

Welcome back to school. We hope everyone was able to enjoy the break and we look forward to a busy few weeks.

We began the year with a whole school project where every child had an opportunity to design and decorate a t-shirt. The theme was 'kindness' and each class explored what kindness means to them and how they can show this by their actions and words at school and home. The finale to the week was a parade around the playground where the children were able to wear their t-shirts and show their families what they had created. Each week we have a different kindness in action focus and class teachers are awarding a certificate to children they notice trying hard to do this.



Here are a few of last half term's highlights showing what the children were learning about across the school.

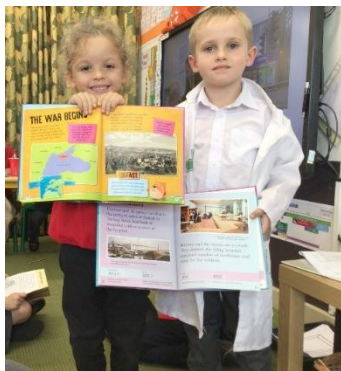


The children in the Foundation unit have all settled well in new settings and new classes. They have made friends and are enjoying all that the Early Years curriculum offers.

F1 and F2 children have had regular trips outside to look for signs of Autumn and to explore the natural environment.

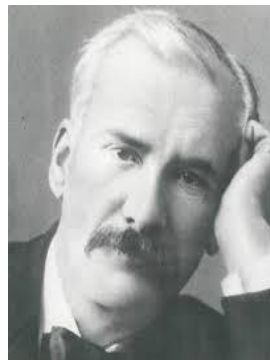
In the unit they have used a wide range of natural materials to help develop key skills.

Year 1



Year 1 children looked at non-fiction books and picture packs about Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Jesse Boot. They saw pictures of the first Boots shop and discovered how old hospitals used to look and how different they are now due to work done by Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

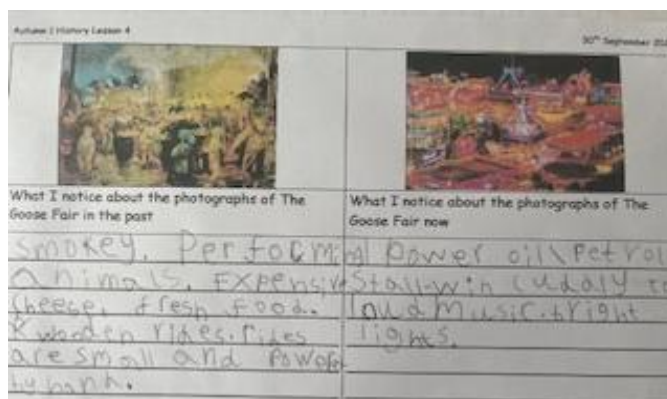
The children loved making natural remedies. Children were also taught about never touching or taking any medicine without a grown up.



Year 2

All children in Key Stage 1 have been finding out about key events and key people linked to improvements in medical care and medicines.

They have also focussed on local history, learning about Goose Fair and how it has changed over the years. Children used photo packs to collect and then record evidence.



Year 3



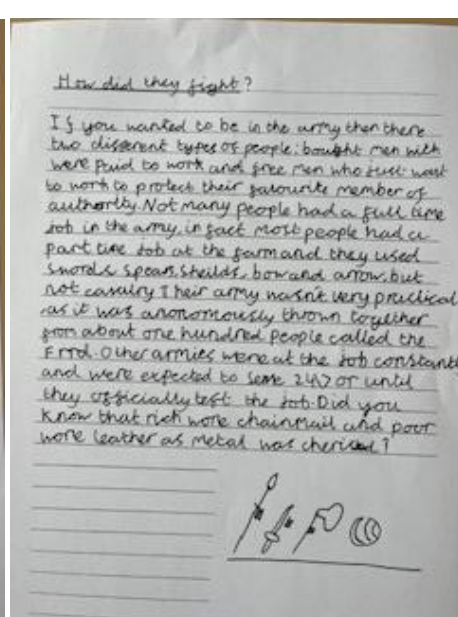
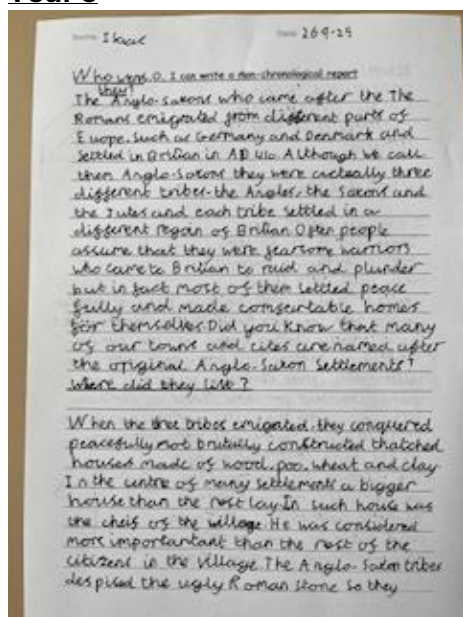
Year 3 children started the term with a DT project where they designed and then made a healthy breaded item. Children enjoyed tasting different ingredients and then practised chopping, grating and peeling a range of items until they had created their perfect snack. The children also spent time investigating two contrasting localities. They visited Bulwell, studying the natural and man-made features they could find and then enjoyed a trip to the woods to compare the two environments.

