

Junior School Celebration Report

Autumn Term | December 2023

Welcome

I am delighted to share with you our autumn term celebration report for 2023. The report highlights the remarkable achievements and successes our Junior School community has experienced over the past term. As the Head of Junior School, it is with great pride and joy that I reflect on the dedication and hard work of our pupils, teachers, staff, and the entire school community that have culminated in these successes. Our students have excelled academically, demonstrating a commitment to learning and a pursuit of knowledge that is truly commendable. The results achieved in assessments reflect not only the proficiency of our teaching staff but also the resilience and determination of our pupils to reach their full potential. We are proud to celebrate results that demonstrate our pupils are on average 46 months above their chronological ages in reading by the end of Year 6. We know that reading is the springboard to all learning so enabling our pupils to experience such success in this key area facilitates their achievements in other curriculum areas as well.

We believe in the importance of community and have actively engaged in outreach programmes, fostering partnerships with local organisations and businesses. This has not only enriched the educational experience for our students but has also allowed us to make meaningful contributions to the broader community. Our Year 6 children started the annual programme of visits to our local care



home, Richmond Village, by delighting the residents with poems and artwork on the theme of Remembrance ahead of engaging in conversation about the residents' own memories. Year 3 entertained the residents with festive songs and both generations enjoyed the high energy discussions about their experiences of celebrating Christmas. Our two collections of donated goods for the Weston Favell Food-Bank have been plentiful and appreciated hugely. Our Macmillan coffee morning event, fundraising for Children in Need, Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children and our annual Christmas Fayre have raised a total of £4692.16 for charity this term.

Student leadership has been at the forefront of our offer this term. Our representatives on our Student Council have taken on their nominated roles and shown dedication, maturity and creativity when leading on initiatives from playground provision. Our House Captain team have rallied their Houses successfully, led engaging

and inspiring assemblies and ended our term with an incredibly enjoyable House event in which each pupil was able to engage with pupils from across the Junior School in a truly galvanising experience. Our Year 6 Learning Ambassadors have been busy championing their subjects this term and we are looking forward to building this momentum over the academic year. Developing advocates and role models is a powerful opportunity at which our Year 6 cohort of leaders are determined to thrive.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated teachers, supportive staff, engaged parents, and, most importantly, our incredible pupils for making Northampton High Junior School a hub of learning, growth, and success. Together, we will continue to inspire and shape the future leaders of tomorrow. I am excited to experience the successes of our school community in 2024 with you all.

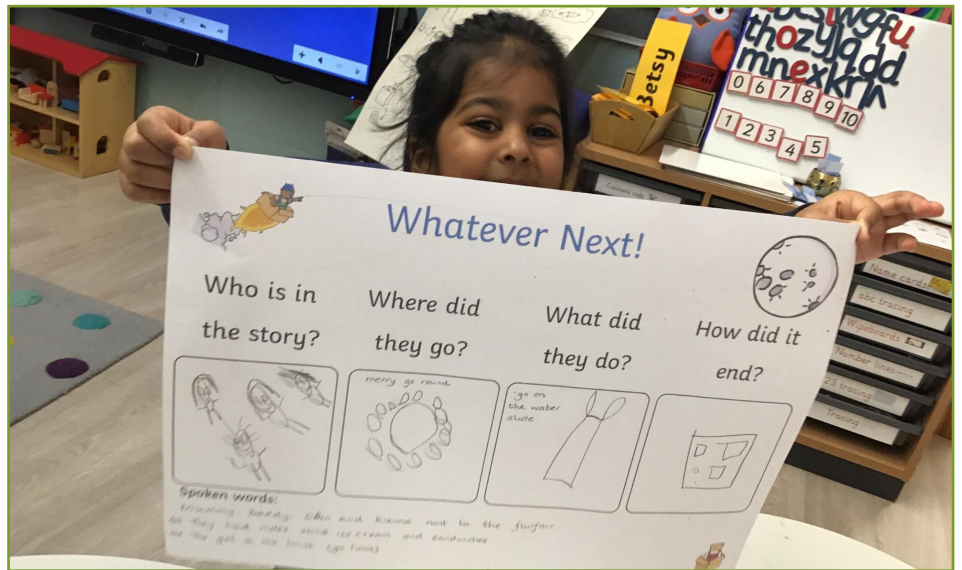
Miss Hair | Head of Junior School

English

It is wonderful to watch the confidence of our pupils as they engage in Speaking and Listening tasks across the Junior School. The autumn term provides opportunities for class groups to settle, build new friendships and observing how polite and engaging they are with their use of vocabulary in everyday life is a credit to them. In our assemblies this term, pupils have prepared reports, learnt scripts, poems and dialogues and orally presented this to the Junior School and their family visitors. In Key Stage 1, the pupils have learnt script lines and narrations to produce a fantastic Christmas Nativity performed on three occasions to different audiences.

