



**NO  
OUT  
SIDERS**  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN OUR SCHOOL.  
*No one is the same, but everyone is equal.*



*Here, children thrive...*



*Season's Greetings*



**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](mailto:admin@boughtonheath.cheshire.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01244 732000

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the festive season and reflect on the term that has passed, it is with great pleasure that I introduce this Christmas newsletter to you. As many of you will know, Christmas is always my favourite time of year to work in education due to the performances, decoration, excitement and general magic that is in the atmosphere. Within these pages, you will find a vivid tapestry of stories, achievements, and highlights from each year group at Boughton Heath Academy, showcasing the many wonderful things each class has achieved and experienced over the past 13 weeks.

As we close the first part of the academic year, I am delighted to report that our school is in an exceptionally strong position. I am now able to confirm our 2022 - 23 academic achievements across the board, which saw our children achieve and progress at phenomenal levels. Our Reading progress score stands at +5, Writing at +4, and Maths at +3. These results are not only the strongest results in the schools history, but place us in the top 10% of schools nationally for attainment and in the top 5% for progress. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, the expertise and commitment of our staff, and the unwavering support from you, our parents and guardians.

As you browse this newsletter, you will encounter the diverse and rich experiences that our pupils have enjoyed this term. From innovative classroom projects to extracurricular activities, each page is a celebration of the enthusiasm and talent within our school. These stories not only highlight our academic prowess but also underscore our commitment to fostering a holistic and inclusive environment where every child can thrive.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the spring and summer terms. We have a plethora of exciting activities and initiatives planned that promise to enrich our students' learning experiences further. These include new areas of study, residential trips sports events, arts performances, and community projects, all designed to inspire, challenge, and engage our children in new and meaningful ways.

As we close this term and look forward to the next, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your ongoing support and engagement with our school community. Your involvement is crucial to our success, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us to educate and nurture your children. I must also pay a special mention to thank all of our staff who go above and beyond to ensure our children receive the strongest education possible in a safe, nurturing and caring environment.

To lead Boughton Heath is an absolute privilege, and I am incredibly lucky to work as part of a such a strong and dedicated community. As we enter the Christmas break, I once again congratulate Mrs Sumnall and Mrs Williams for their new roles from January as Acting Head of School and Acting Assistant Headteacher. Their appointment leaves me in no doubt whatsoever that the children of Boughton Heath are in safe hands during the days I am not in school.

The heart breaking news of the loss of our beloved friend and colleague, Mrs Hughes, emphasises more than ever the importance of family and togetherness - especially at this time of year. I am mindful that many of our families who knew Mrs Hughes will no doubt want to pay their respects to her, and this can be done via an online book of condolence that has been set up and communicated to you via direct school message.

Whatever your plans for the festive season are, on behalf of all at Boughton Heath Academy, I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful break. We look forward to welcoming our children back on Wednesday 3rd January, for what promises to be another exciting and productive term at school.

Kindest regards,

Mr Jon Lenton

Principal



# Reception



## Starting School

This term has been a very important one for reception as they have started school here at Boughton Heath Academy. They have had a lovely term. From the first day of school, when they had a tour and met all of the staff to performing in front of a hall of adults at our Christmas nativity, the children have



developed our school values of respect, responsibility, determination, independence, honesty and kindness.

Their first topic was learning about themselves and their families. We explored our feelings focusing on 'The Colour Monster' and we realised that although we have similarities, we are all different. We are UNIQUE!



## The Story Tent

At the beginning of this half term, the children in reception had a visit from the Story Tent who came into share our new story 'What the Ladybird Heard'. We all sat in tents and enjoyed the story and activities linked to it. We had to go on the journey through the farm, explore ice in the pond and give the ladybird the correct number of spots!



## We're going on a shape hunt!



As part of our maths curriculum this half term, Reception have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They have learnt the shape names and their properties. The children have also played matching games, bingo games and made their own shapes using magnetic tiles. During one of their maths lessons they went on a shape hunt outside. The children were amazed at how many

shapes they could find! They worked well together to find both 2D and 3D shapes in the environment. The adults took photos of the shapes they found. During the next lesson, the children had to use the new vocabulary they had learnt to describe the shapes they found.

## Winter and Christmas!

Over the past few weeks, the children have been exploring the cold weather we have had. We have been on winter walks around our



school environment and also explored all about ice and what else we can see during winter.

This has linked nicely to Christmas. We have been busy making all sorts of Christmas crafts ready to take home!



Well done to all Reception children for a brilliant first term in school!



