we explored colours in nature. We had learnt about primary and secondary colours in art lessons, so we applied this knowledge by finding examples of these colours in our school grounds. The children created beautiful colour wheels. Next, we took our science topic of plants and looked for examples of seeds in our school



grounds. We used a checklist to find as many examples as possible. We managed to find lots of silver birch and sycamore! In the afternoon we played playground games from the past. The children thoroughly enjoyed using chalks to make hopscotch grids!

History – Life when our Grandparents were Six.

This half term we have been learning about what life was like for our grandparents when they were six. We have looked at timelines and learnt what a decade is. One of our golden threads for this unit of work was social diversity. For this, we looked at how buildings in Chester have changed over time to cater for the growing numbers of people from around the world coming to live here. We looked at the different places of worship and shops that have been created so that people from different

cultures and following different religions can follow their beliefs and traditions. We have used a variety of historical sources to give us tangible experiences to find out about the past. The toys from the past artefact box was interesting and gave us much fun. The wooden hoopla game brought out some competitiveness! Linda, one of our school's grandparents, came to answer our questions about the past. We really enjoyed finding out about what her home was like, what toys she played with, what food she ate and what school was like for her. It was hard to understand that she didn't have a television or ipad when she was six! Our understanding of history has grown throughout this learning and we are enthusiastic to carry on finding out more.

Trip to Liverpool

The excitement for the Liverpool trip



was BIG! The children and the staff were full of anticipation and we weren't let down! Having already learnt a little about 1960s music and The Beatles, the children were well prepared for the trip. Walking around the Beatles museum, led to lots of discussions about which



Beatle was which in the pictures. Clues like "John Lennon has a longer nose" came from the children to help each other with identifying each one in different pictures. The children loved being in The Cavern Club and pretending to be at a Beatles gig – it

was definitely Beatlemania. Other highlights of the museum included going through The Yellow Submarine and sitting on an "airplane" to travel to America like the Beatles did.

Later on, the children got to play Beatle's songs on the giant interactive piano, and dress up like they were in the 1960s.

The finale of the day was the Dazzle Ferry. The children spotted it zooming along the Mersey as we walked to the Pierhead. The bright colours meant that it was easy to see. It was a lovely ride across to Seacombe with the wind not causing too much swaying on the boat.

Science

This half term the children have been learning about plants. We have talked about the parts of a plant and the parts of a tree. The children have enjoyed looking at different seeds and bulbs.



At the beginning of the unit of work, each child planted a bean seed. We talked about what the beans would need and discussed how initially they would get enough food from inside the seed, so wouldn't need soil until they were bigger. The children enjoyed seeing them on the windows as they sprouted. Brilliant observations were made as they observed the seeds grow over time. Eventually it was time to plant them. They are now getting super tall and are ready to take home and plant! Let's hope you all get some delicious green beans.

Design Technology

During the first half term we explored the book "The Lion Inside". The children made some fabulous glove puppets for the different animals in the story. The children learnt about different puppets, including looking at some sock puppets that some Year 5s had made. They then explored different ways to join their fabrics, quickly recognising the problems with tape, staples and paper clips!

The final products looked fantastic and were a credit to the children.

We are looking forward to a busy summer term!

Year 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this term and I am extremely proud of them. They have continued to grow as a team and shown a wonderful can do attitude.



Maths & Writing

You may have seen our crazy catwalk of peg dolls in the classroom, this set off our work on writing instructions. From how to make a paper airplane, a peg doll or a sandwich, year 2 have done it all! The children have worked hard on perfecting their skills in writing and it will be great to see this progress further in the summer term.

In Maths, they have consolidated the four operations before tackling shape and fractions! Year 2 have enjoyed challenging themselves with trickier questions during the past few weeks and have worked hard to develop their reasoning skills.

Science & Jigsaw

This term has seen a large focus on keeping our bodies healthy and happy. In both Science and Jigsaw,



children have identified the different food groups and designed their own balanced meal ideas. They also looked at not just fuelling their bodies with food, but also getting enough exercise, sleep and time to relax too. Later on in the term, there was a focus on plants and how to keep them healthy -year 2 enjoyed tasting

the different parts of the plants we can eat! (although celery didn't go down very well!)