In Reception, we have recently introduced Drawing Club. This links a quality text with drawing and speaking opportunities; they learn new and extended vocabulary and it allows them to have a creative approach to drawing and developing their own ideas. We have focussed on the texts of 'Whatever Next?' By Jill Murphy and 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. It is always a popular activity and wonderful to scribe down the narratives of these 4 and 5 year olds about the imaginative pieces of work and stories they have created.

In Key Stage 2, Year 3 began the term by revisiting the Stone Age and looked at the book 'The First Drawing' by Mordicai Gerstein. This sparked a lot of discussion about cave paintings and was a useful tool to help the girls to write using descriptive language. We then looked at the text 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' by Michelle Robinson. The girls identified the features of instructional language and then wrote their own set of instructions.



Eloise worked particularly hard to role play the story to help her group to write their instructions. We then moved on to look at Extreme Earth as a topic and read the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. After looking at all of the descriptive language, the girls then sequenced the main events of the story to write their own newspaper report of the volcano erupting. Rosie and Zara were very good at thinking of catchy headlines using puns and alliteration.

Year 4 have been reading 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold and wrote a book review as well as a script. More writing followed when they looked at the text 'Queen of Darkness' and the girls wrote character descriptions. Aggie used excellent descriptive language when she wrote her own Roman Myth.

Year 5 began the year by reading 'The Man Who Walked Between the Towers' by Mordicai Gerstein. The girls produced excellent writing of their own in the form of newspaper articles. Elizabeth did especially well with this. The next text we studied was 'Robot Girl' by Malory Blackman. Descriptive pieces were composed as well as an opinion piece which Annabel really excelled at.

Year 6 started the year by reading 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. They collaborated to retell the story and Emma wrote a particularly good piece. Analysing descriptive language followed with the text 'Can We Save the Tiger?' by Martin Jenkins and the girls used this language to write a persuasive speech. Hazel especially enjoyed this work and was praised for her achievements.

Our Book Fair was once again hugely supported by families and friends and raised a substantial amount of money for us to spend on new reads for our library. Next term our Year 6 Reading Champions will be visiting the Junior School Council to find out from each class the authors and nonfiction topics they would like to see more of on our shelves and then purchases can be made.

We look forward to the spring term and plans are already being made for our World Book Day. We shall once again be having our own Junior School sale of pre-loved books as this was popular last year, so we would welcome any donations of children's fiction and nonfiction books pupils have outgrown.



Maths

Girls in Key Stage 2 have been enjoying improving their multiplication knowledge using Times Table Rock Star this term.

During the month of November, classes took part in 'Barvember' solving word problems. Each problem being able to be solved using a bar model, a useful tool for helping children visualise and then solve maths problems.

We are privileged to have had the opportunity to accompany a group of Year 6 students, who demonstrated incredible mathematical aptitude, to the esteemed Oxford University for their participation in the GDST Maths Conference. During this enriching experience, the students had the chance to engage and collaborate with their peers from other GDST schools, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared learning. Through a series of meticulously planned activities, the participants honed their problem-solving skills, with a particular focus on observing and analysing shapes within their environment, a lecture given by Alison Kiddle.

This hands-on approach not only enhanced their understanding of geometric concepts but also encouraged critical thinking and creative problem solving. The event served as an invaluable platform for our budding mathematicians to apply and extend their knowledge in a real-world context, nurturing their passion for the subject and inspiring confidence in their abilities. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements and grateful for the opportunity to partake in such an esteemed academic gathering. Aurelia, Sakinah, Diya, Avelyn, Angelie and Anna all agreed that the experience would stay with them for life!

In our Pre-school, the children have been diligently engaging in activities to enhance their number recognition skills. Utilising interactive games on the interactive whiteboard, they have been enthusiastically counting each other and identifying numbers within the setting. Furthermore, they have demonstrated their ability to recognise and match various shapes. These efforts reflect their commitment to developing fundamental mathematical and cognitive abilities in a stimulating learning environment.

In our Reception class, we have been revisiting matching and sorting activities, exploring patterns, representing numbers up to 5, comparing and composing numbers up to 5, learning about 'one more' and 'one less', and practising number formation. The children have greatly enjoyed engaging in a variety of practical activities to explore these concepts, particularly utilising natural autumn resources such as conkers, leaves, and cones.

