



Empower

Multi-Academy Trust

Issue 12 Autumn Term 2022 Inspire • Empower • Achieve

From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2022 edition of the Empower Trust Newsletter. It contains a huge variety of exciting stories and pictures, showcasing some of the amazing work children have been doing in each Trust school.

The newsletter is a great way for parents and local communities to see some of the positive and exciting work that goes on every day in every classroom across our family of schools. It includes many examples of children's activities and achievements across a range of curriculum areas in every Empower Trust school. Please take some time to read about children's work and learning from this term. I feel sure that you will be impressed by the variety, quality and range of their experiences.

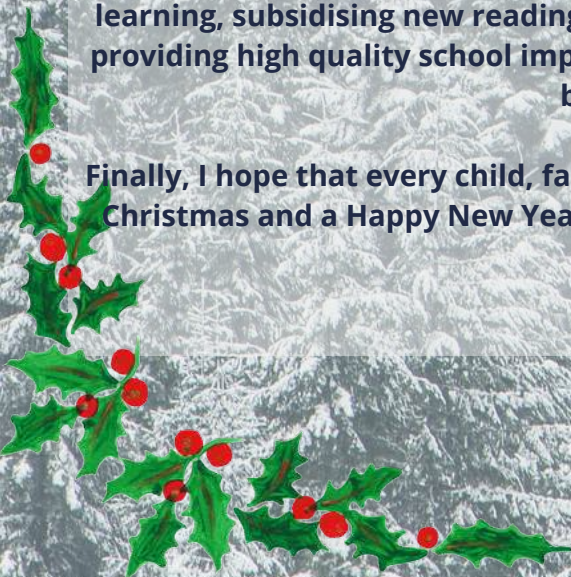
As we move towards the end of another busy term, I want to firstly thank the children for the enthusiasm and life that they bring to school with them every day. Their positivity raises the spirits of every adult in school who works so hard to make learning enjoyable and exciting.

I want to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to every member of staff in our schools for keeping the children safe and happy and for their hard work in and in delivering exciting learning experiences for the children.

I would also like to thank every parent and family for their continued support, working in partnership with their school in the best interests of the children. Every member of staff appreciates your support. We appreciate that 2022 has been another difficult year for families to manage – in particular, the challenges for family budgets and current concerns about the StrepA virus. As we look forward to 2023, please be assured that ensuring the safety and welfare of the children remains the key priority for all Empower Trust staff. Each school will continue to review their risk assessments and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of children, staff, families and the community.

Despite the squeeze on education budgets during 2022, Empower Trust continued to invest in our schools, including providing new whiteboards and ICT equipment to support teaching and learning, subsidising new reading and phonics schemes, additional staff and learning resources, providing high quality school improvement support and training and £2.6million of grant-funded building improvement projects.

Finally, I hope that every child, family member and member of staff has a restful, safe and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming the children back to school in 2023!





Nursery.

Here in Nursery we have been practising our fine motor skills by making christmas decorations. We used different colours and materials and were very proud of our finished results. We then went across to help decorate the trees in Wem and Prees surgery with our masterpieces.





Reception

Reception have enjoyed exploring the forest in Autumn. We have been looking at the changing trees and colours on the ground. We also enjoyed the story of Leaf Man and loved creating our own leaf man puppets.

In Art we have been colour mixing and printing with leaves.



In Art we have been colour mixing and printing with leaves.





Year 1



We predicted that red and yellow would make orange and we were right.



Autumn Colour Mixing

Yellow, blue and red are primary colours. You can use them to make other colours

We collected leaves whilst out on an Autumn walk and then used these to print around.



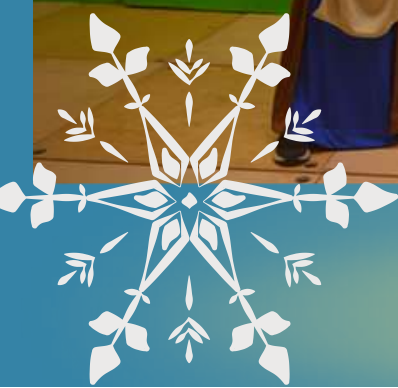
We talked about warm and cold colours and decided Autumn is filled with mostly warm colours. This was the result of our printing





Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy half term preparing for our nativity 'The Inn-Spectors'





Year 3

As part of our science investigation into animals including humans, we visited Exotic zoo, Telford to explore more about the different skeleton's animals have. We learnt so much about endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons.





Year 4



The children enjoyed a great residential stay at Preston Montford where they practised their fieldwork skills. The campfire and toasted marshmallows were a hit and we were lucky with the weather!



YEAR 5



Year 5 have been learning how to use a protractor to measure angles within maths. We have learnt about acute, obtuse and reflex angles. We have also been calculating the value of missing angles on a straight line and in a full turn.





Year 6

Year 6 had an exciting adventure when they went to Robinwood for 3 days.

They used Teamwork Tiger throughout their stay, helping one another with all the activities. Favourite activities included: Giant Swing, Challenge Course, Trapeze and the Piranha Pool, to name but a few!

Memories have been made that will last a lifetime!





Shropshire Fire and Rescue's Visit to The Wilfred Owen's Year 3 Class.

On Wednesday 16th November, Our Year 3 class had a very exciting visit from Shropshire Fire and Rescue!

They talked to the children about their job and what they do day to day including river rescues, traffic accidents and fires. They also discussed; dangers in a house, how to prevent the dangers, what alerts us to smoke and fire, where to place fire alarms and how to check if they work. The children were absolutely fantastic and the fire-fight-ers praised them on their listening skills and superb questions.

Before they left, the firefighters took the children to see the fire engine. They showed them all the tools they have on board including their ladders, hoses and cutting equipment. The children were bouncing with excitement! As Shropshire Fire and Rescue left, they sounded the sirens and flashed the lights.





On 28th and 29th November, Nursery and Reception had a very special trip out to see Santa! Each child had the opportunity to meet Santa and receive a gift. The children also enjoyed some yummy pizza and hot chocolate. Nursery and Reception Class absolutely loved seeing Santa and it has definitely got the children in the Christmas spirit!





On Monday 10th October, the children came to school wearing something yellow to support World Mental Health Day. Wilfred Owen School also hosted a coffee morning and all donations went towards the charity. The school were delighted to have raised a fantastic £223.87!



Remembrance Day, The Wilfred Owen's Reception Class

The Wilfred Owen's Reception Class made beautiful poppies to put on display outside the school to honour armed forces members who lost their lives and who still fight for our country.

The school came together for a two minute silence at 11am on Friday 11th November to pay respects.

Lest we forget.





The World Cup



World Cup Kick Off!

As England's first match of the 2022 World Cup was on a school day, the pupils had a treat of watching the match in the school hall.

