



Here, children thrive...



Merry Christmas



Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Boughton Heath Academy

Here, children thrive...

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December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

As we draw to the close of another busy and joyful term, it is a privilege to reflect on all that has been accomplished at Boughton Heath Academy this autumn.

Firstly, a warm congratulations to our Reception pupils who have settled beautifully into their first term of school life. Watching their confidence grow and seeing them embrace learning with such enthusiasm has been a real delight. Their first weeks here are always a special time and they have made a wonderful start to life at Boughton Heath.

Reflecting further back, it seems so long ago that we were inspected, but at the start of this term we received confirmation of our outstanding Ofsted judgement. This was a moment of great pride for our entire community, and throughout this term we have worked hard to continue building on the excellence that was recognised in the published report.

The autumn term has been filled with so many enriching experiences for our children. Year 2 were spellbound by a visit from 'The Owl Man', Year 4 stepped back in time with their fantastic Greek Day, and Year 1 enjoyed a superb trip to Chester Zoo. Elsewhere, our school and eco councils have also been busy, particularly with their incredible efforts in the gardening competition. This project, which will see a child designed garden at the front of school demonstrates how our children are actively contributing to their school environment to the benefit of others, the perfect demonstration of our values of responsibility, kindness and respect.

Continuing our commitment to raising the activity levels of children, sport has once again played a significant role in school life with children from across all year groups participating in events, competitions and festivals. Key Stage 1 pupils honed their skills at the multi-skills festival; and across school, sports like hockey, basketball, and tag rugby have brought energy and teamwork to the forefront.

The excitement around school during this festive season has been palpable. Our infant nativity performances were truly magical, showcasing the courage and creativity of our youngest pupils through this most precious of school traditions. Similarly, I'm sure the junior Christmas service left everyone inspired by our children's talents and collaborations. Such moments remind us why this time of year is so special in schools and the importance of family and friends.

We are incredibly grateful to all the parent volunteers who have supported us so far this term – your generosity with your time and enthusiasm is deeply appreciated and makes such a difference to what we can achieve together. Thank you for being a key part of the Boughton Heath community.

Looking ahead to 2025, we look forward to junior class residential trips, more sporting events and new opportunities for children to explore the arts. We also have exciting projects lined up to deepen our links with the local community, ensuring our pupils can see the direct impact of their efforts on the people and world around them.

On behalf of all the staff at Boughton Heath Academy, thank you for your unwavering support and for trusting us with the privilege of educating your children. This school thrives because of its community, and it is wonderful to see our shared commitment to providing the very best for every child showcased so often throughout the past term.

I wish all children and families a joyful and restful festive season. May it be filled with love, laughter, and precious moments with your loved ones. We look forward to seeing you in January.

Kindest regards,

Mr Jon Lenton

Principal

Reception

It has been a very busy first term at school for our Reception children, and we have loved getting to know them every day.

After half term we started our topic 'Farm and Food'. We firstly focused on learning about farm animals. We talked about how they are similar and different and learnt about baby animals and where they live. This linked nicely to our focused text in Literacy, 'What the Ladybird Heard'. We were very excited to invite The Story Tent into school to launch this story. We had a wonderful afternoon sharing the story in our own tepee tents and explored a range of activities linked to the text.



As well as learning about farm animals, we also learnt about what else happens on a farm. We talked about all the foods that we eat that come from farms. We were really interested to find out where some foods came from!



We discussed how lots of these foods are grown on farms such as many different fruit and vegetables. We then went on a walk around our school grounds to see how many foods we could find that have grown. We found apples, blackberries, carrots and onions!

