

Dear friends



As I write there is a great sense of anticipation for our whole school trip to the pantomime. Filled with excited chatter, our children are thoroughly looking forward to watching Cinderella at the Theatre Royal.

It is lovely to celebrate and enjoy the season as a community together, thanks to our supportive community partners and PTA. With the current restrictions, we have hugely missed being able to invite parents to school to share the learning and long for a time when we can see our parents sitting in our hall again as an audience.

It has been a busy term with lots of wonderful learning opportunities and I would like to thank our wonderful staff team for enabling such a rich curriculum and variety of opportunities for all our children.

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing Christmas break.

Alison Weir
Headteacher

ASPIRATION:

Children inspired by Arts Award

It is wonderful to be able to share some of our children's achievements with you.



Continuing with our Artsmark journey at Howard, we are extremely proud of our Year 5 and 6 pupils who recently achieved their Discover Arts Award from Trinity College London. This was based on work around the performing arts and workshops with the Theatre Royal in the summer term.

The Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents - it's creative, valuable and accessible. There are five levels of Arts Award so our children can continue to work towards the next level, so watch this space!

Our Year 4 children have been working hard on their creative writing and took part in a recent competition with Young Writers. We are so pleased to share that their adventure

stories will be published as part of a Young Writers collection in a book in the near future.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back James Campbell, author of *The Funny Life of Pets*, in person to our school this term. Our children thoroughly enjoyed hearing extracts from his books and having the opportunity to ask him questions about what inspired his writing and his life as an author.

Reading is so important and it is fabulous to be able to share such exciting real-life experiences to inspire our young people.





EXPERIENCES:

Cathedral beckons for musical youngsters

Christmas is coming – thanks to a partnership with St Edmundsbury Cathedral

What a flurry of musical activity at Howard this term! As part of our Artsmark journey we have been developing our music provision, linking with colleagues at Suffolk County Music hub to provide brass instrumental tuition for our children in Year 5. Playing an instrument has been a first for many and enabling the opportunity to practise at home has been hugely exciting, building on our key value of experience.

Through links with the Arts Council, a colleague from Westley Middle School ran a series of singing workshops for every child in school. Coupled with some staff CPD, we are now set to practise for our own staff Christmas song...

There was a real buzz when our Year 3 and 4 gathered for their inaugural choir session. Partnering with Tim Parsons,

Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the children started on some

Christmas songs. In the future we plan to perform in the cathedral itself.



Our Girls Football Team off to their first tournament

NURTURING:

Life on the farm – and ancient Greek

Partnering with local town councillor, Katie Parker, and the Field of Dreams farm in Thurston, our nursery children and parents have benefitted from a six-week programme of learning about life on the farm. Transported by minibus each week to Thurston, our youngest have had the opportunity to learn how to care for and feed the animals – sheep, llamas, pigs and chickens to name a few.

They have also been learning about growing plants and enjoying some practical hands-on experiences. It has been a wonderful opportunity, funded by Katie Parker and the town council, for our children to experience some very different outcomes, learning where our food comes from and the importance of caring for the natural world around us.

Another focus for us this term has been developing our oracy skills through providing real-life talking opportunities. Taking part in Oracy Odyssey in October, organised by Voice 21, our children had the challenge to experience 12 different types of talk opportunity over the month.

Oracy was a highly prized skill in ancient Greece. Inspired by ancient Greek scholars, who were expected to be able to speak convincingly on a range of topics in a variety of settings, our children were challenged to use their voices to talk in a range of different contexts for a number of purposes.





COMMUNITY:

Sport and fundraising keep children happy

We continue to work with our community partners in many different ways. Our wonderful PTA has secured funding from some very generous local community partners for our children to visit the Theatre Royal to watch the pantomime. This will be a fantastic experience for our children and we are very grateful to those who helped make it happen.

Sporting events and competitions have been able to take place this term and we were proud to host the Bury Schools Partnership cross-country running event in October.

Our newly formed Year 5/6 school football team took part in the EFL cup competition organised by Cambridge United. Our girls' football team did us proud at the Bury Schools Partnership event at Westley and some of our Year 3s and 4s had the opportunity to represent us at the multi-sports event. We are so proud of our young people - the positive feedback and the awards won for their excellent sportsmanship.

In November, we had a visit from Pudsey, kindly organised by Asda, to promote fundraising for Children in Need. Our children were extremely excited to see Pudsey in real life and it was a treat to see their surprised faces! We raised £108 for Children in Need.

We have also been supporting the work by the Howard Green Hearts to collect hamper donations for Christmas. With a strong vision for working together as a community, please do continue to get involved in this important work focusing on working together in our local community.

