

NEWS-BRANCEPETH

AUTUMN TERM 2 2024

EYFS

We can't believe that we have already completed our first term in Reception! This term has been jammed packed with exciting activities and many opportunities to explore our topic - 'Celebrations'. We have really enjoyed learning about Christmas, Bonfire Night, Sukkot, Diwali Shabbat and Hanukkah. We have also enjoyed baking a range of food items including gingerbread and challah bread.

We have also continued to learn new sounds in phonics and have started to read words in our reading books. In Mathematics, we have developed our understanding of numbers to 10 and have identified different shapes. We have explored a range of stories including some of our favourites: 'Finn's Little Fibs', 'The Ninjabread Man' and 'Dasher'. We have really enjoyed retelling these stories in our story world.

This half-term, we also had an exciting trip to the Life Science Centre and visited our local church! We also welcomed our families and friends into school to watch our Christmas Nativity. We were very proud of our hard work and we hope you enjoyed watching this. We can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us!

Miss Robertson



Our Bumblebee Class have had an exciting half-term!

Each week, we have had a nursery rhyme focus. We have enjoyed listening to and joining in with songs such as 'Wind the Bobbin Up' and 'If you're happy and you know it'. Additionally, we have also focused on developing our communication and language, physical development and PSED skills. We also enjoyed a walk in our local area which supported our gross motor skills. Recently, we also welcomed our families and friends into school to watch our very first Christmas Nativity! We did so well!

We look forward to welcoming some new children into our class in the new year!

Miss Robertson and Mrs Palmer



This half-term, Caterpillar Class have really enjoyed playing in our 'Winter Wonderland' role play area. Outdoors, we have explored the wintry weather. We particularly enjoyed playing in the snow and were excited to see that the mud kitchen had frozen into ice! We have also enjoyed learning about different celebrations including Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas! We have also explored a range of stories including some of our favourites: 'Dear Santa', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Scarecrow's Secret'. Nursery 2 have also started our pre-phonics lessons and have responded to this really well!

Miss Robertson and Miss Fenwick



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We can't believe that we are at the end of our first term in Year 1!

We have been working hard on our phonics - we are currently recapping our Phase 3 and 4 sounds and words and we are trying really hard to segment and blend words in our heads and trying to just say the word. After the Christmas holidays we are very excited to be moving on to the gold cards and Phase 5 sounds!

In English, we have looked at the books *The Invisible* and *The Great Dragon Rescue*. The children have really enjoyed these books and we have had a go at writing some simple captions or sentences about pictures from the story. We will be doing more of this as we move into the New Year.

In Mathematics, we have moved onto the topic of Addition and Subtraction. We have been exploring Part-Whole Models and Bar Models. We have also been looking at working systematically when working our number bonds.

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school to share our Nativity with you - we hope you enjoyed it. We look forward to seeing you all after the holidays!

YEARS 1&2



In Science, children have had fun exploring the seasons Autumn and Winter! We have investigated the signs of Autumn and Winter and how the weather changes.

In History children have enjoyed our topic 'Who built the first castles? Why?' Children learned about the invasions of Britain and the Battle of Hastings 1066. Children enjoyed presenting their own assembly about the importance of castles and why the Normans built them!

In RE children have explored the questions 'Why are gifts given at Christmas?'. We have learned the story of the Wise Men and the importance of love and care at Christmas time.

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Miss Hodgson & Miss Horrocks

Year 2 have been very busy this half term and are excited to begin the Christmas Holidays!



In English we have enjoyed reading '*MeerKat Mail*' and '*The Darkest Dark*'. Children especially enjoyed learning about real life astronaut Chris Hadfield.

In Maths we have been working on Addition and Subtraction. Children have been using Part-Whole Models and Bar Models to support with addition and subtraction, as well as beginning to understand adding and subtracting across a 10. Children have been using manipulatives to support with exchanging but have moved on to drawing their 10s and 1s to support their learning.

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YEARS 3&4



Year 3 and 4 have had another lovely half-term!

In our Mathematics lessons, we have been looking at multiplication and division. We have been solving lots of problems linked to the four operations and working hard on our reasoning skills. In English, we have been reading 'The Fastest Boy in the World'. We have done lots of writing linked to this. We loved the adventures that Solomon went on!

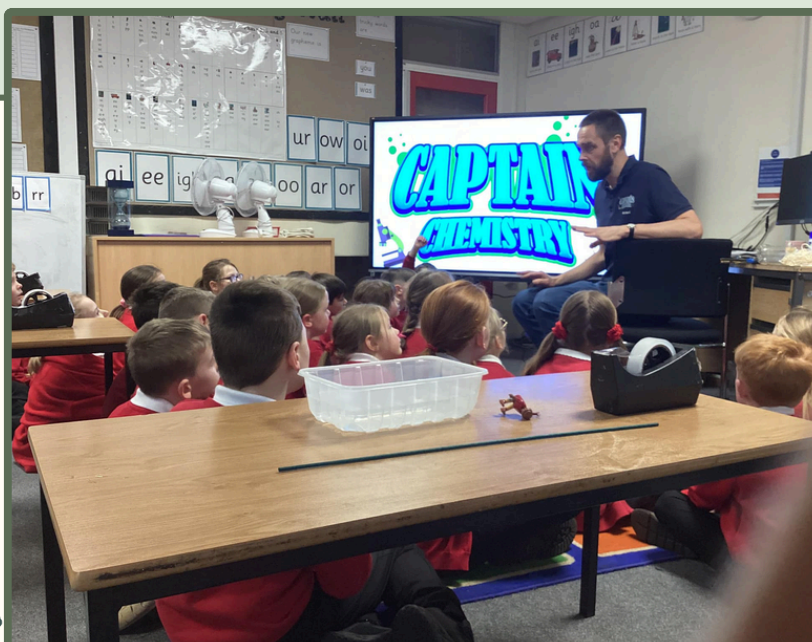
In Science, we looked at forces and magnets. In History, we have been looking at the Ancient Egyptians and what their life was like. In our D&T lessons, we made our own money boxes. We created our own net by measuring it out and then folded it up to make our 3D shape. We have enjoyed our PE lessons and have all made lots of progress in our swimming lessons and we have been playing some basketball as well.

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a session with 'Captain Chemistry'. We made our own boats and then had a race to see which boat was the fastest!

Have a lovely Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Well done Year 3 and 4!

Miss Plummer



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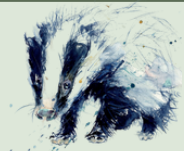
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YEARS 5&6

Year 5 and 6 have had a super half term.

In Maths, we have been working on fractions, including comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting and multiplying them.

In English, we have enjoyed reading an exciting novel called 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross MacKenzie. We have used the novel as a basis for producing our own writing, including a persuasive letter, a recount from the perspective of one of the characters, and a setting description.



Our History topic has been, 'The Ancient Greeks'. We enjoyed an ancient Greeks workshop in school, where we were able to handle real artefacts and take part in a drama and art activities. In Design Technology, we worked in teams to create a moving 'Moon Buggy'. We learned to combine a simple electrical circuit and mechanical pulley wheel system to make the buggy work.

In RE, we have been learning about Judaism. Our visit to a synagogue helped us to understand how Jewish people worship and how the synagogue is an important place for them. We have also enjoyed a visit to 'The Life Centre' to support our Science work and a visit from the 'Mobile Planetarium'.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Mrs J Heron and Miss S Hodgson

