

# Priory Lane Community School

## Autumn 2 Newsletter

### A message from Mrs Leighton

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Your cooperation in embracing our new morning routines has made a real difference, and we are extremely grateful for your efforts in ensuring that children arrive at school on time and ready to learn by 8.50am each day.

This term has also been a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our school community. It has been a pleasure to meet so many more of you through our parents' evenings, Christmas craft afternoons, celebration assemblies, the Christmas fair and our Christmas church service. These events have been a highlight of the term and a reminder of how valuable your involvement and support are to the life of the school.

I am delighted to share with you that we raised a very impressive £3404 for Lindsey Lodge on this year's Santa Run. This year the Santa Run was held in the school hall as an obstacle course with a Christmas theme. Thanks to Miss Chick and Mr Renney for being so creative with the space and ensuring that this event could happen despite the terrible weather. A special mention must go to Arthur in year 1 who raised £1593. Well done! Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a worthwhile cause.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Christmas Fair. It was wonderful to see such a busy school hall. Huge thanks to 'Father Christmas' for visiting us - your generosity was very much appreciated. All of the proceeds raised will go to school funds. We are hoping to combine any monies raised at the Christmas Fair with funds raised at next year's garden party to invest in playground developments for the children.

The launch of our positive phone calls home on a Friday has received very positive feedback over the last couple of weeks. This is something that we will continue in the new year and embed into our weekly school routines. We are always incredibly proud of our children but we don't always share that as often as we should. In 2026 the Friday positive phone call home will become one of our core routines and habits.

Thank you for working in partnership with us and for being such an important part of our school community. We wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2026 Mrs Leighton



# Early Years Foundation Stage

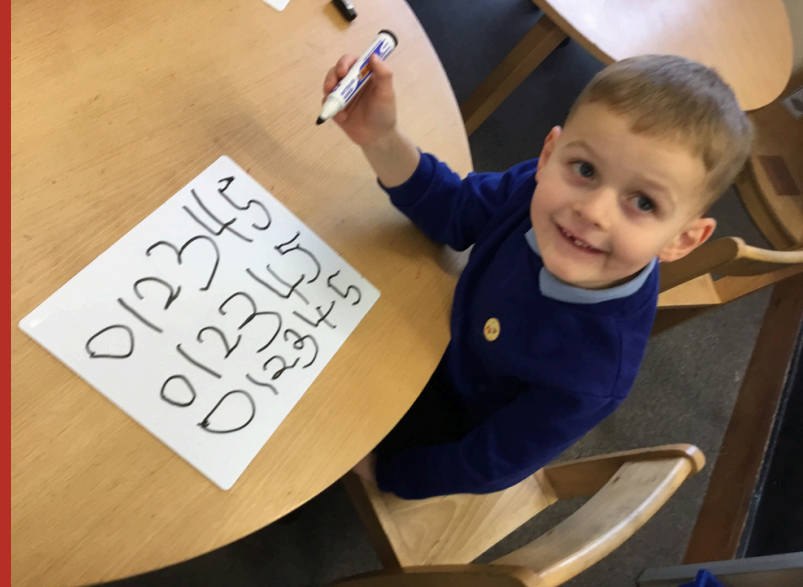
What a busy term we have had! Our topic 'Beneath the Branches' started with a trip to Normanby Hall before the half term holiday. The grown-ups were very proud of our behaviour whilst we walked through the woods, collecting autumn treasures and feeding the ducks. Returning after the break, we have learnt about the animals that live in the woods and how autumn affects them. In Literacy, we have been reading lots of books, including *The Leaf Thief* and *One Snowy Night*.

This term we have been focussing on oral segmenting and blending. Our 'Fred Talk' is getting much better and we are starting to spell words in our writing. We enjoy Bubble Writing and we are becoming more confident with our letter formation.

In Maths we have been developing our understanding of numerical patterns: which numbers are one less and one more, identifying missing numbers in a sequence and forming numerals.