Year 4

As part of their Inventions topic, Year 4 enjoyed a morning of travel around Nottingham. They went on the bus, a tram and then a short journey on a train. The children also enjoyed a treasure hunt around Nottingham train station.



Year 5



Year 5 have been finding out about the Anglo Saxons and how they lived their daily lives. They learnt about the famous Battle of Hastings by studying sections of the Bayeux Tapestry. They then had a go at creating their own section of the story.



Year 6

Through the topic 'Animal Kingdom' the Y6 children have been learning about biomes and how the human desire for natural resources has an effect on animals. As part of this work the children wrote a non-chronological report about their own made-up lizard.

The Frilled-necked lizard

This extraordinary lizard, can be found in the rainforest, its name is the Frilled-necked lizard. It has many unique features such as its fascinating, pleated Frill that can be used to frighten predators, but that's only one of the multitude of things this cold-blooded beast can do.

I hope you enjoy learning about the Frilled-necked lizard, it is truly fantastic.



Appearance

Intriguingly, this exotic reptile, is unlike any other because of many reasons: First of all its aforementioned, pleated Frill; not a single other species has anything similar to the Frilled-necked lizard's Frill. Although it can not change colour, it can



Still blend in with leaves and other plants due to its naturally green with brown speckled skin, it deceives predators. Another fascinating fact is, that unlike most reptiles the female and male both grow to the same size of up to 30cm.

Habitat and diet

Due to its settlement in the rainforest, its diet is varied: it eats a selection of leaves and seeds but few berries. Because of its blunt teeth, it can't eat hard foods such as nuts or any other hard things. Although it seems intimidating, the Frilled-necked lizard is a herbivore (an animal that eats only plants and other natural, nutritious foods).

Endangerment

Woefully, the Frilled-necked lizard is endangered, it is being poached and hunted down for its skin which is extremely valuable on the black market (it can be used to make bags and belts). Also its horns and spikes have worth for making tools etc. As it's a herbivore, this lizard can squirt blood from its eyes and attempt to scare with its Frill but if those don't work all it can do is run. The regular life span for the Frilled-necked lizard is up to ten years but unfortunately that is being prevented due to the mentioned reasons.



Parent Voice

A huge thank you to all parents who managed to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' event at the very start of the school year and the recent parents' evenings. We value your support and always try to listen and act upon any issues or concerns which are shared. The feedback from parent questionnaires was overwhelmingly positive.

Parent Evening Questionnaire October 2025	Yes	No/ Unsure
Do you feel your child has settled into their new class?	99.5%	5%
Are they generally happy at school?	100%	
Do you know how to contact us if there is a problem?	100%	
Do you feel welcome as a parent when you need to speak to someone about your child?	100%	
Are there any issues you would like to raise?	0%	100%
Did you find Parent's Evening was useful and do you feel that your child's new teacher already knows them well?	100%	
Do you feel that your child is already making good progress this academic year?	100%	
Do you feel that your child is safe and well looked after at school?	100%	
Do you use the class pages on the website to look at what your child is learning in school?	81%	19%

General comments

Very positive meeting lovely to hear he is getting on so well.
Excellent progress in maths.
She loves her teacher and classmates.
Her writing is so much better.
Can struggle on a Monday but once at school she is fine.
It was lovely to see all their work.
Issue raised has been quickly dealt with.
I will make a point of looking at the website.
He loves school.

Pupil Voice

We regularly ask children for their feedback and encourage them to speak up and talk to a trusted adult if they are worried or upset about something. Each class also has a Primary Parliament representative who can raise issues or ideas during meetings.
If a pupil raises a concern on the questionnaire this will always be followed up with them if they have chosen to share their name. Common themes are addressed during assemblies. There were 223 returned copies.