Our Key Stage 1 classes have been looking at place value, addition and subtraction and number bonds to ten, using a variety of manipulatives to help their deeper understanding. Year 2 have started to explore multiplication tables and are starting to use Table Rockstars to help them improve their recall and speed. All our children have been learning to apply their knowledge to challenging problems. Year 1 pupils are working with teens numbers and understanding what place value means. Georgina and Anaya have been challenged and excited by working on problems that do not have one right or wrong answer. The class have consolidated their understanding of shape and been fascinated to learn that a square is actually a special kind of rectangle.



Science

Numerous exciting Science activities have taken place this term, both in school and on day trips, providing the girls with a wide range of learning experiences.



Year 1 enjoyed a fascinating visit to Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where they showed particular interest in taxidermy and looking at skeletons. Robyn and Penelope asked some great questions, such as 'Are the eyes real?' and 'Why have some of their teeth dropped out?'.



On a visit to Tower Bridge in London, Year 2 toured the engine room and learned how a bascule bridge moves like a seesaw. They also found out how the bridge was moved by steam power in the past. Grace said, 'I liked finding out how the bascules went up and down.'



Think Tank Museum in Birmingham gave Year 6 the chance to learn about different states of matter during a chemistry workshop, experiment with forces on outdoor play equipment and use their coding skills to make a Lego vehicle move. Poppy said, 'I loved balancing balls on the water jets in the science garden!'

Highlights of topics studied during lessons have included investigating materials to make an umbrella for a teddy bear, using torches to create 'shadow monsters', seeing how many paper clips a magnet can hold in a chain, recreating stomach contents in a plastic bag, propagating an African violet from just one leaf and investigating mould growth on bread. Siena-Louise in Year 3 said, 'My group attached 27 paper clips to a magnet and we linked them together in a chain!'. Shanaya in Year 4 said, 'It was fun breaking crackers and mixing them with orange juice to see what happens in your stomach.'

Key Stage 2 pupils have also been using microscopes to get a close-up view of a selection of natural and man-made materials. Avani in Year 5 said, 'It was fascinating because when I looked at an anther under the microscope, I could see all the sticky details!'



Art & Design

In Year 1, the girls have been learning about colour theory through the work of Piet Mondrian and particularly enjoyed mixing secondary colours. They have been introduced to textiles and exploring how fabrics can be joined.

Year 2 have enjoyed looking at abstract portraits, focusing on the work of Picasso. The collages they created using parts of other peoples' faces were particularly effective, as were the clay masks, especially Amelia's.

Year 3 girls enjoyed studying prehistoric artwork and techniques. In particular, they loved creating a watercolour painting of Stonehenge. Using animal cave art as an inspiration, girls went on to explore and draw simple line drawings of animals we know today. Some excellent Volcano paintings were created by Nellie and Evie using layering techniques in the style of Nick Rowland.

Year 4 have studied the work of Faith Ringgold, using her book 'Tar Beach' as inspiration for painting watercolour cityscapes and making press prints of special memories. Aggie worked especially carefully to mix colours and add fine details to her painting.

The girls have also undertaken a sewing project to make a coin holder for a Roman soldier. A highlight for Emily was 'learning how to do backstitch because it is very strong at holding pieces of material together'.

Year 5 started the academic year improving their sketching skills and using oil pastels to create realistic tints and tones. The apple pictures created by the girls highlight the development of their artistic abilities in Junior School. Zoe and Annabel really stood out as excelling in their aptitude to work with pastels.

Making Greek urns from clay has proved to be a challenging but rewarding experience for the girls in Year 6, who have developed their skills in rolling, coiling, blending and joining, to create some delightful finished pieces. A special mention should go to Lulu and Sakinah for their shapely pots with delicately-crafted handles. The focus of our work in DT has been a group project to redesign the Junior School playground and build models to use as part of a presentation to pitch their ideas! Artemisia said that she particularly enjoyed 'making a roundabout from a wooden wheel, wire and a pin'.

Computing

Year 1 have been learning to log on to the Chromebooks using their email addresses and passwords. Penelope is particularly proficient in this and also has been able to help others. The girls have been using Purple Mash to sort objects based on different criteria.

Jasmine in Year 2 has really embraced coding and now understands what an algorithm is, creating a simple computer program using one. Year 2 have also used their devices to independently

research nocturnal animals for their science lessons. Creating a digital scene using their coding skills has been a particular highlight in the Year 3 lessons this term with Zara and Olivia making their characters move and speak successfully. The class has also been recapping online safety and the things they should think carefully about when working or playing on the internet.

Computing has been a highlight of the week for Year 4. They have loved coding using different variables. Caoimhe did an excellent job creating her own computer game using 'If/Else' statements with very hungry turtles. As a class, they must be congratulated for their mature approach to bringing in their own devices ensuring they are charged each day. This has enabled them to create their own play scripts in English, study maps in Humanities lessons and carry out research in multiple lessons.

