



Dear friends

As we approach the festive break, it is a delight to share with you some of the activity and learning that has been happening at Howard Community Academy. As ever, we have been busy through the Autumn term as we watch the seasons change around us. Our greatest excitement has been moving back into our Key Stage 1 newly refurbished part of our building, which looks amazing. The classrooms and spaces are lovely and it was wonderful to welcome in parents to share the space at our parents evenings and our Open evening for prospective reception children.

Over the term, we have had many visitors and so many have complimented us on our calm and welcoming school and shared overwhelmingly positive feedback. This is a huge team effort and our staff team have continue to work hard to ensure that our children know and experience first-hand our four values:- aspiration, experiences, nurture and community. We know our children are superstars

and it is a pleasure to have them represent our school at events with local schools and across Anglian Learning Trust.

If you are interested in partnering with us further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Alison Weir, Headteacher

## Aspiration

We were delighted to receive our Gold Artsmark award in August. This recognises the high quality journey with the arts in our school over the past two years, marking a significant achievement for us. The Artsmark award is a national award and marks the culmination of purposeful planning, partnership work with local arts and cultural partners and fantastic exploration of the arts in our school. Some of the activities such as our "Lost Words" project in Early Years, play writing in year 6 with the Theatre Royal, brass tuition in year 5, singing performances with Young Voices and Snape Maltings through to our Arts leader led whole school Minecraft-themed whole school arts day are just part of the whole school team effort to ensure that the arts are a key part of experiences for our children. Working with local artists such as Alfie Carpenter in partnership with the Bury Arts society has been a delight and inspired our creative thinking.

We welcomed the Arts Council England to visit and see our amazing school and have been invited to host visits from other educators in England.

Our Early Years team are embarking on a project around developing children's language and curiosity as part of Anglian Learning's creativity collaboratives project, funded by the Arts Council. This looks to be an exciting development and the team are looking forward to working across the Trust with other settings to share good practice.

We also continue in partnership with the Royal Ballet as part of the Primary Steps programme for year 3 children and also in partnership with Dance East across the school as we look to further develop children's love of dance and movement. It is a great privilege to see some of our school moves!



Year 2 children enjoyed a trip to the Skills Escalator Day at West Suffolk College





## Learning outside the classroom!



Our year 6 children enjoyed an amazing residential trip to Norfolk Lakes, where they challenged themselves to take on new challenges. Stand up paddleboarding was a real favourite, although not everyone managed to stay dry! Other activities included fencing, rock climbing and kayaking. They definitely used up lots of energy and were much more subdued on the coach home than the way there. It is a great opportunity to try out new activities with friends from school and an experience the children will remember for the rest of their lives.

Not to be outdone, Year 5 children took part in the Big Sing at Snape Maltings where they sang on stage in front of a live audience. The children described the experience as awesome and, although describing feeling nervous at first,



had a great time. We are grateful to Councillor Stennett who helped fund some transport costs and enabled these experiences.

We have been out and about locally too. Year 2 have been out to visit Bury St Edmunds library and loved exploring all of the books, while Badger class enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge, linked with their science learning.

Working with Bury Sports Partnership, we have taken part in football tournaments and multi-sports festivals. We have been hugely proud of our sportsmanship and the way our children have represented us. Lots of rich learning experiences for all!



# Nurturing

## Food for thought!

Our Eco-council have been taking a lead on trying to minimise our energy consumption, as part of working towards a more sustainable approach.

As part of the Energy Sparks programme, they met with representatives from energy companies to discuss way in which we could save electricity and save our planet. As well as leading an assembly to tell others about our power-down day, they have been active in producing posters to remind others to turn off unnecessary lights. They have been encouraging others to save paper and recycle where possible. We are so proud of their efforts to save our planet.

Our lovely new part of our building is a result of our ongoing refurbishment project. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed in our reception area and Key Stage 1/Early Years area. Currently phase 3 is underway which will develop our library area and refurbish some of our Key Stage 2 classrooms.

In the Spring term, this will extend to our dining area and hall too. What a difference it makes having a lovely fresh newly refurbished building that is more enticing and suitable for modern learning. A huge thank you to our caretaker, Tom Chaplin, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to enable the project in so many ways.

Breakfast club continues to run every morning. The club is open to all and includes activities and breakfast for all ages. Pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding are entitled to a funded place. If you are interested in finding out more, please do contact the school office.



# Update



**Artsmark  
Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



**ROYAL  
BALLET  
SCHOOL**



**ANGLIAN LEARNING**



# Community



## Community involvement in schools enriches students and families

We are delighted to be working with some of our community partners. We took part in the annual Royal British Legion art completion on the theme of the Airforce. Three children were

selected as winners for their poems and artwork. They were invited to lay a wreath at the Remembrance day service at Angel Hill. We were so proud of Vinnie who represented us on the day with representatives of other organisations.

In building opportunities for all, in collaboration with West Suffolk College, we have been offering parents the opportunity to learn on online courses on a variety of themes from internet safety to healthy eating. As a geographical neighbour, we are very fortunate to be able to link with their services and facilities.

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Skills Escalator Day where they met representatives of lots of different careers.

As part of our annual fundraising, we were delighted to raise £246 for Children in Need and as I write, we are preparing for our Christmas Fayre to raise funds for enrichment opportunities for our children.

Thank you to our wonderful parents, who have supported our children in so many ways this term. We have enjoyed sharing the children's learning with you in so many ways through reading cafés, art workshops and class assemblies. We look forward to more in the Spring term ahead.

**Wishing you all a  
restful and relaxing  
Christmas**

Alison Weir, Headteacher



# Community Update