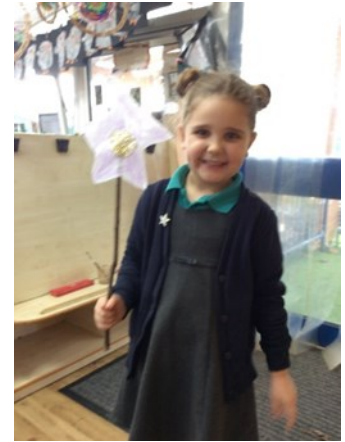


Earlier this half term it was very exciting to wake up to SNOW! When we had come into school, we couldn't wait to go outside and learn in the snow! We worked with our friends to make snowmen and also painted the snow too!



We are always using books to support our learning in reception. After the strong winds a few weeks ago we were outside and we found lots of different sized sticks. We then decided we wanted to make our sticks into something new! So after reading 'Stanley's stick' and 'Not a Stick' we had lots of ideas! Some of

us made wands, fishing rods and even stickmen!



We had our first forest school this term and we linked it to our learning about Autumn. We played games to see who could find the biggest leaf or the longest stick. We also sorted autumn leaves by colour before making a bed for the hedgehog so he could hibernate! We read 'Leafman' and made our own with a partner and also made our own salt dough hedgehogs to take home. We had a very busy and fun filled day!



We hope all of our Reception children have a lovely break, and we look forward to seeing them in 2025 for more exciting learning!



Year 1



What a fantastic start we have had to the year in Year One! The Autumn Term has been packed with fun and learning and the children should be very proud of what they have achieved.

made their own fantastic animal pictures from leaves. The children loved being outdoors and became observant of the world around them. We have continued to look at changes in nature during the winter.

History

The term started with a history topic all about the beginnings of Chester Zoo. The children loved learning about George Mottershead and his family. They found out about the first animals at the zoo and how the zoo has changed over time. A visit to the zoo in October enabled the children to visit some of the places they had seen in old photographs and articles.



We were lucky enough to be able to visit George Mottershead's old home, which is now a restaurant. We also found the original home of the lions, by discovering some scratches on the old stone walls! The trip gave us lots of inspiration for literacy and art activities.

We had a wonderful day outside looking at the changes of the season as we moved into autumn. We spent the day identifying different types of trees from their leaves and looking at the changing colours.



We collected the leaves and other objects to create patterns, looking at shape and colour. The children also

Literacy

It has been wonderful to see the progress that all the children in Year One have made in their writing. We have enjoyed two excellent books this term, 'Lost and Found' and 'Nibbles the Book Monster'. The children loved learning about Nibbles, who munches his way into familiar stories and somehow changes the plot!



The class have acted out being the different characters and thought carefully about how all the characters might feel. They have completed some excellent pieces of written work, focussing on sentence punctuation and developing spelling and handwriting.

Science

Our science topics have covered seasonal change, materials and the human body. When learning about the human body, the class completed an investigation to find out whether our age in the class affects what sized feet we have. The children really enjoyed making predictions and working together to answer the question.



Jigsaw

This term in our Jigsaw PSHE lessons we have explored 'Who am I and how do I fit'. We learnt about our rights and responsibilities. We talked about our class jobs and how important it is to work as a team. During the second half of the autumn term, we explored respect for similarity and difference, anti-bullying and being unique.



DT

We have been investigating moving pictures in DT. The children have looked at a range of different pop-up and sliding pictures in books and cards. After working out how they work, they have had a go at creating their own examples. They have really enjoyed making their own pop-up card – just in time for Christmas!





Year 2



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

Maths & Writing

In Writing, the children initially started with story writing about the trolls but it was The Owl Man's visit that ignited their enthusiasm. After the surprise, all of the children wrote some incredible fact files which will be up proudly on the writing wall after Christmas.



During Maths, the children flew through our number's unit, then it was on to the addition and subtraction. After Christmas we will continue to work on adding and subtracting across 10 on a number line.

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 enjoyed learning about the different capital cities. During lessons, they spent lots of time discussing different human and physical features and explored areas of the UK they had visited.

