



Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Here, children thrive...



Spring 2025



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Boughton Heath Academy

Here, children thrive...

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4th April 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and exciting term at Boughton Heath, it's a pleasure to reflect on the fantastic experiences and opportunities the children have had over the past few months.

As popular as ever, the return of the on-site swimming pool went down a storm with our junior classes. We are proud to offer all our junior children the chance to enjoy swimming lessons—something that sets us apart from other settings, who often only offer this to one year group due to transport and time constraints. It's been brilliant to see the children's confidence grow in the water whilst learning such an important life skill.

Continuing our commitment to increasing sporting activity in our quest for a third successive Gold School Games award, we have seen an increase in the range of clubs on offer once again, with session such as gymnastics, dance, craft, and girls' football proving extremely popular. It is always a joy to see children trying something new and developing their interests beyond the classroom, and next year I am delighted to announce we will be offering fencing sessions in school as well.

Spring term always sees the return of residential trips, and Year 3, 4 and 6 have surely created memories to last a lifetime with theirs. A huge well done to Year 3 for enjoying their first overnight adventures at Burwardsley. The first residential away is such a big milestone for children and parents, and the children handled it excellently. Elsewhere, Year 4 enjoyed their visit to Condoover Hall, and Year 6 took a break from the classroom for a wild time in the Lake District. These experiences play an important role in fostering independence, teamwork, and resilience—and our children (and the staff!) have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm.]

As we look ahead to the summer term, we also have some staff news to share. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Salmon, who has been a valued member of our team and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter. Taking charge of Year 3, we are delighted to welcome Mr Scott to the Boughton Heath team. Having worked with us throughout this year, I know he will quickly feel right at home and I am sure the school community will make him feel welcome.

It seems like only yesterday I was writing the Christmas newsletter, and before the that the welcome back to school in September! As we approach the summer term, we are two thirds through the academic year, and with events such as SATs, parents' evenings, sports day, concerts, productions and leavers; the summer break will surely be upon us before we know it.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. As a school we are blessed with such a supportive school community, and when you combine this with wonderfully inspiring children and a most outstanding teaching staff; it certainly does make Boughton Heath a very magical place to work and learn.

I hope you all families have a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and look forward to welcoming you all back to school for the final term of the academic year.

Kind regards,

Mr Jon Lenton
Principal

Reception

People Who Help Us

During the first part of the spring term we learnt about People Who Help Us. We firstly talked about what 'helping' means and we named different people who might help us. We also

talked about how any of the people have already helped us. There was lots of talk and discussion and we also linked the topic to what we wanted to be when we grow up. This also linked nicely to Jigsaw too. We wrote about what we wanted to be as well as created some beautiful artwork.



in literacy. We then moved on to minibeasts. We talked about the minibeasts we already knew and also learnt about new ones. We compared them noticing similarities and differences. We then sorted minibeasts in lots of different ways such as legs/legs and wings/no wings. We were also very creative too designing and creating our own caterpillars and butterflies.

Chinese new year

In Reception we like to celebrate many events throughout the year. One of these is Chinese



Spring. So, in small groups we explored our outdoor area and school grounds to hunt for signs of Spring. We spotted buds on trees, lots of green leaves starting to grow, different coloured flowers and a birds nest! We have also been learning about Easter and new life. We have discussed baby animals and played a matching game, we have had a discussion about how we and other people may celebrate Easter. We have also been applying our learning about pattern in maths by decorating easter eggs with loose parts!



Growing and Minibeasts

This half term we have been busy learning all about 'Growing and Minibeasts'. We firstly talked about what grows and then focused on plants and flowers as it linked to our focus text, 'The Tiny Seed'. We talked

about what plants need to grow and explored different seeds and bulbs. We planted beans in a bag and watched them begin to grow and wrote about the life cycle of a plant



New Year. This year we learnt about the different animals linked to the Chinese New Year story and talked about how people celebrate it. We made our own lanterns and dragons too.

Spring and Easter

Throughout the year we observe and comment on seasonal change. As the weather has improved we have spotted some signs of



Year 1

Year One have had a really enjoyable term and have produced some wonderful pieces of work.

Art

The children loved learning about Vincent Van Gogh and have been developing their painting skills. We looked at a variety of paintings by the artist and investigated different brush strokes and the use of light and dark. We then looked at the painting, *Starry Night* and the children completed impressive pieces of artwork in the same style.



