

Dear friends



At the end of a busy term, it is a delight to spend some time reflecting on our journey as a school over the year. One song that we sang in assembly last week was around celebrating moving through the seasons. I feel very fortunate to share and celebrate the amazing learning that our young people have experienced at Howard with them week by week. Time moves on and our journey continues with new experiences opening up just around the corner. Our children have benefited from the support of our fantastic staff team; a very special group of hard-working people who have tirelessly given of their time to nurture and inspire our children. Our nursery has grown so much that we have recently employed more staff and we do now have a few more places available. We are growing so do contact us if you are looking for a place, sooner rather than later!

We continue to look for opportunities to work with our community and are looking to partner with local groups and businesses. Currently we are looking for governors to join our governing body, so if this is something that you feel you could work with us on, please do get in touch via the school office.

Alison Weir
Headteacher

ASPIRATION:

Active children make the most of Active Week

Active Week and taking part in sporting tournaments have been some highlights of this term.



Focusing on promoting healthy lifestyle choices and physical fitness, throughout the week there were opportunities to try out hockey, footgolf and even a skipping challenge, inspired by five times world record holder Pete Thompson from Skipbeatz. This high octane and energetic workshop was a real highlight, with children taking up the active skipping challenge in the days that followed.

Both our Year 5/6 boys and girls football teams have taken part in the Anglian Learning Primary Football tournament and made us proud. Our girls team came a very close second, only missing out on penalties. However, this inspired them

and fuelled their competitive spirit for the next tournament organised through the Bury Schools Partnership and they won all four of their games, conceding no goals.

Cricket has also been a feature of this term, with our after-school cricket club starting up and our team thoroughly enjoying representing our school at the Bury Schools tournament.

Two excellent theatre productions from Doorstep theatre, in partnership with the Theatre Royal, also allowed the children to explore themes of celebration and mental health in an inspiring and accessible way. Giant foil party poppers were a key part of the workshop for Key Stage 1!

EXPERIENCES:



Performing a play, feeding animals and creating sculptures – all part of school life

Our term has been action-packed with many different experiences.

Year 6 took part in the Bury St Edmunds heritage event as part of the Abbey 1000 celebrations. Writing their own song and performing a short play about the story of the historical figure St Edmunds in the Abbey gardens was a really special moment for our Year 6 group and an opportunity to share some of our creative talent.

Year 5 treated us to a short

performance with their brass musical instruments. Having started from scratch this year, weeks of hard work and practice came to fruition as they performed as an ensemble. We were very proud!

With creative juices flowing, Year 4 were inspired by their Henry Moore studio visit to create their own 3-D sculptures which we have proudly on display in our entrance area.

We are so fortunate to have Lackford Lakes on our doorstep in Suffolk and our Year 2/3 class thoroughly enjoyed their recent trip to learn some map-reading geography skills and to try pond dipping. Who knew such a rich variety of creatures lived so close!

Not to be outdone, our Year 1/2 class have been making the most of our minibus and have been off to visit the farm with opportunities to feed the animals. As I write, they are planning their next trip to the beach with their learning theme of Coastline.

Visits to the farm for our nursery children and exploring the local area for our reception class have been high on the agenda. You may have spotted our walking trips to visit local businesses on our facebook page!



“ Who knew such a rich variety of creatures lived so close!

NURTURING:

In good voice for the Platinum Jubilee

This term has seen our Year 3 and 4 children busy practising for our Anglian Learning Primary Jubilee singing event – joining seven other primary schools from across the Trust at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.



The musical theme of the event was an eco-theme to reflect the interests of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our children shared the song that they had been involved in composing at the Celebration event at Snape Maltings earlier in the year – Find Your Light.

Emma Mason, who co-ordinated the event across the schools, explained: “The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee is a momentous occasion and Anglian Learning primary schools are delighted to come together and celebrate this event through music. We know that singing lovely songs in the beauty of St Edmundsbury

cathedral will leave both pupils and staff with lasting memories of this special event.”

Jonathan Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning said: “This wonderful commemoration of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee has provided an unforgettable experience for pupils from all our primary schools. We encourage our schools to collaborate and what better example than an event such as this, where the singing skills of our pupils can be demonstrated and shared together. My thanks to Emma and all staff involved in the preparation for this brilliant opportunity for our pupils.”

Celebrating the beauty of diversity

The beauty of diversity is that we all bring different interests and talents with us.

It has been a delight to see the confidence of our young people being nurtured in so many different ways over the year. Singing as part of the Young Voices choir at the O2 was an unforgettable experience for our Year 5/6 children. A memory that will stay with them for a long time!