The pupils (and staff!) had a fantastic time cheering on England and making England flags to support the countries football team.

What a match it was with England scoring 6-2! Come on England!!!



To recognise David's hard work and amazing opportunity of performing one of his poems at the Globe Theatre in the Poetry by Heart Final this Summer, the Governors of the School have gifted David with the book 'A Poem for Every-day of the Year'. Keep up the good work David!





Early Years



Our focus has been 'The Little Red Head' this week. We have enjoyed listening to the story and discussed the importance of being kind, caring and helpful towards our friends. We also baked our very own bread rolls looking at the changes from the dry ingredients to the baked dough



Children across the setting have been exploring autumn objects such as pumpkins, conkers, sticks and leaves. We enjoyed discovering which of the objects were heavy and which were light, by picking them up and experimenting with their different weights on the large scales outside





Early Years

In Nursey have been learning about celebrations, we have enjoyed learning about 'Bonfire Night' and 'Divali' since coming back after October half term. All children have been busy being scientists, learning about melting when making a chocolate sparkler. We have also been using our fine motor skills to create our very own colourful sparkler to dance with outside on the stage and chalking catherine wheels on the ground.



During our Welly Wednesday session, the children collaboratively collected leaves to build their very own 'Bonfire' and danced in the wind with their streamers observing closely to which way the wind blew. A gentle reminder that 'Welly Wednesday' is up and running. Could we please ask that ALL children come prepared, as we will be heading straight outside to continue our learning. With the cold and wet weather approaching, we advise that children wrap up warm and wear waterproofs and wellies. Could all these items please be labelled with the child's name. Please could you put your child's inside shoes inside their bags to get changed into when we come back inside.

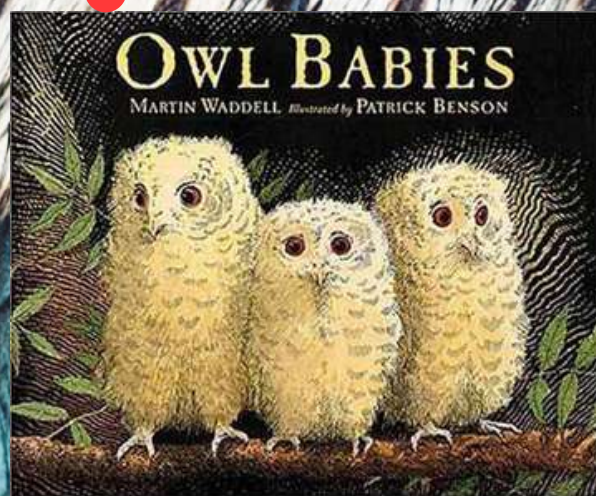
Next week we will focus on Remembrance Day, after the event. We will talking about being 'Brave' what makes them Brave as an individual



Early Years



Owl Babies



This week the children have been introduced to Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. They have enjoyed listening to the story, finding out interesting facts about owls and learning that they are nocturnal! The children enjoyed outdoor learning on Welly Wednesday and made nests using sticks and leaves for the owls. You could enjoy this story at home by searching on the internet. We will listen to the story again next week and see what the children can remember!





Early Years

N1 and N2 have been super busy over the past few weeks.

They have enjoyed helping the school celebrate 'European Language Day' they came into setting wearing white, green and red supporting their chosen country Italy. Throughout the day they made flags, danced to Italian music and built their very own 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'.



They have also been outside on the main school playground to explore the pirate ship. Here N1 and N2 got to use their gross motor skills by exploring freely. They demonstrated super skills as they balanced and negotiated space as other children used it too.





RECEPTION



This week the children have been investigating porridge oats and making porridge for the three bears. Then the children have helped to make a recipe for Mummy Bear by sequencing pictures and using time language.





RECEPTION

The children have really enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions. They have chosen a tree to watch through the seasons, made journey sticks and been on leaf hunts.





RECEPTION



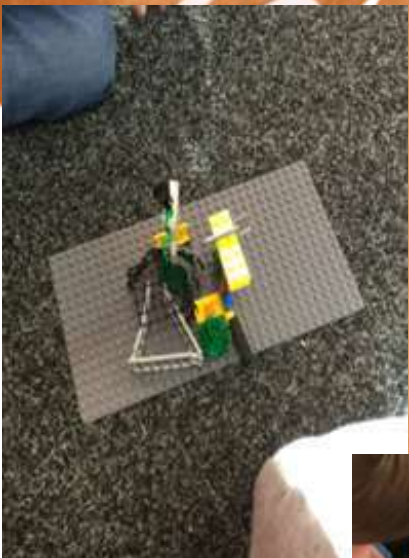
The children enjoyed finding out how to melt chocolate to make chocolate apples. They explored what happened to chocolate when it is heated up and had great fun dipping their apples in and watching the chocolate drip off. Then the children discussed what happened as the chocolate cooled down again. Of course the best part was enjoying eating all their hard work. Yummy!!





RECEPTION

The children have been reading, discussing and retelling The Gingerbread Man story. They have loved joining in the repeating parts. The Gingerbread Man ran away so the children made a trap to try and catch him in so he can be eaten!

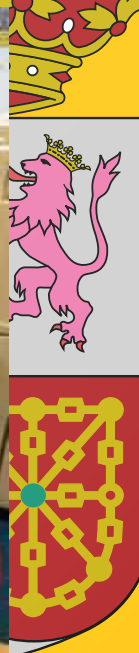


Year 1



Last Friday we took part in a range of exciting activities in celebration of European Day of Languages! As our focus language was Spanish, we immersed ourselves in Spanish culture through tasting new foods, learning key phrases (such as hello, goodbye, good afternoon, what is your name?) and exploring some flamenco dance skills. We even had a go at creating 'funny face portraits' inspired by Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, perhaps you could challenge yourselves to learn some new words in another language!



GRACIAS





Year 1

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To begin our D and T unit on Cooking and Nutrition we learnt about Staffordshire Oat cakes, as they are local to where we live. We found out about their history and talked about how there used to be Oat Cake shops! These days we can buy them in Morrisons. Then we were lucky enough to enjoy a slice of oatcake so we knew what they tasted like. Most of us liked them and some of us had had them before! In the future we will be making our own Staffordshire Oat Cakes so it was important we knew exactly what they were like.

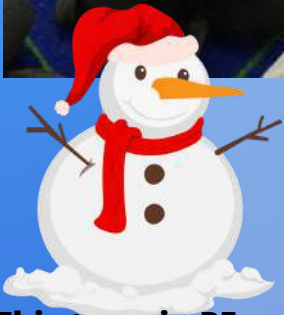




Year 1



In Science we have been exploring sound. We have been using instruments to look at sounds being louder and quieter and how we can change this. We have also discussed how being closer and further away affects sound. This also tied in with our computing work, where we have been learning about the volume button. We used Purple Mash to make a sequence of sound and learnt how to make this louder and quieter.