Literacy

An alien crash landing on planet Earth was the theme of this half term's book. The children have really enjoyed reading *Beegu*. They have had to decode some strange alien messages as well as work out what it would be like to experience Earth as an alien. The children were pleased to learn that it was the Earth children that cared from *Beegu* before she returned home. The book has inspired some wonderful pieces of written work, including letters



and postcards and an independent story on a similar theme. The children have been learning to include questions and exclamations in their writing as well as learning to spell words with suffix endings.

DT

This term we have been finding out about puppets and the children have each designed a hand puppet for a young child to play with.



The class particularly enjoyed the design process and some took inspiration from our work on *Beegu*. They have been learning to do running stitch and have sewn their puppets together by hand.



History

We have been learning about the changes to life within living memory. The children have learnt about the everyday objects that have changed in the lifetime of their parents and grandparents. They had fun investigating old toys and finding out about vehicles and clothes from previous decades. We learnt how Chester has developed over the years, including the need for a ring road to be built due to the increased use of cars. Most recently we have been learning about the music of the last few

decades.



Computing

The children have been making e-books using 2Create. They enjoyed learning how to turn their images into animations and have added backgrounds and sound effects.

Science

Our science unit this half term has been planting and seasonal change. We have learnt the parts of a plant and what each feature does. After planting some bulbs, we are waiting and observing each part of the plant growing!



Year 2

This term, Year 2 have continued to work incredibly hard, and I couldn't be prouder of their progress. As a crew, they've grown weekly and shown a fantastic can-do attitude, tackling new challenges with enthusiasm and perseverance.

Maths & Writing

You may have seen some of the children's fantastic work, such as their imaginative dragon stories and heartfelt diaries from the perspective of a young boy named Farid. Throughout the term, Year 2 have been refining their writing skills, focusing on joining sentences and adding detail to their work. A big focus has been on spelling rules, and the children have worked incredibly hard to demonstrate their understanding. Their dedication to improving their writing has been amazing, and I look forward to seeing even more progress in the summer term.



In Maths, we've consolidated our understanding of the four operations before moving on to topics such as height and length. The children have embraced the challenge of tackling trickier problems, and it's been wonderful to see them develop their

Science

This term, Year 2 has focused on the essentials of what animals need to survive.

Earlier in the term, we studied plants and learned how to keep them healthy. The class enjoyed our "observation over time" activities, where they discovered that plants without light can only survive for so long! The children have demonstrated great curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the natural world.



History – Castles

Year 2 have been captivated by our study of castles this half term. They've been particularly fascinated by the towering heights of the curtain walls and the rich history contained within

them. The children enjoyed learning about how life in the past was so different from

today, and they had some strong opinions about which jobs they wouldn't have wanted to do! We can't wait to continue with our historical learning next term about famous individuals.

Reading

Finally, I want to give a HUGE well done to Year 2 for their



incredible efforts with reading this term. Their reading progress has been amazing, and this improvement is due to the hard work put in both at school and at home. A massive thank you to all the families for their ongoing support in this area.

As always, I'm incredibly grateful for the support from our wonderful families, as well as the generous donations of birthday books. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, restful break, and I'm excited to see everyone back for our final term in the summer!

Year 3

We had an amazing time on our Year 3 residential to Burwardsley with some children wanting to go on another one this year! We enjoyed a



wide range of activities from pond dipping, survival skills and visiting a nearby dairy farm to learn all about where our milk comes from. We also enjoyed an array of talents displayed in Boughton Heath's very own talent show. We had the opportunity to use flints to make a camp-fire which



we sang songs and played games around whilst observing the flames. As well as this, we were able to embed what we have learned in history about prehistoric life in Britain. We used bows and arrows, learned how to throw spears and even got to visit a roundhouse! After all of those activities we were certainly hungry. We loved the food at Burwardsley. There was always enough for seconds and the puddings were delicious!. We had an amazing time learning new skills, building our confidence, independence, resilience and also learning to make our own beds!

In history we have learned lots of amazing things about the Ancient Egyptians. We particularly enjoyed

the gory bits where we learned



about mummification. We looked at various tools and artefacts that were used for mummification in order to predict what we thought they were for to help our understanding of the process. Did you know they used to pull out the brains with a hook? We



also learned about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone and its importance to historians being able to translate hieroglyphics and gain a better understanding of Ancient Egyptian life. We considered the impact of hieroglyphics on different areas of society by placing children in hot seats in the role of different people such as scribes and doctors. From these discussions, we were able to conclude why hieroglyphics were so crucial to the development of Ancient Egyptian civilisation. In PE, the children have impressed us with their Ancient Egyptian dances where they have incorporated their knowledge of society at the time to inspire their choreography.