Pupil Voice Survey October 2025 Name (optional)

Year group

	Yes/Mostly	No
I am feeling happy and settled in my new class.	98.5%	1.5%
I enjoy the topics we learn about in class.	97.5%	2.5%
I have friends to play with when I am outside.	98.5%	1.5%
I know who to talk to if I have a problem at school or home.	98.5%	1.5%
I like my teachers and other adults in the class.	99.5%	0.5%
My teacher explains how to do the work and helps me understand how to make my work better.	99%	1%
I feel safe when I am at school.	98.5%	1.5%
The children in my class are usually kind to me.	98.5%	1.5%
I am kind to the children in my class.	99.5%	0.5%
In school I understand that everyone is different, and this is something that is ok.	99.5%	0.5%
I know how to stay safe online.	98.5%	1.5%
I know who I can talk to if I am every upset or worried.	97%	3%
I understand that 'bullying' is different to a fallout on the playground.	97%	3%
I know some ways to look after my mental health.	96.5%	3.5%

Is there anything which you think could make our school an even better place?

- Non uniform every Friday
- Good behaviour rewarded with ties and lanyards
- Have a games night
- More clubs
- Longer break times
- Taco and spicy chicken for lunch
- More trips
- More toys on the playground
- More creative writing
- More student choice on buying reading books
- Teachers to have more free time to talk to children
- Another bike shelter
- A class pet

Talent Show

Children in Y1-Y6 are invited to enter the show and share a dance, poem, song, comedy sketch, magic act or anything else which will entertain. Children will be asked to perform in front of their class and the children will vote for a winner and a runner up who will take part in the show on the last day of the Christmas term. Auditions will take place in the week commencing Monday 24th November. This event is becoming a firm favourite with the children.

Wrap around care

As well as breakfast club, Hempshill Hall Primary School offers after school wrap around care. This is available from 3.30-5.50pm during term time. If you are interested in using this facility, please contact the school office for more information.

Healthy School

Please remember to send your child to school with only water and a healthy fresh fruit or vegetable snack. Children who bring other snack items will be asked to save them until the end of the school day.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all the contributions the children brought in for Harvest Festival. Children helped deliver the food to the Food Bank and they were able to see how the food is organised, stored and distributed. The volunteers were extremely appreciative and they confirmed Hempshill Hall Primary contributed over 110 kg of donations, which is amazing. Please remember we have a food and toiletries collection box in the main entrance of school, and we will give these to the food bank as and when the box is full. We are also able to refer any families who may be struggling; please come and see the office staff if this is something which would help you.



Breast Cancer 'Wear Pink Day'



Voluntary donations for a non-uniform day and the cake sale raised just over £395 which is incredible. This money will be sent to the charity to help continue the amazing work they do. We all know family or friends who have been affected by cancer and your support for this event is much appreciated. Lots of pre-loved uniform was also taken and it will continue to be available all year around. Please just pop into the office if you need anything.

Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need

Monday 10th November it is the start of Anti Bullying Week. This year the theme is 'Power for Good'. We will be holding a special assembly to remind the children what bullying is and what they can do if they feel this is happening to them or if they are aware that someone is being unkind to one of their friends. Children will also complete a range of different activities within their classes. There is a useful guide for parents which can be found using this link [Parents and Carers](#). We will add this to the website.

We will also join in with 'Odd Sock Day' to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. We would like all children and staff (and parents) to come to school with their best odd sock choices on Friday 14th November. This will coincide with Children in Need, and we will be having a non-uniform day. We would love children to wear something blue or yellow and their craziest pair of socks. We are asking for a voluntary donation, and we will split the money between the Anti Bullying Alliance and Children in Need. We thank you for your ongoing support with these important events.

Website

Please remember that the school website holds a huge amount of information about the day-to-day life of the school and shows what your child will be learning each half term. We endeavour to keep it as up to date as possible so please take a look.

Clubs

Autumn 2 (Nov- Dec 25) information has already been sent out. There are a few spaces left in certain clubs. Please enquire in the school office.