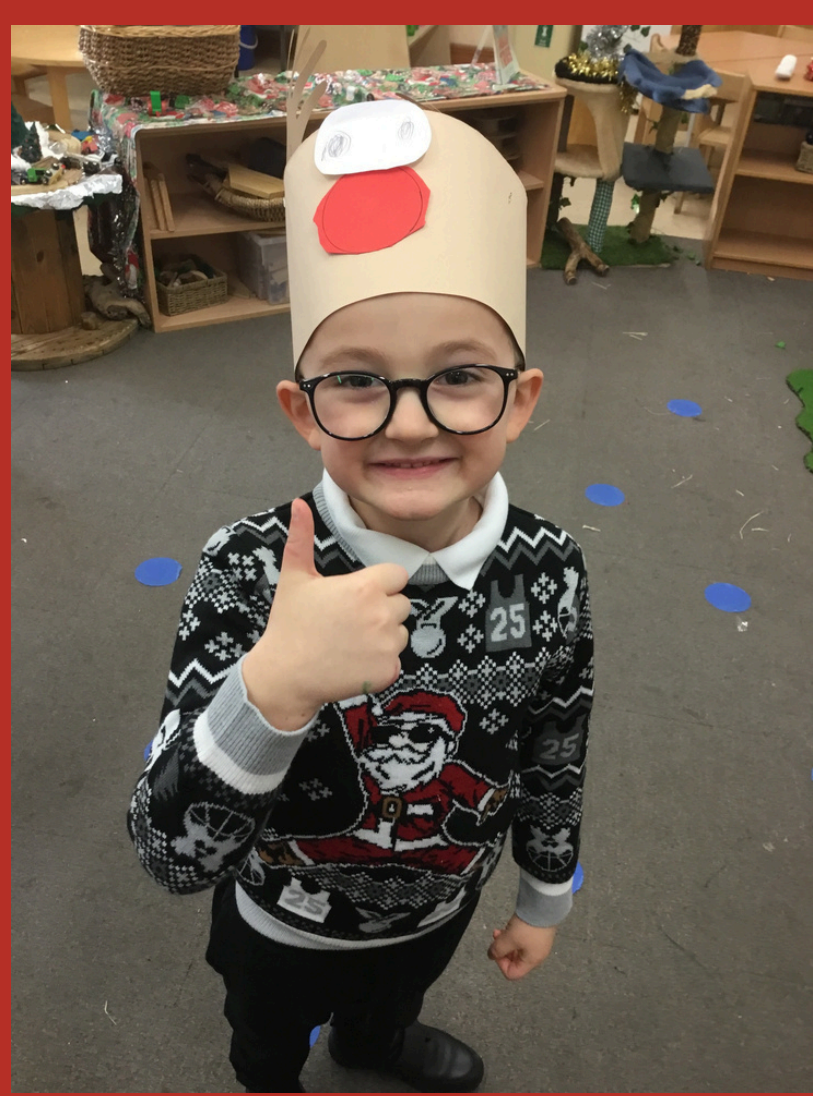
As part of our creative development, we have been practising our printing skills, using fruit, vegetables and other materials to create autumn pictures. Going to the computer room has been great fun! We have been learning how to control a mouse and click on different icons to create artwork on a paint programme.

For Road Safety Week, we had a visit from the North Lincolnshire Road Safety team. We practised looking left and right as we crossed the road and learned a poem to help us remember how to stay safe near roads.



It's been a half term of dressing up... we dressed up for Children in Need and wore odd socks for Anti-bullying Week. And we have recently worn our Christmas jumpers and party clothes for our Christmas celebrations.

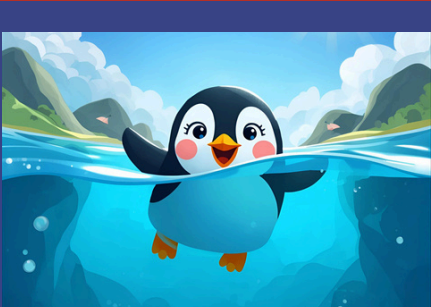
Whilst learning about the meaning of Christmas, we visited St. Hugh's Church. Reverend Jenny gave us a tour of the church, explaining what all the different artefacts are and what they are used for. We even got a turn at ringing the bells! After Christmas, we will be learning about toys through time. The museum is lending us old toys to look at and explore. We will learn about what toys are made from, how they work and how they have changed since our teachers were little. We will be carrying out scientific experiments and investigating which toys float and sink and which are magnetic. We are going to be making our own puppets, using split pins to make the arms and legs move.



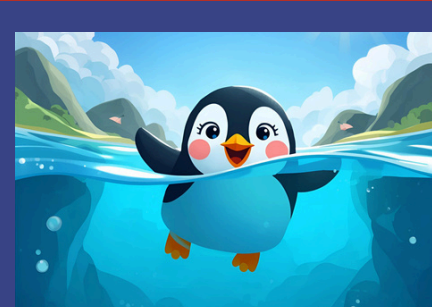
Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy is next term's recommended read.

The moon and back before bedtime? Whatever next! Join Baby Bear as he finds a rocket, makes friends with an owl and has a picnic on the moon!

This story is also available to watch on [youtube](#).



## Year 1



Well, what can I say...another fantastic (and busy) half term for the Y1 Penguins.