# 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.

saw so many fantastic animals at the zoo and hunted down some of the species that George had first opened the zoo with.

## Forest School



"We can never have enough of nature." said Henry David Thoreau... 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 paint palate. The theme of the day was based around our class read; The Minpins, so next we imagined we were Little Billy in the forest. What could he hear? This linked wonderfully to our Science about the senses. After that we lit a fire and imagined it was the Gruncher, using more of our senses to smell and feel the heat. In the afternoon, it was time to make some Minpin peg dolls. Later in the day we created homes for our Minpins and birds to fly them around on.

## Chester Zoo

Our Autumn 1 topic of Chester Zoo had us all finding out about history and the past. We loved learning about George Mottershead and his wonderful ideas about creating a zoo with no bars. Linking with our local area meant that the children could really connect with the topic. A visit to the zoo itself where we matched up old images to real places was a fantastic adventure. We

## Literacy... and that cheeky Nibbles

Autumn has been a time of huge improvements in writing in Year 1. The children have grown so much in confidence and ability. They have particularly enjoyed this half terms book "Nibble the Book Monster", and have really immersed themselves in the story. We have spent time practising full stops and capital letters, whilst writing about the wonderful adventures of Nibbles. The children's phonics has really developed and their handwriting is improving each day.

## Jigsaw PSHE



This term in our Jigsaw PSHE lessons we have thought about 'Who am I and how do I fit' in the unit of 'Being Me in My World'. Here we explored our rights and responsibilities and rewards and consequences. We talked about our class jobs and how important it is to work as a team to make sure all the jobs are done. During the second half of the autumn term we explored respect for similarity and difference, anti-bullying and being unique in the unit 'Celebrating Differences'.



## Science



We really enjoyed exploring our senses in science lessons. We investigated the sense of taste by sampling food and deciding if they were sweet, salty, bitter, sour or savoury. Mr Lenton made us laugh when he tasted a sour lemon! When we investigated the sense of smell, we decided which smells we like and which we didn't. Everybody liked the smell of perfume but quite a lot of us didn't like the smell of tea.

## Computing

This term in computing we have been improving our mouse and keyboard skills using the paint programme. We have designed an animal story board and told each other stories using the images. We enjoyed exploring the brush and shape tools to improve our pictures.



Year One have worked extremely hard this term. We hope you all enjoy a well deserved Christmas break and we look forward to seeing what you achieve in the spring term.



# Year 2



I am extremely proud of Year 2, they have had a fantastic first term and worked incredibly hard. They have all shown a great attitude towards school and shown what respectful, kind and caring children they are.

## Geography - The United Kingdom

Back before half term, Year 2 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 human and physical features and explored areas of the UK they had visited.

## Writing

In Writing, the children initially started with story writing about the two cheeky trolls but it was the Owls that really got all of the children's attention. After the surprise visit from The Owl Man with his owls, all of the children wrote some



incredible fact files which will be up proudly on the writing wall after Christmas.

## Maths

During Maths, the children flew through our shape unit, then the addition and subtraction. After Christmas we will continue to work on adding and subtracting across 10.

## Science - Materials

Science lessons have seen lots of group work which has involved team work amongst the children. They showed great confidence when looking at materials, knew lots about their properties and finally investigated the best material to fix a broken umbrella! They looked at



making their experiments fair tests which was rather tricky but they showed great determination.

## History - The Gun Power Plot and The Great Fire

After kicking off our History topic around bonfire night with the Gun Powder plot Year 2 went on their trip to Nantwich museum. The children were 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. When I asked them, their favourite subject,

many said History because they have loved learning about things that have happened in our country.

## 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.

Mrs Wood's has supported Year 2 each Monday afternoon, she is always eager to share a glowing report and has loved reading with the children and hearing how well they are progressing since working with them in Year 1.

A huge thank you is needed for all of your book donations to our class this term and also for your continued support. I have loved every minute of my first term with Year 2, I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to seeing all of the children in January.



# Year 3



## History

As part of our history topic, we have been learning all about canals and the history of Chester Canal. We learnt about Thomas Telford and his aqueducts. We used 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). 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 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.



## Design Technology

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. 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.