History - Castles

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about castles this past half term, engaged by the immense heights of the curtain walls and the history that lies amongst them. They particularly enjoyed exploring how life was different from how we live today.

Our art work this term was inspired by Paul Klee, Castle and Sun and year 2 created geometric pictures before adding block colours and using an ink wash.



Computing - Scratch Jr

Computing this half term has definitely been a favourite of the year with Scratch Jr. Year 2 have been tinkering with different animations and creating different life like blocks to make their creations move and speak. Next, we will look at stop motion and create some of our own mini movies!

Reading

Last but not least, I have to say a HUGE well done to year 2 for their efforts with reading this half term. Their reading has come on immensely and this is down to the effort put in both in school and at



home. Thank you to all families for supporting your children with this also.

Once again, thank you for all of the support from families and the donations of birthday books. Have a lovely, restful break and I look forwards to seeing everyone in the summer for our final term.



Year 3

What a busy term Year 3 have had!

Art

For our art this half term, we have been looking at an artist called Sandra Hepworth. She is a textile artist and works with different textiles and buildings.



We used our knowledge skills from our previous art topic on buildings to help us draw

Liverpool buildings, but on different textiles this time. First, we started to look at the colour wheel and how to mix colours.

Next, we learnt all about primary and secondary colours and how to mix colours to make different ones. After that, we learnt about complimentary



and contrasting colours and investigated which colours would work for our background. We looked at using three different types of textiles, which were paper, tissue paper and fabric. Once we had decided our colours, we drew different buildings from Liverpool using black pen and sharpie on the materials.

Barnstondale Residential

We absolutely loved our Year 3 residential with some children wanting to go on another one this year! As you can see we did a multitude of activities, which included rifle shooting, archery, climbing, abseiling, search and rescue, orienteering, cannon ball



run, night line and bush craft skills. We also had a cinema experience and a camp-fire, which we sang songs around and told funny jokes. We had an

amazing time learning new skills, building our confidence and also being ghosts in our quilts when making our beds! We loved our four course breakfasts, with the sausage, egg and hash browns being our favourite!



Religious Education

In R.E., we have been learning all about Christianity and the symbols of the religion. As one of our lessons, we learnt all about the El Salvador Crosses. These crosses are also called 'Crosses of Hope' especially by refugees. The images shown on the crosses can be scenes from every-day life like the sun, land, villages, family, homes, animals and God. To start our crosses, we planned out what we would like to draw and the colours we wanted to use. Next,

we drew the designs onto wooden crosses and then used watercolour pencils to make the colours vibrant and strong. We love our designs so much that we decided to display them on a wall for everyone to see.



I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and come back refreshed for an exciting summer term!

Year 4

Year Four have had an extremely busy spring term!

History

We have continued to delve into the past and learn all about the Romans. We have explored why they invaded Britain and how they changed Britain. Did you know we didn't have sewage systems before the Romans? Like true Historians, we have enquired both sides of the Roman Empire and the Celtic lands. We have learnt how the Romans recorded their side of history. We found out that no primary source describe the colour of Boudicca's hair. Over this term, we particularly liked linking our History and English learning

stay safe in any earthquake! Using this expert knowledge, we adapted our most recent story by changing the natural disaster and the true effect they have on islands close by.

Times Tables



We have continued to practise our times tables regularly this term. On Times Tables Rock Stars we have had various tournaments which have motivated us to increase our accuracy and speed.



Condover Hall Residential

The most exciting part of the spring term was very clearly our residential! Laser tag, zip wires, archery... we cannot pick our favourite activity! Building on our team work skills and improving our confidence, we had the best

time at Condover hall. It was a great end to the spring term!

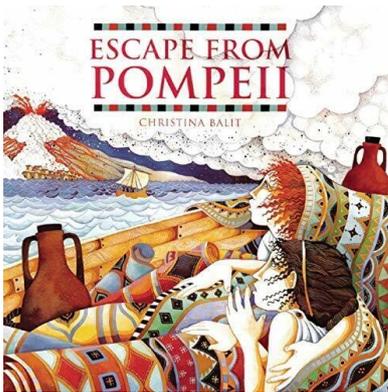


We have come so far since the beginning of the year! Have a well-deser



We will be completing a DT day after Easter on Friday 21st. Can you please send your child in with materials they would like to use to make torches? This could be plastic bottles, cardboard, toilet rolls etc.