In art we have looked at the work of Sandra Hepworth and explored different textures and fabrics to create collages. We loved having the opportunity to experiment with different mediums and materials such as brusho (although it did get a little messy!). To begin with, we

created collages of our own houses by using different fabrics. We then explored and critiqued some of Sandra Hepworth's work, noting her use of texture and colour to create her designs. The next step was to create 4 design ideas which were inspired by the Eastgate Clock. We experimented with placing it at different angles and positions and with different fabrics. After building our skills in working with different textiles and layering them with paints, we created our final pieces which were fantastic! Once they were complete, we were able to evaluate them by considering how effectively we had applied the different skills we have been learning about in art.



During our literacy lessons, we have learned all about Blue Whales in order to write our own chronological reports about them. We have looked at the features of a non-fiction text and discussed the importance of using headings and subheadings to organise our ideas so that we can use them in our own writing. We have thoroughly enjoyed writing about such an interesting topic and have been amazed by some of the facts we have discovered along the way. Make sure you ask us all about them!



Year 4

This term in Year 4, we have been learning about the life and work of Georgia O'Keeffe, a famous artist known for her large, detailed paintings of flowers and nature. We explored her unique style, which focuses on vibrant colours, close-up perspectives, and abstract shapes. As part of our learning, we studied primary and secondary colours, practiced mixing colours to create new shades, and experimented with different painting techniques. We also worked on observational drawings of flowers, carefully looking at details just like O'Keeffe did in her work. Finally, we applied everything we learned to create our own paintings inspired by her style, using bold colours and close-up compositions to make our artwork stand out.



learning about yoga and exploring different poses, a breathing techniques, and movement flows. We practiced a variety of standing and seated poses, focusing on balance, flexibility, and strength. As we became more confident, we learned how to transition smoothly between poses, connecting them to create flowing sequences. We also discovered the importance of mindful breathing to help control our movements and stay focused. To finish, we put everything together by designing our own yoga sequences, incorporating different poses and freeze frames to showcase our skills and creativity.



highlight, pushing us to build confidence and overcome fears while working on our strength and coordination. Orienteering taught us how to read maps, improving our problem-solving and navigation skills. We also worked together in buggy building, where we designed and constructed our own vehicles, learning about teamwork and knot tying. One of the night time challenges was "The egg protection challenge", where we used our teamwork skills to find ways to safely protect an egg from breaking. Throughout the trip, we all learned how to collaborate, think critically, and have fun while developing resilience, confidence and a range of new abilities.



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This term in PE, we have been

In February, we had the exciting opportunity to go on a residential trip to Condover in Shrewsbury. During our stay, we took part in a range of fun and challenging activities that helped us learn new skills. We tried archery, where we improved our focus and precision as we aimed at targets. Climbing was another



Year 5



This term, Year 5 have continued to make fantastic progress! The children have shown brilliant attitudes towards their learning, demonstrating curiosity, resilience, and enthusiasm in all areas of the curriculum. It has been a pleasure to see their confidence grow as they develop new skills and deepen their understanding.



In Spring 1, we studied the Vikings, reading Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton. The children explored Norse mythology and the concept of heroism before crafting their own engaging myths, filled with legendary creatures and daring quests. This half term, we turned our focus to Space, researching the life and achievements of Chris Hadfield, the first Canadian astronaut to perform a spacewalk. The children wrote detailed biographies about his journey from a farm in Canada to the International Space Station, honing their research and non-fiction writing skills. A highlight of this unit was when we shared our work on Twitter, and Chris Hadfield himself liked our writing!

This term, we have tackled a range of mathematical concepts, including decimals, fractions, percentages, and statistics. The children have worked hard to deepen their understanding through problem-solving activities, real-world applications, and reasoning tasks. They have learned to convert between fractions, decimals, and percentages, interpret and create data sets, and use statistics to analyse information effectively.

During Spring 1, we studied Animals Including Humans, focusing on life cycles and how different species grow, develop, and reproduce. The children explored the similarities and differences in life cycles between mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds, discussing the fascinating ways living things adapt to their environments. Later in the term, we embarked on our Space unit, where the children investigated the structure of our solar system, observed the phases of the moon, and explored how Earth's rotation

affects night and day. They also examined how the length of daylight varies around the world and created graphs to compare different countries.



This term, we explored the work of Frida Kahlo, examining how she used art to express her identity and emotions. Inspired by her self-portraits, the children created their own unique artworks, experimenting with a range of media to add texture and depth. They also incorporated foliage and natural elements into their designs, reflecting Kahlo's love for nature and symbolism in art.

