

Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds



Spring Term 2024

Here, children thrive...



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Boughton Heath Academy

Here, children thrive...

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28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of this spring term, We are pleased to share with you the latest updates and highlights from Boughton Heath Academy. This term has been filled with moments of joy, achievement, and growth; and we're excited to reflect on our collective successes together.

Firstly, we want to acknowledge the retirement of Mrs. Thomasson, who has been an invaluable member of our staff. Her dedication and commitment to our school community will have a lasting impact and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. After the Easter break, we warmly welcome Mrs. Spauls who will be joining our team as Learning Support Mentor, and we are sure that her expertise and passion will greatly benefit all of the children in school.

We have been delighted with the reaction to our enhancement of our Physical Education provision, with the addition of an extra hour and our new fitness session, "Wake Up, Shake Up" every Monday morning. This expansion reflects our commitment to promote health, fitness and well-being among our pupils which is more important than ever during the current social and economic landscape.

At Boughton Heath, we believe that everyone has a role to play in the continued success of the collective, and with the introduction of Crew and HOWLs (Habits of Work and Learning), we aspire to foster this culture of collaboration and responsibility. In assembly today, we have asked the children to start thinking about how they can display our HOWLs outside of school. On the next page you will find a copy of our HOWLs for you to refer to with your child. The summer term will see us begin project-based learning which will provide our pupils opportunities to display our HOWLs and Crew culture through connections between curriculum areas leading to a clear project outcome. Many of these projects will involve and take place within the local community; and we were delighted to begin this partnership with parents during the recent science week - our thanks go to all of our guest speakers.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we have an exciting line-up of activities planned. Immediately after the Easter break we see the return of the on site swimming pool for junior children, and we will also be facilitating the drum workshops after overwhelmingly positive feedback from the children (and staff!) regarding last years event. The first week back will seek the return of the Usborne book fair which was hugely popular last year. Our after-school clubs will continue to expand, making full use of our school field and providing enriching opportunities for our pupils beyond the classroom. We hope this commitment to prioritising personal development, equips our pupils with the essential life skills that we know are key to nurturing their holistic growth.

As we prepare to enjoy the Easter break, we wish to express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support and engagement with our school. Your involvement is integral to our success, and we are truly grateful for the trust you place in us.

Lastly, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for an enjoyable and peaceful break. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our pupils back on Monday 15th April, for what promises to be another exciting and productive term at Boughton Heath Academy.

Kindest regards,

Mr Lenton and Mrs Sumnall

Executive Headteacher & Head of School

Boughton Heath Academy



HOWLs

Habits Of Work and Learning



We will all....

Work Hard: mastering knowledge and skills

- ◊ Take **responsibility** for our learning by using resources, asking questions and accepting help when needed.
- ◊ Trust our crew and contribute fully to learn without limits.
- ◊ Grapple with learning showing **determination** and grit.

Get Smart: producing high quality work

- ◊ Complete tasks to the best of our ability to produce beautiful work.
- ◊ Give **kind**, specific feedback to our crew.
- ◊ Listen and act upon feedback to improve our work.

Be Kind: growing character

- ◊ Communicate with **kindness** and **respect** everyone.
- ◊ Cooperate with others and include everyone, resolving problems peacefully.
- ◊ Be stewards of resources and our community.

Reception

People Who Help Us

During Spring 1 reception children enjoyed learning all about People Who Help Us. Our focus text was 'The Jolly Postman'. We learnt about



we created. We learnt how to blend colours too. We did some observational drawing and painting of daffodils as well as patterned caterpillars and symmetrical butterflies. We have loved our new light table/water sensory area this half term too.

and poems about different vehicles and learnt new vocabulary to describe them. We talked about which mode of transport we would need to travel on to get to places as well as sorting them by whether they travel on land, water or in the air. We also carried out some experiments to see which vehicles travelled the furthest.



different occupations that involve helping people and how they do that. We learnt about what happens at the post office and how we send a letter. We were very excited to write our own letters and send them to our families at home! We also discussed what we wanted to do when we grow up and it was interesting that some of us wanted to be the same things! We even had a visit from the fire service who brought along a fire engine and we learnt about all the different parts. We got to go in the engine as well as spray water!