In English, the children have again excelled with their writing. This half term we have used 'Nibbles, the Book Monster' By Emma Yarlett as our class text. The children have written wonderful recounts based on being the character Nibbles. Next half term the text we will be using to inspire our writing is 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field.

All of the children have enjoyed our DT lessons where we have explored stability and from this successfully made our own pencil pots. One of the highlights from this term was definitely the children building a structure from all the recycled materials.

In History, we have explored toys through the ages. The children have enjoyed learning about how toys have changed and evolved from the past.

Next half term, we are returning to Geography and exploring all about the UK. In our Art lessons, we are also going to be creating sculptures with paper. I am really proud of how hard the children have worked this half term and I am very much looking forward to seeing what the next term brings.

Next term's recommended read is *A Squash and a Squeeze* by Julia Donaldson.

As always, thank you for your continued support, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy 2026.

Mrs F Keighley



## Year 2



What a wonderful half term it has been in Y2 Dolphins! The children have worked so hard, and I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

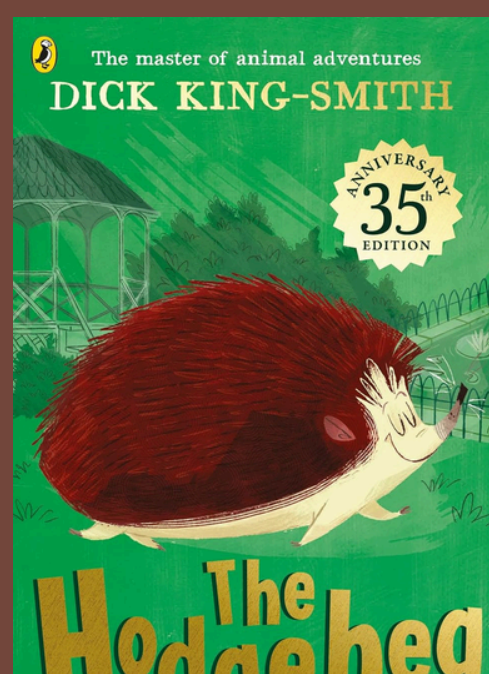
In Maths, they have been practising adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. They have learnt the correct methods and are well on their way to becoming very confident mathematicians.

In Design and Technology, the children have been exploring structures. They investigated different types of chairs, considering how strong, stable and comfortable they were. They then designed and made their own chair strong enough to hold a teddy bear. There was plenty of trial and error, but thanks to their fantastic resilience, every child achieved a successful outcome—well done, Dolphins!

The children have also worked brilliantly across all other areas of the curriculum.

The recommended read for next half term is *The Hedgehog* by Dick King-Smith.

Max is a hedgehog who lives with his family in a nice little home, but unfortunately on the wrong side of the road from the Park, with its beautiful lily pond, and more importantly its juicy slugs, worms and snails! The busy road is a dangerous barrier but Max notices that humans seem to cross it quite easily. If they can, why can't hedgehogs? So Max sets out on a quest to find a safe way to reach the park.



Next half term, we will begin an in-depth Science study on animals and their habitats. Building on this term's work on survival, the children will learn about a wide range of animals and how they are suited to their environments. We will also be going on an exciting trip to explore some habitats first hand—more information to follow soon.

I hope you all have the most magical Christmas with your families.

Mrs Franco





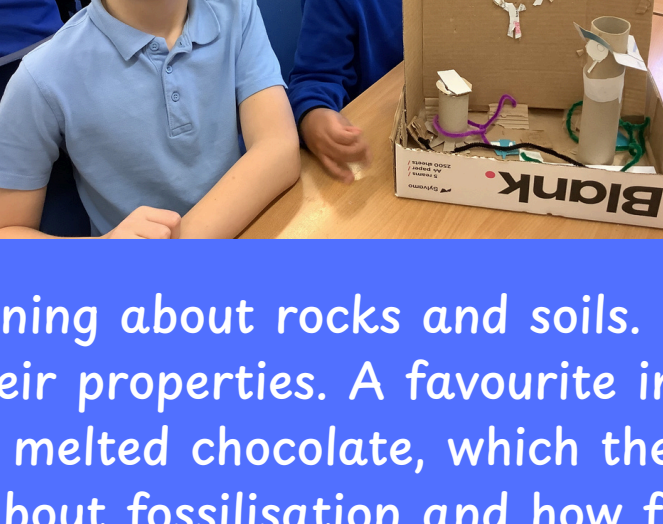
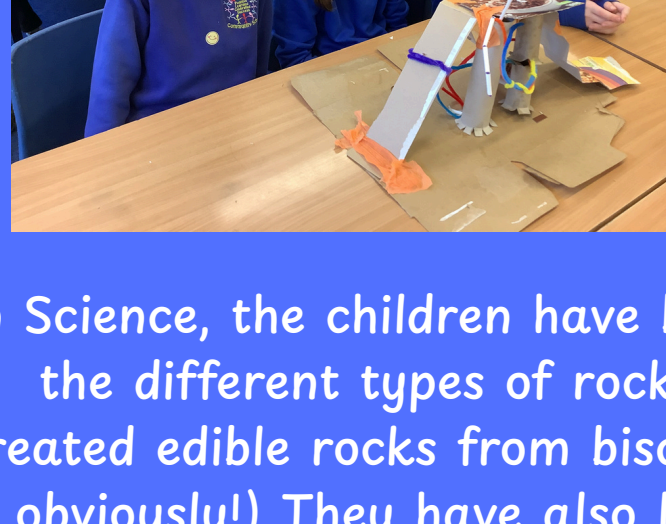
## Year 3