Our DT project this term focused on designing and building a 3D bird hide structure. The children developed their construction and problem-solving skills by using straws, CAD (computer-aided design), and cardboard to create sturdy and functional models. They carefully considered materials, stability, and purpose, linking their work to sustainability and environmental awareness.



In History, we explored Medicine Through Time, investigating key medical advancements and the impact of discoveries such as vaccinations, antibiotics, and



antiseptics. The children examined how medical treatments have evolved over the centuries, from ancient herbal remedies to modern scientific breakthroughs. A highlight

of this topic was our visit to the Sick to Death Museum in Chester, where the children engaged with interactive exhibits and learned about the history of medicine in an immersive and exciting way.

This term, we focused on Climate Change and Sustainability. The children investigated the causes and effects of climate change, learning about how human activities contribute to global warming and environmental degradation. They also explored sustainability initiatives, including local efforts by Chester Council to promote greener living. By tracking air pollution levels throughout the day, the children gained a deeper understanding of how our daily choices impact the environment.

In Music, we have been learning about Synaesthesia, a fascinating condition where people experience a blending of senses, such as seeing colours when hearing music. They experimented with expressing music through colours and visual representations, creating their own vibrant musical artworks.

This term in Computing, we have been developing our programming skills using Micro:Bits. The children learned how to code these pocket-sized computers to create animations, display messages, and even build simple games. This hands-on experience has helped them develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills while exploring the fundamentals of computer programming.

In PE, we have been focusing on swimming, where the children have worked on improving their confidence, technique, and stamina in the water. Alongside this, we have been preparing for Amasing, an exciting performance event that brings together schools from across the area. The children have been rehearsing their songs and performance routines, showing fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm.



Year 6

A few wonderfully sunny days at Lake Windermere made for an action-packed residential for Year 6 this term. From crate stacking to raft building, most activities involved ropes, harnesses, and helmets—plenty of thrills and teamwork! The zip wire across the lake was a standout moment, giving the children breath-taking views as they whizzed across the water.



lost. Fire-making in the woods, hiding in dark fields for a well-timed jump scare, and celebrating three birthdays (with plenty of cake!) made the trip even more special. We returned home with wonderful memories, a few bruises, and lots of laughter—an unforgettable adventure for all!

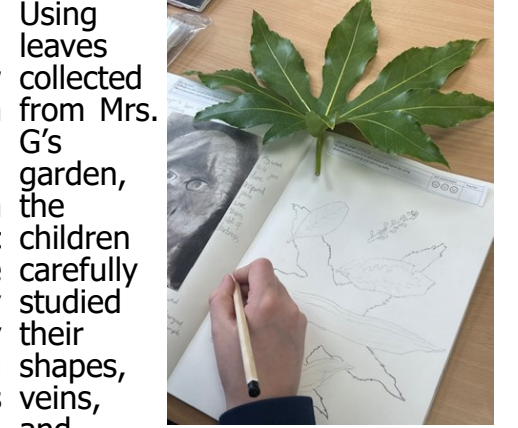
This term in Year 6 has been packed with exciting scientific discoveries! We explored the complexities of the circulatory system, identifying its key components and understanding how it keeps our bodies functioning.

A highlight of our learning was a hands-on heart dissection, expertly guided by Mrs. Tabb, which gave the children an up-close look at the heart's structure and function. During the dissection, the children carefully examined the chambers of the heart, tracing the path of blood as it moves through the organ. They identified key features such as the atria, ventricles, and major blood vessels, deepening their understanding of how oxygen and nutrients are transported around the body. The experience sparked curiosity and thoughtful discussions about the importance of heart health, reinforcing our learning about the impact of diet, exercise, and lifestyle choices on the circulatory system.

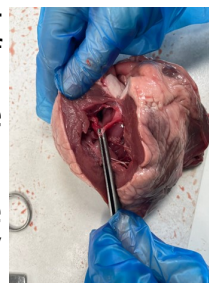
As always, some children were far more keen to get involved than others but everyone had a good look, even if they didn't touch!

