

The
DIAMOND
Learning Partnership Trust
B e i n s p i r e d

Newsletter 17

Autumn Term 2022



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Braybrook

Braybrook Primary Academy have enjoyed a number of fabulous trips this term which have complemented their learning in all areas of the curriculum. We started the year with our year 5/6 residential to Kingswood, year 3 visited Flag Fen, year 4 the Sky Academy Studios, and year 5 Milton Hall. In December, year 2 visited The New Theatre to see a performance of "The Snowman" which they thoroughly enjoyed. Years 5 and 6 attended a performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet at the Royal Opera House and despite heavy traffic and a late night, a good time was had by all.

In addition to our visits, we have had a number of exciting visitors into school. Years 5 and 6 had STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshops. The children investigated batteries and learned about different ways to create batteries in order to power a range of electrical items such as a calculator and buzzer. The children also measured voltage and recorded their observations.



We have enjoyed music STEAM workshops in year 6 and year 3. The children created their own video game and then created their own music to accompany their video game. The children were very enthusiastic about this opportunity.

On Thursday 8th December, we were visited by Matt Jones, our education success partner from Maths Whizz, who ran a parent information session on how to use the parent portal and then held workshops for years 1-6 exploring the topic of shape.



Our "Outdoor Adventurers" in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have been working hard, both in the school and local community this term. They have been litter picking, tending to the local flower beds and planting saplings, in addition to their learning about seasons.



Just before half term, we relaunched "Passport to the World" and the children enjoyed participating in a variety of creative arts activities from around the world. Each class studied a different country and shared their learning in a whole school assembly at the end of the day. We had African drumming workshops, flag making, food tasting, singing and dancing! The children really embraced dressing up in the colours of their country's flag and National dress.



We have really enjoyed a busy run up to Christmas with the return of the Christmas Fair, Nativity and our "Christmas Around the World" carol concert. Braybrook Primary Academy wishes all our trust families a healthy and happy Christmas.



Glebelands

It has been a very busy term at Glebelands Primary Academy and have lots of things to be celebrate as we head into Christmas. In September children returned to school with very positive attitudes to learning and they have continued to work hard ever since.

We have had some fantastic visitors in school this term, Year 4 experienced life as Egyptians, Year 3 went back to the Stone Age and Year 6 explored the theme of Crime and Punishment through the ages.

In November two members of the school council represented Glebelands in the Chatteris Remembrance Day parade and laid a poppy wreath at the war memorial. Many of our children took a part in the parade with other community groups such as Beavers, Brownies and Cubs and lots of families attended to support those parading. It was lovely to play our part within the community I think such a poignant occasion. Each year group made a poppy wreath within school and these now take pride of place in the entrance to the school.



Promoting reading for pleasure has been a priority this term and so we have bought lots of new texts to refresh the book shelves, and teachers have revamped their book corners to promote reading within the classroom. We also launched the Glebelands Picture Book Awards which involved the children choosing their favourite new picture book for a short list of 14. Each of the books were read across the school and children voted for their favourite, "The Barnabas Project" was the runaway winner across the school. Bedtime Reading Bags have also been created and are now being enjoyed each weekend. Each class has a book bag containing a book and two hot chocolate sachets to enjoy whilst sharing the text.



Christmas has also arrived at Glebelands, with reception performing a fantastic nativity for their families and KS1 sharing Christingle services with theirs. A whole school carol service will be taking place at the church on Tuesday 20th December at 6.30pm where children from across the school will perform the different elements of the service



Gorefield

We have had a wonderful positive term at Gorefield Primary Academy. We started our year with new names for our classes – geographical names – France, Zimbabwe and Samoa – during our first week children spent time getting to know their specific country and the features of it including flags.

Our children all took part in a fundraising event in early September called the Doggy Waddle. This was a sponsored dog walk around our school field. All the dogs were registered and on leads, and children and dogs were sponsored to get as many laps in as they could. We raised £967 which has been used to partly fund our trip to the Pantomime in Kings Lynn.



Our year six children took part in a ceremony at the war memorial in Gorefield. Peter Thatcher has spent time in school speaking to children about the significance of the war graves and he also attended our wreath laying ceremony. Children read some poems and reflected on what their ancestors had gone through.