Growing

This half term we have been learning all about growing. We firstly talked about what grows



Transport

After learning all about 'People Who Help Us', our next topic was 'Transport'. We shared many stories



before learning about what plants need to grow. We also changed our creative area display this half term and made it fit in with spring time! We now have some lovely water colour flowers that



Year 1

History - The Beatles

Year 1 had a fantastic time on their trip to The Beatles museum in Liverpool. We learnt a lot



about what life was like in the past and how The Beatles became famous. We also had a very wavy journey on 'The Snowdrop' ferry too which was decorated by the artist we have been learning about, Peter Blake.



Forest School

We had a fun filled forest school day in Year 1. Making eco-systems in a jar, orienteering and singing around the campfire with

toasted marshmallows. Delicious!



Geography



Our geography topic in spring term was "Our Local Area". The children loved discovering where their houses were on the map and looking at them via Google Maps. They learnt about human and physical features through our walk to Caldley Valley which was a wonderful trip out. The skills learnt through the topic, such as Bird's Eye view, compass points and map keys, helped the children to develop a real understanding of what a map is and how they work.



Science

Our Animal topic in Spring 1 science led to lots of discussion about animals we knew about and what features they have. The children spent lots of time sorting and classifying the animals by features, such as which animals



have scales and which animals can fly. The topic linked well with our literacy book of The Lion Inside as children were able to discuss the animals which lived alongside the lion. Science continued in the Spring Two term looking at plants, and also about how we can care for our environment. The children showed a wealth of knowledge and a real empathy for looking after the planet which was wonderful to see.



Year 2

Year 2 have continued to work out that a plant with no light will only survive for so long! We'd love to know who's sunflower is still growing at home. They have continued to grow weekly as a crew and have shown a wonderful can do attitude.

Maths & Writing



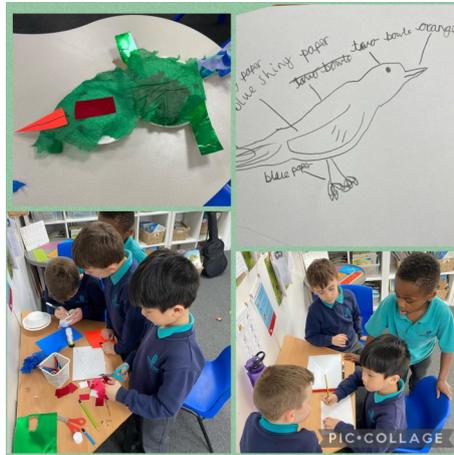
You may have seen the children's wonderful dragon stories, their recounts of Beeston castle or diary of the young boy Farid. Year 2 have continued to perfect their skill of join sentences and adding further detail. This term has brought about lots of new rules for spelling and they have worked incredibly hard to show their understanding. The children have worked hard on perfecting their skills in writing and it will be great to see this progress further in the summer term.

In Maths, they have consolidated the four operations before moving on to height and length. Year 2 have enjoyed challenging themselves with trickier questions during the past few weeks and have worked hard to develop their reasoning skills.

Science

Earlier on in the term, there was a focus on plants and how to keep them healthy - Year 2 enjoyed the observation over time, planting seeds and watching them grow with or without their needs. They found

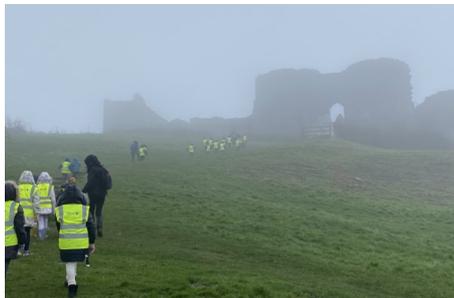
out that a plant with no light will only survive for so long! We'd love to know who's sunflower is still growing at home.



History—Castles



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about castles this past half term, engaged by the immense heights of the curtain



walls and the history that lies amongst them. They particularly enjoyed exploring how life was different from how we live today and they know which job they wouldn't have wanted. Although it was a soggy trip to Beeston Castle to round off our learning, it was full of enjoyment, new

knowledge and left lots of children wanting to know more about the past. Where shall we go next?

Computing—Coding

Computing this half term has definitely been a favourite of the year with coding on Purple Mash.

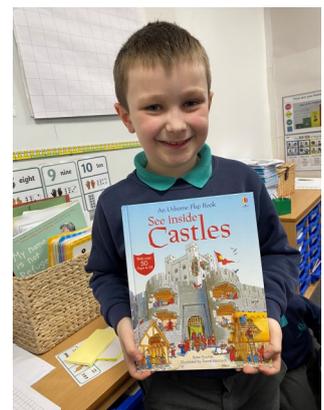


Year 2 have been tinkering with different animations and creating algorithms to instruct objects.