Clubs running this half term – Autumn 2 (Nov – Dec 25)

Club	Year Group	Teachers	Night
Drawing club	YR 1	Mrs Uppal	Monday
Art club	YR 2	Mrs Dakin	Monday
Wellbeing club	KS2	Megan Mental Health worker	Wednesday lunchtime
Dance club	YR 3	Miss Hobster	Tuesday
Computing/coding club	YR 4	Miss Taylor	Tuesday
Lego club	YR 5	Mrs Trout	Tuesday
Chance to Shine Cricket club	YR 6	Mr Ellis	Monday
Football	YR 5/6	Mr Kendall/Mr Strong	Wednesday
Football alternative weeks girl/boy	YR 3 and 5	Mr Strong	Tuesday lunchtime
Football alternative weeks girl/boy	YR 4 and 6	Mr Strong	Wednesday lunchtime
Area Band	YR 5 and 6	Mrs Francis	Wednesday invite only

Keeping safe online

Keeping the children safe is always our highest priority. In school all children are monitored when using school equipment and alerts are raised if they search for anything which may be deemed as harmful or not age appropriate. Each half term we deliver specific lessons about online safety and what to do if they ever encounter a problem. This half term's focus is 'Online Bullying'.

Please continue to support us by talking to your children about acceptable use and ensure parental controls are in place. There is useful information in the parent section on the website. If you ever need support, please ask a member of staff and we will be happy to help you or signpost you to someone who can.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school attendance policy and made sure that their children have attended whenever possible and arrived on time. Please let the school office know by 9.30am at the latest if your child is unwell and will not be attending. Please also remember to update new mobile phone contacts if you change numbers.



Attendance Matters!

Newsletter Nov 2025

Welcome to our attendance newsletter. Each half term we will be updating you on school attendance and which year groups and classes are working hard to help school achieve their target. We will also share tips and information with you around illness and punctuality.



In Autumn 1, 146 children were late on one or more occasion.

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time as learning starts straight away.

The gate will be closed at 9.05am and children will need to be signed in at the office after this time. If your child arrives after 9.30am, this will be recorded as unauthorized.

Well done to our stars for attendance for Autumn 1 - Year 2 were the year group with the highest attendance and Class Beeby was the stand out class.

In total, three classes had attendance over 95%! Well done!



Our aim is for all children to achieve 95%+ attendance. Keep trying to come to school on time every day!

Autumn 1 Attendance

F1	92.57%
F2	94.29.%
Y1	95.88%
Y2	96.36%
Y3	96.07%
Y4	93.79%
Y5	94.19%
Y6	94.01%



Class	Hobster	Belton	Post/Hal	Uppal	Beeby	Rushton	Cuntiffe	Slan/Yaz	Gow/Bond	Gibbs	Kendall	Cham/Braz	Romeo	Brown/Wri	Class
%	92.57%	94.5%	94.07%	94.99%	97.55%	95.89%	95.91%	96.24%	94.85%	92.75%	92.46%	95.88%	94.98%	93.01%	%



Attendance Officer: Mrs Tidswell

Remembrance Day

Poppies, wrist bands and other items will be on sale from Wednesday 5th November. Children may bring a small donation for a poppy or a suggested £1.50 donation for slap bands, £1.00 for wrist bands and 50p for coat tags. Poppies will be on sale for KS2 children at morning break in the conservatory. They will also be on sale every morning on the small KS1 playground. All proceeds will be given to the British Legion. The children will take part in a Remembrance Service and observe a minute's silence on Tuesday 11th November. Children may wear Rainbow/Beavers, etc uniforms on this day.



Diary Dates

Monday 3rd November – Return to school

Monday 10th November - Anti Bullying Week

Tuesday 11th November – Remembrance assembly in school (children only) – children can wear uniforms from cubs, brownies, etc.

Friday 14th November – Children in Need (non-uniform)

Monday 17th November – Anti bullying assembly and Odd Socks Day

Friday 21st November – INSET Day School Closed

Monday 24th November– Monday 8th December – Talent show auditions

Friday 5th December – Interim reports sent home.

Monday 8th December 2.15pm – KS1 Christmas Performance

Tuesday 9th December 9.15am – KS1 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 10th December – KS1 visit to ‘Winter Wonderland’ at Bulwell Forrest Gardens am

Wednesday 10th December – Y4 trip to the Pantomime at Nottingham Playhouse

Wednesday 10th December – The Hub Christmas Performance 2pm

Thursday 11th December – Travelling to Bethlehem and Christmas Lunch and Rock Steady Concert 2.45pm

Monday 15th December 2.45pm – Year 3/4 Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 17th December Y5/6 Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 17th December 3.30pm Christmas Fair event

Thursday 18th December – Party Day

Friday 19th December – Talent Show and last day of school

More information will follow about tickets and performances closer to the time.

Monday 5th January – School reopens