



Sundon Lower School

Half Term School News - Summer (2) 2026

Welcome to our Summer edition of School News. This is our half-termly newsletter where we celebrate all the exciting things that we have been doing over the half term. We hope that you enjoy reading about our exciting Summer Term so far!

Message from our Headteacher

As we reach the final days of term, it is always a time to look back and celebrate everything we have achieved together over the past year. This final half term has flown by in a whirlwind of exciting events, which you can read about in this newsletter.

It has been a fantastic year at Harlington Lower School. To our amazing children, thank you for bringing our school values to life every day, tackling your learning with such enthusiasm, and being such brilliant ambassadors for Harlington Lower School. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff team; their boundless energy, care, and dedication are what make our school such a thriving environment. We have some staff moving on to new opportunities at the end of term; we thank them all for their contributions to the school and wish them all the best for the future.

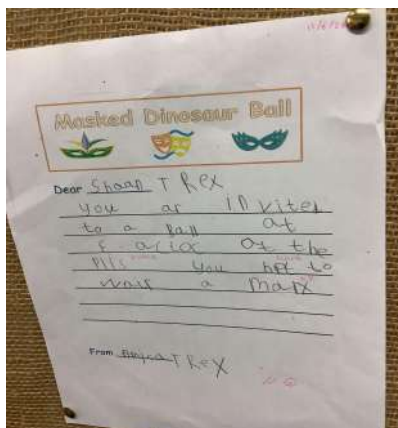
We also send our very best wishes to our Year 4 leavers as they take their next step into middle school. You have left a wonderful mark on our school, and while we will miss you, we know you are ready to spread your wings and achieve great things.

Wishing all of our families a safe, sunny, and thoroughly restful summer break!

Swan Class

English

This term, Swans have enjoyed listening to the Shakespeare adapted story 'Romeosaurus and Juliet Rex.' The children loved retelling the story and talking about why the herbivore and carnivore families didn't like each other at the beginning of the story and eventually became friends and lived happily ever after. S writing invitations to a ball and other writing activities linked to the story.





'I liked the dinosaur painting.' - Sarah

'I liked it when Romeo and Juliet fell in love.' - Imogen

Maths

Reception have been consolidating their Maths skills ready for Year 1 including learning about doubles, number facts, finding one more/less and learning about complex patterns and 3D shapes. Nursery have been learning about patterns, practicing their counting and subitising skills and continuing with learning their number recognition.

'I liked making the cube pattern.' - Ruby

Expressive Arts and Design

Swans have had lots of creative fun linked to our story about dinosaurs this term. They have been role-playing prince and princesses, playing with dinosaurs, creating junk model castles, painting dinosaurs and decorating masks for a masked ball.



'I liked making the castle.' - Sunday

Understanding the World

Swans have been learning about the fruit grown in different countries and making fruit kebabs. They have also been comparing the similarities and differences between dinosaurs and animals that live in different habitats. The children have been continuing to look after and care for our sunflowers and plants we have grown.



'I think the Sunflowers are going to be even taller than me.' - Zaira

'I liked trying the kiwi and making the fruit kebab.' - Raya

Working Together and Transition

Thank you to the parents who worked together with their children to plant the plants in our outdoor playground which has made it look really colourful. The children enjoyed planting their sunflower seeds for their dads and grandads. The Reception children also had the opportunity to play phonic and maths games with their parents in our working together session on getting ready for year 1. In the class transition morning, Nursery played some games getting ready for Reception.



'Daddy put the soil in for the planting for Fathers Day.' - Imogen

'I liked the drawing in Miss Sanby's Class,' - Amayra

'I liked playing the game.' - Jace

Sports Day

All of the Swans participated in our fun sports day event which included a fun run getting dressed for the beach, a skilled bean bag and cone race and a running race. All of the children were great sports and had a lovely morning.

'I liked the running race.' - Darcie

'I liked the bean bag race.' - Aoife

'I liked the dressing up race.' - Tommy

Art Exhibition

Earlier in the term. Swans, Doves and Owls contributed some of their fabulous art work in the Pyramid Trust Art Exhibition with other local schools. Their art work looked amazing and the children should be very proud.



'I liked making the snake and cheetah print' - Liffey



Golden Book
Tommy

Dove Class

Science

This half term, we have been learning about famous scientists and their important discoveries and inventions. We began by building our own biodomes and planting bean seeds inside them. As the beans grew, we observed that the plants inside the biodomes grew much faster than those left out in the open air. This helped us understand how different environments can affect plant growth.

We then explored the role of doctors and discussed whether we thought they could be considered scientists. This led us to learn about Louis Pasteur and his groundbreaking discovery that germs can cause illness. We explored how his work has helped to improve health and hygiene and continues to make a difference to our lives today.