Reading

Last but not least, I have to say a HUGE well done to year 2 for their efforts with reading this half term. Their reading has come on immensely and this is down to the effort put in both in school and at home. Thank you to all families for supporting your children with this also.

Once again, thank you for all of the support from families and the donations of birthday books. Have a lovely, restful break and I look forward to seeing everyone in the summer for our final term.



Year 3

We absolutely loved our Year 3 residential with some children



wanting to go on another one this year! As you can see we did a multitude of activities, which included archery, climbing, abseiling, search and rescue, orienteering, cannon ball run, night line and bush craft skills. We also had a cinema experience and a camp-fire, which we sang songs around and experienced



some mindful exercises observing the flames. We had an amazing time learning new skills, building our

confidence, independence, resilience and also learning to make our own beds! We loved our four course breakfasts, with the sausage, egg and hash browns being our favourite!

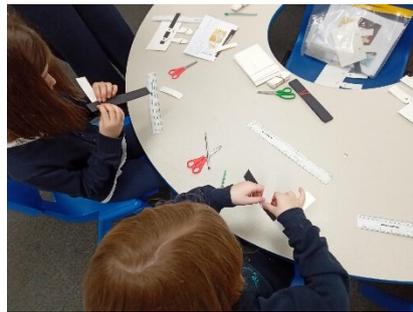


As part of our DT project, we have made puppets to recreate the story of the Stone Age boy. For the puppets to be successful, they had to be able to move. We used linkages and levers to ensure that our puppets had moveable parts. To start the project off, we looked at the design brief and created our own

success criteria. We then started to explore different designs and linkages to make the parts move. We focused on the



part of the story where the characters were around the fire dancing and also when the bear came to attack them at the end of the story. Once we knew our designs, we then had to look at how to use the split pins to make the people move like they were dancing and how to make the bears move open and close. Next came the making part, which we thoroughly enjoyed but not as much as the decorating part right at the end!



In Geography we have been learning all about the city of Liverpool. Here is one of our favourite lessons which included some very important

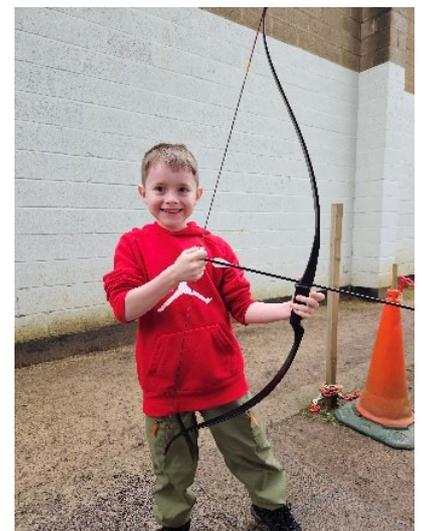


geographical skills: OS symbols, map reading skills and using grid references. At the start of every lesson, we always look at what we have learnt previously. This can be the last geography lesson or the last geography unit too. Here we looked at OS symbols



from our UK study unit in September and reading maps. Firstly, we had to solve a riddle by reading a map and the OS symbols. This

then led us nicely onto reading grid references with a 2 figure number and then building up to 4 figure grid reference number on a UK map. We used the grid reference numbers to help find where the major UK cities are on the map.



Year 4

This has been our most exciting term! We have been so busy! We have written our own stories by delving into the world of volcanoes! From writing narratives about escaping the disastrous Pompeii to writing stories about other volcanoes

tables at the end of the day to help increase our fluency. The harder the times table, the

enthusiasm for sound and electricity! We know how to muffle sound, keep safe with electricity and so much more. We really enjoy our science lessons!



And finally, the most exciting point in the year; the residential. Wow! They were so well behaved, showing lovely manners and kindness and displayed our Crew culture beautifully. I really cannot pick our favourite activity but I know a lot loved the laser activities!

greater the challenge! We have also begun exploring fractions and decimals which some of the time can be quite scary but we have conquered each lesson with



exploding with anger!

Throughout both pieces we have adapted and manipulated expanded noun phrases by moving words around and adding prepositions, adverbs and different conjunctions.

In Maths, our times tables



our determination!