This term in PE we are focusing on hockey & gymnastics. In hockey we have been working on the key skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending. Each week we are building our confidence and enjoying getting into a game. In year 2 we may have the chance to represent our school in a hockey tournament, so we are excited to continue developing our skills as super hockey players!





We would like to thank all of the grown-ups that took the time to attend the Harvest Festival last Monday. Over the past few weeks our Year 2 children have spent lots of time learning their class poems, as well as our songs that were performed. Last Monday was our big day at the Methodist Church and we were so proud of how well all of the children did during our Harvest Festival



This week in Science, the children have been identifying animals and grouping them according to their common features. We have also been learning about the different animals groups of fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds and what is special about the animals in each of these groups. We have really enjoyed our science learning this week. If you want to continue this learning in the holidays the link below will give you some ideas from our website.





YEAR 2

Year 2 have been focusing on their gymnastics skills in P.E.....
We have been recapping the different body shapes, learning additional shapes and putting these into a routine to perform to the rest of the children.

As a year group we will be recapping these each week and learning a new routine.

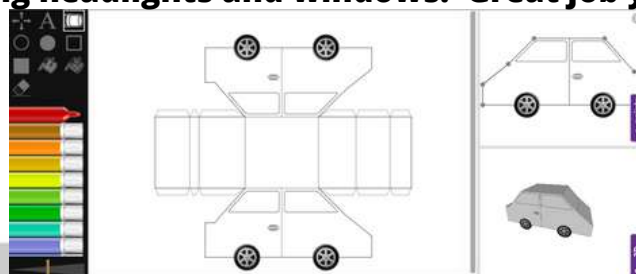


PIC•COLLAGE



The children in Year 2 have been using computer aided design, using purple mash to design their very own cars! The children have then worked to construct their cars, and we will evaluate these once we have tested them out in the coming weeks. Great work year 2, well done!

The below is the net, showing the computer aided design that the children have done. They had to design the colours (and patterns!) required for their car, as well as adding headlights and windows. Great job year 2!





Year 2

Science

In Science, the children have been learning all about pushes and pulls! We set up a range of different stations including hoops, the monkey bars, stilts and javelins. The children had to decide if they were creating a push or a pull to make the equipment move, and then had to describe how they manage to make the equipment (or themselves) move faster or slower. The children had great fun doing this!



PIC•COLLAGE



This week KS1 took part in a very special assembly. We welcomed three members of the Royal British Legion to school. The children listened very carefully as they shared the reasons why we pay our respects to fallen soldiers, on 11th November.

Two of our school children were invited to lay a poppy wreath before the children listened respectfully to The Last Post, followed by a two minute silence



TOGETHER,
WE CAN

BBC
Children
in Need



The children in Nursery had a wonderful time over the course of the day. They came in Children in Need ears and t-shirts and loved joining in with the activities, such as colouring.



Ho Ho Ho!



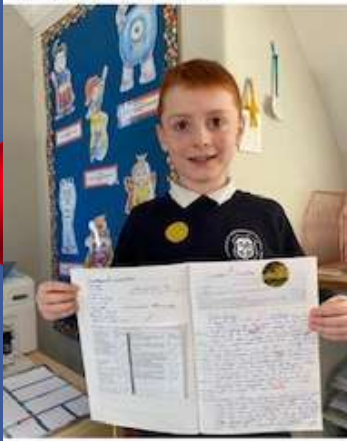
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St Peters CE Primary, Wem
1 d · G
Alex brought his writing to show us. What a fantastic story! An author in the making 🌟



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
2 d · G
Mr Smith, from AmazingICT, came in to teach Year 2 all about the ethernet and wireless communication today. It was great fun!



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
2 d · G
Year 2 acted out some 'unkind' scenarios in their Character Education lesson and talked about how they can 'reach out' to others to be good friends.



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
3 d · G
Our KS1 children blew us away with their Nativity this morning! The Inn-Spectors was a hit with the audience and brightened up a drab day!... See more



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
6 d · G
This morning our worship team were thrilled to take part in a Christingle service at Shrewsbury Abbey. Huge thanks to Revd Deborah Walton for ... See more



The Wilfred Owen School · 30/09/2022
Thank you to all the parents and family members who supported our Harvest Festival today. The children sang beautifully! The donations received will go towards creating a community pantry to help families in our school community during the winter months.



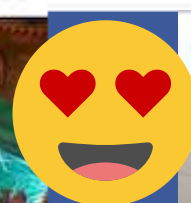
St Peters CE Primary, Wem
6 d · G
This morning our worship team were thrilled to take part in a Christingle service at Shrewsbury Abbey. Huge thanks to Revd Deborah Walton for ... See more



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
4 d · G
As part of their learning in Science, Year 5 have been measuring the force of gravity acting upon a range of classroom objects using a Newton meter.



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
6 d · G
We had a great time at Wem Lights Switch On! Thank you to Miss Barratt and choir for getting the party started. A big thank you also to par... See more



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
1 Dec · G
Thank you to Benbow Brothers Timber Ltd for donating us this Christmas tree for our school hall. The classes have decorated it and it's looking ... See more



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
1 Dec · G
Yesterday we went to decorate the Christmas tree at St Peter's Medical Practice. The children were so well behaved on their first school trip! 🌲



facebook #

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

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We've gone social!

Why not follow us and give us a like!