Science - Materials

They showed great skill when looking at materials, they knew lots about their properties and finding the best material to fix a broken umbrella (it seemed only fitting after all of the rain we have had!). They worked on making their experiments fair tests which was rather tricky but they showed great determination. Science lessons have seen lots of group work which has shown great team work amongst the children.

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 got fully 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 the past.

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.

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 doing and how enthusiastic they are in RE.



A big thank you for all of your book donations to our class this term and also for your continued support with school trips. 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.

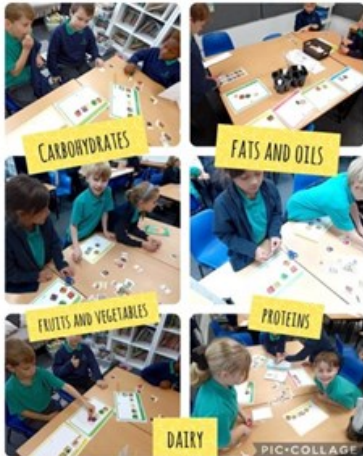


Year 3



Science - Skeletons, Nutrition, and Rocks

In science, Year 3 began by learning about the human skeleton, identifying bones and understanding their role in supporting our bodies. We also explored the importance of nutrition and diet, designing healthy meal plans based on food groups.



A highlight of our science lessons was investigating rocks. We tested if they float or sink, observed their reaction to vinegar (acid), and recorded our findings. We enjoyed seeing the bubbles when certain rocks fizzed in vinegar, helping us understand the properties of different rocks and how they become weathered and eroded when exposed to the elements.

History - Stone Age to Iron Age

In history, we explored how life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We looked at early human tools, fire, and farming techniques.



We investigated various historical artefacts, discussing how they were used in everyday life during these periods. It was interesting to learn about how people's homes changed throughout the ages, starting from caves and temporary shelters, advancing onto round houses and settlements like hill forts during the iron age. Through discussions about the advancements of weapons and farming, we concluded that people lived in hill forts as a way of protecting themselves and their livelihoods from enemies. We also enjoyed watching how people turned tin and copper ores into bronze to make helpful tools such as axes. It was incredible to see!

Art - Inspired by Frieda McKitrick

In Art, Year 3 explored the vibrant work of Frieda McKitrick. Inspired by her bold colours and abstract patterns, we created our own artworks of our school building after practising observational drawing out on the school grounds and experimenting with different lines, colours and textures to enhance our work. As a finishing touch, we added a small pop of colour to our pieces to make them really stand out.

Religious Education - Hinduism and Christianity

In RE, Year 3 learned about Hinduism, including key beliefs and the celebration of Diwali. Firstly, we learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and how the festival became the festival of light. We created beautiful Rangoli patterns during Forest School, inspired by traditional designs.



As well as this, we were also very lucky to have some visitors come in to tell us about how they celebrate Diwali.



During this fantastic morning, we took part in some Hindu dancing and singing. More recently, we have explored Christianity, focusing on the role of the Bible in Christian life and why it is important to them. We were impressed and surprised to learn that the Bible was the best-selling book in world and not Harry Potter!

Literacy

In our literacy lessons this half term, we have loved our literacy book, 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith. The exciting tale had us on the edge of our seats and the beautiful illustrations inspired our writing. 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 and describing the setting in a list poem. Next, we used different drama techniques like role play and freeze frames. We were then ready to write in different genres such as diary entries, poetry, character descriptions and our own version of the story. If you haven't read Winter's Child, Year 3 would definitely recommend it!

It's been a busy and exciting term filled with learning and creativity. We are proud of how hard the children have worked, and we're looking forward to the next term of discovery!



Year 4



It has once again been a busy term in Year 4! Just look at some of the wonderful learning we have undertaken below.

During our forest school PE sessions, we firstly used sticks to create different objects. The challenge first of all, was to find sticks that were the size of our forearm and no thicker than our fingers. We then used different artists to inspire us and give us different ideas on what to create. During another session, we used leaves to create different living things.

to learn the properties of the 3 different states.

