



# HAWTHORNS SCHOOL

*Spring Newsletter*

# IN THIS ISSUE...

**WELCOME** to our Spring newsletter for families, governors and stakeholders to find out all about what has been happening over the past term here at Hawthorns School!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils, staff and families a wonderful Easter.

We look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays.



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## INTERACT WITH US!

We have now launched our brand new Parent App 'Parent Connect', aiming to keep you up to date with what is happening at school on a day to day basis. If you haven't already signed up to the app, please contact us for support.

We have also launched our own facebook page... just search for Hawthorns School or click the link via our Parent App for regular updates from our staff and young people.



Dear All

This has been something of a stop-start, frustrating term for school and families alike, and I would like to thank you for all of your continued patience and support. Some of you clearly would make excellent teachers, judging by your home learning efforts! Our class teams have been delighted to welcome the children back at last, and Hawthorns sounds and feels more like a school again. I'd like to hope we are on the roadmap to recovery as the Spring takes hold, but experience over the last twelve months requires that we all take steps cautiously. Our protocols and risk assessment will continue for the benefit of everyone's safety. The circumstances are both weary and annoying, but we will just roll our sleeves up and get on with things.

The term has nonetheless been busy. We have completed all of our playground re-surfacing works and bought playground equipment so the children can enjoy their breaktimes more. Despite the limited space, we have re-organised our outdoors so the children have a good playtime experience. The curriculum is up and running in each pathway once more, and the children have settled back into in-school learning very well. World Book Day and Red Nose Day still took place, and the outdoor education provision is back in full swing. We are hoping to broaden our provision further as we work into the summer, restrictions permitting.

Hopefully you will all be able to enjoy the Easter break. As the weather improves and the daylight hours start to get longer, please enjoy the outdoors responsibly. It has been a really tough twelve months, but you continue to impress with your willingness to work with us in the best interests of your children, and we are very grateful for that. As always, working together is a key feature of the Hawthorns way.

Keep your spirits up, Everyone, and we will see you again soon.

Mr C

# MESSAGE FROM FIONA ARMSTRONG, CO-CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

After another challenging period for the staff, parents and pupils of Hawthorns we now look to moving towards some more normal times.

We would like to thank the senior leadership team and all the staff for their efforts to support all the pupils whether they were in school or at home over the last few months and the parents for their patience and understanding as we all learnt to navigate last minute changes.

As the children all return and the spring arrives, it is great to see all the new playgrounds in use and the bustle and laughter back at Hawthorns.

As we look forward to a potential summer of less restrictions, we hope the vibrancy of Hawthorns will shine through even more with activities to encourage and build the community able to go ahead. We hope that circumstances will allow us to share those with you. We believe the welcoming and inclusive nature of Hawthorns is incomparable, and long for the opportunity for our doors to be opened once again. I am sure the children will have lots to show us once they do.

On behalf of the governing body, stay safe, that rainbow is almost here.

Fiona Armstrong,  
Co-Chair of Governors  
and Parent Governor.



Fiona Armstrong  
Co-Chair of Governors

# CELEBRATIONS

## GREEN FLAG STATUS

We are pleased and proud to be able to give the good news that Hawthorns School has been awarded the Green Flag status by Eco Schools for the 6th time!

Hawthorns Eco Team has been active in promoting several eco projects over the last two years. As a school, many topics have been celebrated, International Polar Bear Day, World Water Day and Outdoor Classroom Day, to name a few.

Eco and Outdoor Learning doesn't take a break at Hawthorns though! Potatoes are settled into their grow bags and the Sunflower competition is underway, as is the 'What's Under Your Feet?' campaign. Busy times ahead!