We have continued to develop our outdoor area and a number of children helped us with this, a parent donated a large amount of wood chips which we have used to cover our flower beds. Our school council has also been busy around the village, conducting weekly litter picking sessions during their lunchtime.

Our year three and four children were offered the opportunity to go to London to enjoy the Royal Opera house production of the Nutcracker. The children found that this was a story about a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King with seven heads. The reviews were "It was the very best thing I have ever seen!"

We were also very fortunate to have a visit from Peter Borough – the mascot for Peterborough football club. He visited us and surprised us in an assembly. One of our learning assistants had to play rock paper scissors with him, she won and every child was given two tickets to two matches – one was the Woman's FA Cup and the other was for the men's team.



As Christmas approaches, we are all excited for our Carol Service, Christingle from Ely Cathedral, Christmas disco, Christmas jumper day, our Christmas dinner and the whole school is going to the pantomime. Happy Christmas from all at Gorefield.



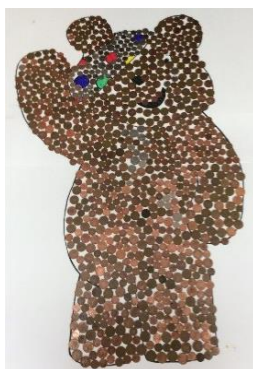
Great Staughton

This term we have been lucky enough to be invited by the Kimbolton Preparatory School to participate in a football competition. We competed in numerous friendly mixed (girl and boy) round robin competitions, over a period of weeks. We found this an exciting opportunity to make links in our local community. Well done to all of our children who participated in these events.



What a brilliant time we also had at all of our DLPT sporting event this term, including our first DLPT swimming gala! The children were all amazing, resilient and showed lovely support for others. It was also commented how well behaved and well-mannered they were which made us all very proud! Well done to our GS and KPA Year 5 and Year 6 team!

In preparation for our Children in Need Day, our fabulous catering manager, Diane, baked some delicious Pudsey cupcakes. In the week leading up to the day, we hosted a "spot the Pudseys" competition, where we hid Pudseys all around the school. On the day, everyone looked cool and colourful in their bright/spotty t-shirts. We also had a fun time enjoying the many activities that our school council and sports crew arranged, which included fitting as many coins on the Pudsey picture, photo booths, spot sports games and a craft activity station. Our after-school bake sale was very busy; thank you for the cake donations. In total we raised an incredible **£276.44!**



We are incredibly proud to have recently achieved the Gilt level PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark), in the light of our school's hard work and commitment to improving the quality of teaching and learning in science. This is a huge achievement for our little school and shows a sustained focus on quality teaching and learning in this subject. Well done to all staff, pupils and parents!

We held our Christingle Service on Friday 2nd December. We were delighted that family and friends from our school were able to join us at St Andrews Church for our Service.

The children sang and read beautifully.



Our term has ended with lots of festive fun, which included our amazing EYFS & KS1 children performing their Christmas production of 'Lights, Camel, Action!' The singing and dancing were fabulous and the 'Strictly Come Dancing' themed Christmas story was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff, children and adults.



Kimbolton

What a brilliant morning at our first DLPT swimming gala! Pupils from years 5 & 6 took part in the Trust's first Swimming Gala. We were very impressed by their resilience and how supportive they were of each other! It was also commented that they were very polite and well behaved which made me very proud! They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to compete against other pupils from the Trust! We all look forward to attending future swimming events next year.



KPA were, again, invited to be involved in the village Remembrance ceremony. KPA made their own wreath which was laid by a representative of the School Council, Muna, by the memorial on the 11th November. On the parade day, KPA were represented by Rowan, who laid another wreath on our behalf. Well done to all for the contributors to the wreath, and to the school council for attending the ceremony, your dignity and sense of occasion made me very proud.

Year 5 sleepover! This eagerly awaited event was very popular and all of the year 5 children from KPA and GSPA had a great time at the first ever school sleepover. They made dreamcatchers, played outside in the dark, watched a movie, drank hot chocolate and ate cakes until late. There were a lot of giggles and a fun time was spent together before all bedding down for the night in the school hall. Parents collected their tired, but happy, children the following morning, when I am sure many had many a memory to retell.