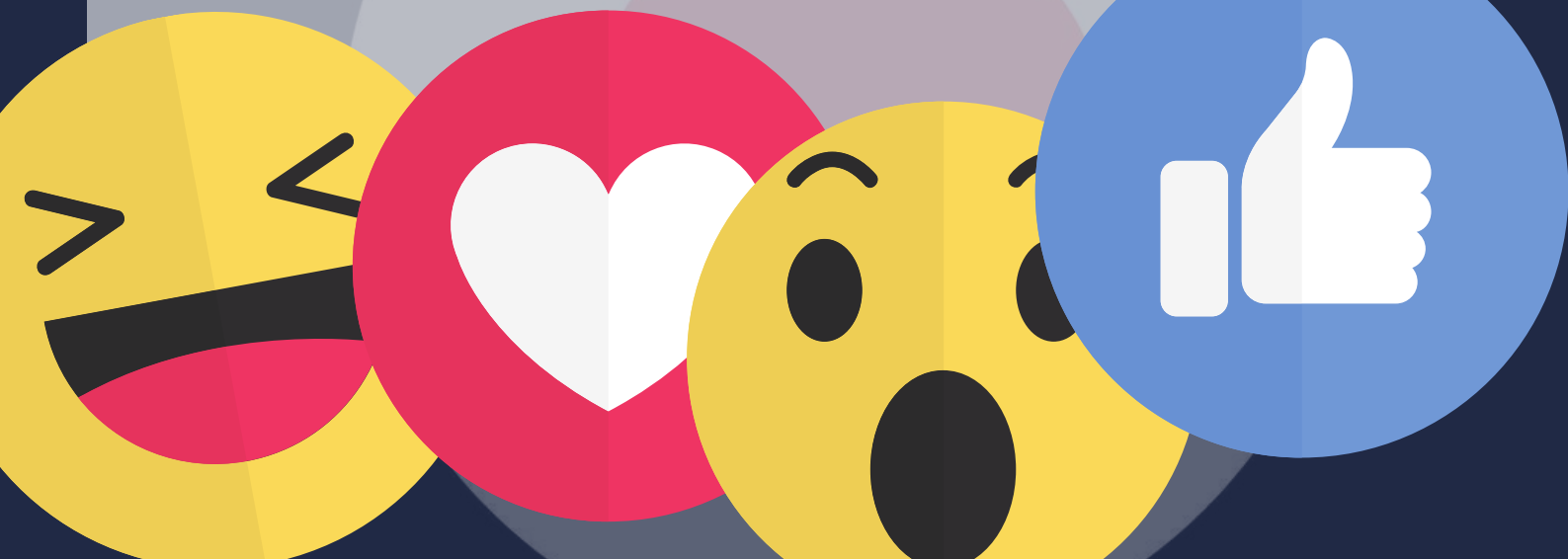
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**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY**



Year 4



WORLD FAITH WEEK

Year 4 have been learning about different faiths in the community and they have looked closely at how these link into the British values of tolerance and respect.

Last half term in RE children learnt about Judaism, which included work on important Jewish objects, symbols and Jewish beliefs.

Yesterday children were lucky to have a guest speaker in school to talk to them about Judaism in more detail. The children were enthusiastic to know more and they asked some really sensible questions to further develop their learning and understanding in this unit of work.





ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL SHREWSBURY

In RE, we are studying Islam and this week we have been learning about Islamic prayer.

We are in the process of creating our own Islamic prayer mats, thinking about their significance and the traditions behind their designs.

ISLAMIC PRAYER MATS- LLANMYNECH



GEOGRAPHY IN LLANMYNECH

This week, Llanymynech have been investigating rivers around the world. We used an atlas to locate the major rivers and then found information about their length, discharge and source. Here are the children working hard.



ERCALL NEWS...

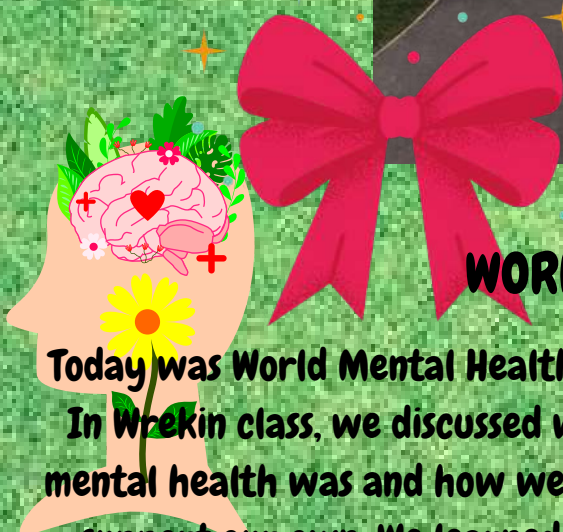
This week in Ercall the children have invented their own firework poems, I have been so proud of their independent working this week, they have created some fantastic poetry with lots of the key features we have studied so far this year and it has been lovely to see the additional planning that the children wanted to do for this. The ideas and imagination used was fantastic.





ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL SHREWSBURY

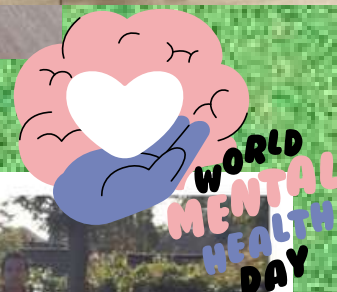
This week during PE lessons we also started to practice the begging poses of a cartwheel, the children worked in groups to offer positive praise and feedback to enable all the children to accurately start the process of a cartwheel. The children then performed this sequence to the class and this was uploaded to seesaw. After that we went outside to run the mile track as a class.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Today was World Mental Health Day. In Wrekin class, we discussed what mental health was and how we could support our own. We learned the number for Childline (08001111) and explored how everyone feels differently about things.

We learned that some of the ways to support our own wellbeing was to spend time with people that we care about, to get outside in nature and to exercise. What better way to do all three than doing a 'chatty run' with our class!



PIC•COLLAGE



This term, we have been learning about Hinduism and Diwali. To celebrate the upcoming festival of Light, we have designed and created a clay diva lamp. We moulding our pieces of clay into a shape that will hold a tea light. We are really excited to paint them next week!

Have a look at how amazing they are already:



RANGOLI PATTERNS FOR DIWALI IN WENLOCK

In Religious Education this half term, we have been learning about Hinduism, and in particular, the festival of Diwali. The children used different coloured chalks to create their own Rangoli patterns on the playground.

Unfortunately it rained shortly afterwards, so they washed away before the rest of the school got to see them. Luckily, we had some photos!

Can you see how we have used our maths knowledge to help us make repeating patterns, use symmetry and draw different 2D shapes?





**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
SHREWSBURY



Caradoc class have been testing the theories of two very famous scientists through fair testing enquiry. We discovered that Galileo's theory that two objects would fall to earth at the same rate was the correct one and that gravity acts the same way on objects regardless of their mass. We used our knowledge fair testing and our knowledge of other forces to determine that it is actually air resistance which acts differently on different objects.

We found that the larger the surface area, the more air resistance there was thus making the object fall slower.



THE GERMAN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP IN YEAR 6 WAS ZEHR GUT!

Our year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Mr. Thomas who delivered a German language workshop. Mr. Thomas spoke about German life and culture as well as teaching pupils some core language. They also enjoyed some songs.

Back in class, we then explored German culture further and compared German schooling to our own experiences.



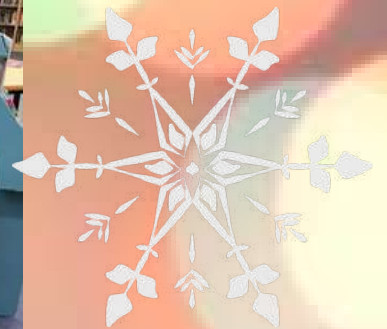
A FUN-FILLED FESTIVE HALF TERM

MARKET DRAYTON
JUNIOR SCHOOL



On Friday 19th November a group of children from each year group took part in a Christmas Tree Decorating Competition at Market Drayton Library. Picture left is MDJS's entry, looking beautiful with it's decorations made from old book pages, which is a fitting tribute to the hosting venue!