In their computing lessons, Year 5 have concentrated on coding and databases. The girls have also become very confident using Google Classroom and have used it to complete pieces of work across the curriculum. In English, they researched and wrote newspaper articles on Philippe Petit and his tightrope walk between the Twin Towers, in geography they created fact files on South American countries, and in PSHE they designed posters for their Macmillan charity event. Eloise C and Leah should all be very proud of their digital presentation skills.

The main focus of lessons for Year 6 has been using coding to create a game with a score and a timer. Angelie and Avelyn have particularly excelled at this and have been 'Coding Champions' for the rest of their classes.

Humanities

Year 1 particularly enjoyed their first humanities topic of the year, 'Our School'. They thought about where they lived in relation to the school, learnt their own address and were introduced to simple mapwork and compass skills.

Year 2 girls have been learning about the different landmarks of London and where to find them on a map. Grace, Isabelle and Sophia particularly enjoyed playing a game where they were tested on key facts about London. As a class they have written setting descriptions using prepositional phrases focusing on the language of the different types of physical features. Continuing with maps, the class have used compass directions to plan routes around Hardingstone. A highlight for the class was using the contents and index pages of an atlas in a scavenger hunt activity.

Year 3 loved celebrating Diwali at the Mandir in Wellingborough. The girls took part in many different activities and learned so much about the special Hindu festival. Rayna said she liked sweet making the best, Eloise and Iman enjoyed making and painting Diva lamps.

Having learned about the United States of America, Year 4 created, in groups, brilliant holiday adverts for several of the states. Grace B, Shanaya, Orla, Eve and Amariah worked cooperatively to produce an excellent script and slide show. Next, they have been learning all about the impact the Romans had on Britain from their roads and city names to the numbers and calendar. They have written rousing speeches as Boudica to unite the Celtic tribes and they have written diary entries as Roman soldiers. Mayura wrote an engaging entry, describing a particularly gruelling day. Year 4

have found learning about Buddhism interesting. They have created their own Buddhist temple and fact files on the Buddhists' Holy Book. Getting crafty, they made excellent lanterns for the festival of Wesak.

In Year 5's study of the local area the girls have been debating the change of land use. They have had to access their geographical knowledge and understanding to think in depth about the impacts the change of land use can have on residential, agricultural, recreational, transportation, and commercial aspects.

Year 6 have studied life in Ancient Greece and made comparisons between Athens and Sparta. The girls particularly enjoyed reenacting a Greek army battle formation, lead by Sakinah, wearing body armour, a helmet and carrying a shield and long spear. Geography lessons have centred around using an atlas and understanding the often complex information within.

PSHE

At the start of the autumn term, we reflected on the theme 'Being Me in the World', exploring concepts such as gratitude, responsibilities and the rights of the child.

The girls embraced the importance of gratitude in order to support their positive wellbeing, and learned about the rights that every child deserves. In particular, Avani and Lydia confidently articulated their surprise that some children in the world do not have access to the freedom of choice that they do. This reflection has been a theme of learning across the school and one

we believe is very important. The girls in Year 2 thought about their rights, and then discussed their responsibilities:

'Be kind'. Anne
'Help each other'. Zehra
'Respect and listen to others'. Emily

Additionally, we celebrated diversity during our unit on 'Celebrating Difference'. Black History Month allowed us to appreciate the rich contributions of black individuals throughout history, encouraging understanding and unity. Year 4 enjoyed creating slideshows to showcase their research on key black figures in society. During Anti-Bullying week, we emphasised the importance of kindness, respect and empathy, creating an environment where every child in school feels valued and supported. Year 6 enjoyed the GDST live event with Dr Zoe Williams in which they learned about her background and the reasons behind her deciding to write a book.

'I thought Dr. Zoe was really inspirational because I felt like her when I was little - everything was telling her that she couldn't do something, but her mum was saying 'Yes, you can!' and my family are like that.' Amelie

'It was really interesting to hear about how Dr. Zoe followed her dreams because, even though she is now a doctor, she had moments in her life when she thought consistently negative things'. Aurelia

The girls also learned about positive self talk and mindfulness. 'Self-care is incredibly important, otherwise you will never have a fun life; the most important relationship you will ever have is the one with yourself'. Angelie

Forest School

More recently, Year 2 created advent wreaths (linked to their RE topic); they showed great perseverance as they selected and arranged evergreen foliage to create their desired design. Sophia in particular showed great interest in this activity, and was keen to add holly to her wreath, even though it was spiky and a bit tricky! Aleya and Anne worked very effectively as a team to create their wreath.