We looked at grouping different objects into the 3 categories using what we had learnt about the 3 states to help us. Next, we explored flour, salt and 'gloop' to



see what states we thought they were as salt and flour took the shape of the container, which solids don't usually. Whilst 'gloop' sometimes acted like a liquid and sometimes acted like a solid. We found out that it was a Non-Newtonian fluid. We also carried out an experiment melting ice, learnt how to use a thermometer to measure the temperature and melted and froze butter and chocolate to learn about changing states.

As part of our History topic on the Ancient Greeks, Zeus from Past Productions came to visit us. He taught us all about the Ancient Greeks. Firstly, we learnt about what life was like during the Ancient Greek times especially for women. We compared life in Athens and Sparta to see which would have been the nicest place to

live. Next, we looked at democracy and conducted a class vote just like they would have during the Ancient Greek times.

After that, we learnt all about the Greek Gods, what they symbolised and their characteristics. We chose some of the children to dress up as our favourite ones. After break, we then re-enacted different Greek myths using different props and the stage. We also looked at the Greek Olympic games and wrote our own myths. We ended the day with a quiz to see how much we had learnt. We all learnt so many facts that most of us scored full marks or not far off!



Some of the children decided to create the outline of the animal using as many leaves as they could find and some decided to create an animal using just a few leaves. We also used a session to create our own bug hotels using whatever materials we could find. These bug hotels ranged from piles of leaves to massive multistorey mansions with a variety of facilities. Lucky insects!



As part of our Science topic on solids, liquids and gases, we conducted a range of different experiments. Firstly, we had





Year 5



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



In our North America topic, we have learnt many geographical skills, including map work, locating human and physical features and understanding land use. The children compared different parts of North America to understand land use and settlement. We also looked at biomes; what they are and which existed across North America. This allowed us to understand the diverse range of weather and climate that North America experiences. We also looked at extreme weather in North America and completed a case study on Hurricane Katrina and the devastating impact that it had.

In Autumn 1, the children completed a variety of investigations to learn about gravity, air resistance, friction and water resistance. In Autumn 2, we completed learnt about the planets within our solar system, researched the moon and looked into philosophers and their views on the solar system.

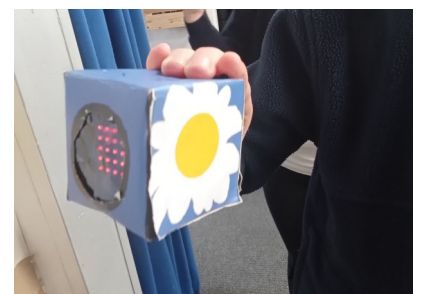


In Autumn 1, we learnt about the infamous Annie Edson-Taylor; the American school-teacher who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Our lessons, based on The Queen of the Falls, inspired us to write a variety on quality recount pieces, including letters, diary entries and newspaper articles. This half term, our lessons have been based on traditional tales. After reading The Lost Happy Endings, the children have produced traditional tales with a twist and well-developed character descriptions with exciting characterisation, similes and expanded noun-phrases. In Maths we have covered many Mathematics strands this term, including Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division and Fractions.



During our Anglo-Saxons and Vikings topic, the children using primary and secondary sources to investigate this period in time. They investigated why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain, discovered what life might be like in Anglo-Saxon Britain and learnt about the Anglo-Saxon's relationship with the Vikings. We learnt about the devastating raid on Lindisfarne as well as why the era ended. Furthering this, we looked into Danegeld and understood why once you paid the Danegeld, it was impossible to get rid of the Dane!

In DT the children designed and made automatic nightlights. We created a design brief and chose an individual to create the light for. This led us to choose an appropriate theme and ensure our nightlight was fit for purpose. We created the structure using Tinker CAD and programmed our Micro:Bits to turn the light on when light levels decreased.



This term in Science, we have studied Forces and Earth and Space.