Visitors to the Library have been voting for their favourite tree over the last couple of weeks and can do so up to the 9th December – please do call in and vote if you are passing. The winning tree will be announced at their children's Christmas Party on Saturday 10th December (for more details see the Events & Activities section at the end of the newsletter). Good luck MDJS!



On the same day will we host our first of two Christmas Jumper Days this year, in support of the Market Drayton Foodbank. Donations of produce for the Foodbank collection

On 7th December our choir children have a busy day singing carols for the residents at Woodcroft Nursing Home in the morning and performing at the joint-schools carol service at St Mary's Church in the evening



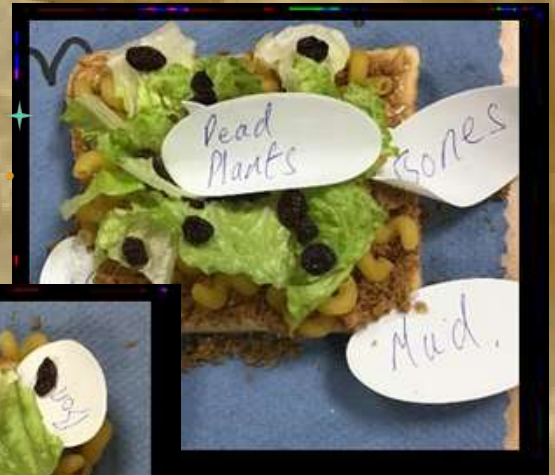
merry
CHRISTMAS



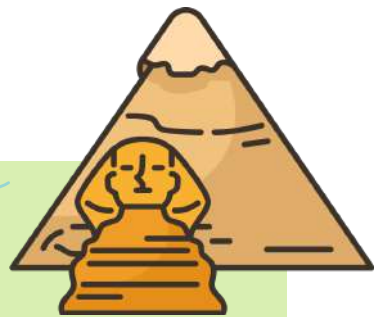
THIS HALF TERM THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN STUDYING OUR NEW UNIT OF SCIENCE ENTITLED EARTH ROCKS. THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN REALLY ENGAGED IN SORTING ROCKS ACCORDING TO THEIR PROPERTIES AND CATEGORISING THEM INTO SEDIMENTARY, IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCKS.



ALL CLASSES HAVE MADE SEDIMENTARY SANDWICHES WITH PEANUT BUTTER (MUD), BROWN SUGAR (SAND), PASTA (ANIMAL BONES WHICH HAVE BECOME FOSSILS) AND LETTUCE AND RAISINS (PLANTS). OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE CHILDREN HAVE BROUGHT THEIR OWN COLLECTION OF ROCKS INTO SCHOOL TO SHARE WITH THEIR CLASSES, SUCH IS THE INTEREST IN THIS ENGAGING SCIENCE THEME.

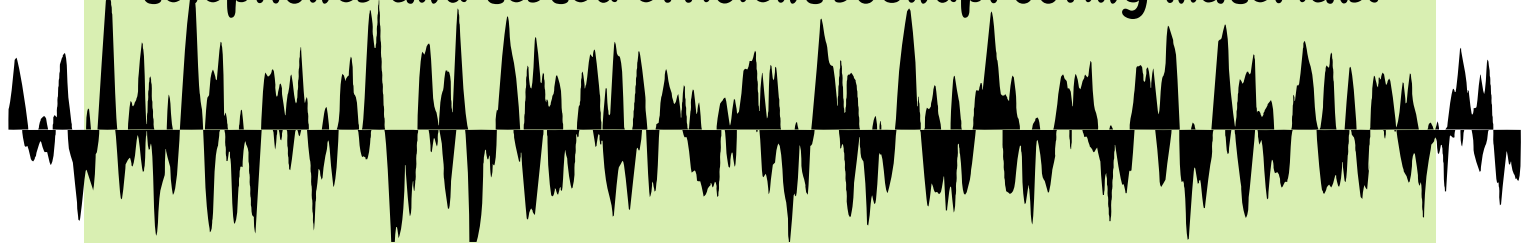


In Design Technology, we have been finishing our MOVING MONSTERS! Using pneumatics, our crazy, creative creatures are able to move – and what an amazing job our children have done at decorating them, from initial designs to final evaluations



This term, in Year 4, we have continued to explore South America and the Ancient Egyptians. To mark the 100-year anniversary of its discovery, we wrote super diaries from the perspective of Howard Carter as he first broke into King Tutankhamun's tomb.

In science, our topic of Sound has inspired lots of investigations! We have explored sound vibrations made by musical instruments, discovered how sound particles move along solid objects with string telephones and tested efficient soundproofing materials.



Our English lessons focussed on instruction writing have informed us how to write a clear, informative recipes ready for making our very own (just in time for the festive season too).



All of this and we are finding time to squeeze in trips to Cadbury World, to learn about rainforests and cocoa beans, and rehearse for our fabulous Christmas production 'How Christmas Came to Be'.





Year 5



BY THE END OF THE TERM WE WILL HAVE COMPLETED OUR CURRENT BOOK ENTITLED 'THE DARKEST DARK' - THE INSPIRATIONAL TRUE STORY ABOUT THE ASTRONAUT CHRIS HADFIELD. THIS LINKS WITH OUR EXCITING NEW SCIENCE TOPIC ALL ABOUT THE EARTH AND SPACE WHERE WE WILL BE DISCOVERING ALL ABOUT THE SIZES AND DISTANCES INVOLVED WITH THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND TRYING TO CREATE OUR OWN SCALED VERSION OF THIS.



IN ENGLISH, WE HAVE DELVED INTO THE DEPTHS OF 'THE HIGHWAYMAN' AND THE TRAGIC STORY THAT UNFOLDS. WE LEARNT LOTS OF HISTORIC VOCABULARY AND WRITTEN A RANGE OF DIARY ENTRIES FROM THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERS' POINTS OF VIEW, ENSURING WE DISPLAY EMPATHY WITH THEM.