In the second part of the autumn term, year 3 have shown that they understand the routines of year3, and they have shown maturity and resilience when facing the more challenging KS2 curriculum.

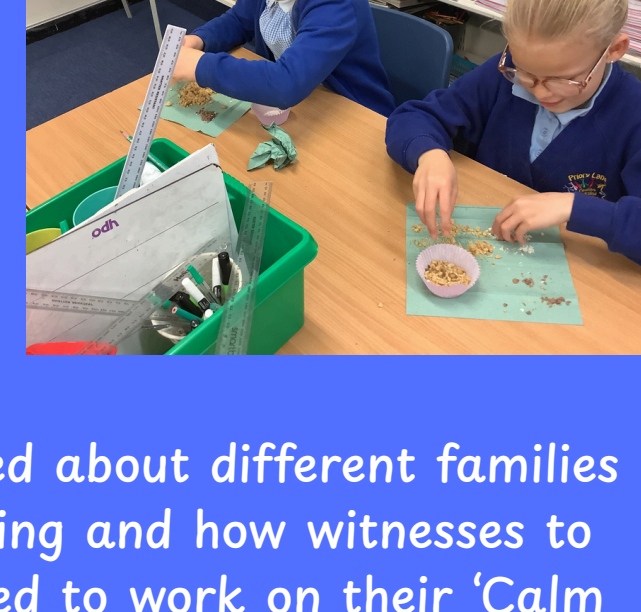
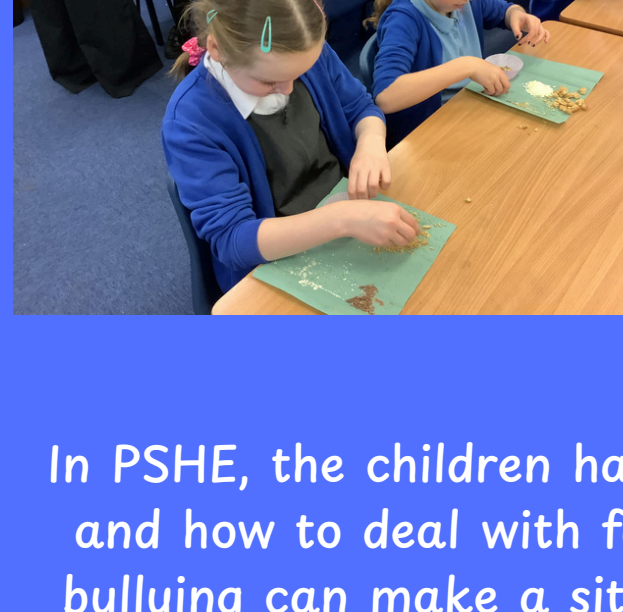
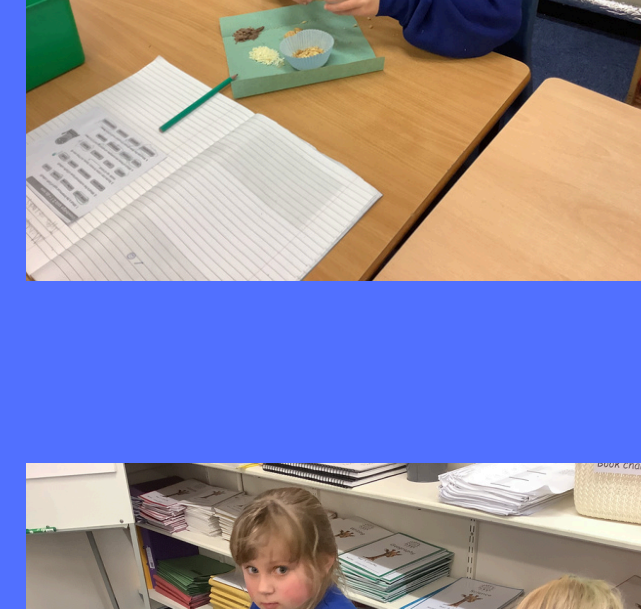
In Geography, the children have learned about the UK and how the land is used within it. They have learned about the mountains and hills of the UK, the seas and oceans that surround it and the names of some of the larger rivers that flow through it. They have learned about the different types of settlements that people choose to live in, and which of these are rural and which are urban. The children have used atlases, as well as digital mapping and the internet to research key information.