We have had a new member of the KPA team join us this term, he is settling in well and seems to enjoy spending time in the Head Teachers office! He is Milo, our school dog. He is adored by the children who often come down to have a peak at him and he loves to see them.

We have exciting things planned in the build up to Christmas; we have had the Elves in with their shop, we have a Christmas Craft fayre planned, singing to the local lunch club followed by our own Christingle, more carol singing and the Christmas production of 'Born in a Barn' and reward day. We also have a team entered into the Lego Tournament in Peterborough, so lots to keep us busy!! In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes to all for the festive period and over the New Year.





King James Academy Royston

On Thursday 1 December, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Richard Beazley visited King James Academy Royston in order to plant trees in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to celebrate and commemorate her reign. The Silver Birch and Wild Cherry trees will become part of the Queens Canopy that will cover Great Britain.



The Deputy Lieutenant spent time talking with staff and pupils about their hopes and aspirations for King James. He was particularly impressed by the pupils he met: "They were clearly engaged in what they were doing, whether Eco Warriors or as part of the Pupil Leadership Team, and were delightful to talk to".

Ms Plowman commented "I am immensely proud of all of our pupils involved. They are fabulous role models who are our country's future leaders".



Another group of whom we are immensely proud are the 44 Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 pupils who have achieved the Gold Achievement Award for the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge - which means that they are in the top 10% of pupils nationally who have entered the challenge. They will take part in the next stage which is the The Oxford University Computing Challenge w/c 16 January 2023. Congratulations to all the pupils who have achieved this award, and a special thanks to Mrs Hamilton and the Computing team for all their hard work in supporting the children to tackle the challenge!



Year 6 County Basketball Champions

Huge congratulations to Mr Dowler and the Year 6 basketball team who have become county champions! As with all pupils involved in the above activities, they have epitomised two of our character values of *aspiration and challenge*.



Leverington

What a busy term we have had at Leverington! All children settled in well to the routines of their new classrooms, which this year have been named after famous scientists to support our application for the Science Mark. We now have Hawking, Einstein, Anning, Franklin, Lovelace, Newton and Darwin classes. Children spent their transition days learning about the achievements of their chosen scientists.

Our library is now complete, with new furniture and a vast array of high-quality texts for children to read. We are looking forward to opening it up to the community for shared reading sessions in the new year. Our 'LPA TV' has also been launched this term, with pupils recording, editing and producing virtual tours of the school and videos to promote safety for all pupils.



We have had so many wonderful experiences this term for the children to enjoy. Year 2 stepped back in time to 1666, for a fully immersive Great Fire of London day with History Off the Page. Year 5 and 6 were lucky enough to experience the magical Christmas production of The Nutcracker at the Royal Opera House. Year 5 are also embracing their inner rockstar and learning to play electric guitar, keyboard and the drums as part of our 'Rock Band' project.



It was wonderful to welcome the friends and families of Leverington back into school to enjoy our Christmas plays. KS1's production was 'Big Little Nativity' and KS2 delivered 'Wrap it Like an Elf!' Incredible singing, wonderful acting and smiles all round helped to get us all into the festive spirit! A welcome return after two years of being unable to offer live performances and a 'first' for many of our children.



Middlefield

It's been an incredibly sporty term here at Middlefield with National Fitness Day; lots of DLPT sporting events; football tournaments and not to forget the recent swimming gala. Our girls did incredibly well with their win in the relay race. We have also had the Sports Connection Foundation (SCF) charity in this term and their Pro Kick event. This was a fully inclusive event designed to build children's resilience, confidence and self-esteem whilst educating them about global citizenship and raising much needed funds MPA! Ex Professional footballer, Junior McDougald handed out the medals to the children and teachers with the fastest speed to their kick! We raised £2135 in total and £853 for school!



With having no restrictions in school, we have been aiming to increase parental engagement. We have had held meetings to support parents with their children's learning.

KS1 hold an Early Readers session for parents every week. This is an opportunity where the parents come in and share a book with their child before registration. It is very well attended we've received really positive feedback from the parents. The children love it too!