THE TERM IS CONCLUDING WITH A PARTICULARLY MUSICAL THEME AS WE ARE BUSILY PREPARING FOR OUR NATIVITY 'STARGAZERS.' THE CHILDREN ARE WORKING HARD TO LEARN LYRICS AND REHEARSE THE STORY READY FOR OUR PERFORMANCE AT THE METHODIST CHURCH ON THE 12TH DECEMBER. FINALLY, YEAR 5 WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



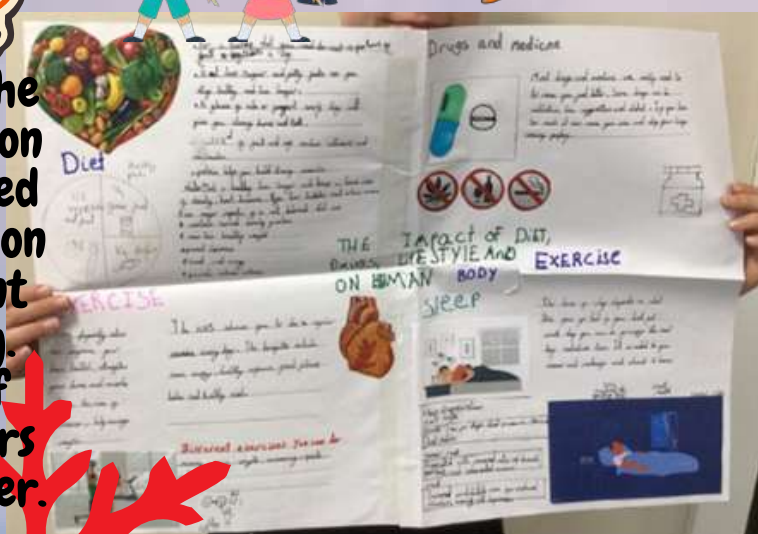


Year 6



In Science we have been looking at the impact of diet, exercise and lifestyle on human bodies. The children were asked to create home-work projects based on the topic and were invited to present their work in their own chosen way.

They also investigated the effect of exercise on our heart rate and factors that might cause heart rates to differ.



Just a couple of week's ago many of the Year 6s enjoyed a two-night residential at the Arthog Outdoor Education Centre in North Wales.

Bobby (6JL) provided the following account of the trip especially for the newsletter:

"On the first day everyone got there okay, everyone was really excited, so we all rushed in with all of our stuff. We put our suitcases down and got our lockers, then we went to our room with our friends to feel home. The first activity was canoeing where learnt how to canoe and had a lot of fun. After, we went for tea and when I say it was some of the best food ever, I mean it! At night we did a nightline in groups, where we were blind-folded and had to go through loads of different obstacles. Most exciting of all was the gorge walk where we went down a waterfall then climbed up. The whole trip was the best time ever!"

In early November, the Year 6s were visited by the British Legion to talk about why we wear poppies and remember those who fought in wars. The talk was a fantastic insight for the children who asked our visitors thought-provoking and sensitive questions. During the talk we heard some examples of war time poetry which launched the beginning of our WW1 topic in history lessons. We have studied poetry from Wilfred Owen and also created some of our own remembrance themed poetry.



Oak Class Parent Story time Session

The parents and children of Oak Class greatly enjoyed the Parent Storytime session they recently had. The children especially enjoyed showing them the Gruffalo!



Remembrance Day

The Nursery and Reception children and a great day creating Remembrance Day pictures, decorating biscuits, making playdough poppies and collages.



SYCAMORE CLASS READING WORKSHOP

ON WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, PARENTS WERE INVITED INTO SYCAMORE CLASS FOR A READING WORKSHOP. MISS BRENNAN EXPLAINED HOW WE TEACH READING AT OUR SCHOOL AND ABOUT THE EXPECTATIONS AND IMPORTANCE OF READING AT HOME. BOOKS4HOMES DONATED SOME BOOKS AND ALL THE CHILDREN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE A BOOK TO TAKE HOME AND KEEP TO EXPAND THEIR PERSONAL LIBRARY. THEN THE PARENTS SHARED BOOKS WITH THEIR CHILDREN TO ENCOURAGE A LOVE OF READING. THE AFTERNOON WAS ENJOYED BY ALL.

THE PARENTS



READING



Class 1

We have had a fun Autumn term in Class 1. Here's some pictures to show what we have been doing.

Maths



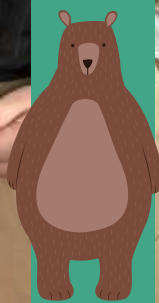
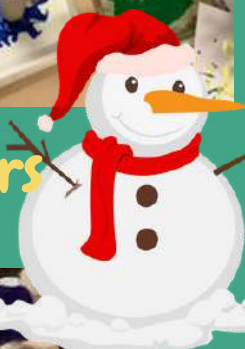
Diwali - Diya lamps



Fire work painting



Porridge making for Goldilocks and the three bears





Class 2

Last half term, the Year One children in Class 2 enjoyed learning about the weather. They are now able to name the four seasons that are experienced within the UK and talk about the related weather. In Science the children became meteorologists, making rain gauges and wind socks to track the weather. We also took on the role of weather reporters in our role-play area, using our knowledge of the countries in the UK to describe the weather.



Last half term, Reception children in Class 2 enjoyed learning about themselves as individuals, thinking about their appearance and interests. They read the story 'Super Duper You' and were able to talk about themselves positively. They also focussed on their unique families and traditions or routines at home, using the role play area to recreate some of these. They also drew pictures of themselves and their families, thinking about similarities and differences.



This half term, the Year One children in Class 2 have enjoyed their new topic 'Castles and Knights'. They have thought carefully about the features of castles and how they help protect the castle from enemies, showing particular interest in the moat, arrow loops and portcullis. They also explored the different roles of people living inside the castles, again using the role-play area to reinforce this learning. Children were interested in playing the roles of kings, queens and knights but also took an interest in the role of candle makers, wanting to learn more about the process





Class 3



In Science our topic was Weather and Seasons. We made windsocks to check the direction of wind, we tested them outside. In D&T our topic is Textiles and joining techniques. We used one joining technique that we have been learning about to create a paper finger puppet.



We thoroughly enjoyed St. Mary's Book Day. We did lots of fun activities about our favourite books, and even dressed up as our favourite characters! In Computing, we are learning about Digital Photography. We used iPads to take photographs of different subjects inside and outside of the classroom.



SHOW



Class 3 performed an amazing assembly, telling their grown-ups all about what they have been learning so far, and also singing some lovely songs!





Class 4



Wow! What a fun time we have had in Class 4 this term.

We have enjoyed using our Forest School Area this term and have been fascinated by the change in seasons. We have spotted lots of different coloured leaves on the floor and were able to link this to our Geography and Science lessons. One week, we read the wonderful story Funny Bones by Janet and Allen Ahlberg and made our own skeleton families. We even made the skeleton dog and were able to re-enact the story. Another week, we made AMAZING magic wands using natural materials and wool. We used our excellent knowledge of rhyming from our poetry unit to make up super spells.