A huge well done to all members of Year 5. It has been a pleasure to get to know you this term and I'm excited for what the rest of the year brings! Have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Year 6



Year 6 have had an incredibly busy and productive term, delving into important lessons about safety and well-being. They worked hard during their Bikeability training, mastering essential skills to stay safe while cycling on the roads. I was so proud of them when they all successfully achieved both Level 1 and Level 2! Alongside this, they explored the critical topic of Internet safety, developing a deeper understanding of how to navigate the digital world responsibly. This is an important message and one that we revisit frequently in or Crew time weekly.

The children also embraced the chance to practice Qigong, a calming and mindful activity that promotes relaxation and focus. It has been a term filled with invaluable learning experiences, and the knowledge and skills the children have gained will undoubtedly benefit them both now and in the future.

reflecting on their design choices and craftsmanship. They are so very proud of their work and I am too.



They have shown great resilience and loved the opportunity to make something with a purpose. Once complete, these wonderful stockings will be ready to hang up—with a satsuma tucked inside, of course!

This term, Year 6 have been channelling their creativity and fine motor skills to produce beautifully handmade Christmas stockings. The children began by designing their stockings, carefully using patterns to cut their fabric out of pillowcases, and then learning how to backstitch to sew them together. Their sewing skills were truly impressive and they took to the task with such enthusiasm and determination.

A standout moment this term was our trip to Crucial Crew, where the children participated in engaging workshops led by professionals, including the police, school nurses, and representatives from electrical companies. These sessions provided practical insights into safety topics such as the importance of sleep, electrical hazards, and even understanding hate crimes.



They've absolutely loved the project, from the initial design to the intricate stitching, and have added their own unique decorations to make their stockings extra special. Before taking them home, the children evaluated their work,



Other news



Return to school 2025

School reopens to children on Tuesday 7th January, as Monday is closed for staff training.

Reception 2025 school places

For any parents who are wishing to apply for a school place for their child for Reception 2025, please note the deadline for applications in January 15th 2025.

Term dates

A reminder that you can find all of our term dates for this, and the next academic year on our website. Simply follow - 'School Office' - 'Holiday Dates'.

Term time holidays

School is only able to authorise absence during term time in the most exceptional circumstances. As such, holidays taken during term time may result in a fine being issued from the Local Authority. From September 2024, if three instances of term time absence resulting in fines being issued, happen within a three year window, other measures may be implemented such as prosecution. Therefore, we politely request parents do not take term time holidays.

Extra curricular clubs for Spring 1

Extra curricular clubs taking place in the first spring half term will be communicated to you in the first parent bulletin of 2025.

Parking and transport around school

We continue to see parents parking right outside school, often covering local resident's driveways and access points. This results in complaints to

school. In the new term, please do not park right outside school as it causes congestion on the road, is disruptive to local residents and also poses a danger to children who are walking on the nearby paths.

Parent helper volunteers

A huge thank you to all parents who have kindly volunteered their help and support to facilitate school events. From regular help such as the after school girls football club each week, to those who have helped on sports and class trips, these activities couldn't go ahead without your help. On behalf of all the staff and children who benefit from such experiences, a huge thank you.

PTA

Following on from my message in the parent bulletin a couple of weeks ago, I once again would like to extend our appreciation to our brilliant PTA. This week, all of our children were afforded the opportunity to experience live theatre, some for the first time, when we went to see *Sleeping Beauty* at the Storyhouse. Tickets were fully funded by our PTA and their fundraising efforts throughout the year. Throughout the autumn term they also led Christmas card projects, a superb Halloween disco and the annual school fair last week. We are so lucky to have such an engaged PTA and we thank Mrs Marshall and the team for their enthusiasm and support of school.

PE Kit reminders

From January, please can we remind parents that on PE days, children should come to school in Boughton Heath PE kits. We continue to see

football shirts being worn for such sessions and politely request that these are swapped for a plain white tee shirt. For any children doing an extra curricular football club on a PE day, they are welcome to bring a football top to change into.