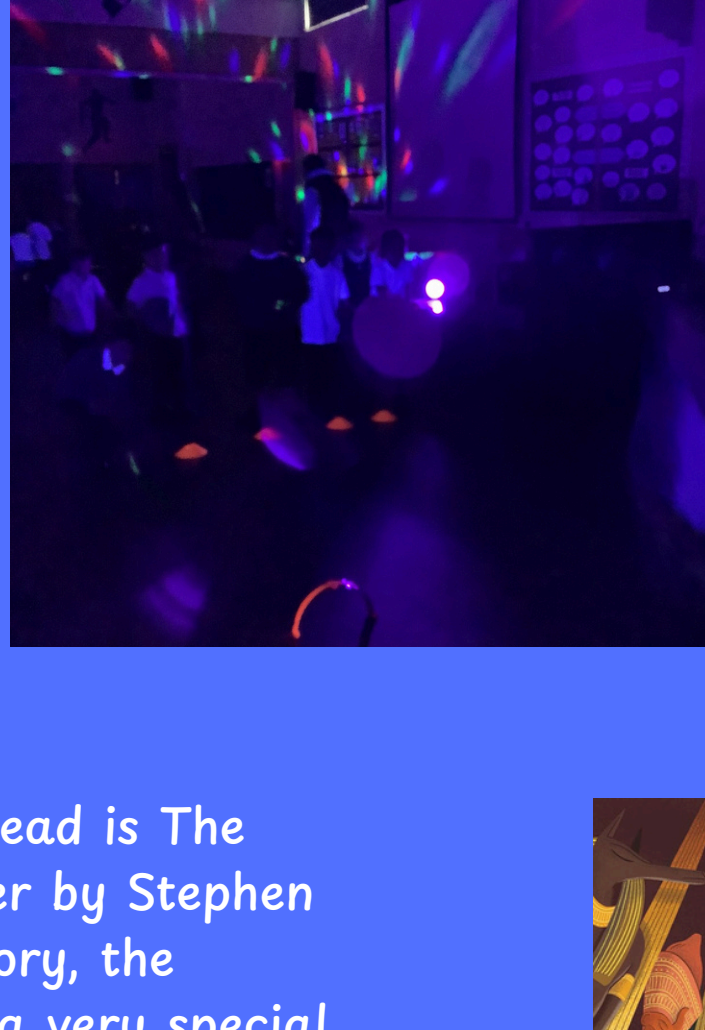
In Art, the year 3 children have learned about abstract sculpture, with a focus on the artist Anthony Caro. They have practised joining skills such as: folding, tabs and slotting. They applied these skills when they created an abstract sculpture inspired by Anthony Caro's 'Children's Tower Room'. They considered negative and positive space when creating their design, and worked well with their partners to produce the cardboard 3D playground sculpture. The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating these pieces of art work, and we thank you for all of the cardboard you have contributed for this.



In Science, the children have been learning about rocks and soils. We have conducted several investigations into the different types of rocks and their properties. A favourite investigation of the children was when they created edible rocks from biscuits and melted chocolate, which they ate upon completion (for scientific reasons, obviously!) They have also learned about fossilisation and how fossils form in sedimentary rock. They loved creating their own fossils using clay and dinosaur moulds. The children have also learned about the different types of soils, and made links to their learning about permeability from earlier in the half term.



In PSHE, the children have been Celebrating Differences. They have learned about different families and how to deal with family conflict. They have also learned about bullying and how witnesses to bullying can make a situation better or worse. The children have continued to work on their 'Calm me' technique to support them with their mental wellbeing.



Our recommended read is *The Ancient Egypt Sleepover* by Stephen Davies. In this story, the character Mo has won a very special prize: an Ancient Egypt sleepover in a museum. However, he has no clue how dangerous it will turn out to be. With a mystery to solve, hieroglyphic codes to crack and priceless treasure to save, one thing is for sure: Mo will not be getting any sleep tonight!



In the spring term, the year 3 children will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians. This will be our topic for the whole of the spring term and we are sure that the children will enjoy learning about the River Nile, pharaohs, and pyramids and tombs.

In DT, the children will be investigating and designing wearable technology. This will involve programming Micro:bits and including these in their final design.

