

Friday 19th December

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to share our exciting news from this half-term with you all. As always, we have been very busy!

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Class updates

Holly Class

Holly class enjoyed a surprise visit from the Fire brigade this half term:



In English we have had lots of fun with hands on learning around our topic books Funny Bones, The Tiger who Came to Tea and Stick Man. A firm favourite was making menus and using role play equipment recreating the cafe scene in The Tiger who Came to Tea.



We have also had new pickle ball equipment this half term and Holly class has been working hard on the rules of the game and how to play pickle ball. We are excited to show our new skills very soon with the rest of the school.



Redwood Class

Redwood class have had an amazing term and worked hard on their DT project. We designed our own board games based on 'Snakes and Ladders'. We changed it to suit our interests. We made them using lots of crafting skills and played them with our friends. They were all very proud of their creations.



Hawthorn Class

The children have worked extremely hard during our Crime and Punishment History topic. As part of our "Super Start" challenge, they investigated a crime scene and carefully examined the evidence available. The children showed fantastic teamwork, problem-solving skills and enthusiasm as they shared ideas and drew conclusions like real historians.

In Geography, we have been learning about how food gets to our forks. The children explored the ideas of importing and exporting, discovering that some foods are seasonal and that many foods originate in other countries. This has helped them to better understand where their food comes from and how it travels around the world.

As part of this learning, the children made food using wheat and created some great dishes. They enjoyed the hands-on experience and were excited to see how raw ingredients can be transformed into something delicious.

Finally, the children visited the Gurdwara, where they were extremely respectful and well-behaved. They asked insightful questions and showed a genuine interest in learning about Sikh beliefs and traditions. It was a valuable and enriching experience for everyone involved.



Beech Class

It has been another busy half term in Beech class. We had the opportunity to go swimming, and the class have enjoyed the sensory pool and playing a range of games in the pool. It has been all about nature in Art, we focused on the artist Andy Goldsworthy and created some sculptures using natural materials such as rocks, pebbles, leave twigs and bark. In science, we have looked at how light travels, how a periscope works, as well as making our own and how objects look different in water in our investigation about refraction. Later in the term we have been creating electrical circuits, in preparation for making our own mini vacuum cleaners in D&T!



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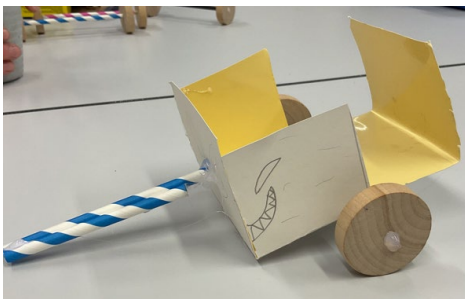
Willow Class

This term Willow class have been very busy! At the start of term, we visited Stonebridge City farm where we fed the animals and researched all about their natural habitat. In Science we studied rocks and fossils, we then created our own fossils with clay and shells. We have had lots of fun forest school sessions and one we linked to our history topic "The Romans".



Oak Class

Oak Class have been learning about playscripts this half term. We have been studying *Macbeth* and have had lots of fantastic discussions about the different characters in the play. We have also been learning about the Romans and made model chariots after we had completed research about Roman chariot racing. In our art lessons, we have learnt about the work of Andy Goldsworthy and Barbara Hepworth and created our own pieces of art inspired by their work.



Silver Birch Class

This term in English we have been exploring Dystopian fiction and writing our own stories; we then moved onto Noughts and Crosses, which the children thoroughly loved; we explored racism and inequality. The children acted out key scenes and created beautiful expressive explorations to delve deeper into the characters' feelings: mood board, sketches, diary entries, and feminist essays.

In History we have been exploring Crime and Punishment, focusing on the treatment of the Suffragettes and Victorian Crime and Punishment. We are very excited to visit the Galleries of Justice in January to consolidate this learning.

In Geography we have been learning about Volcanoes and Earthquakes. In DT, we have started making Spanish tapas as we have made such progress with our Spanish in MFL.



Lime Class

Lime Class have worked brilliantly this term, getting used to completing coursework and building their independence. They have visited both Loughborough and Nottingham College, Basford site alongside learning about the courses on offer at different colleges. Hosting a KS4 carwash as part of their enterprise saw them raise enough money for a kettle for a hot drink on a Friday, alongside being able to use further profits to re-invest into our Christmas market. Well done for all your hard work and creativity!