As the weather has turned chillier, the firepit has proved a welcome addition to Forest School sessions,

with all year groups preparing and cooking a variety of delicious treats - including popcorn, cinnamon apples and damper bread - over the open fire. Years Five and Six even created their own 'kebab sticks' by whittling the bark from a willow branch. Many of the girls also had a go at fire lighting using the flint and steel lighter, with Elizabeth quickly and efficiently managing to ignite the cotton wool fuel. A special mention should also go to Avani for showing great perseverance with this. Each and every one of the girls demonstrated an excellent

awareness when it came to safety, with regards to the fire and when using the tools.

After school, our brand new Nature Club has been popular with some of the Year 2 children. Grace, Emily, Ella, Sophia and Zehra have enjoyed exploring the outdoors and joined in with nature-based crafts in the Forest School room. We picked and tasted apples and pears from some of our fruit trees; safely used tools to make holes through conkers, threading them onto string and created a willow-wood 'Rudolph' sculpture.





Wellbeing Hub

We are delighted to have been able to warmly welcome pupils into our newly designed wellbeing hub as an exciting addition to our pastoral care in Junior School.

This is a dedicated space where pupils can meet with our Wellbeing Practitioner Mrs Giordano to enhance emotional awareness and learn strategies to build on their happy and confident mindsets. Pupils are greeted with a listening

ear and may enjoy relaxing on the bean bags with a heartwarming and motivational story in our reading corner, cuddle a teddy on the cosy sofa whilst they talk through their emotions, or get creative in the art space, just some of the many ways our pupils learn to express and manage their feelings.

Our famous resident Betty the dog is also known to make an appearance and brings much comfort and joy to the space.

Music

This term is always the busiest in the music calendar. Pupils from both Key Stage 1 and 2 have been preparing in earnest for the Nativity and Christmas celebration. We will be including choir items that have been prepared during singing assemblies and choir rehearsals, featuring the entire junior cohort, which is very exciting!

Year 1 and 2 have worked incredibly hard to prepare for their Christmas Nativity, learning a lot of lyrics to songs. Aleya, Jasmine and Anne sang beautiful solos which took a huge amount of courage to sing in front of such a large audience and in a big hall.

In addition to our busy seasonal programme, we will be holding the second of our scholars concert in C3. These half-termly concerts showcase a wealth of talent and demonstrate musical progress over time. The first scholars concert featured excellent performances from Caoimhe, Constance, Angelie, Aurelia T, Shanaya, Maya, Rhoda, Avani, Zara and Evette.



Students from all year groups have been learning about the elements of music during lessons and practically applying this knowledge to making music during class time. We are delighted to have such a musical school.

In Key Stage 1 the girls have been learning about pitch and rhythm and we had a lot of fun experimenting with body percussion.

Ishani and Zehra particularly enjoyed playing the percussion instruments and trying to keep in time to the rhythm of the music.

A very large number of students are taking individual music lessons in school and we are regularly hearing the progress.

French

Year 1 students have started their language learning with a lot of enthusiasm. Ishani and Anaya particularly enjoyed the Bonjour song, practising greetings. When learning classroom instructions, students were very engaged with the French version of Simon says. To consolidate their learning, they created posters introducing themselves in French. Luna and Annabel's posters were particularly impressive. After half term, we learned the French alphabet and students took great joy in singing as loudly as they could. Penelope and Robyn have already proven to be very talented linguists as they are often able to retain vocabulary from previous sessions which is remarkable.

Year 2 pupils embraced the work on colours in the first half term. They spoke confidently in French about their favourite colours and enthusiastically described the sea creatures they met in the storybook *Petit Poisson Blanc*. They then very carefully created their own story book and were able to follow instructions in French in order to colour the creatures successfully. This proved to be a wonderfully mindful activity after the excitement of our four corners game. Pupils are developing lovely French accents, Jasmine and Aleya, in particular. It is encouraging to see all pupils keen to speak in the target language; Grace and Sophia in particular have really grown in confidence this term.

This term, Year 3 students explored the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in French and practised their listening and reading skills through a very kinaesthetic activity of reordering scenes from the story. All groups were able to retell the story and showed great enthusiasm and teamwork.

In the second half term, students have been learning the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* in French. All students have participated really well throughout and have joined in with the songs and games. It has been great to see Zara and Rosie's confidence grow as well as Lily and Rayna's determination.

This term I have been extremely pleased with Year 4 students' curiosity and interest when looking at cultural differences between France and the UK in the context of 'la rentrée' (going back to school). Isabella, Eve and Elouise really shone in their ability to manipulate numbers when looking at birthdays in the first half term. New to French, Olivia really impressed me with her perseverance and her ability to recall body parts. The class has particularly enjoyed our topic on describing monsters and I really look forward to their 'monstrous' creations.

