

The Howard Primary School, Elford

October Newsletter

As we welcome the crisp autumn season to our school, we hope the new term has brought warmth and happiness to you and your families. It has been a delightful month filled with joy, rich learning and plenty of memorable outdoor adventures for the children.



Class 1 have had an exceptionally busy and purposeful month, diving headfirst into essential real-life skills and learning all about the dedicated people who help us in our community. A particular highlight was a visit from a local firefighter, who brought along real uniforms and helmets for the children to try on! Alongside sharing important fire safety stories, he showed us how to test our smoke alarms to stay safe at home. Inspired by his visit, Class 1 took their Science learning outdoors to tackle their very own "firefighter fitness" obstacle circuits.



In Science, the children have been investigating dental hygiene, discovering the importance of daily brushing and what happens to our teeth if we don't look after them.



You may have also spotted Class 1 out and about in the village recently! Putting their geography and mapping skills into practice, they mapped our local area and with a helpful hand from Class 4, navigated the streets to deliver leaflets for our upcoming Early Years Open Morning. Should you ever need a guided tour of the village, Class 1 are now your go-to experts!

Class 2 were delighted to welcome a very special guest into their classroom this week: our wonderful school governor, Mrs Billingham. As part of their History unit exploring childhood in the past, Mrs Billingham kindly shared her own memories and experiences of growing up. The children were utterly fascinated, asking thoughtful, inquisitive questions and gathering rich insights to support their learning. The impact of the visit was captured perfectly by one enthusiastic pupil, who remarked: *"I could just talk to Mrs Billingham all day—it's so interesting!"* A huge thank you to Mrs Billingham for giving up her time to bring History so vividly to life for our children.

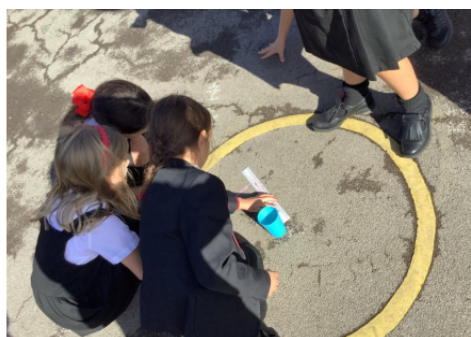


Mystery and intrigue arrived in Class 2 this month! The children stepped into their classroom to find absolute chaos—three bowls of porridge (one completely emptied!), a broken chair, muddy footprints across the floor, a stray shoe, and a lock of blonde hair neatly tied with a ribbon. Channeling their best detective skills, the children carefully examined the evidence, pieced together the clues, and quickly cracked the case: the notorious Goldilocks had been up to her old tricks! This magical crime scene sparked incredible excitement and provided a fantastic launchpad for the children's creative writing and storytelling.



Class 2 and Class 3 recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Winterbourne House and Garden as special guests at the 'Seeds of Change' gathering. Hosted by the visionary team at 'The Great Imagining' and Sian Reeves, the event invited children into interactive marquees to explore practical steps toward a greener, fairer and wiser future for our planet.

Although our pupils were among the youngest attendees, they made a lasting impression. Educators and fellow guests alike praised their thoughtful contributions, deep reflections, exemplary listening, and outstanding behaviour throughout the day. They represented our school beautifully, and, as always, we are immensely proud of them!



In Science, Class 3 have explored the movements of the Sun and Earth by investigating shadows. The children set up a hands-on experiment to measure and record how shadow length and direction change at different points throughout the

day—developing some fantastic working scientifically skills in the process!



In their English lessons, Class 4 have been immersed in Philippa Pearce's gripping suspense story, *The Shadow Cage*. Driven by a desire to craft their own edge-of-your-seat tales, the children investigated the authorial secrets behind what truly hooks a reader. After mapping out their ideas using storyboards and "boxing up" planning frameworks, they set to work drafting their final pieces. The children paid close attention to creating tension—mastering short, dramatic sentences and vivid descriptive detail—and we couldn't be prouder of the high quality and imagination shown in their writing! They were delighted to share a selection of their suspenseful stories during our weekly Achievement Assembly, leaving the whole school community thoroughly enthralled by their talent!



They have also put their scientific enquiry skills to the test this month by investigating solubility. Conducting a fair test with controlled variables, the children mixed coffee, sugar, flour, oil and butter into water to observe how each material behaved. They successfully discovered the difference between substances that dissolve to create solutions (like sugar and coffee) and those that remain separate or form mixtures.



We were delighted to gather for our first church service of the academic year as we celebrated Harvest. Led brilliantly by Class 3, it was a truly uplifting occasion, made extra special by the fact that every single child in the school took to the front to share a story, song or artwork with the congregation. A special addition to our harvest celebration this year was a performance by our newly formed school choir, who brought the church to life with an uplifting rendition of '*Brighter Days*'. As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Tyler and the church team for welcoming us so warmly and providing such a wonderful setting for our service.

This month, staff were delighted to welcome parents and guardians into school for our Parents' Evenings to celebrate the children's early successes this term. It is always a pleasure to discuss our wonderful pupils with the people who know them best—sharing their achievements, discussing their progress and exploring how we can continue working in partnership to support every individual child. Sincere thanks to all of our parents and guardians for your continued support and for taking the time to attend.

From everyone at The Howard