In English, we wrote amazing setting descriptions using Where the Wild Things Are as inspiration. First, we went to the Forest School and imagined that we were Max we used our five senses to describe the setting. We were able to use awesome adjectives and exciting expanded noun phrases. Our teacher is impressed with how hard we are working on our super vocabulary.



In Science, we have been learning all about Everyday Materials and have been conducting lots of investigations to test our materials properties. It's been fascinating, so we did our class assembly all about materials too! Our parents were extremely impressed with all the fantastic facts we knew.





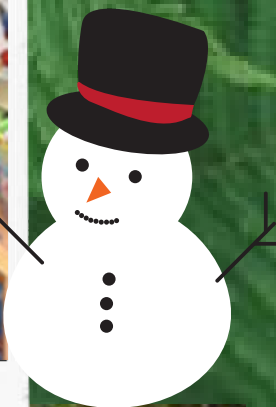
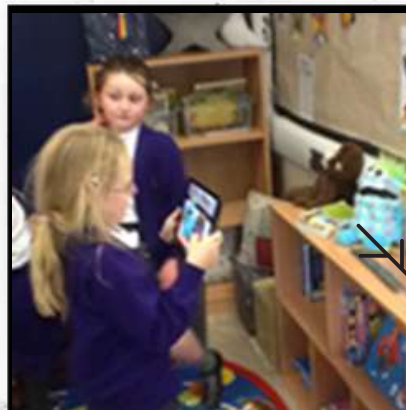
Class 5

In Art we studied the artist, Andy Goldsworthy. We used natural materials to create art.

IN GEOGRAPHY WE WERE LEARNING ABOUT WEATHER AND THE DIFFERENT TYPES AND SYMBOLS. WE USED WEATHER VOCABULARY AND SYMBOLS TO CREATE OUR OWN WEATHER FORECAST.



In Computing we have been learning how to use digital device to take photos. We have learnt what 'portrait' and 'landscape' mean. We have rated photos and then looked at how to improve photos.



In Literacy we have also been reading 'Where the wild things are'. We went outside to forest school to present we were in a jungle. We used our sense to describe the setting.





Class 6

In class 6 we have been working incredibly hard all term.

We have enjoyed learning about The Romans – we have written our own Non-Chronological Reports about life in Pompeii.



We researched the topic in groups and shared what we had discovered. Our published reports are going to go in the school library.



We hope that we can inform all the other boys and girls about life during The Roman period.



Class 7 ✨ Ho Ho Ho! ✨

The Rotten Romans

This term we have been looking at the Rotten Romans. We have found out that the Romans were an Ancient civilisation that began in Italy, but conquered many places including most of Europe, North Africa including Egypt. We looked at how the Roman Empire lasted from 700BC to AD476. We used timelines to map out the key events that took place in Roman times and even told parents what we had learned in our parent assembly.

We have found out about how Pompeii was destroyed by Mount Vesuvius after a volcanic eruption in 79AD. We looked at primary and secondary sources that tell of the events that took place leading up to the tragic event and what the aftermath was.

In English we then wrote narratives, imagining what it would have been like to live in Pompeii and see the eruption happen first hand. We then wrote non-chronological reports on the Roman empire, finding out about the fashion, bath houses, Gods and food.



Today we researched in groups about Roman life, ready for our non chronological report.



I just heard it. I stop that day some black, stinking smoke came barging from Mount Vesuvius. I'm starting to think this isn't a mountain don't you? Lets head on shall we?

A few hours later Mount Vesuvius erupted rapidly a lot and I mean a lot! Of debris shot up into the sky and ash fell onto the houses. People tried to escape some did... Some didn't.

Suddenly Mount Vesuvius erupted! I was feeling so nervous because I did not know what was going to happen next. The smoke that came out of the top of Mount Vesuvius looked like black ink covering the sky. Smoke was turning black I was petrified. I could hear people screaming, dogs and babies crying because they didn't know what was happening and dogs barking because they wanted to be free and run away from this city! Ashes fell on roof tops it killed a couple of people but some ran away and survived.



Class 8



For our Iron Age to Stone Age topic, we made clay beakers as well as explored the Celts. We also researched the lives of people in the Stone Age and Iron Age which informed our literacy work.



LOVE WHO YOU ARE

We also had a Hello Yellow day for children's mental health, where we practised mindfulness and ways to keep our mental health in tip-top shape.



St Mary's Book Day!

We celebrated our very own St. Marys Book Day and explored the author 'Jacqueline Wilson', all while dressing up as our favourite book characters



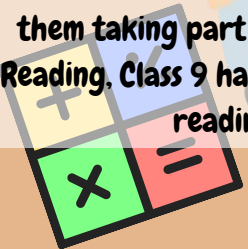


Class 9



Class 9 have had a fantastic start to year 5 this term and have been enjoying learning new knowledge across all subjects. In Maths, Class 9 have developed their mathematical skills in place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. In Literacy, class 9 have focused on a range of writing genres. They started the term with narrative writing, based on Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

They wrote their own narrative story including their own beast, that Percy defeated. After this, class 9 wrote a letter of application, applying to join Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica. Then, they wrote their own poems about mythical beasts. Class 9 are currently writing balanced arguments based on the Windrush Generation, linking to their history topic on migration. The picture shows them taking part in a conscience alley to explore for and against arguments. In Reading, Class 9 have been developing their reading skills and have been enjoying reading Shackleton's Journey and Secrets of a Sun King.



In science, Class 9 started the term learning about life cycles. They learnt about the life cycle of a bird, mammal, and amphibian, and dissected flowers to identify the parts of a plant and describe its life cycle. In addition, Class 9 have studied democracy in Ancient Greece and the history of migration. These topics have allowed a range of history skills to be explored. Additionally, Class 9 have enjoyed RE and PSHE lessons this term. In RE they have explored science and creation and if Jesus was the Messiah. In PSHE, Class 9 focused on their goals for the year ahead, rights and responsibilities, rewards and consequences, and celebrating different cultures. In digital literacy/e-safety, Class 9 explored self-identity and online relationships. Also, Class 9 are currently using "tinkercad" to create their own 3D models.



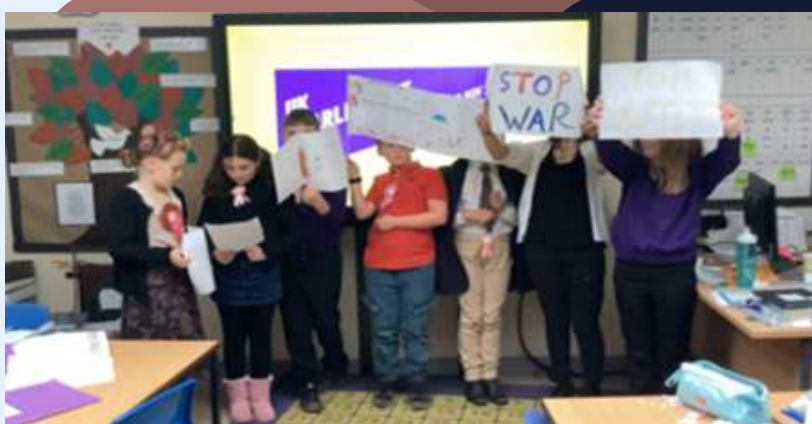
Class 9 delivered the Armistice Day Service at church on Friday 11th November.