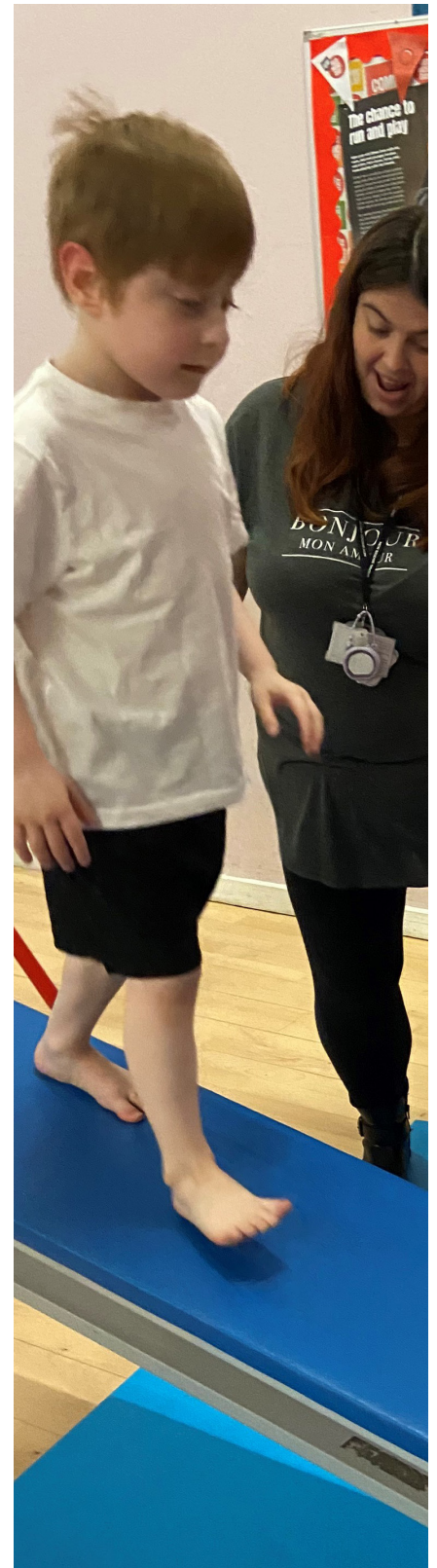
## RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 19th March the whole school celebrated Red Nose Day. The theme was dress as a superhero or wear something red for a £2 donation. During the day classes continued the red theme. Blossom class made tuna pasta, adding red food coloring to the pasta with Mrs. Whittaker. Elm class did a red nose Attention Autism session. We also had a red themed tuck shop. By the end of the day we had raised £259. Thank you to everyone one who helped Hawthorns raise this fantastic amount!



# PE

THE P.E. SPOTLIGHT FOR THIS NEWSLETTER IS ASH AND OAK. BOTH CLASSES HAVE BEEN EXPLORING DIFFERENT APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT IN GYMNASTICS. THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INDEPENDENTLY TRAVELLING ALONG BENCHES IN DIFFERENT WAYS INCLUDING WALKING, CRAWLING AND SLIDING.



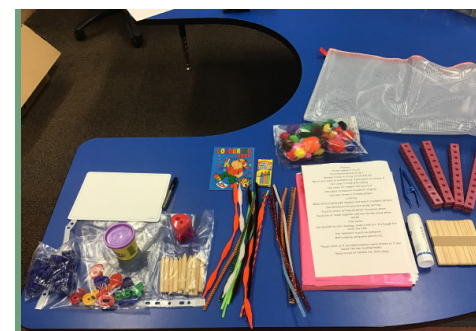
# ASH CLASS

In Spring 1 Half Term we were providing a mixture of home learning and face to face learning. For the children in school accessing face to face learning we provided our usual learning offer of continuous provision, alongside cookery, PE, outdoor learning and star blazer clubs. For the children who were learning from home we provided 2 weekly emails, daily tweets, regularly updated website full of ideas and recorded videos of Miss Green and Mrs Shaw taking the register and doing Magic Box.

At the start of lock down we provided home learning packs for all the children who were learning from home, these included; magnetic letters and numbers, playdough, whiteboard and pen, pencil crayons, sharpener, pipe cleaners, colouring book, crayons, pom poms, tweezers, link cubes, glue stick, lollipop sticks and more activity ideas linked to the objects provided and worksheets (where appropriate). The children could also have their iPads at home (if their parents wanted them to).

In Spring 2 Half Term we have welcomed back all the children to Ash Class! We also welcomed three new faces, Nathan, Charlie and Macie. The children have settled back into school really well and it is like they have never been away. We were able to enjoy World Book Day twice which was brilliant! Over lockdown Mr McCarthy built us a fantastic loose parts play shed in our outdoor area and we are able to attach swings and hammocks to it. We have really been making the most of the sunshine and doing lots of learning outdoors!