Science, we will carry out an in-depth study for the spring term into light and shadows. The children will learn about light sources, staying safe in the sunshine and reflection.

We hope that you all have a very merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in January.



## Year 4



This half term, the Koalas have absolutely loved exploring the book *The Place Between*. It has been full of excitement, twists, and surprises from start to finish! The children were eager to discover how the story ended and were thrilled to find out that Abdul Kazzam was actually a kind magician who took Leon to the magical "Place Between." To round off our learning, the children wrote wonderful diary entries from Leon's point of view.

In Art, the children have produced some truly beautiful work as part of our Fabric of Nature topic. They explored the designs of William Morris, made their own mood boards, experimented with batik, and used oil pastels and watercolours to create bright, inspiring pieces. Some of their fantastic artwork is now proudly displayed just outside our classroom.

Science has been full of hands-on investigations this term, with a focus on the three states of matter. The water cycle experiment and watching water evaporate were definite highlights for the class!



We also wrapped up our topic on the Romans, learning about the many ways they influenced life today. The children discovered how the Romans traded, built roads, what they believed, and how their words and number systems are still used. To finish the unit, they created their own non-chronological reports all about Roman Britain.

In RE, our focus has been Hinduism. It was lovely to see how much the children remembered from Year 3, and we enjoyed exploring the different ways Hindus come together to worship as a community.



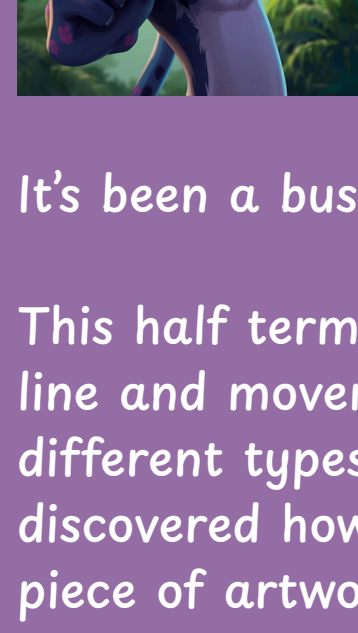
As we moved into the festive season, the children were delighted to welcome family members into school for an afternoon of Christmas crafts. Thank you so much to everyone who came along—your involvement made it such a special experience, and it was wonderful to see the children enjoying quality time with their loved ones.

Looking ahead to the new year, our main foundation subjects will be Geography and Science. In Science, the children will be exploring living things and their environments, and in Geography we will be learning all about the Amazon, rivers, and rainforests. We will also be starting our weekly football PE lessons, which many of the children are very excited about!

Our key text next term will be *Escape from Pompeii*, the story of a Roman boy named Tranio.

I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing Christmas with your families, and I look forward to seeing you in 2026.