Have a well deserved break!



together to write detailed stories based on Escape from Pompeii.

Geography

Our interest in exploding volcanoes didn't end there, we then began to learn about volcanoes and earthquakes. We now have a better knowledge of how connected our earth is and the ripple effects of tectonic plates. Being experts in this



subject, we can explain how to

Year 5

This term, Year 5 have continued to make fantastic progress! The children have all shown brilliant attitudes towards their learning and have been a delight to teach!

English

In Spring 1, we studied the Vikings. We read a story called 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and wrote our own myths. This half term, we've investigated Space and wrote biographies about Chris Hadfield, the first Canadian astronaut to perform a spacewalk. When we uploaded our biographies to Twitter, Chris Hadfield even liked our writing about him!

Topic: History and Geography



During this term, we started the year learning about The Vikings. We focussed on investigating different historical sources and understanding how the Wirral has been shaped by Viking history. In Spring 2, we completed a local study on climate change and sustainability. The children learnt about what it means to be sustainable and initiatives Chester Council has put in place to be more climate conscious. We also developed our understanding of pollution and



tracked the air pollution in Chester throughout the day.

Science

During our first half term, we studied materials, their properties and their suitability to perform. We also looked at chemical reactions, reversible and irreversible changes. This half term, we have completed our topic on Space. The children have



researched our solar system and planets, observed the phases of the moon and understood

why we have night and day. Further to this, the children completed graphs detailing hours of sunlight in various countries across the world and justified why these differ.

Art

The children studied the work of Joana Schneider and created their own faces in the style of her work.

Residential

Year 5 spent three fantastic days in Anglesey with glorious



weather. The children developed their confidence and team building skills by taking part in a range of activities including via ferrata, nightline, canoeing and zip line.

Poetry Project 2023

Year Five children took part in the poetry project writing poems which express their personalities and character. Their poems were called 'This is Me!' They were based on the idea of a



Russian Doll that has lots of smaller dolls inside. We are many people in one. There are lots of sides to us and they are all us! Not everyone sees the dolls inside us when they look at us. This is also true when we look at others. We do not always know how people think or feel inside. All children wrote wonderful poems. Alice was selected to go to the Story House to perform her poem alongside other Year 5 pupils from local schools. Her performance was delightful. Alice was confident, spoke clearly and her intonation was engaging.

Snow Day

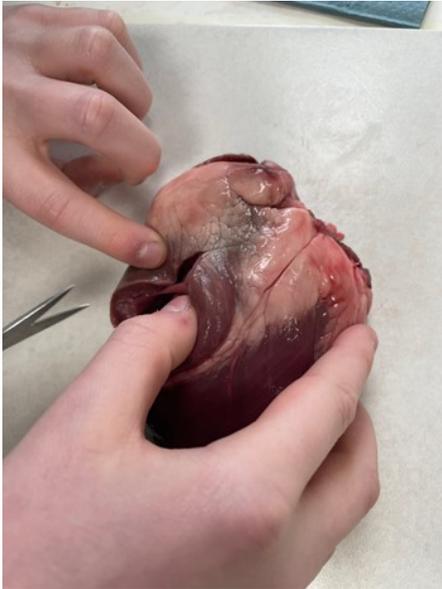
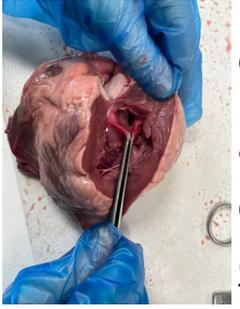
Year Five were so excited with the snowfall at the beginning of March. They worked together as a team and built a huge snowman on the field! What fun they had!



Year 6

Science

Science has been exciting this term in year 6. We learnt about the circulatory system in our bodies and how to identify and name the main parts. After completing a heart dissection (thank you Mrs Tabb) the children were then also able to describe the parts and functions of the heart. In the afternoon, the children made their own blood and were able to confidently discuss the components of blood, their functions and the percentages of each that were



present. The children learnt about the function of blood vessels and the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals and humans. Finally, an investigation into heart rate, before and after exercise, supported the understanding of a healthy diet and exercise on the human body and how different drugs and lifestyle choices can further impact that.