In French, Year 5 students have learned about free time activities and are now able to say what sport they play as well as activities that they do not do in their spare time, often offering opinions. I have been impressed with their vocabulary learning. Avani and Constance show real enthusiasm for the French language and are always contributing to lessons.

Zoe and Christiana put real effort into creating their posters which came out brilliantly. After half term, we have started to learn about items of clothing that we are wearing. The students were all very keen to learn about clothes and they took real pleasure in telling me what they are wearing at the weekend.

Looking at self-portraits in the style of Matisse, we revised how to introduce and describe ourselves and the students produced some beautiful artwork. A special mention here goes to Emma and Avelyn for their outstanding efforts. This half term we have been looking at places around the town.

Pupils have really enjoyed a variety of activities such as quizlet live and running translation. A special mention to Artemisia for her resilience and Cordelia for her engagement with quizlet. Also a mention for Alishba for getting going so quickly with French and to Jesleen for her independence. Anna and Angelie have shown real enthusiasm for the French language as they are always participating in lessons.



PE

We have had a busy autumn term in the fixture calendar playing against Ratcliffe College, Bedford Modern, St Peter's School, Tranby, Witham Hall and King's College in the IAPs Tournament and Broughton Manor, Wellingborough, Bedford Girls', Bilton Grange, Quinton House and Thornton as friendly fixtures.

Our focus sport this term is hockey but teams have also represented the school in football and cross country fixtures. The Key Stage 2 hockey teams have improved during the course of the season. With some memorable wins against Broughton Manor and Quinton House. The competitive matches have been key for the teams to develop their understanding of the game, working as a team and where to position themselves on the pitch. Some of the students have had the experience of dressing in the keeper kits and being the very important goal keeper for the game. Namely, for the U10's triangular games against Wellingborough & Bedford, Olivia H & Evette were the goal keepers and both worked really well keeping balls out however, despite their best efforts we marginally missed out on a win for the U10B's and U10's had

a draw against Bedford. It has been great to see the girls getting stuck in and not being afraid of the ball!

There was a great deal of improvement from our first game of hockey at the start of the season and some great skill work shown by the Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 girls. Some momentous performances in the U11A fixtures against Quinton & Broughton Manor, winning both games by a significant 5-0 and 6-0, with Annabelle impressively scoring 5 of the goals. Luisa, Hester & Poppy also showed excellent attacking play. The U11 football team at the Croydon Rally was made up of players from Years 5 and 6, they showed excellent spirit and determination to qualify to the knock-out stage of the competition. Eloise C scored an amazing goal to give us the edge against Kensington Prep which allowed us to face Portsmouth High in the quarter finals. We lost that game after a battling performance and the player of the tournament went to Avani A, who was our goalkeeper and also captain for the day. We had Year 4, 5 & 6 students running in the Northamptonshire Sports Cross Country at Courteenhall; impressively we had

three students finishing in the top 10 in their age groups - Avani for U10's and Luisa and Zara for U11's.

Our games afternoons are always fun filled and pupils are encouraged to develop their understanding of game tactics and set plays. Our individual skills on the ball are continuously developing with drills and games to help improve dribbling, passing and shooting. Our club attendance is also impressive with many pupils attending Hockey Club each week. Not only have the girls embraced the hockey sessions, we have also continued with our weekly swimming lessons, pre season netball, cricket, football, basketball and tag rugby.

Reception and Key Stage 1 have been focusing on core and fundamental skills but have also had the opportunity to develop spatial awareness and work with quicksticks equipment too. Our Sports Captains from Year 6 have been appointed this term and we are looking forward to continuing our work with these pupils into next term. As we close the door on the hockey season we look forward to beginning the netball season in the spring term, with our focus being on the quality of our performances.

EYFS

Our youngest learners have experienced a busy term bursting with opportunities to develop and grow their key skills. We thrive on guiding them through a carefully planned enticing and engaging collection of learning activities that allow them to build their key skills and most importantly their confidence and identity as a learner.

As always, the girls have embraced their Forest School lessons and have enjoyed bear hunts, scavenger trials and a wonderful visit from Father Christmas (or was it Mrs Mason?). Ballet sessions have provided enjoyed opportunities to develop the girl's musicality and gross motor skills. To observe them grow in confidence and skill in this area of physical activity is a joy and their enjoyment of the sessions is incredibly heartwarming.

The weekly cooking lessons have provided several delicious treats (some of which have made their way home). We are pleased with how the girls' skills in this important area of

learning develop over their three years with us in our EYFS classes and to now see our Reception girls with a higher level of independence and confidence when cooking is very encouraging indeed. Do we have a future Mary Berry in the making?