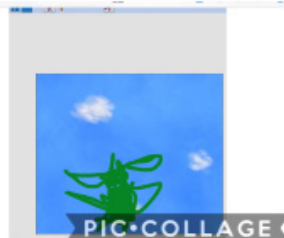
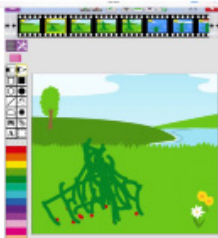
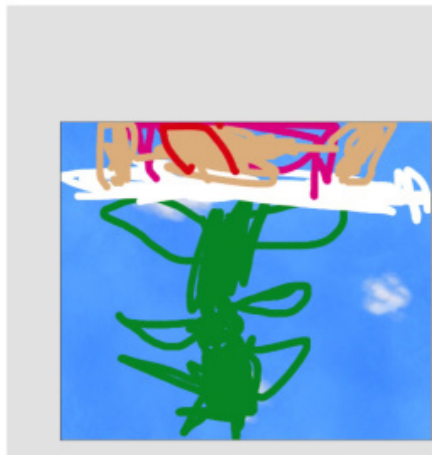
It has been fantastic having all the children back and we look forward to what the rest of the year will bring!



OAK CLASS HAVE LOVED SHARING THE STORY OF JACK AND THE BEANSTALK THIS HALF TERM. WE HAVE PLANTED OUR OWN MAGIC BEANS AND MADE OUR OWN BEANSTALKS AND CASTLES. WE HAVE PRETENDED TO BE GIANTS AND HAVE RETOLD THE STORY USING MUSIC. WE MADE OUR OWN MAGIC BEAN SHAKERS AND USED THESE IN OUR MUSIC SESSIONS. WE HAVE DONE SOME FANTASTIC ANIMATION AND ARTWORK ON THE IPAD USING 2ANIMATE AND DRAW AND TELL.



# OAK CLASS



PIC-COLLAGE





# HOLLY CLASS

It has been fantastic having Holly Class reunited once again! We've had lots of fun playing games with our friends and settling back into our normal school routine. After a quick dance, our day usually starts with a playground game to practice our turn taking and following instruction skills. Then we're back inside for some more focused work with support from our grown-ups, based around our topic of traditional stories.

Throughout the week, we have opportunities to access learning outside of the classroom through our cookery, PE and loose-parts-play sessions. We also make use of our personal iPads to reinforce our understanding and skills. Friday is always a special day in Holly Class. In the morning we have singing and music, building up to celebrating all our learning throughout the week with party games and fun in the afternoon.



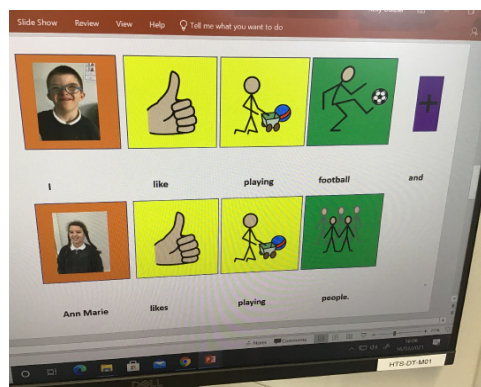
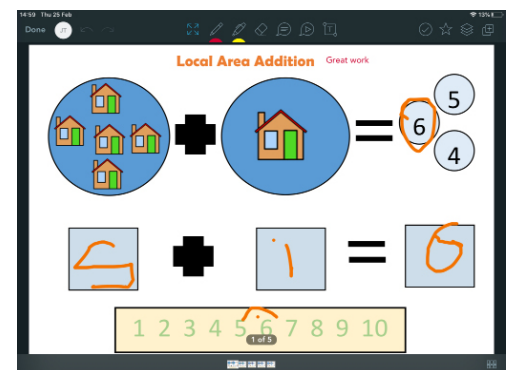
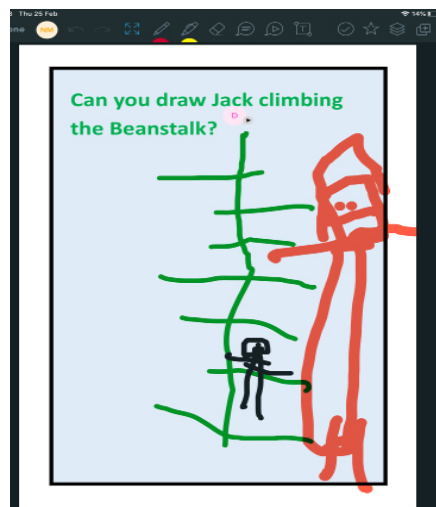