Our Year 3/4 choir also had the opportunity to take part in a chorister singing experience day; working with Tim Parsons, Director of Music, they sang in the cathedral, creating a very beautiful and impressive sound.

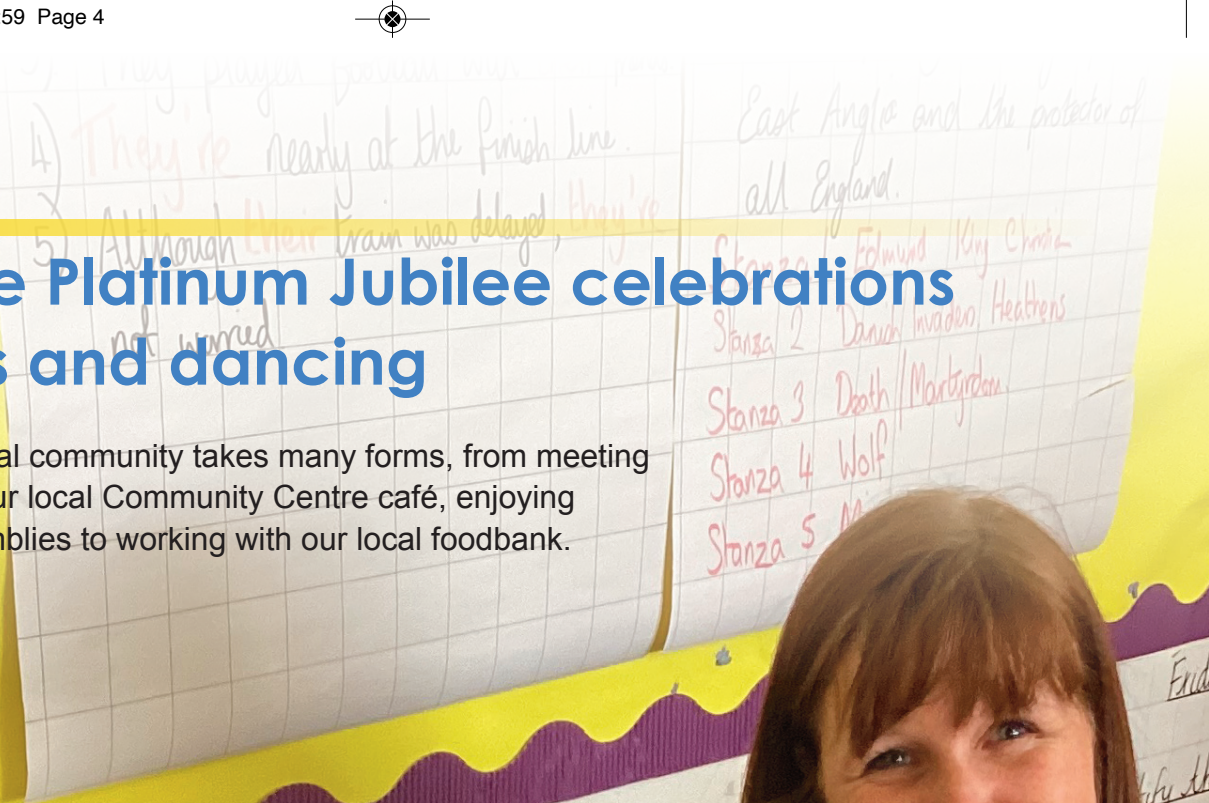
Singing is such an inclusive and community-building experience. Each class has really enjoyed the chance to do some singing and drumming with our local rock choir director, Daniel Ribbits. Seeing their confidence grow week by week and the children volunteering to sing solos, play rhythms and dance uninhibited has been a real joy.



COMMUNITY:

Joining the Platinum Jubilee celebrations with songs and dancing

Engaging with our local community takes many forms, from meeting with the group from our local Community Centre café, enjoying Open the Book assemblies to working with our local foodbank.



Mindful of our safeguarding priorities, we have been working with our local Police Community Support Officer and the Criminal Exploitation team to be proactive in helping our young people learn to keep themselves safe. We have also loved having parents back in the building for our reading cafes and workshops too.

These opportunities to re-connect with those around us have been very precious for us in school. A pinnacle of our Summer term was our Jubilee

celebration on the field, which saw lots of our parents and families come together to join us for some magical performances from each class. The children sang a song from each decade of the Queen's reign with some amazing soloists and demonstrating smooth dance moves! Enjoying snacks, some games and the chance to gather together to chat was a lovely occasion and there was a great buzz across the school. We look forward to many more occasions to share together.