

# NEWSLETTER

EDITION 5

MAY 2022

**Fancy seeing you here! This half term has been all about science, engineering and Wizardry! What's not to love...a winning combination!**

## Summer of STEM

For this half term's activity, we chose "Summer of STEM" and controversially, it had nothing whatsoever to do with the classes' countries or colours. We broke all of our own rules!

**This was a short half term so each week we entertained two classes – controlled chaos!**

For Year's 6, 5S, 5N and 4, each session began with a bridge building challenge in the Dinner Hall. Each small group was given 150 straws and a roll of Sellotape and were tasked with building a bridge between two dinner tables that was strong enough to roll a golf ball from one side to the other. It was fascinating seeing how each group approached the challenge. At the end of the session all groups watched as Ali tested each of the individual bridges – the children enjoyed the ridiculously loud countdown and cheering on the efforts of their classmates.

For Year's 3 and 2, the session began with a marshmallow tower building challenge in the Dinner Hall. Each small group was given two containers of cocktail sticks and a bag of mini marshmallows and were tasked with building the tallest tower. Again, it was really fascinating watching how each group approached the challenge – we appear to have a lot of budding engineers at Gresham!

For all classes above, their second challenge was to create a "Marshmallow Shooter" out of a paper cup, scissors, balloon and gaffer tape.

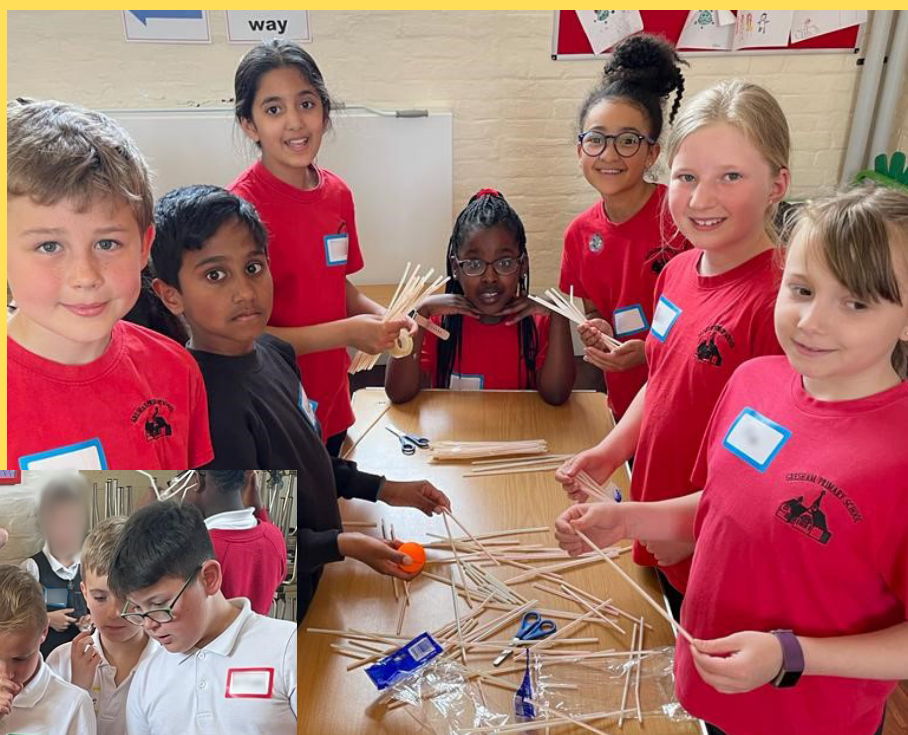


This challenge was rather tricky and had varying success rates – but each team had a least one shooter to share between them. The teams marched out to the playground to try their luck at shooting marshmallows into their team's target. The team with the most marshmallows on target were awarded house points. It was a lot of fun! Some children even got a chance to shoot at their Teaching Assistants!

For Year 1 and Reception, we set up a mini science lab with five different experiments for them to explore. From cornflour messy play, dancing raisins and travelling ink rainbows to magic ink pictures and a clean hands demonstration. The children giggled at the dancing raisins in the lemonade cups and were entranced as their ink rainbows magically travelled along the tissue paper.