Throughout topic, we have travelled back in time but this time to Roman Britain and we couldn't believe how much influence they had. We have also continued to explore volcanoes and earthquakes, using our shared reading book for extra facts, we are officially volcanologists.



knowledge has flourished! We have really enjoyed using our lollipop sticks and firing times

Along side all this exciting learning, we have shown a very clear understanding and

Year 5

This term, Year 5 have worked incredibly hard and made fantastic progress. As always, they have been a delight to teach and it's been a joy for both myself and Mrs T!



understand how climate change is impacting the country. We also developed our understanding of pollution, how its cause and the impact it can have.

Science

During our first half term, we studied materials, their properties and their suitability to perform. We completed many investigations, with a focus on variables and fair testing. This half term, we have completed units on Animals Including Humans and Living Things and Their Habitats. The children learnt about the development of humans, reproduction and we even created a whole-class life-cycle. We then looked at life-cycles of mammals, insects, amphibians and birds and compared and contrasted them.

English

In Spring 1, we studied the Vikings. We read a story called 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and wrote our own myths. This half term, we've investigated Space and wrote biographies about

Maths

We have covered lots of Mathematics strands this term, including Multiplication, Division, Fractions and Decimals, Measure and Statistics. We've also all made brilliant progress with our times table recall.

Topic: History and Geography

During this term, we started the year learning about The Vikings. We focussed on investigating different historical sources and understanding why they invaded Britain. In Spring 2, we completed a local study on climate change and sustainability. The children learnt about what it

Art

The children studied the work of Henri Rousseau and created their own interpretation of one of his pieces

DT

The children created bird hides using a variety of materials. They designed them using a design brief and success criteria to ensure they were suitable to withstand the British weather.



Chris Hadfield, the first Canadian astronaut to perform a spacewalk. The children have worked very hard to include all taught features within their writing, including omitted relative clauses, cohesive devices and multi-clause sentences.



means to be sustainable and did a study of The Philippines to



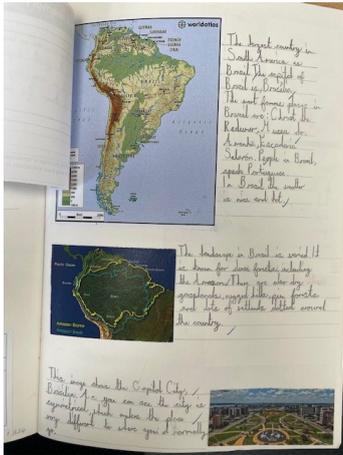
Year 6

This term in Geography has been dedicated to an in-depth study of

commercial and governmental purposes. They loved using atlases and Google Earth to find This term in Year 6 has been

humans. Additionally, an investigation into heart rate variations before and after exercise explained the importance of a balanced diet and regular physical activity for overall health. This exploration also shed light on how different substances and lifestyle choices can affect the body's wellbeing.

Year 6 honed their creative talent during art lessons this term. After revisiting the proportions of drawing faces, and remembering that the eyes are half way down the skull, they began to learn how to add light and shade to their portraits. Using watercolours to develop tone, they realised that the facial features began to take shape. Using this new knowledge, they then studied the artist Frida Kahlo and examined the details and mark making that she used in her art work. In her famous painting, 'Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird' Frida wears a necklace made of thorns, and a small hummingbird sits on her shoulder. This painting is very powerful because it shows Frida's pain and suffering, but also her