# BEECH CLASS



This half term our topic has been 'Through the Keyhole.' We have been exploring our homes and families, our local area, maps and different types of homes including the three bears cottage, the circus, the farm, pirate ships and we have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk. At home and school, we have done a lot of work via Showbie and we are all now much more confident using the app.

We have learnt lots of new signs with Mrs McGeoch, including animals, places in the home and circus acts. In Maths we have looked at repeating patterns and have introduced addition for lots of the children. In writing we have made our own books using Colourful Semantics.



# WILLOW CLASS



Well I think it's safe to say it's been a rather strange term. The adults and children in school have hugely missed those who are home learning. We hope we're able to see everybody back as soon as possible!

Our topic this term has been all about 'Dinosaurs' – one day after lunch we came back into class to find all our chairs had been upturned and the class left in a complete mess!

We found a mummy dinosaur had left us an egg to look after. The children in class did a great job ensuring the egg was kept safe as we patiently waited for it to hatch. The children took a vote and decided to call our class dinosaur 'Lettuce' (we guessed he must be a herbivore).

Last but not least, we'd like to send a huge thank you and a special 'well done' to those who have been completing home learning - we have been so impressed at your efforts and really enjoy seeing your completed work via our class Showbie app. We know it can be quite tricky to work from home but you've done it and we're really proud of your determination.



# CHESTNUT CLASS

*Chestnut Class have been back in working hard in class! The children have had so many changes and have coped with everything that has been thrown at them. They have been a credit to Hawthorns School and their parents/carers.*

*We have been working so hard in the Primary Model with our numeracy, literacy, cooking, forest schools and our Viking topic, it's been a fun filled term! In Numeracy we have been learning about shapes, measuring and adding more or less to 50. We have played lots of numeracy games. We have been practising our handwriting and letter and number formations so we can write our names in Viking runes.*

*We have been learning about the Vikings in our topic and going back in time for a gruesome Adventure! We learnt about Viking life, how they looked, what they ate, eating some not so delicious Viking bread. We even made our own Viking shields.*

*We love being out in the forest getting messy and working as a team! We have been making a Viking long boat in loose parts play, team challenges involving relay races, outdoor snack with hot chocolate and of course marshmallows.*



# MAPLE CLASS



Maple class have started their history topic this half term with the Groovy Greeks! We have been on a plane to modern day Greece to explore the culture before zooming back into the past in a time machine to 700BC! We have started to explore some artifacts from Ancient Greece and can't wait to find some more on our time traveling adventure!

We have also been busy with numbers, reading and spelling in our small groups and developing our speaking and listening in our discussion and play groups.



# SYCAMORE CLASS



This term, we have welcomed all the lovely children back into Sycamore. We found out our exciting, new topic is all about Space. We have been exploring all the different planets that make up our solar system. We have found out how many planets make up our solar system, all their names and key features. We have also found out the sun is not a planet but a big star that gives us heat and light.

In Forest School we have been learning all about what plants need, so we know what will help our sunflowers grow. We are also taking part in the Growing Your Own Potato scheme. We chipped our own potatoes and planted them last week. We will be finding out lots more, when we have a virtual interview with a potato farmer.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Hawthorns School had a great time celebrating World Book Day. All week, we enjoyed sharing lots of different stories and activities. We looked at many of our favourite authors such as Julia Donaldson, Roald Dahl and Michael Rosen. On World Book Day we came to school dressed as some of our favourite book characters. Can you guess who we are?



# ROWAN CLASS

Rowan Class have had a very busy and exciting term.

We celebrated World Book Day! We all enjoyed dressing up as our favorite characters including Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and Woody from Toy Story; our favorite story was The Gingerbread Man.

We had great fun learning about pandas on World Panda Day, we learnt what they eat and the colour of their fur.

Our favorite lesson this term has been music, we love to dance and play instruments. All the children have worked extremely hard and we are very proud of them all.