# Summer of STEM





# Harry Potter Day

**Our fifth reverse school trip was epic!**



## You didn't need to be a Harry Potter fan to enjoy the day's activities.

Staff were dressed as Harry Potter characters ready to greet the Muggles in the morning. Each classroom door was decorated with Harry Potter memorabilia. The lower corridor ceiling was filled with flying owls and letters for Muggles and most special of all the Dinner Hall was turned into Gresham's very own Great Hall with floating candles.

During the course of the day, each class was invited to participate in a wonderful wizarding experience with Owyn (from Quidditch for Muggles). The younger classes were guided through spell and charm lessons, not forgetting the spectacular broomstick flying races!

The older classes learnt the rules of Quidditch and played in spectacular tournaments.



The children were also invited to participate in a competition to find the Golden Snitches (lower corridor classes) or the Ministry of Magic pictures (upper corridor classes) hidden around the playground. One winner from lower and another from upper were drawn from Sorting Hats at a special assembly and Harry Potter themed prizes were presented.

To top off the magic – the school dinner menu was also themed.

It was a truly spellbinding day – the children and staff all enjoyed themselves tremendously. It's getting very hard to decide which has been our favourite Reverse School Trip so far, but this one is definitely up there!

If your children were captured by the activities Owyn shared with them, you can find details of his holiday camps and birthday party packages here ([www.quidditchformuggles.com](http://www.quidditchformuggles.com)).



Charm Class



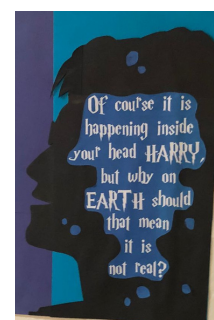


"Well it has been another exciting half term with a variety of fun activities for the children to get involved in. Today has been truly spectacular and to watch the children's surprise seeing their teaching staff dressed up was magical. Over the past couple of years, our children have missed out on so many things and we are very grateful to the PA and all the volunteers that have organised this amazing day."

Ms Steele



## The Human Golden Snitches





## All good things must come to an end...

**As we stated in our last newsletter, the Wellbeing Programme was designed to be a one year only programme to lift the spirits of our lovely school community after such a fractured two years. Therefore, we wanted to remind you all that the programme will finish at the end this school year.**

However, rather than come to an abrupt end, it has been agreed with Ms Steele that the concept of Reverse School Trips will continue for another academic year from September 2022. These are the events that take place once per half term where an external "provider of fun" sets up camp in school for the day to share their skills and energy with the children and staff.

Further to this, the Gresham Parents' Association (PA) have committed to continue to sponsor these and raise enough funds to cover the cost for another academic year. This is no mean feat as this could cost anything up to £3,000.

Hopefully you will have seen the adverts for the PA's forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Summer Fair and seen that 100% of funds raised from this particular event will be put to this exact cause. We would therefore like to ask each of you to do all you can, in whichever way you can, to support this event.

Wouldn't it be simply wonderful to go into the next academic year already having raised enough money to fund the continuation of Reverse School Trips for our children and their teachers for another year?

## Thank you...

### To our volunteers:

Once again, thank you to those of you that have volunteered this term! We say it every half term, but it honestly wouldn't be possible to run the activities without you.

Please contact Sarah and Ali (sarah.burwood@btinternet.com) if you'd like to understand more about volunteering in any of the forthcoming wellbeing activities.

### For your LEGO donations:

Massive thanks to those of you that have kindly donated your unwanted LEGO to the Wellbeing Programme. All LEGO will be donated to the school at the end of the summer term.

### To the Gresham Parents' Association:

Huge thanks again to the Gresham Parents' Association for continuing to fund the Wellbeing Programme. Their ongoing sponsorship is fundamental to the success of the Wellbeing Programme – without it, it simply wouldn't have been possible to share any of these experiences with your children and the staff. Please keep an eye out for the PA's forthcoming events and support them where you can.

If you'd like more information on how to get involved with Gresham's Parents' Association, please contact Andy and Yas (Co-Chairs) at greshamschoolpa@gmail.com.

We really do hope your children have enjoyed their science and wizarding escapades with us.

We've certainly had a blast! We look forward to seeing them all again after half term for one final round of mischief and shenanigans!

We wish you all a lovely half term break!  
Best wishes,

*Ali & Sarah*

## Thinking Tree in Action...

We just wanted to share this photo with you all. One of the Year 5 classes wrote motivational and good luck messages to Year 6 at the beginning of May ahead of their SATs.

How lovely!