Elm Class

What a wonderful term we have had in Elm Class. We have been so busy, and we have had so much fun! Everyone has shown us how creative, knowledgeable and resilient they can be, as we have learnt so many new things!

When we asked the children for their highlights of the term, they told us they have enjoyed doing the erosion experiment in science, cooking omelettes, creating soap sculptures in the style of Barbara Hepworth and designing and creating puppets and Roman shields in design and technology.

They have worked so incredibly hard, especially in Maths when recently studying 2D and 3D shapes and nets. Also, in English when they have been reading, writing and then acting out play scripts. It has been great to see the children grow in enthusiasm and confidence as they have really taken on different character roles.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved, and we can't wait for next year!



Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have had a great term! Looking back over it, I am so proud of the learning the children have done, the progress each one of them has made, the fun we have had, and the team we have become. A few highlights this term, as shown by the photos, are the trip to Hammonds Farm, the pantomime this week, Forest School, trips to the library and park. Plus, everyone enjoyed making their puppets and Roman shields in DT. Music was a highlight for some of the children as they learned how to play the piano and drums! Hopefully your children have told you about all the busy learning we do in school, but just in case they don't (!), I wanted to tell you how much they have particularly worked hard in English (writing playscripts), maths, and science, this term. Our topic on states of matter in science has been really interesting and sparked some great discussions! Hopefully the children can describe to you what happens to the sugar in tea, and the salt in the sea! Melting chocolate was a definite favourite activity, especially the eating of the Christmas chocolates at the end!

Thank you for all your support this term – it really has been a pleasure working with your children. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas break. Rest well and we will go again in January! Merry Christmas! Mrs Drake



Lemon Class

We have had a fantastic first term in Key Stage 4 at Easthorpe School. Lemon Class are growing in independence and thinking about their futures, creating CVs, and taking on extra jobs and responsibilities. After our carwash to create a pool of money, we have been making craft to sell at our Christmas Market, to raise funds to decorate and equip our common rooms. We have been to Nottingham College to their sites in Basford and the city centre, as well as to Loughborough College, and spent time investigating some of the courses offered there. In English and Maths, students have sat past papers at Entry Level/Functional Skills and we have seen some impressive results. The level of creativity in Express Arts is quite astounding – from short story plans over entire whiteboards, to clay creature families, to full costumes for Marvel and DC characters, to bracelets for gothic female icons – I honestly don't know how they come up with their ideas! It's an honour and a privilege to be the teacher in Lemon Class – they're all brilliantly individual young people.



Pine Class



Pine class have been amazing this half term. In history, we have learnt about the Romans, including making our own shields and using them to recreate the formations used by the Roman army. Pupils also created their own working aqueducts. In DT we carried on the Roman theme and have done market research about modern attitudes to Roman food and we are looking forward to cooking and carrying out taste tests too. For PE, the children have been learning new skills at swimming and we have done some relaxing Tai Chi and some lively dancing. I have been impressed in the focus throughout the class in maths on the topics of angles, shapes and fractions – they should all feel very proud of their work. In English, we have been doing drama and the children have written, edited, performed and recorded some wonderful radio plays. I also attach some pictures of their awesome sculptures, made in response to the works of Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Andy Goldsworthy. They will have earned their rest over the holidays!

Uniform reminder

Just a reminder to everyone please can you ensure that for PE lessons, your child has a royal blue PE t-shirt, appropriate bottoms & suitable footwear in school at all times. PE t-shirts are available from the school office.

As we are now offering all pupils Forest School, they need to have appropriate clothes to wear in all weather conditions (e.g. waterproof shoes, coat and warm clothing) and these will need to stay in school. All pupils should have a coat appropriate for that season in school too.

Please ensure that pupils are wearing the correct school uniform. This is available to buy from the school office. Clothing for non-uniform days should be appropriate (e.g. no crop tops/short

skirts/hotpants etc). Please can you also make sure that girls are not wearing make up and false eyelashes to school.