## Religious Education

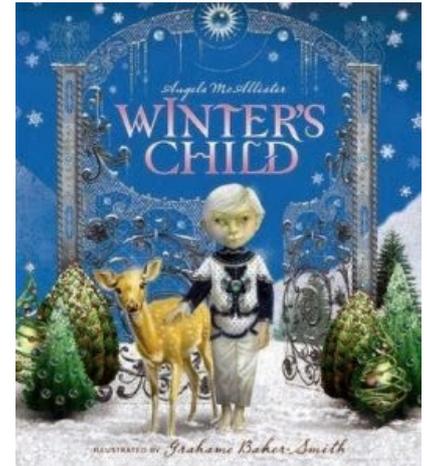
As part of our R.E. topic, we were looking at how Diwali is celebrated. Firstly, we learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and how the festival became the festival of light. Next, we were joined by others classes to watch some fantastic dancing which showed authentic Hindu movements to music. After that, we took part in many different activities like Diwa candle painting, Rangoli patterns, Mehndi patterns on our hands and



card making. We loved the morning and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the celebrations.



## Writing



This half term in writing, we have loved our literacy book, 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith. We waited eagerly for each writing lesson so that we could hear the next part of the story. The ending of the story was appreciated by everyone. Our first piece of learning was identifying the adjectives and noun phrases used in the book to describe winter so that we could magpie them to use in our own writing. Next, we used different drama techniques like hot seating, freeze frames and conscience alley. We were then ready to write in different genres such as letters, diary entries, poetry and our own version of the story. Towards the end of the unit of work, the children were asked to plan their own piece of writing in Year Three. If you haven't read Winter's Child, Year 3 would definitely recommend it.

Year Three have had an amazing autumn term and thoroughly enjoyed being in their new classroom!



# Year 4



What a wonderful start to year 4! We have settled in very well and have been so busy! We have written our own animal stories based on the book 'Gorilla' and adapted the setting using our own imaginations before being transported to a mysterious circus to explore the place between...



we have experimented, observed and discussed a range of topics in science such as invertebrates and evaporation. We have started our own data collection based on the environment of the playground at school!

I think the most exciting part of learning this term has been designing and creating our own Christmas gift boxes. It was a tricky skill to learn to use CAD but everyone was determined to give it a go!



our times tables! The competitions have been very healthy and everyone is working hard on becoming secure with them through lessons and games!

Throughout topic, we have travelled across to Italy to explore cultural difference in geography. We were especially interested to learn about Chester's twin city, Senigallia. Following this, we travelled back in time to discover the Ancient Greeks

To end the term Year Four took part



in a festive forest school with Year One. We collected sticks of different lengths and turned them into beautiful tree decorations. We

We are trying hard to master our punctuation and our ability to create our own fronted adverbials to make our writing sound interesting is phenomenal.

have invented a lot of things we still use today! Did you know the Olympics was created to honour the King of the gods Zeus? We have thoroughly enjoyed this history

demonstrated our school value of responsibility by supporting Year One. We each had a buddy and helped them make their decoration too. We all enjoyed hot chocolate in the round house whilst listening to Christmas stories!



In maths, we have overcome challenges in subtracting with exchanges and excelled in learning

learning. Alongside all this exciting learning,

Time for a well earned break, Year 4! I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas!



# Year 5



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

## Science

The children performed an investigation into whether the size of a parachute impacted the length of time it took for the parachute to reach the floor. We then moved onto thinking whether the material or shape of the parachute would alter the time it took to reach the ground. We tested our thinking which helped us to understand air resistance. We also displayed our understanding of independent, dependent and controlled variables through planning and performing our investigations.



## History



We began our Anglo-Saxons unit by looking at the chronology of historical periods dating back

thousands of years. We then began to look at why the Anglo-Saxons



came to Britain. Our learning about village life in the Anglo-Saxon era was beautifully presented in our history books.

As part of our forest school day, we took part in role play to explore the different roles people had on farms in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

## Computing

The children have learnt about copyright and how to use images, music and videos in the public domain.



## Mastering Number

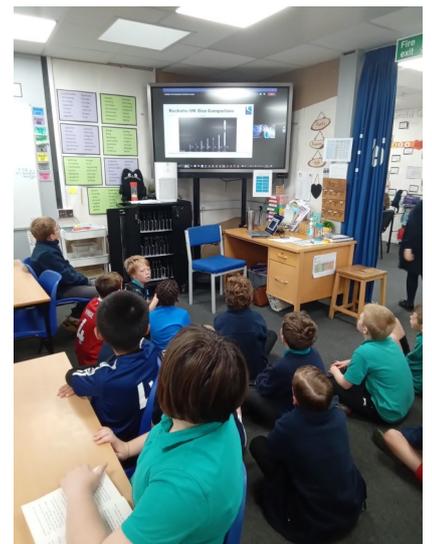


Year 5 is taking part in the KS2 Mastering Number programme which has a focus on times tables. This programme develops children's automaticity in multiplication and division facts through regular practice. The children love using

their blue and gold bags to practice their times tables facts.