Evenings were just as exciting. The night lines had us all in stitches as blindfolded children stumbled around before dramatically deciding they were

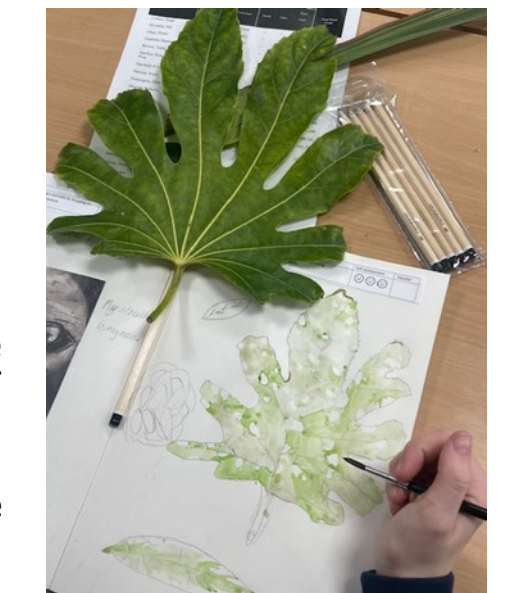
Year 6 have honed their artistic skills by learning to draw from observation, focusing on the intricate details of the natural world. Using leaves collected from Mrs. G's garden, the children carefully studied their shapes, veins, and textures, developing precision in their sketches. Their attention to detail paid off as they began to contemplate how to transform their drawings into stunning repeating patterns, inspired by the work of William Morris, whom they had previously studied. Seeing their observation come to life was a joy—meticulous sketches evolved into bold, flowing patterns, echoing Morris's signature style. There was plenty of trial and error, a few smudged fingers, and lots of proud smiles as they refined their work. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained confidence in their ability to observe, replicate, and create using first hand observations.



We canoed our hearts out, waved to Stephen Fry at his lakeside holiday home, and even rescued Quackers the duck, who had set off on an ambitious swim home. Raft building was equally entertaining, with children scrambling to keep barrels and wobbly logs from floating away. For the staff, watching the children take unexpected dips into the water was a particular highlight!



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Other news

Co-opted Governor vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor to join our Governing Board. We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with experience or expertise in finance, though this is not essential. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the strategic leadership of the school, please get in touch.

For more information, contact Kate Lee, Chair of Governors, at chair@boughtonheath.cheshire.sch.uk

PTA

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing PTA for their continued support in organising events for our school community and funding valuable projects. This term, they have contributed to our author visit, the Christmas theatre trip, and additional resources for the children. **Please note, the new date for the quiz night is now 16th May 6 - 8.30pm.**

Sports at Boughton Heath



This term has been packed with sporting events! Our children have participated in a range of competitions and festivals, including indoor athletics, football, cricket, hockey, rugby and netball. A special mention goes to our Y6 Hockey team, who went through the county finals and our Y5 Netball team who



came second out of all Chester schools. They showcased fantastic teamwork and determination, truly embracing our crew culture.

World Book Day



It was wonderful to see such a variety of book characters in school on World Book Day! The children had a fantastic time sharing their favourite books and engaging in poetry workshops with author Ian Bland. Many thanks to the PTA for fully funding this special visit—experiences like these help foster a love of reading among our children.

Science Week

This term, we celebrated British Science Week with a fantastic range of workshops and talks from experts in STEM careers. The theme was **'Change and Adapt'**, and children from all year groups had the opportunity to learn how science connects to real-world jobs. Reception and Year 1 explored the world of veterinary science, while Year 2 and Year 4 learned about acoustics. Year 3 and Year 6 delved into palaeontology, discovering fascinating facts about prehistoric life and Year 5 explored astrology. Other sessions included computer engineering and genetics, giving children a broad insight into how science shapes the world around us. It was inspiring to see the children so engaged and curious, asking insightful questions and taking part in practical activities. A huge thank you to all our visitors



for sharing their knowledge and expertise, helping to bring science to life for our children!

World Maths Day

A huge well done to all our children who took part in the World Maths Day challenge via Mathletics! The results are in, and we are incredibly proud of everyone's achievements. A special congratulations to our Reception class, who ranked 64th in the world—an amazing accomplishment! Individually, we had fantastic national results, with a Reception child placing 28th, a Year 2 child ranking 67th, and a Year 6 child achieving 94th place out of tens of thousands of UK participants. Well done to all our young mathematicians for their hard work and enthusiasm—what a fantastic achievement!

Extra Curricular Activities

We continue to expand our range of extra-curricular activities across the school. This term, children have enjoyed clubs such as craft, dance, dodgeball, football, gymnastics, multi-skills, choir, chess, and STEM. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff for providing these fantastic enrichment opportunities.

School & Eco Council

Our School Council has been busy this term running competitions to enhance our school environment and improve break and lunchtime experiences for all children. The front garden is currently undergoing a transformation following a design competition. Now, they eagerly await entries for 'The Happy Hut'—a space dedicated to reading and crafting during break times. Well done to everyone involved in making our school a better place!

Return to school

A reminder that children return to school after the Easter break on Wednesday 23rd April. We hope everyone enjoys a restful holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back, ready for an exciting summer term ahead.