School dinners

Please can you make sure that you complete dinner choices with your child at home using the Forms sent to you via email. This ensures that your child is getting dinner choices that they like. You will receive choices every 3 weeks. We would like dinner choices back as soon as possible. Children can choose between the dessert or the fruit option for pudding. We will not be

Behaviour in transport

This is a reminder to talk to your children about the importance of sensible and respectful behaviour when travelling to and from school in provided transport. All pupils travelling in taxis are representing Easthorpe and the values that we promote inside and outside of school. As such, we expect that pupils demonstrate exceptional behaviour in all settings, and we know that they are more than capable of doing this.

Fire Service visit

Earlier this year, Holly Class went to West Bridgford Fire Station and this half term, we welcomed the fire engine & members of the fire service to Easthorpe. We all learned a bit more about the importance of the fire service and enjoyed the opportunity to get into the fire engine too!



Table Cricket Competition

This half term, we were really pleased to be invited to the Table Cricket Tournament at Trent University's Clifton Campus, which was a fantastic experience for all involved. Team Easthorpe competed against 10 other schools & our pupil's represented school fantastically well. We were proud of their teamwork, confidence and positive attitude throughout the day. All pupils returned with certificates & a real sense of pride- well done to all who participated!

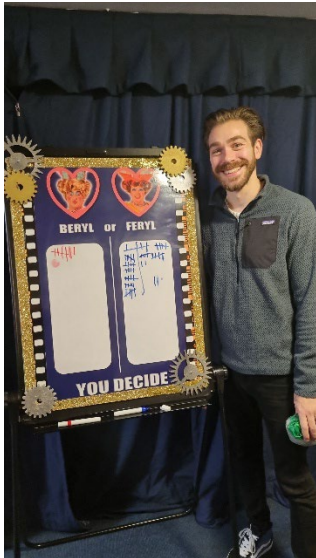


KS4 Expressive Arts Lace Market Theatre tour

KS4 students studying Expressive Arts were invited to The Lace Market Theatre to have a tour where we learned about sets, props and costumes. It's such a beautiful old building and fantastic to explore. We got bespoke advice on careers and hobbies related to the theatre and creativity. We met the cast, then had a touch tour where we created props as part of the production, "The Last Noel". This was a bittersweet comedy where the characters tell stories as they wait for family to arrive. Christmas is a time where you look around, and realise nothing changes, and yet everything has changed. There were songs and music and lot of laughs. When the play finished, we had to opportunity to speak to the cast and production staff, and even to show them some of our own creations. It was a fantastic festive evening!

Pantomime fun!

This half term, we have all been to Loughborough Town Hall to see Cinderella. It was a fantastic performance full of laughs and surprises, and we all really enjoyed it! Mr Ross was lucky enough to be selected to become the future husband of Feryl or Beryl; it was a unanimous decision that he should start the next chapter of his life with Feryl!



KS4 Christmas Market

KS4 created some amazing items to sell at their Christmas Market this half term. We were all blown away with their fantastic creativity and organisational skills & the Market was greatly enjoyed by all. Miss Gamble & Miss Kim would like to thank all of our young people and staff for their generosity and kind words for the market. The team made a whopping £98.25! This is also thanks to the kind donation from The Murdoch Family. The KS4 Christmas market will return again next year. Those heading up to KS4, you can start thinking about the amazing craft skills you have to offer! Thank you again from all KS4 and the staff and students of Easthorpe School.



Dates for your diary: Spring term 1

First day of term: Tuesday 5th January

Last day of term- Friday 27th March

Half-Term Holiday- Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February

INSET day: Monday 5th January

A message from Mrs Austin:

As we reach the end of the term, I just want to say a big thank you for your support. It really has been a fantastic term, packed full of exciting learning and special moments for the children.

We've been lucky to enjoy some wonderful experiences, including visits to the Gurdwara, the pantomime, and the local library, as well as a very exciting visit from the fire brigade. The children have loved every minute, and it's been lovely to see their enthusiasm and curiosity grow.

Like many schools at this time of year, we've also had our fair share of coughs and colds. We hope the Christmas break gives everyone the chance to rest, recover and enjoy some well-earned family time.

Thank you again for being such a supportive school community. On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to wish you a lovely, restful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas – keep safe.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Austin
Head teacher

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