We ended the term with an EYFS group trip to the theatre to see 'Stickman'. We are a proud school of bookworms and 'Stickman' is a firm favourite with us all. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience of a theatre production and as always, we were impressed with the girl's behaviour, and they were wonderful ambassadors for the school. We are pleased the girls can have this early memory with their friends.

The October half term and December holiday sessions provide the girls on all year round contracts excellent opportunities to embed their skills and focus on applying them with adult support to new situations. Next week the girls are visiting Santa's grotto, having a Christmas scavenger hunt, a festive



cooking day and a Christmas party alongside learning activities to support their development of key skills across the areas of learning. It will be a busy and fun end to the term with progress in learning being prioritised for our girls.

We look forward to welcoming new joiners to both Nursery and Preschool in January. Preschool have the exciting addition of swimming to their timetable from the spring term and we know they are going to love this challenge and experience together.

Trips and Experiences

Every child has benefitted from at least one trip off site to enhance their learning this term. The trips offered to, and enjoyed by, the Junior School this term were:

- Year 6 trip to Birmingham ThinkTank
- Year 6 visit to Richmond Village
- Year 6 maths trip to Oxford University
- Year 5 residential trip to Grafham Water
- Year 4 trip to the Tower of London
- Year 3 trip to Mandir, place of worship
- Year 2 trip to Tower Bridge
- Year 1 trip to Oxford Natural History Museum
- Reception and Preschool trip to Royal & Derngate theatre



Performances

This term all children from Nursery to Year 6 have benefitted from the opportunity to perform to an audience.

Our LAMDA group shared the results of this term's project with their parents. Nursery and Preschool entertained their families with songs they had learnt at their concert, which included a song in French.

Reception, Year 1 and 2 produced a wonderfully amusing and thoughtful nativity - The Landlord's Cat - for all to enjoy. Reception to Year 6 then collaborated to perform our first whole school Christmas performance for the whole Junior School community, culminating in an evening full of festive cheer, celebration and joy. Each class from Year 1 to Year 6 has worked hard on a class assembly which we have enjoyed alongside our parents. It's wonderful to invite families in to experience along with us these showcases of our children honing their skills in public speaking and performance.



Personal Achievements

Many of our children have experienced personal achievements this term and we always enjoy encouraging and celebrating these together:

Marine A – awarded Star of the Week at Top Hat Theatre School

Luna D – took the Rainbow Promise

Robyn F-W – achieved a Race for Life Medal and awarded a Gymnastics Medal

Penelope J – awarded a Rainbows Badge

Pearl P – awarded Distinction in her LAMDA Solo Introductory Stage 1 and awarded a Rainbows Badge for a Remembrance Parade

Georgina P – achieved Gymnast of the Week, awarded a Rainbows Drawing badge and achieved her Level 8 Badge in Gymnastics

Ishani S – awarded Wildcat of the Week at Football

Anne A – achieved a Mercury Gymnastics Award and shared book of achievements

Jasmine I – achieved a Rainbow Promise & Drawing Badge

Isabelle L – achieved a Gymnastics medal and awarded 1st place in a Gymnastics Competition

Lydia C – awarded Gymnastics Star of the Term and Badge 8 in Gymnastics

Emily T – performed on a cruise ship, awarded Pony Camp Rosettes, awarded a Distinction in her Ballet exam, achieved 3rd place in Ballet and awarded a Bronze Medal at a Dance Festival and came 3rd place in a Baby Ballet Competition

Eloise A – awarded a Tennis Medal

Siena-Louise D B – awarded Badge 3 in Gymnastics and achieved 1st place in Modern Duet, 3rd place in Character Solo, 1st place in National Duet and 2nd place in Character Solo at a Dance Festival

Evie I - participated in Indoor Curling and took the Brownie Promise

Mehiera J – awarded a Green and Purple Martial Arts Belt and achieved a Scouting Award

Nellie L-S - participated in Indoor Curling and took the Brownie Promise

Aurelia M – awarded Brownie Badges, participated in Indoor Curling, awarded a Dancing Brownie Badge and took the Brownie Promise

Iman S – moved up a swimming group

Isabel S-R – achieved a Green Belt in Kickboxing

Millicent S – participated in Indoor Curling, awarded Collector and Baking Brownie Badges and took the Brownie Promise

Ellie A – achieved a Mercury awarded in Gymnastics, awarded 2nd and 3rd at an U8 Midland Tennis Tournament, came 2nd in a Club Tournament and achieved 2nd and 3rd in the U8 Midlands Tennis Tour and Camp