We can safely say that the PTA Middlefield Bake off was a sweet success. The hall was bursting with people! So many cakes were baked for the event and Mrs Flowers our Office Administrator had the tough job of judging the cakes. We raised £195!

And EYFS and KS1 were able to have their first Nativity performance where parents were invited. 'Hooray in a manger' was a roaring success

Outdoor learning is always high on the agenda here at Middlefield and we are working towards achieving the Gold Eco Award. The children in year 4 had the mammoth task of clearing the vegetable beds. They had the tricky job of removing the sweet corn plants...just look at that determination! A few cobs were found which the chickens enjoyed as a treat. They also found some runner bean seeds when clearing away the tepee frame, the seeds will be saved for planting next year. The children take composting very seriously here at Middlefield, they enjoy being compost monitors and helping other children putting everything in the right place. Observing the children discuss plant and mini beast identification is always a highlight along with teamwork, communication, imagination, and the sense of achievement they have at the end of the session.





Murrow

Murrow Primary Academy started their new year learning all about their new class names, this year we focussed on the names of countries to assist with our geographical knowledge – Italy, Canada and France, Zimbabwe and Samoa – during our first week children spent time getting to know their specific country and the features of it including flags.

We hosted our second Fundraising event in early September called the Doggy Waddle. We were able to share this idea with our sister school Gorefield. Pippin attended both events and started them off. There was a great atmosphere and no arguments! We raised £903 which has been used to purchase books and some equipment for the outdoor area. We have also been so fortunate to receive £1000 donation from the Francis Hardy Trust and £2500 from a bid from the Cambridgeshire Improving Communities grant. An anonymous donation also helped with the bus cost to the Pantomime.



Science at Murrow Primary Academy was recognised with our award of the PSQM outreach certification. Mrs Batchelor had led this with our teachers and our work across both Murrow and Gorefield was recognised, we are very proud of this. As part of this we continue to work with Perkins engines for our Lego League entry. This year "teams across our programs will reimagine the future of sustainable energy and power their ideas forward." Our team are well on their way to develop a playground that will produce electricity and then they will present them in January as part of the competition.



This term we were fortunate to be able to work with a project called Frog Life. A group of year 5 and 6 boys worked hard in our Woodland area, clearing out the pond and creating more bug hotels. This work meant that our younger children were able to truly enjoy their weekly trips to the Woodland, for them to explore bugs, dig in the mud, explore nature and learn independently.



As Christmas approaches, we were excited to join a Christingle service from Ely Cathedral, children heard carols and joined in with carols, as well as hearing the organ play out loud and clear.

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas from Murrow.



Roman Way

At Roman Way Academy, we have had a brilliant autumn term! It has been lovely to see classrooms full of happy faces, with children excited about their learning! We have been delighted to welcome parents and many different visitors into school.

Our new School Council members were visited by members of our local town council and county council. They learnt about the British value of democracy, including how councillors represent the local people and try to make improvements for our community. We are so proud of our polite and confident school councillors, who are taking great pride in representing their classes.

Our nursery and reception children have been learning about people who help us. They were lucky enough to see a real Fire Engine on the school playground! They were also visited by Sue, our Lollipop Person, who helped the children learn how to cross the road safely. Mrs Inskip brought her guinea pigs and the children loved holding them and learning how to care for them, just like vets!

We also had members of the Fire & Rescue Service into school for an exciting and informative whole school assembly.



There have been a range of fun and inspiring workshops run for the children this term, including story-writing, skipping, dance and a Great Fire of London themed day. We have also invited parents and carers into school for workshops on phonics, maths and Purple Mash (computing).

Our Breakfast Club has reached record numbers this term. Children have the opportunity to complete their homework, share books, play Maths games on the iPads, play basketball in the hall, and play with a variety of toys, games and puzzles. It is a lovely and busy start to the day!



We have been very busy getting ready for the festive season, starting with a fun-filled craft afternoon, where parents came in to make decorations with the children, linked to different winter themed storybooks. The children also enjoyed making their own hats for our Christmas lunch. We had a theatre group in school to put on a 'Sleeping Beauty' pantomime and our wonderful PTA organised a hugely successful Christmas Fair! The children have worked hard on learning their words and songs for their seasonal productions and we are so happy that we can once again welcome parent audiences into school for the first time since 2019!