## STEM

As part of our whole school science focus this academic year, we are working towards achieving recognition for our work in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. As part of this focus we have taken part in a workshop exploring the universe with the Euclid space telescope. Benjamin, a Professor of Astrophysics at University College London, shared how Euclid has recently started observing millions of faraway galaxies. We learnt that Euclid uses



small hints in the light that it collects from galaxies to find signs of the mysterious dark matter. This supported our science unit on space which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Well done to all of Year 5 for their fantastic attitudes towards learning.



# Year 6



Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their time at forest school this term. As we had their second forest school the same day that the whole school held their remembrance service, the children learnt how to tie clove hitch and reef knots before making their own woodland, remembrance poppies out of sticks, wool and mud. The fire pit let us down a little but we still managed to eat s'mores and drink hot chocolate while singing around the ash! After lunch, the children put themselves into groups and chose a group name. The children were taught how to make different art materials out of materials that they found in the



forest and then made flags using the forest media to represent their group name. After crushing, rubbing and printing with different materials, the school field was divided into four areas for our end of day game of Capture the Flag which the children loved. The weather was gorgeous all day with just the right amount of sun, wind and mud for a wonderful day outdoors.

Year 6 have taken part in two school trips this autumn term. The first trip was to Chester Cathedral, which is home to lots of war memorials paying homage to the sacrifices made during various conflicts. The intricate details of the memorials,



the names etched in stone, and the stories behind them are fascinating and were a chance to grasp the significance of remembrance and honour. The children also went inside the Cathedral to examine the Creation window that they had studied in R.E. It was amazing to see the window installed in the west



wall of the refectory. It depicts the hand of God moving through the six days of his creation of the world, from the stars and planets, to the plants and creatures. The artist, Ros Grimshaw, has Parkinson's disease, and the children remembered and were able to point out the imagery which includes the scan of her Parkinsonian brain, and a foetus in the womb.

Our second school trip was to Crucial Crew where they engaged in workshops facilitated by various professionals. The police officers shared important insights on e-safety, the River Trust taught about water safety, the nurses discussed the importance of sleep and the Road Safety and Dog's Trust talked about how to keep safe. The trip was great fun and equipped the 6s with practical life skills and safety awareness, empowering them to navigate the world responsibly.

In the spirit of the upcoming festive

season, our Year 6s embarked on a creative journey to learn the art of sewing and transformed pillowcases into fabric advent calendars. With a crucial deadline to meet, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the children came into school very organised and laden with fabric, baubles and other decorations. There were two main designs: a fabric calendar and an advent lucky dip bag. With the invaluable support of volunteer family members, these young artisans honed their skills sewing a background, or a bag, before starting on the numerous pockets. In a scene reminiscent of the Sewing Bee workshop, the classroom buzzed with enthusiasm as the children swapped fabrics with each other and used their sewing skills to assemble a product that would hold 24 gift items. The resulting finished advent calendars are completely original, uniquely decorated and I am sure will be treasured and brought out to display and use for many years to come.



Well done this term year 6!



# Other news



## Author Visit for Y5&6

We welcomed author, Sarah Wynn into school in October to deliver a workshop to Years 5 and 6. The children learnt about being an author and found out about Sarah's book, 'Murder in Velvet'. During the workshop they were inspired to plan and write their own stories about magical found objects.



## Walk to School Week 2023

As traffic continues to be an ongoing problem across the country, including around our school, we want our children to understand the problems it can cause and enable them to help seek solutions. At the end of September all classes participated in Walk to School week and our Junior Safety Officers led the school in promoting the benefits of walking to school. We thank our local PCSO, Jamie Carpenter for supporting our campaign.



## Harvest 2023

Once again, we have supported Cheshire West Foodbank at harvest time. The school community collected items of need by the foodbank and we celebrated harvest during a whole school assembly.



## 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 drawing club, chess club, dance, netball, basketball, girls and boys football, gymnastics, multiskills and songs and stories club. We thank staff for the time they give to provide children with these enrichment opportunities.

