The Howard Primary School, Elford

November Newsletter

We hope you all had a restful half-term break with your families. The Howard children have certainly hit the ground running this week, diving straight into another exciting half term as we begin the countdown to Christmas!



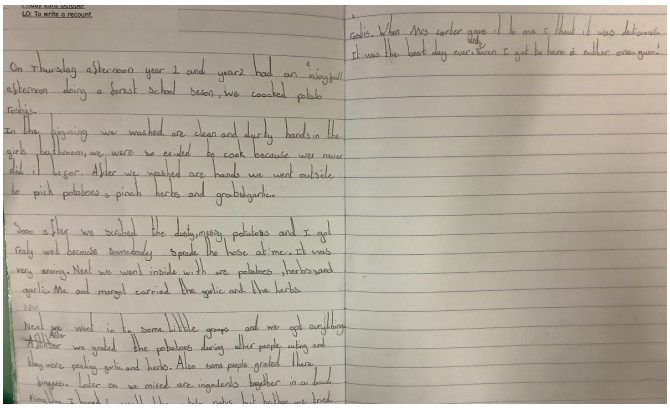
Class 1's new science topic is all about celebrations, and they kicked things off by exploring Halloween! The children headed out into their wonderful outdoor area for a spider web hunt, closely investigating their intricate shapes and structures. Back in the classroom, they put their engineering skills to the test by building sticky webs of their own—and then they had great fun throwing giant pom-poms at them to see if their designs could pass the spider's ultimate strength test!





During the final week before the half-term break, Ms Carter and a host of wonderful volunteers helped the children harvest the crops from our polytunnel and garden. In their weekly Forest School lessons, each class then transformed that fresh produce into delicious dishes to share with their friends—from hearty soups to tasty cakes, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all!





Class 2 even used this wonderful harvest experience to inspire their very first pieces of recount writing, which completely blew Mrs Fallows away. A great big thank you to Ms Carter and all our volunteers for their time, energy and hard work in making this possible.

Class 2 has been making the most of the crisp early winter weather by taking their science learning outdoors! Continuing their topic on materials, the children have been learning all about inventor John Dunlop. To put his famous idea about rubber tyres to the test, they rolled balls down ramps covered in different materials and carefully measured the distances they travelled. After comparing their results, the class agreed with John Dunlop—concluding that rubber really is the best material for a bicycle tyre!









Class 3 stepped back in time on an exciting Ancient Egyptian trip to Birmingham! Their adventure began at The REP, where the children immersed themselves in an interactive drama workshop all about archaeologist Howard Carter and the thrilling discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. After lunch, the class visited the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery to see real Ancient Egyptian artefacts up close—including an incredible death mask that is over 2,000 years old! Throughout the entire day, the children were impeccably behaved and represented our school brilliantly.



At the end of last half term, our wonderful Class 4 children headed off on an exciting two-night residential visit, taking part in adventurous activities including orienteering, archery, and caving. Although the weather wasn't on our side, the rain certainly didn't dampen their spirits, and the children threw themselves into every challenge—quite literally in some cases! So many wonderful memories were made, and we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Challinor and Ms Carter for giving up their time to supervise and support the children throughout their stay.



Class 4 have also been diving into the exciting world of coding in their new ICT topic! The children have been learning how to programme a micro:bit—a tiny, pocket-sized computer—coding it to respond to noise using sound sensors and detect when it is shaken or tilted using movement sensors. Working hard to build, test, and debug their own programmes along the way, everyone has shown fantastic enthusiasm for this hands-on topic!



Despite the chilly evening, there was plenty of warmth and enthusiasm at our recent primary schools Hi-5 netball tournament, featuring Mary Howard, St Andrews, The Howard, and Richard Crosse. Throughout a series of incredibly close matches, the children showcased fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship, impressing everyone with their passing, movement, defending and shooting. After a string of exciting games, Mary Howard emerged as the overall winners! A huge

thank you goes to all the teachers and parents who came along to cheer the teams on, and a massive well done to every single player—you should all be extremely proud of your efforts!





On 11th November, we gathered together for a special Remembrance Day assembly to reflect on the symbolism of the poppy and the importance of our two-minute silence, concluding with a moving performance of Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* by our wonderful choir. Throughout the day, the children also explored creative ways to honour the occasion, working together on a collaborative memorial display now on show at St Peter's Church. Every child contributed to this meaningful piece, and if you have a spare moment, we would love for you to pop in and see what we achieved! We are also immensely proud of the pupils who represented our school so brilliantly by delivering a reading at the church's Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8th November.



We are immensely proud to announce that our current fundraising total for Children in Need stands at an incredible £1,226.60! Throughout the week, the children have been busy putting their stamina to the test by working together in each class to complete a full marathon. A huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations and support—what a fantastic achievement for such a wonderful cause!



Finally, our wonderful PTFA has been hard at work raising funds for our brand-new trim trail, as voted for by our parents. Thanks to everyone's incredible generosity, the month is already off to a fantastic start—our Spooky and Sweet Bake Sale raised a spooktacular £260.47 and our Silent Disco raised an impressive £436.81! Next on the calendar is Stir-Up Sunday, a fun and festive family activity where you can learn about the history and traditions of the day while making your very own Christmas pudding to take home. If you would like to join us for what promises to be a wonderful event, please reserve your place by **25th November** with a £10 payment per family/pudding via our online store: friends-of-howard-primary.sumupstore.com

From everyone at The Howard