The Round House

It has been another busy term at The Round House! The children are really enjoying their Forest School sessions, especially learning to light fires, saw wood and make dens.



A magistrate visited Year 6 to explain the work of a magistrate, how a court works and the legal system. The children asked relevant questions to understand how crime and punishment in this country works.

KS1 visited St Neots library where they looked at all the different books on offer and were read a story by the librarian. They also walked around St Neots to identify different features of the town.

Year 3 received an archaeology workshop from The Museum of London Archaeology Team, in partnership with Highways England. They looked at artefacts, designed one of their own and held some items that had been found in the local area, including: pottery from the Roman period, arrow heads from the Stone Age, and a horses' bone from nearly 10,000 years ago.



KS1 put on a wonderful performance of 'The Inn-Spectors' which told the story of some inspectors in Bethlehem who were unhappy as a stable is no place for visitors and their newborn baby and it really is a health and safety nightmare!

The Reception children performed 'The Wiggly Nativity' - the story of the birth of baby Jesus with lots of lovely singing, excited animals, jumping lambs and lots of wriggling!



History Off the Page visited KS1 and the children discovered what life was like in a Medieval castle. The school hall was transformed into the great hall of the castle and the children made gargoyles, wrote their names using charcoal and feathers, made soap and took part in a Norman banquet.

Years 3 and 4 also enjoyed a History off the Page Ancient Egypt day where they made their own canopic jars, carved their own scarab beetles and hieroglyphs and enjoyed a celebration for Nefertiti with a feast and dancing.

8 children from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at their first Trust Swimming Gala. They competed in 25m front crawl and 25m back stroke and then a girl's and a boy's relay race. The children all swam fantastically and cheered each other on.



Thomas Eaton

What an incredibly busy term we have had at Thomas Eaton. The children have been working hard and have been full of energy and enthusiasm.

We focused on promoting writing this term through our 'Heroes and Villains Day', where both children and staff enjoyed dressing up as their favourite heroes and villains. All children took part in a range of writing activities based around the theme, with amazing writing being produced throughout school.



Our School Council have been working hard. Once again, they decided to support the March foodbank at harvest. The children across the school were extremely generous when donating to our harvest collection and there was a huge 92.8kg weighed in at the foodbank. This is enough food for four families in a time of need and we are pleased to be able to support our local community.

Across the school we participated in Remembrance Day. The children discussed the importance of the 11th hour on the 11th day on the 11th month and the significance of the poppy and why it is worn. We took part in a two-minute silence and everyone created some art work to acknowledge the day.



Our Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed their visit from History Off The Page which fully immersed them in life in the 1940s. The morning gave them the opportunity to experience life in school and the afternoon was an experience of shopping with ration books and old money. It was a wonderful day and highlighted how experiences like this really do bring the children's learning alive.



As we get close to the end of term, both children and staff are excited about Christmas. The Christmas celebrations were kicked off with a Christmas film night run by our PTFA which all children enjoyed. All around the school, classes are busy learning Christmas songs for their performances. We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to another busy term when we return in January.



Winhills

Winhills have had a busy Autumn term. Here are some of our highlights.

Year 4 visited Caxton Farm on Thursday 13th October. They learnt lots of information about the farm and completed a range of activities. They were able to pick and try vegetables from the garden, they counted worms in the soil, they learnt about a combine harvester and they used hand mills to turn grains of wheat into flour. Not only did they complete these fantastic activities but they also buried some cotton pants. Towards the end of Spring term, some children will return to the farm and dig the pants back up. They will then be able to see how good the soil is based on what remains from the cotton pants.



We have had lots of sporting events across the term. The children have all been amazing throughout them all. The highlight was a Swimming Gala where the boys came first and the girls second in a relay race.

On Tuesday 8th November, the children took part in an afternoon of experiments linked to forces. These included trying to move cans and balloons without touching them. The children had great fun and were able to tell us lots of interesting facts that they had learnt.