'The plants grew faster, every single day in the greenhouses.' - Oliver

P.E.

In PE this half term, we have been developing our running, jumping and throwing skills through a range of fun and engaging activities. The children particularly enjoyed playing boules using tennis balls and bean bags, which helped them practise their aiming and throwing skills while working together and taking turns. In the lead up to Sports Day, the children also spent time practising their races, building their confidence, teamwork and determination as they prepared for the exciting event.



'I liked it when we threw the beanbags really far.' - Reevah

'It was fun when we rolled the ball and threw the beanbags near the ball.' - Areesha

English

In English this half term, we have been reading *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. The children enjoyed bringing the story to life by exploring the character of Caliban and role-playing his actions and feelings. We also learned the meaning of the word *tempest* and explored the powerful storm at the beginning of the story. Using our ideas and descriptive language, we wrote our own poems inspired by the tempest, creating some imaginative and expressive pieces of writing.



'I liked going under the blanket and feeling like Caliban did.' - Anvir

'We had fun writing about our own paradise.' - Himmat

French Day

Our French Enrichment Day was a wonderful opportunity to learn about France, its culture and its geography. Throughout the day, we practised speaking French by answering the register and learning some simple everyday phrases. The children had great fun playing *Jacques dit...* (the French version of *Simon Says*) and enjoyed developing their listening skills. In the afternoon, despite the warm weather, we found a shady spot under the trees on the field where we created our own beautiful paintings inspired by the artist Claude Monet. During our day, we enjoyed tasting delicious croissants – a real French treat!

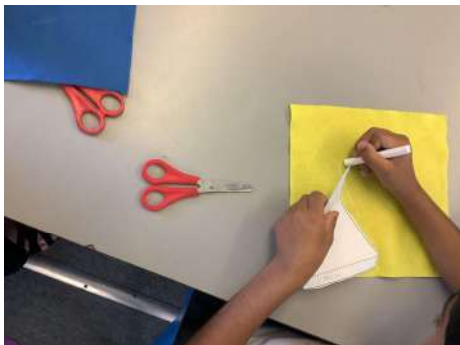


'I enjoyed painting the lily pads and the sunset.' - Ebrahim

'The French croissants were yummy.' - Amaari

Design Technology

In Design and Technology this half term, we have been creating our own colourful bunting. We began by designing and making a template before carefully cutting our bunting shapes from felt. The children developed their cutting and fine motor skills as they worked with the fabric. To complete our project, we joined all of the bunting pieces together on a long length of string, creating a beautiful finished display that we were all proud of.



'We used chalk to draw round our template and then cut it out with scissors.' - Kaelan

'I got encouraged to do it because it looked fun.' - Eisa

Whipsnade Zoo Trip

Our end-of-year school trip to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo was a fantastic way to celebrate a wonderful year of learning. As we explored the zoo, we searched for the 'Big Five' animals that we had learned about earlier in the year, making links between our classroom learning and the real world. We also took part in engaging educational activities led by the zoo's education team, which helped us learn even more about animals and conservation. The children represented the school brilliantly, and a fantastic time was had by all!



'I liked playing the games and seeing the animals.' - Lacey

'I loved playing and learning about the animals at Whipsnade Zoo.' - Aria

'It was fun learning about the animals.' - Shaan

'We saw some of the Big 5 at the zoo.' - Eloise



Golden Book
Esha

Owl Class

English

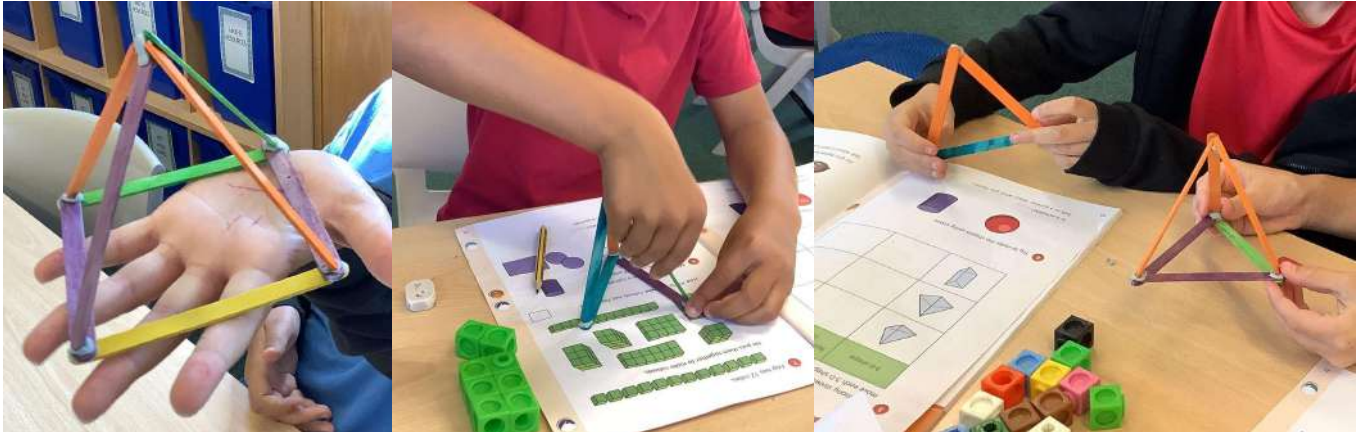
In English, we have been studying **The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare**. We acted out scenes of Portia testing potential husbands, analysed the character of Shylock and wrote letters to the Duke advising him of what to do. The class were very against Shylock's desire to get his pound of flesh above anything else! We also read **The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo**. We compared this alternate version to the traditional tale of Cinderella, and created freeze frames of famous moments from the tale. We also roleplayed as Amasis the pharaoh, wondering what life must be like for a bored king.