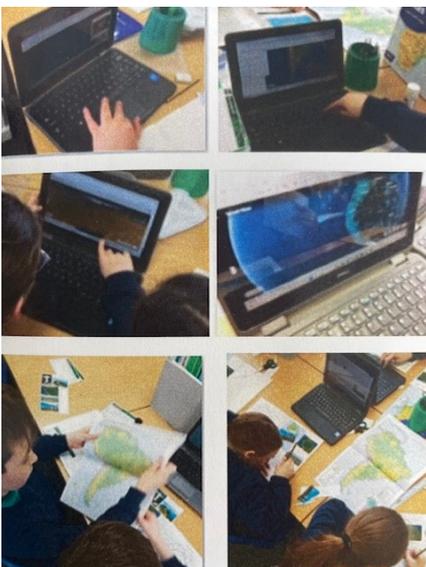
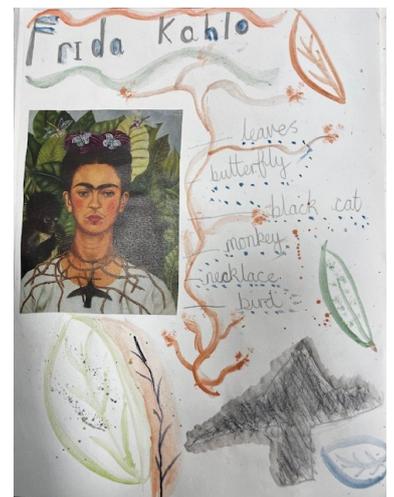
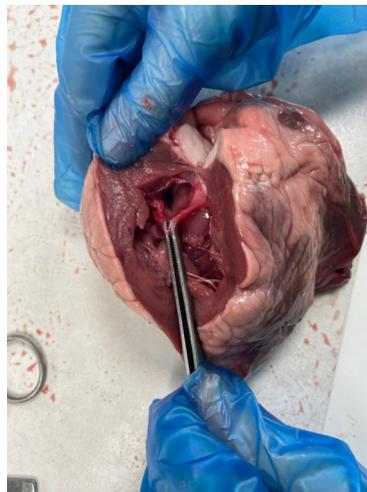
	Brasilia	London
What is the history of this city?	Brasilia was founded in 1960 and was the first planned city in 1960. It is a modern city with modern architecture.	London was founded in 43 AD by the Romans and the Saxons.
Where is this located?	Brasilia is the capital of Brazil and is located in the Federal District.	London is located in the bottom of England, specifically in the South-East.
What is the climate like?	Brasilia is described as a tropical savanna with wet and dry seasons.	London has a temperate climate with cool summers and wet winters.
What do you know about the people?	Brasilia is a city that is mainly made of concrete and is known for its modern architecture and urban planning.	London has a diverse population with people from all over the world.
What do you know about the environment?	Brasilia has approximately 1675 km ² of urban area.	London normally has around a 50% chance of rain.
What do you know about the population?	Brasilia's population is around 2.5 million with a growth rate of 1.2%.	London's population is approximately 9 million and its growth rate is 0.2%.
What is pollution like?	Brasilia's air quality is rated good and so is their pollution level.	London's pollution is also rated good, but air quality is rated 2.

filled with exciting scientific

South America, with a special focus on the captivating regions of Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest. We learnt that South America is the fourth largest continent in the world and is located in the Western Hemisphere surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The children understood that the equator crosses South America, making some of the continent very hot and humid, while other regions have different climates. The fact that South America is home to the world's longest mountain range, also gave Mrs G the opportunity to tell the joke asking where the Andes are..... at the end of your armies. After they finished laughing, the children were amazed to realise that Brasilia is designed in the shape of an aeroplane with specific zones for residential,



discoveries. We delved into the intricacies of the circulatory system, learning to identify and name its key components. Through a hands-on heart dissection, guided by Mrs. Tabb, the children gained a deeper understanding of the heart's structure and functions. Whilst learning about the function of blood vessels, students



discovered how nutrients and water are transported throughout the bodies of animals and

strength and resilience. The children tried their best to recreate their own version of the painting using techniques they had developed in mixed media. Year 6 are looking forward to their residential at Lake Windermere this term; the mud and the constant threat of rain make it more fun! We will see you on the other side.

Other news

Sports at Boughton Heath

What a busy term of sports we have had! Children have taken part in many competitions and festivals for indoor athletics, football, kurling, dodgeball and netball.



The Junior Cross Country team took part in a competition against other local schools at the beginning of March. They performed brilliantly and supported each other with our crew culture.

We look forward to the arrival of the swimming pool again in the summer term. All Junior children will take part in an extensive swimming course. Our curriculum aim is for all pupils to leave primary school being able to swim at least 25 metres.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We continue to increase our offer of extra-curricular clubs across the school. Some of the clubs on offer this term were craft club, story club, dance, basketball, football, gymnastics, multi-skills, choir, chess, stop motion club and stem club. We thank staff for the time they give to provide children with these

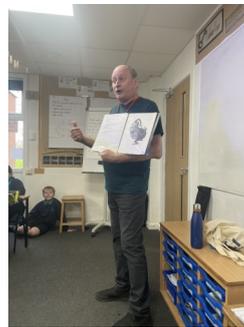


enrichment opportunities.

World Book Day

It was lovely to see such a wide range of book characters in school on World Book Day! The children all enjoyed sharing their favourite books and reading and writing poetry. The next day, we had an author, Damien Harvey, visit school

and delivered story hero workshops to all classes. Many thanks to the PTA who fully funded this visit. Our aim is for all children to find pleasure in reading and days like these help us to understand the variety of books children enjoy.



PTA

Many thanks to our wonderful PTA for organising events for our school community and also for contributing funds towards whole school projects such as the author visit, Christmas theatre trip and resources for children. Lots of fun was had at the



recent Spring break Disco!