Year 6 visited St Neots' museum earlier in the term as part of their local history study. The children had a walk around the town learning about the local history before heading back to the museum and getting themselves locked in the police cells.

Year 4 and 5 welcomed in History off the Page. The children were transported back into a Victorian Classroom having to use chalk and a blackboard. I have never seen the children so quiet and transfixed.

The whole school took part in a Times Table Rock Wrangle. The atmosphere was amazing as the children competed to see who the fastest was. This is a great way to engage the children across school in their Times Tables. We have some very quick mathematicians.

Year 1 to 3 children took part in some zoom workshops for the Great Fire of London. This interactive workshop really helped to reinforce their learning on this topic. It was lovely to see the children all engaging with wide smiles on their faces.

It was fantastic to welcome parents back to the school for the Christmas Nativity. The children all performed amazingly and we were so proud of each of them.



Wintringham

We have had a very busy and exciting term at Wintringham! Reception and KS1 adapted well to a last-minute change of location for their performance of 'A Wiggly Nativity' and performed wonderfully. The Pre-school children performed songs which have been videoed for the parents to watch.



Some of our children in Years 5 & 6 won a competition to design the new CALA Homes Lending Library which gives local residents access to free books. The designs were inspired by wildlife and nature.

The whole school took part in a Diwali day. One of our parents started the day with an assembly retelling the story of Rama and Sita. The children then took part in activities including making Rangoli patterns, designing and making Diwa lamps, creating lanterns and making traditional sweets called Ladu. The children also used sparklers which they were very excited about. It was a fantastic day.



KS1 learnt about 'Castles' with a 'History off the Page Day'. They practised writing their name with a quill, but had to make the ink first, made soap, medieval bracelets and medicine bags. They enjoyed a banquet which included the traditional entertainment of juggling, dancing, singing as well as learning how food was served during these banquets. The Year 3 & 4 children enjoyed their History Off the Page Ancient Egypt Day where they made canopic jars, amulets and paintings and then enjoyed role playing during a banquet.

KS2 children visited Pizza Express, where they followed a step-by-step guide to make a perfect pizza which they were able to take home at the end of the day.



Years 1 to 6 visited St Neots library for an engaging session with the librarian. They also walked around the town noticing differences between old wartime photographs and the modern day.

Wintringham held a "STEM" day, where the children designed their own glider before making it in teams. The children spent 30 minutes designing their aircrafts and making them using a straw, card and Blu Tack, testing them at regular intervals to improve their design. The children have also really enjoyed Forest School where they have lit a fire, built a den, written their Forest School name onto a wooden plaque to make a necklace, litter picking or reading in the hammock.





We have been delighted to be able to provide a wide range of professional development opportunities for our own staff and teachers from the local area this term.

For our own teachers, our Professional Development Meetings have covered the teaching of mathematics, moderating and teaching writing, and using data tracking software effectively. Key messages around the safeguarding of pupils formed the agenda of our recent INSET day.

Our wider offer of courses and network meetings have so far been attended by 227 teachers, who were from the Trust and schools in the local area. Even though many of these courses and networks remain online, it's great to have been able to continue to deliver some face-to-face training. Participants have really valued the in-person discussions, and the ability to share resources and see children's work from a range of schools.



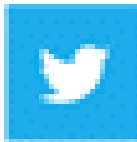
Thank you to all the teachers who help write and facilitate courses, for their hard work and commitment to developing others.

In addition to our own courses, we have hosted and facilitated National Professional Qualifications with Best Practice Network, and the national Early Career Teacher and Mentor Programme for the local Teaching School Hub. A number of our teachers and Headteachers are currently taking part in these training programmes.



We are proud that we develop future school staff through apprenticeships and initial teacher training. Our current trainee teachers have gained confidence in the classroom on their first placement and are teaching up to 50% of the timetable under the guidance of their mentors. Their second term of training sees most of them taking up placements in another of our schools, offering the experience of a different setting and key stage. They are all looking forward to learning alternative approaches to lesson delivery and curriculum, and seeing a different school in action.

We are currently recruiting trainee teachers for next academic year. If you are interested or know someone who would be, please contact us.



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