Grace B – came 1st in a Tennis competition, awarded a Tennis Certificate, achieved 1st place at the Swimming Gala Autumn Splash, achieved a British Judo Medal, completed 20 tennis matches, achieved Best Judo Player and awarded a Swimming Gala Medal

Isabella B – awarded a Blue Peter Sport Badge for Football, achieved Football Player of Match and awarded Brownie Badges

Caoimhe H-T – achieved Star Dancer in Irish Dancing, awarded Irish Dancing certificates, awarded 5th and 11th places at the Irish Dancing World Championships and awarded Irish Dancer of the the Month

Shanaya S – awarded Wildcat of the Week at Football

Annie T – awarded a First Aid Stage 2 and Make a Change Stage 2 Brownie badges, awarded a Cycling certificate, achieved a Yellow Stripe in Karate, achieved a Green Stripe Karate Badge and awarded a Green and Black Belt in Karate

Evette B – awarded a 1st place Swimming Gala Certificate, achieved 3rd fastest at Butterfly Stroke in the County, awarded 3rd place in Swimming at Butterfly Stroke and awarded Merit in her Grade 3 Piano Exam

Olivia H – awarded Badges 4 and 3 in Gymnastics and selected for Horse Riding Competition

Leah W – awarded a 1st place Swimming Gala Certificate

Zoe Z – achieved Distinction in her Grade 1 and 2 Piano Exams

Diya B – moved up a level in Diving, passed her 11+ Test and awarded Level 1 Gymnastics

Daisy P – awarded player of the match at her Football match

Maya R – awarded a Distinction for her Grade 1 LAMDA exam and performed with the Dreamcoat Stars Touring Cast at The Deco Theatre

Jesleen R – shortlisted for an Art Competition

Annabelle R – awarded Brixworth Cricket Club Ladies Young Player of the Year

Cora S – awarded a Rosette for a Horse Triathlon and came 4th place in Running

Aurelia T – achieved a Distinction in her Performing Arts Exam, moved up to County Junior Strings, participated in the County Youth Choir audition and was successful in getting the main part in a show and took part in a orchestral performance

U11 Football Team – got into quarter finals at the Croydon High Rally

Congratulations to all the girls who took their LAMDA examinations and all achieved a Distinction:

Introductory Level 1 Verse and Prose - Ella K, Grace R, Sophia R-N, Zara B, Rayna N, Iman S.

Introductory Level 2 Verse and Prose - Jasmine I, Emily T, Grace B, Mayu G, Elouise S, Shanaya S.

Introductory Level 3 Verse and Prose - Kinara B, Cristina S-R, Leah W. Entry Verse and Prose - Angelie B, Zara J

Congratulations to our appointed Sports Captains: Cricket – Angelie B, Summer Sports – Zara J, Netball – Annabelle R, Hockey – Poppy P, Swimming – Amelie N, Cross Country – Cora S and Luisa P

Times Tables Rock Star England Rocks Awards: Most Valuable Player - Eve C, 2nd Most Valuable Player - Ellie A, 3rd Most Valuable Player - Zara B

Star Learners

15 September – Robyn F-W, Ella K, Lily P, Emily K, Amber K, Cristina S-R, Amelie, Nasr, Luisa P

22 September – Ishani S, Sophia R-N, Aurelia M, Orla D, Elizabeth F-W, Daisy S, Tara S

29 September – Anaya V, Aleya L, Dulcie S, Pixie R, Evette B, Eloise C, Imogen O, Lulu P, Daisy S, Artemisia U

6 October – Pearl P, Zehra S, Iman S, Mayu G, Maya R, Cora S and Asmi S

13 October – Annabel W, Zehra S, Inara F, Evie I, Isabella B, Constance H, Emma B, Angelie B and Anna H

20 October – Georgina P, Isabelle L, Rayna N, Grace A, Amariah S-A, Evette B, Olivia H, Maya A, Poppy P

10 November – Marine A, Grace R, Emily T, Eloise A, Olivia T, Annie T, Lily C, Hazel G and Daneka S

17 November – Luna D, Anne A, Mehiera J, Rhoda J, Elouise S, Cordelia B, Avelyn C, Alishba F

24 November – Penelope J, Inara F, Sophia R-N, Amelia K, Grace A, Isabella B, Annabel P, Zoe Z, Eliza A, Alishba F and Jesleen R

01 December – Elodie K, Isabelle L, Aleya L, Olivia C, Agnes R, Shanaya S, Holly G-S, Thea S, Zoe Z, Diya B, Hazel G, Amelie N, Sakinah S

Junior News

Keep up to date with the weekly goings on in the Junior School at Northampton High by reading our latest editions of Junior News.

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