Class 10

We created our own political parties, wrote our manifestos and delivered our speeches to the rest of the school.



The winning party was.....



We researched Alvaro Barrington and looked at some of his work. We were inspired by an image of his grandmother's hands, which he said represented the times she would pray for him when he was growing up. We used our shading skills to create our own power fists, a gesture for liberation in the black community in the ongoing fight against racism.





Other School Activities

Visit from MP

Local MP Helen Morgan and Munira Wilson (spokesperson for education) in school visited us. It was a fabulous opportunity for house captains, the CEO of the Trust and staff members to showcase St Mary's. Both visitors were interested in local education, and the challenges and opportunities within the school community



New Library

We now have our new library in school. It is such a transformation from the tired, old library it replaced! The library is now operational, and we now have some KS2 librarians to run a loaning system run our 'STARBOOKS' Club.



HO
HO
HO



Harvest

Harvest donations which the student council from Year 3/4 collected from classes. After a quick photo opportunity, they bagged all the donations for the local food bank.





Reception

We enjoyed a visit from Alex the Architect and learned lots of new skills about how to build things



We have been very creative; we have been looking for circles.



We have enjoyed looking for leaves to make autumn crowns



We have been very busy and have enjoyed creating patterns and enhancing our fine motor skills with threading activities and getting creative with art and learning about capacity.





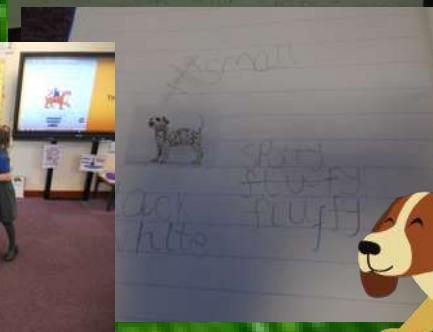
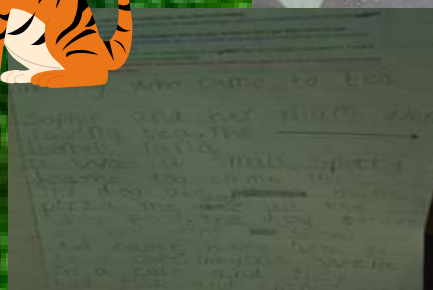
Year 1



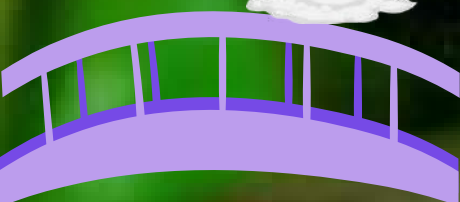
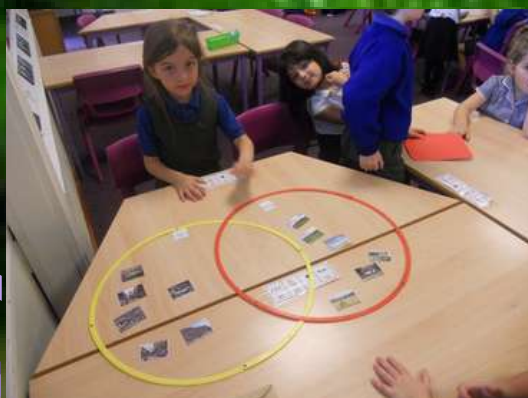
We had an exciting visit from Exotic Zoo. We learnt all about animal classification as part of our science work. We also we worked as scientists to answer the question 'Do taller children jump further than shorter children' and had lots of fun going outside to test it. Can you guess the outcome?



As part of Talk for writing we read *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr. We read the story *The Tiger Who Came for Tea* and acted it out (drama pics). We thought of adjectives to describe the tiger. We made story maps and changed the character to a dog. We wrote our own stories called *The Dog Who Came To Tea*.



In Geography – we found out about different characteristics of the town and country and had a go at sorting pictures





Year 2



We have had a really busy half term in Year Two; we visited the River Severn as part of our learning on habitats. We enjoyed a workshop with Shropshire Wildlife Trust



In Maths, we have been using a range of practical resources to support our learning.



As part of our DT learning, we made healthy picnics including a sandwich, a snack and fruit salad.

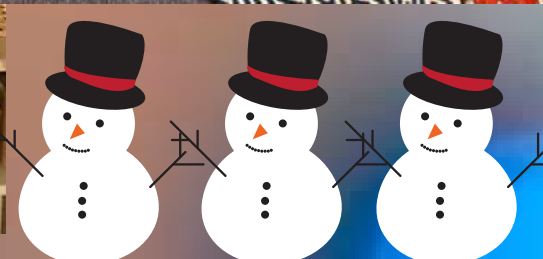




Santa's Grotto at Woodfield Nursery



With Woodfield's Nursery opening in January 2023, they have made fantastic use of the space by getting all festive and creating this wonderful Santa's Grotto for all the children to enjoy, they even got to meet Santa himself and receive a lovely gift.



Central Team Staffing Update

Welcome to Ally Brown who has joined the Central Team

Ally joined Empower Trust as the Headteacher of St Peter's CE Primary & Nursery School in 2019 and, as part of her wider role, worked closely with the CEO of the Trust to develop a school improvement strategy across all 8 schools.

In September 2022, she joined the Central Team on a full-time basis as Deputy CEO and School Improvement Officer.

As part of her drive for continued self-improvement, Ally has completed the National SENCO award, has a post graduate certificate in Inclusion and vulnerable learners and is a registered Ofsted Inspector.



This term we are saying goodbye to Suzanne Coffey, Operations Manager within the Central Team. We would like to express our thanks for her hard work and support and wish her every success for the future.

Empower Trust Teaching and Learning Conference

Our T&L Conference! This was an opportunity to reflect on what makes a great curriculum and how we can support children to know and remember more based on the latest educational research. Thanks to our key note speakers Ross McGill and Rachel Higginson for joining us. Fantastic day had by all.

'Thank you so much for the wonderful privilege of working with you and your staff today. The passion and purpose in the room was so tangible, a lovely way to present'. Rachel Higginson



Thanks to everyone who attended, we had a blast!