History



Year 6 loved learning about the Tudors this term. They were fascinated by the court of Henry VIII and his ambitions for a male heir. They learnt about the part that religions played in the lifestyles of

the Tudors and how, depending on



the person who sat on the throne, they had to change their beliefs overnight. They were intrigued by the many wives of Henry VIII and the way that they died. The children learnt about Elizabeth I too and were intrigued by her fierce independence and her pale skin! For a history trip, we walked into Chester for a walking tour with Thomas who was able to discuss all the Tudor buildings and customs from the city. Did you know that the first recorded race at the Racecourse was held on February 9, 1539 – during the reign of Henry VIII – with the consent of the Mayor of Chester, Henry Gee? His name led to the term gee-gees, which is still in use to this day!



Windermere Residential

Year 6 loved their residential at Lake Windermere this term; the mud and the constant threat of snow made it more fun! The children were very excited about this residential experience and the location and the activities certainly lived up to their expectations. After splitting into three groups, the children



challenged themselves with a multitude of activities, none of which left them clean or dry. Leaving the children in charge of map reading, with compasses, was a particular worry for the teachers but the children excelled at their task and we all made it back to the accommodation in one piece. Other activities included canoeing, abseiling, climbing, the high ropes, the blue tubes and team building



initiatives, but the out and out children's favourite, and the one that caused the most adrenaline to flow, was the giant swing. This involved wearing a full body harness, being winched up a tree by friends and then being released from a great height. On many occasions the children were quiet upon release before screaming with joy in a delayed reaction. The teacher's favourite, however, was the night time Scavenger Hunt which involved the children holding onto a rope to stay together and hunting for items in the dark. After much discussion about which direction they should all be going in, finding the 'evidence of an animal' caused great hilarity.

Well done this term year 6!

Other news

Sports at Boughton Heath

What a busy term of sports we have had! The football team have been busy winning more trophies! They most recently played at the The



National League Trust in Oldham where they won the regional finals! They now await the semi finals in Chesterfield where they will play all Northern regional winners. We wish them the best of luck.



The Junior Cross Country team took part in a competition against other local schools at the beginning of March. They performed brilliantly in tough conditions, coming 5th out of 16 schools.

We look forward to the arrival of the swimming pool again in the summer term. All Junior children will take part in an extensive swimming course. Our curriculum aim is for all pupils to leave primary school being able to swim at least 25 metres.

Extra-Curricular Clubs



We continue to increase our offer of extra-curricular clubs across the school. Some of the clubs on offer this term were craft club, story club, dance,

basketball, football, gymnastics, multiskills, choir, chess, stop motion club and stem club. We thank staff for the time they give to provide children with these enrichment opportunities.

World Book Day

It was lovely to see such a wide



range of book characters in school on World Book Day! The children all enjoyed sharing their favourite books and took part in author workshops. Our aim is for all children to find pleasure in reading and days like these help us to understand the variety of books children enjoy.

Amasing

In preparation for this year's Amasing concert, children have attended music, dancing and art workshops. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and are busy rehearsing songs at choir club with Mrs Williams and Mrs Hurst ready for the event in May.



Residentials

All Junior children have taken part in a residential this term. They have taken part in many adventurous outdoor activities such as canoeing, abseiling, mountain biking, archery

and many more. We see children conquer fears and develop friendships during these invaluable experiences. A huge thanks to all of the staff who plan, book and accompany these visits.

The School and Eco Councils

The school council has been busy this term finding out what helps us to improve our work, helping us to improve our feedback routines. As an Eco Council we have been looking at what we can do to improve our school grounds. We have organised litter picking sessions and we are currently planning to create a wild flower garden.

KS1 & KS2 SATs Information Evenings

Meetings have taken place for Year 2 and Year 6 parents, informing them about these national tests. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with school.

Year One Phonics Screening Information Evening

Year One parents attended a meeting to find out about the national phonics screening that takes place in June. If you have any further questions about phonics and reading, please contact the school office.

Year Four Multiplication Check

Year Four children are expected to quickly recall all of their times tables by the end of Year Four. There is a national check on this in June. More information will be shared with parents just after the Easter break.

Share the learning

We continue to enjoy our share the learning mornings each half term. There is a real buzz around school during these events. Children take great pride showing and explaining their work to family members.