Miss Outhwaite



## Year 5

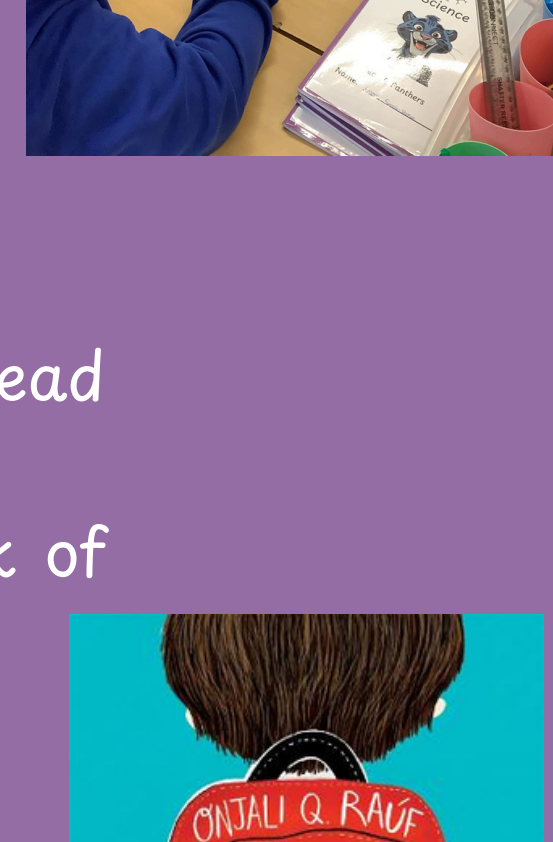
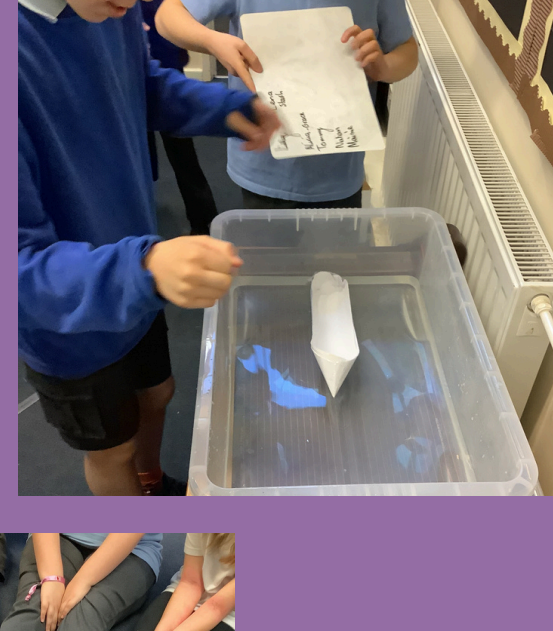
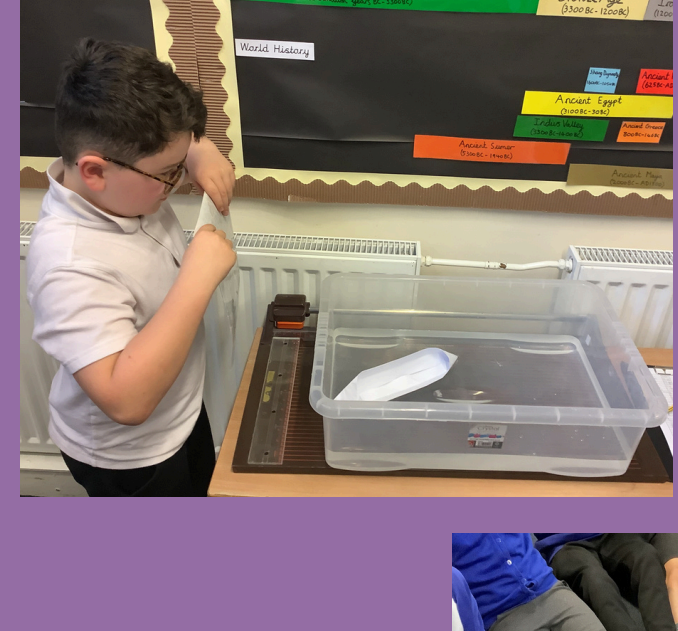


It's been a busy and exciting half term in Year 5!

This half term in Art, the children have been exploring how artists use line and movement to express emotions. They experimented with different types of lines to represent a range of body movements and discovered how these choices can change the mood or feeling within a piece of artwork. To finish the unit, each child chose a happy memory and sketched it carefully. They then transformed their design into a final lino-block print.

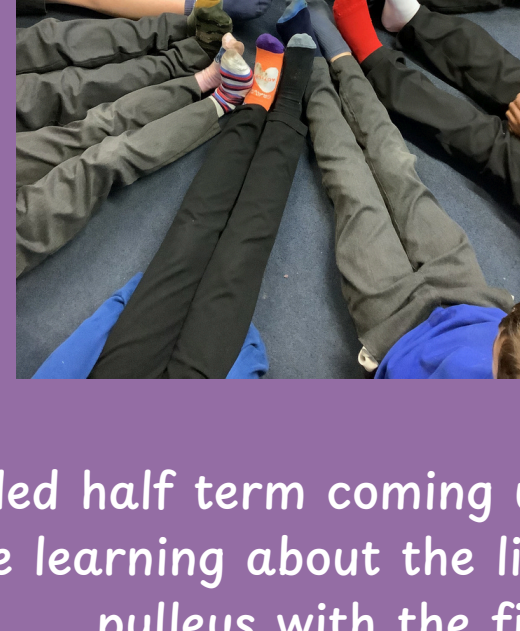
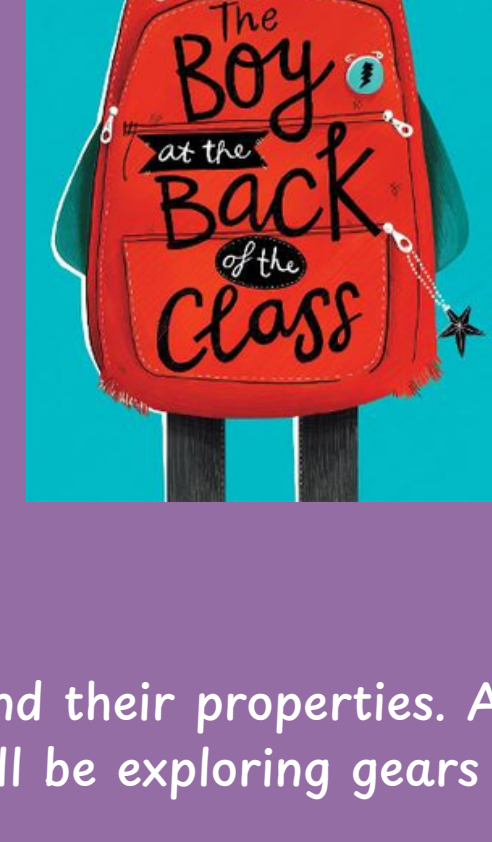
In Geography, we continued our study of Asia and its natural disasters. The children learned how volcanoes are formed, what happens during an eruption, and what makes these events so powerful. We also explored earthquakes, investigating what causes them and what happens when the ground begins to shake. To conclude our topic, we looked at the secondary consequences that can follow these disasters, such as tsunamis and landslides, and discussed how they can impact people, landscapes and communities around the world.