# BUDS CLASS



This half term Buds class have continued to focus on stories. We have looked at Elmer, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Tiger Who Came to Tea, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and The Ugly Duckling. We have explored these stories through different activities such as bucket, art and tuff tray activities.

The children have flourished in all areas of their learning particularly communication and attention. Communication skills have been developed through the use of symbols and verbal language and attention skills through our messy play group work, magic box and bucket sessions.

We are very proud of all of the children in Buds class and cannot wait to continue our learning throughout the year!



# ELM CLASS

Well it's been another challenging term in Elm Class with the recent lockdown and juggling our face to face and remote learning. We are so happy to now have everyone back in school and get back into our routine.

This term our topic has been Spring and Mini Beasts. In Communication Group the children have been communicating their choices through gesture and symbol exchange. We are very proud of all our children and how they are developing their communication strategies. They can now all express their choices and are gaining confidence in these exchanges.

In Attention Sessions the children have been focusing on developing their attention and engaging in table top activities. We have seen some lovely engagement this term and some of the children are even working on imitation skills and copying an adult modelled activity. Great work Elm Class!





This half term we have been learning about Mr Men characters. In our attention sessions we have made a mess with Mr Messy, played instruments like Mr Noisy and measured ourselves against Mr Tall. We have created the characters in our speaking and listening sessions using play-doh. Our writing has also been about the Mr Men characters and we have made some great sentences about Mr Happy, Mr Messy and Mr Bump.

We have all been working really hard in our number, phonics and guided reading sessions and all of the adults are really proud. We have enjoyed our loose parts play sessions on a Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Cottrell in the wildlife garden and our P.E. sessions on a Thursday with Miss McCormick. This half term we enjoyed celebrating World Book Day and dressing in red for Red Nose Day.

## CHERRY CLASS



# ELDER CLASS

*Elder Class parents excelled at implementing home learning during lockdown. It was wonderful to receive so many videos and images of our students working extremely hard.*

*Numbers were ordered correctly, missing numbers filled in, fantastic sums were completed and lots of money was sorted as we develop our life skills.*

*In writing, wonderful sentences were composed using Colourful Semantics. We also created some fantastic art as part of our Here We Are topic. It was a real pleasure keeping in contact and working in partnership with our parents; your patience, support and enthusiasm really is appreciated. On returning to school after lockdown, Mrs Kippax, Mr Brown and Miss Rutley have been so happy to see everyone again – we really did miss you all. Everyone is doing brilliantly and working hard. Enjoy the holidays, but we can't wait to get started on the summer term!*



# BLOSSOM CLASS

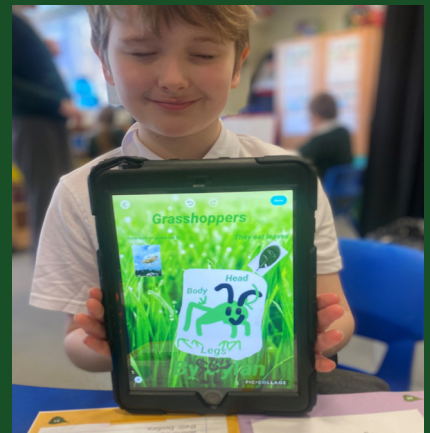
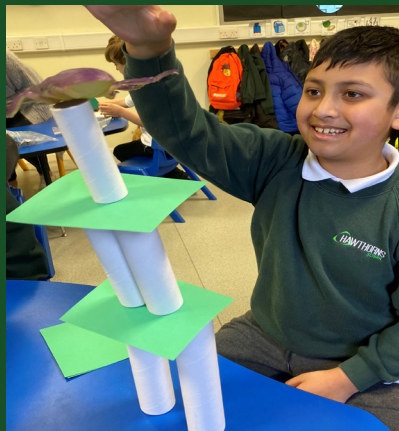
This term Blossom have started a new topic of 'Marvellous minibeasts'.

We have been finding out about lots of different minibeasts and their habitats! We created our own minibeast terrariums and are loving watching them grow!

We will be being authors of lots of minibeast stories this half term in our writing sessions.

We are so glad to be back together as a whole class learning and spending time with our friends!

We are looking forward to all of the Easter activities.





*Creating Meaningful Futures*



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