Reading book tokens

Congratulations to the winners of our £10 book tokens! Throughout the Autumn term, we set a challenge to the children to read regularly and complete their reading record books in full. We are delighted that we were able to give out book tokens to children in every year group. We'll be running another competition later in the academic year.

Help and advice over the festive period

We know how difficult the festive holidays can be for families, for a whole host of varied reasons. It can also be incredibly difficult to get support during this time, as holiday closures limit access to essential services. With this in mind, please see the [Cheshire West and Chester website](#) for useful links to help should you need it over the two week break.

Merry Christmas

I wish all children, families, staff and friends of Boughton Heath all the very best for the Christmas period and look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Kind regards,

Mr Jon Lenton
Principal



Local Governing Body



Junior Christmas Carol Concert

Few events bring people together quite like a Junior Christmas Carol Concert. From the glittering decorations to the sound of young voices singing with joy, it's a moment that sparks warmth in our hearts. This isn't just about festive tunes—this is about community, creativity, and celebrating the incredible talents of our children.

The Magic of the Concert

The concert hall buzzed with excitement. Twinkling fairy lights, a glowing tree, and cheerful faces filled the room. It wasn't just a performance—it was a memory in the making!

Welcoming All Families

Parents, grandparents, siblings, and neighbours all gathered to support the performers. There was something truly special about seeing such a diverse audience united. Some came with festive jumpers, others with cameras ready to capture every note. No matter who we were, we came together with one goal: to cheer on the children giving it their all.

Building Confidence Through Performance

For many of the children, stepping onto that stage was a big moment. Some were nervous; others couldn't wait to perform. As the night went on, we could see their confidence grow. Performing for a supportive audience is such a boost to self-esteem. From overcoming jitters to nailing those high notes, every child left the stage taller than before.

Highlights from the Concert

What about the performances themselves? Oh, where do we start? There were goosebump-worthy solos, energetic group pieces, and plenty of festive favourites.

Outstanding Solo Performances

A couple of brave students stood out with their dazzling solo performances. One young singer brought the house down with their rendition of *Underneath The Christmas Tree*, hitting notes we didn't even know were possible. Another couple of performers wowed us with *All I Want For Christmas Is You*, pouring every ounce of emotion into their song. It's not easy to perform alone, but they delivered with confidence, charm, and talent.

Collaborative Choir Pieces

The choir performances were no less impressive. The harmony of voices echoed through the hall, creating a magic only choral music can bring. Pieces like *Il est ne le divin enfant* and *Twelve Days of Christmas* had the audience tapping their feet and humming along. It wasn't just about pretty tunes—it was a display of teamwork, timing, and trust. The children worked together beautifully, making sure every note counted.

Gratitude for Our Teachers and Pupils

Behind every great concert, there's a team working tirelessly to bring it all together. This event was no exception; the dedication shone through in every detail. Let's give a massive round of applause to our teachers and pupils for putting on a fantastic show! The teachers put in hours of planning, rehearsing and organising to make sure everything went smoothly. The children? They worked so hard learning their lines, rehearsing their parts, and giving their best performances. This wasn't just a concert—it was a labour of love from everyone involved.

Encouragement for Future Events

Events like this remind us why it's so important to support our school's activities. Let's keep cheering on our children as they explore their talents and grow in confidence. Whether it's a spring recital or next year's Christmas concert, let's make sure we show up, clap loud, and keep the community spirit alive.

Conclusion

The Junior Christmas Carol Concert left us all feeling festive, proud, and full of joy. From the students' performances to the warmth of the audience, it was a night to remember. As we wrapped up the evening, we couldn't help but feel excited for what's to come. Thank you to the teachers and the pupils for putting on a fantastic show, and here's to many more celebrations in the future!

Mark Loughnane - Parent Governor