Our Science lessons have been full of hands-on investigations. We began by exploring forces, learning what they are and how they affect the world around us. The children learned about gravity, and experimented with friction. We also investigated air resistance by designing and testing our own parachutes and water resistance by



Our recommended read is *The Boy at the Back of the Class*

By Onjali Rauf

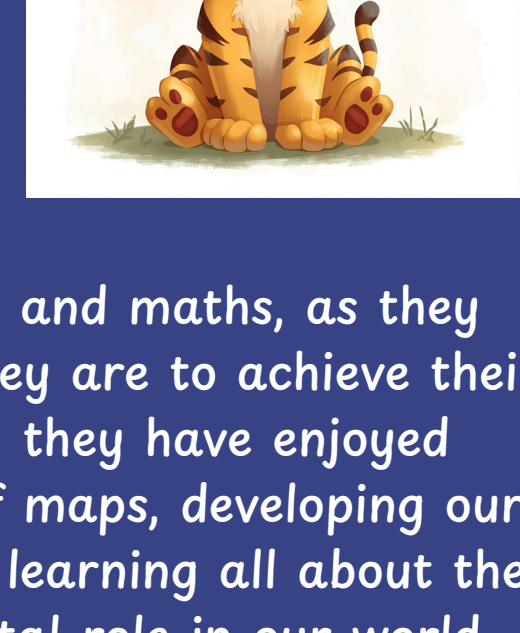


We have a fun filled half term coming up! In Science, we will be exploring materials and their properties. As historians, we will be learning about the life of the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. In DT, we will be exploring gears and pulleys with the final outcome of designing and eco-gadget bike.

The children have worked incredibly hard this half term and should be very proud of all they have achieved. We hope you enjoy hearing about their learning and look forward to an exciting new term ahead.



## Year 6



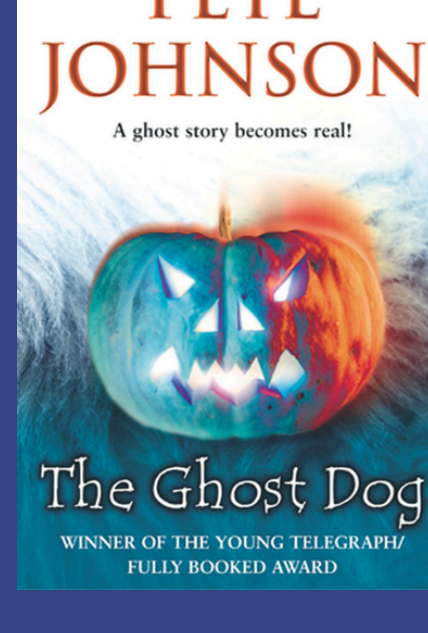
Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this term, focussing on their reading, writing and maths, as they continue their preparations for the SATs tests. We are really proud of how determined they are to achieve their best! In design and technology, the children have been exploring their creative talents; they have enjoyed designing and making their own bags. In geography, we have been exploring the world of maps, developing our understanding of how we navigate and represent places. During science lessons, we been learning all about the classification of plants and animals as well as micro-organisms and how they play a vital role in our world.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas crafts afternoon – it was lovely to see so many of you getting festive and creative with your children! We are now getting excited for all of the festive activities which will be taking place during the final week.



Our recommended read is *The Ghost Dog* by Pete Johnson

When Daniel and his friends make up a ghost story about a terrifying dog what begins as a story turns into a nightmare... A spine tingling tale about a boy haunted by the monstrous creature he created in his own imagination.



In the New Year, our learning journey will continue with new topics to explore. In science, we will be studying evolution and inheritance, while in history we will focus on conflict and resolution. We will continue developing our creative talents in art: learning to express ideas through drawing. It promises to be an exciting and engaging start to the new term!