## Sports

What a busy term of sports we have had! The girls' and boys' football teams have been busy training and took part in The National League Trust tournament! Both teams made it through to the quarter finals. We have also participated in Y3&4 and Y5&6 Rugby tournaments, Hockey tournaments, a Multi-Sports festival and both Year One and Year Two have competed in a Multi-Skills festival. We are very proud to announce that our New Age Kurling team took part in a tournament back in October and their performance has put them through to represent Chester in the finals. We wish them the best of luck.



## School and Eco Council

This term our School and Eco council has been busy ensuring pupil wellbeing is effective. They have supported our work on Zones of Regulation which has been



implemented across the school and they have also led Anti-Bullying week. Having a school council is paramount within school to ensure pupils are heard and can influence decisions that affect them. The children have shown many leadership skills throughout the work they have completed so far.

## Playleaders

Our team of Year 5 and 6 playleaders have been trained and are offering a wide selection of activities for children across the school at playtimes. Table Tennis and scooters are the most popular activities on offer! Thank you to all the playleaders for giving their break and lunch times to provide these engaging, active sessions.



## Infant Nativity & Junior Carol Concert



The infant children performed their nativity, 'Ned and Nora's Christmas Discovery'

brilliantly. The children danced, sang and spoke with great enthusiasm and gave us all that Christmassy feeling. The Junior children equally made us proud with their outstanding singing, speaking, instrument playing and dancing. Thank you to all of the staff that made these performances such a success.



## PTA

We once again acknowledge the hard work of our PTA in providing community events such as the Halloween disco and Christmas fair. In addition to bringing the community together, the funds raised go towards various items for all children such as the whole school trip to the Story House to watch Cinderella.

## Festive Fitness Day

One of our aims as a school is to ensure children thrive within the local community and we want them to strive to make the world a better place. Kelly the Elf came into school to introduce the Festive Fitness fun day and to share the work of The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Children have been raising sponsorship money which will go directly to the hospice. Kelly the Elf explained how valued our support is and the difference it make to the life of the people living in the hospice.





# Local Governing Body



Please see the below blogs from some of our Governors.

**Governor:** Rob Herd - Co - opted Governor

There are many things that make me proud of being a governor at Boughton Heath Academy. The sheer dedication that our staff have towards our children, the excellent curriculum that we deliver, the extra curricular activities we offer to our students – the list is ever-increasing. I have taught many former students from Boughton Heath, so I know first hand what a brilliant job we do in setting our children up for their later endeavours.

On a rainy Sunday morning a few weeks ago, I was sheltering under an umbrella in Saughton Camp. It was 12th November and I was at Highlander Road waiting for the Remembrance Service that was led by the Reverend Andy Stinson from St Luke’s Church in Huntington. I was absolutely delighted to hear a cheery hello coming from Mr Lenton, who was also waiting there.

Mr Lenton was waiting with two of our superstars, who had given up their Sunday morning to read a beautiful poem. I think this is probably the proudest I have been during my six years as a governor: watching two of our own, giving back and paying tribute as members of our wider community. And what a great job they did! I always think that ultimately, when we are creating aware, active members of our wider community, we are doing well as educators.

Of course, this is not the only great work that the BHA team is doing. As governors, we meet monthly to ask questions of the senior leadership and make sure that there are sufficient checks and balances to any strategic decisions that are being made around school. We are very lucky as a governing body that we have a strong variety of skills, which means that every member of the governing body approaches situations from different angles. I am always impressed with the quality of responses I get from senior leaders, no matter what direction the questioning comes from.

At the start of each governors meeting, we delve into a particular area of the curriculum. The teaching staff responsible for a particular subject area will present to the governing body so that we can see what work is being done in the Academy. We have had presentations on geography, personal, social, health and economic education and more recently on relationship education and EYFS. What is really clear is that the quality of responses we get from senior leaders is also expected of the teachers in school. This is very reassuring because it shows that there is a culture of high-quality challenge and thought that goes into the educational diet that our children receive at BHA.

It is an absolute delight to be on the governing body at BHA. If you have any questions for the governors, please do get in touch by emailing.

**Governor:** Mark Loughnane—Parent Governor

On behalf of all of the parents and governors I would like to extend a thank you to everyone involved in the production of this year’s infant nativity.

The play focused on Ned & Nora the donkeys who, after being asked to take part in a Christmas nativity play, became inquisitive to discover the true meaning of Christmas.

Their search took them on an entertaining road of discovery through the hustle and bustle of a busy kitchen preparing Christmas dinner, a visit to a toy shop and an encounter with Santa and his reindeer.

It was great to see so many children involved, with songs ranging from rock & roll all the way through to reggae.

Congratulations to all of the team for putting on a fantastic show.