'I liked English because it was fun learning about Rhodopis and how she was different to Cinderella.' -
Tabitha

'I disliked Shylock because he wanted a pound of flesh and is very greedy at the same time.' - Eloise

Maths

We have studied Shape and Space as well as Statistics. Have a look at some of the amazing 3D shapes we made using popsicle sticks! These models helped us see that the sticks were edges, the bluetac vertices and the empty spaces were faces. We've also been creating and naming quadrilaterals using the language of parallel lines, angles and symmetry.



'It was very hard work to make the 3D shapes but fun to do it! We learned about lots of shapes' - Lily

'I enjoyed Maths because there was a lot to do!' - Sofia

History

We studied **Ancient Egypt**. We created our own mini River Nile, flooding it to see how the waters naturally flooded the sands with rich soil. We studied pharaohs and the power structure, as well as a day in the life of an ancient Egyptian. And of course, the big finale was our Egyptian WOW day. Owls class looked stylish as we took on the role of an embalmer, using hieroglyphs to decorate the sarcophagus of a lucky tomato. We then sculpted a death mask for it out of clay, before scooping out its 'organs' and burying it in natron salt. We wonder what our mummified tomatoes will look like in 2 weeks!



'History was exciting because we got to come into school in Egyptian clothes and do a lot of fun activities.' -

Gordian

'History was great because I liked sketching the artifacts' - Josh

PE

We practised various athletic skills - running, jumping and throwing across the field. We learnt how to launch and land when jumping, as well as best techniques for starting a sprint. The throwing went with a lot of vigor, sometimes throwing so hard Mr Teague had to duck! We also developed our tennis skills, developing our forehand swing, aiming a tennis ball to a certain spot, and building the skills required for a rally. It was hard work in the heat though, many a hydration break was required!



'I enjoyed PE because I liked practising swings for tennis.' - Kayan

'I loved PE because I like learning about tennis.' - Dylan

DT

We have got the needles and thread out and further thought about 3d shapes by creating a triangular based pyramid - a.k.a a juggling ball! The children analysed existing juggling balls, designed a circus themed juggling ball of their own, and showed resilience and patience as they wove needles to create a running stitch.



'I loved getting the needles and thread out because making pyramids for juggling balls is quite challenging!'

- Leo

'I loved doing the running stitch while everyone else was groaning that it was hard!' - Jasmine

Music

We lit up the Grove Theatre in Dunstable with our amazing singing. Here's a few shots of us dolling up in the dressing room - or relaxing with some card games before we hit the stage. Everybody was fantastic as we braved the big stage and sung a medley of different songs. Owls should be so proud - they were fantastic.



'I loved going to the Grove theatre and singing. Going up on stage was really exciting.' - Kiera
 'I adored singing in front of other adults because it helped me build up my confidence' - Aida

Night at the Curriculum Museum

Just in case you didn't hear, we made our own play this half term! A colossal amount of work has gone into this production, with the children helping to write the script, create props and dedicate some serious rehearsal time. Their patience and enthusiasm has shone through, and we are all very proud of our creation. We hope you enjoyed coming to see it!



'I loved rehearsing the play because I think my character is funny.' - Beau
 'I liked the play because it has a lot of funny jokes in it and songs too.' - Ralf



Golden Book
 Rico

Grove Theatre

Our Year 3 pupils blew everyone away with a sensational singing performance at the Grove Theatre as part of Inspiring Music's 'Something for Summer' showcase. They took to the stage with immense confidence, filling the theatre with beautiful music and making the entire school community incredibly proud.