Residentials

Children in Years 3, 4 and 6 have taken part in a residential this term. They have taken part in many adventurous outdoor activities such as canoeing, abseiling, mountain biking, archery and many more. We see children conquer fears and develop friendships during these invaluable experiences. Year 5 are visiting the Conwy Centre straight after the Easter break and we wish

them a wonderful experience. A huge thanks to all of the staff who plan, book and accompany these visits.

The School and Eco Councils

The school council has been busy this term finding out what helps us to improve our work, helping us to improve our feedback routines. As an Eco Council we have been looking at what we can do to improve our school grounds. We have organised litter picking sessions and we are currently planning to create a wild flower garden.

KS1 & KS2 SATs Information Evenings

Meetings have taken place for Year 2 and Year 6 parents, informing them about these national tests. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with school.

Year One Phonics Screening Information Evening

Year One parents have a meeting on 18th April to find out about the national phonics screening that takes place in June. If you have any further questions about phonics and reading, please contact the school office.

Year Four Multiplication Check

Year Four children are expected to quickly recall all of their times tables by the end of Year Four. There is a national check on this in June. More information will be shared with parents just after the Easter break.

Share the learning

We continue to enjoy our share the learning mornings each half term. There is a real buzz around school during these events.

Children take great pride showing and explaining their work to family members.





Local Governing Body



Andrew Vaughan – Co-opted Governor

As we fast approach the Easter Holidays and the end of the Spring term, on behalf of the board of governors, I want to say thank you to Mr Lenton, Mrs Sumnall and all the wonderful teaching and support staff at Boughton Heath Academy. As ever, their commitment and dedication this year has been tireless.

Spring 2024 has personal significance for me as it marks the four-year anniversary of me taking on the role of governor at Boughton Heath. I am now entering my second spell as governor at the school. As a parent of a child currently in year 6, nearing the end of their schooling at BHA, (how time has flown!) my role is now moving from parent to co-opted governor. I am keen to use my experiences of governance to date to further help, challenge and support the strategic thinking of the school.

Taking this opportunity to look back at my first four years in a governance role reminds me of many standout moments. My first meeting, way back in March 2020 was right at the start of the UK's first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though the memory still seems somewhat recent, it is amazing to reflect back on how much we have all gone through in this time.

Now, as the challenge of two lockdowns and online schooling at home are fading into the ether, it is wonderful to see the school, its children, staff and wider communities once again thriving in what resembles an older normality.

In the first two years of my role it was difficult to fully compare annual reporting to assess how successful the teaching and learning at the school really is. It is only now that we once again have year on year data to analyse that we are able to see that the academic progress at BHA is well above the national average. This is testament to the implementation of an imaginative curriculum and the sheer hard work and skill of the teaching and support team.

As a governor I am fortunate to go into school on several occasions during the academic year. This can be to observe key moments like SATs testing or to visit and report back on my specialist link governor role, Pupil Premium. Whilst on site I am aware of how grounded and happy the children appear. Children effectively use approaches like zones of regulation and jigsaw to help self-regulate their emotions and get them in the right mindset for learning. The responsibility given to year 6 pupils to buddy up with a reception child certainly has been a constant source of excitement in our household! My observation of content learners is triangulated by talking to the pupils to gather a perception of their whole school experience whilst I am visiting. This valuable insight, alongside pupil and parent surveys enable us a governor team to confidently validate the school's overall vision of 'here children thrive.'

With classes in the midst of residential season, I must also thank all the individual teaching and support staff for their planning and organisation of such valuable experiences. Learning outside the classroom enables children to put into practice real world learning. Visits to places that are exciting and unfamiliar help bring to life creative education. This enables new skills to be practices and developed.

This holistic learning ethos echoes my fondest memories of being in and around school. The smiles and excitement at discos, quizzes concerts and summer fairs have been infectious. After school clubs have given our children extra-curricular moments in sports, dance, digital coding, choir, board games to name but a few.

The participation and the success of some of our recent sporting achievements has been noted too. It has been wonderful to see our children starting to regularly compete in competitions, tournaments and matches against other local schools. It also gives me pleasure to see that equality issues are being fostered with the formation of a girls' football team that is now practicing weekly and competing against other school teams since the Autumn of 2023.

As we will soon enter the Summer term with the promise of long nights and potential summer sunshine, we can look forward to many more memorable moments both academically and socially.

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter break and a summer term where all can thrive and achieve.