



“Valuing every achievement”

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Newsletter



Dear Families,

1st half term out of the academic year done! 7 weeks and 3 days done and dusted!



To all of our new children, we hope you have enjoyed your first half term in school. For 14 of you, this has been the first time ever! To all 18 of you, we are all so proud of you for settling in so well. Thinking back to day 1, there were not many tears but lots of smiles! There were children coming in to school on buses for the first time. Whether it was the first morning you let your parents hand go as you walked in, or the first time you carried your own bookbag, you all made such huge steps that you all managed so well to achieve and breeze through.

All of your learning journeys start here. One of the most exciting times for you, your families and us as Teachers is to see your starting point, follow your journey through and see how incredible your destination is now going to look with the support, teaching, environment, curriculum and education that you more than deserve. We are already in awe of your achievements and we can't wait to see how much you progress over your time at Rigby Hall. Welcome to Team Rigby, to you and your families!



To all of our other superstars, you continue to make us proud daily. Those who were 'new' last year are very well established this year! Knowing all of their routines, in amongst their new friends and classes and continuing on that fantastic journey.

Our curriculum for this year is half a term underway. I am always so pleased to see the children's work as I go around school and also when they proudly visit my office. The progress seen already is

brilliant! A huge Well Done to the pupils for this and another Well Done to the staff who teach, help, support and nurture all day every day.

This term is always our longest! Compared to other authorities I have links with, we have done the longest half term with others having broken up a week or two ago, so I think there will be some much deserved sleep-ins going on in your homes this next week! We have the run up of another 7 weeks taking us to Christmas! A later finish this year with our final day being 22nd December.



Weather

As I stated in my letter on Monday re: Adverse weather, we are coming in to that time of year again when we are hit by torrential rain, ice and snow. I won't repeat my letter, but will reiterate that I will make decisions around school closure based on the safety of the children, and in conjunction with Transport. Thank you for such supportive messages I have received since the letter went out on Monday, these were appreciated.

COVID

Although COVID is now something we 'live with', it is still very much a disruptive illness in our school! Our HR Guidance states that adults who contract COVID have to be away from people for 5 days. This is not ideal as it means we are losing staff for that period of time which is very disruptive to the effective running of the school. Sadly, it means we have had to postpone a couple of things as we haven't had the correct ratios of staff. Please help us to keep well and to keep going for your child by continuing to support if your child is ill, keep them home if they are unwell and show signs of sore throats, heavy colds, aching and lethargy. I completely understand the notion of just getting on, but within this building, if children come in unwell and spread to staff, it's the adults who have to take the longer period of time off due to the nature of our environment and none of us want to do that. I want us all here, and well and healthy! Thank you for your co-operation with this.



PTA

After speaking with Vicki, our Chair of the PTA (Friends of Rigby Hall) a couple of weeks back, we have decided to 'pause' the PTA until after Christmas.

In December we are holding our Winter Wonderland Day on the 8th where we will be visited by Santa and real reindeer, and we will be inviting you as families in to join us during the afternoon. We felt this might be a lovely way to celebrate Christmas together and enjoy your company and activities. The staff are really excited too as sometimes when events happen after school they can't attend due to other commitments so we are hoping at the very least, that this is an enjoyable time for our pupils and staff and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. I will send a letter shortly after we come back after the holiday.



I am excited to say we have had the first person to look at pricing the 'building' for the pool and so I hope to buy the pool with the money you have raised by the end of this year!

I'd like to say a 'big thank you' to the current PTA for all their hard work and fundraising over their time. I can't wait to relaunch this again in January next year!

Open Classes

For the first time this year, we held an open classes event. From the feedback that we have had from the staff it seems that this was well received. It was lovely to see so many people here and to have that 'informal' opportunity to look through books and chat about what has happened so far this term.

Dates coming up

Some dates for your diary:

November 6th – Pupils return to School

November 14th – School Photos

November 15th – Parents Evening – 4.00-7.00 – Letter to follow for appointments

November 23rd – Life Beyond School Event at RHS – 5.00-7.30

November 29th – Information evening for DoFE at RHS – 5.00

December 8th – Winter Wonderland Day – Parents invited in the afternoon – Letter to follow

December 13th – Christingle Services in St Godwalds Church – pupils only

December 14th & 15th – Christmas Plays – in the afternoon – Letter to follow

December 21st – Christmas Dinner Day - Letter to follow

December 22nd – Last day of term

I'd like to thank you for your continued support and kindness this half term. After having to share with you our Ofsted story at the start of term, the comments that myself and the team have received have been nothing short of amazing. We are all so grateful to you all as this past 8 months have been the most stressful for the School. Together, we move into the next half term and continue the good work that has always gone on.

Have a lovely week together, stay safe, and see you all back on the 6th November.

Tracey

Cherry Class

We have been doing lots of exciting things in life skills this half-term. Cherry class have learnt how to cross a road, make a cup of tea, change bedding, clean the fish tanks and tidy areas, such as food areas. The children look forward to these lessons each week, it is one of their favourite lessons. I am hoping they will start to transfer these learnt skills at home.

In Mathematics we have been learning about position and direction. Children have learnt about left and right (directional words), clockwise and anti-clockwise, quarter and half-turns, mapping skills, compass directions and co-ordinates. Children have practised these skills practically in Forest school with games like the 'trust game' (a blindfolded direction game). Children were very supportive and directed each other well, keeping each other safe.



In Design Technology we have been making superhero capes as part of our superhero topic. Children have persevered with the trickiness of sewing! They practised sewing with lots of undoing and starting again. I am proud of each and everyone of them as they found this challenging but did not give up! They all really enjoyed this topic and produced some fantastic work!



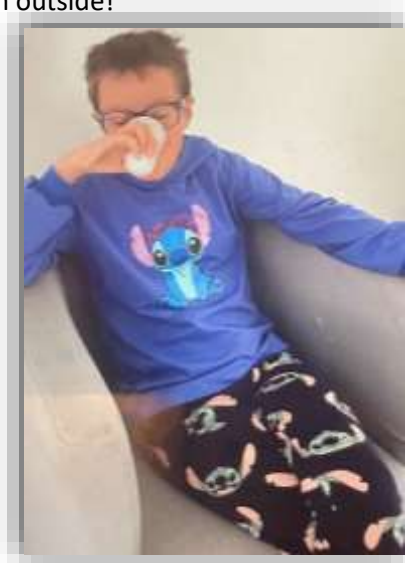
Maple

Maple have settled in amazingly for their first term!

It takes a lot to get used to having a new teacher, new teaching assistants, new peers and a new routine so we are beyond proud of them!

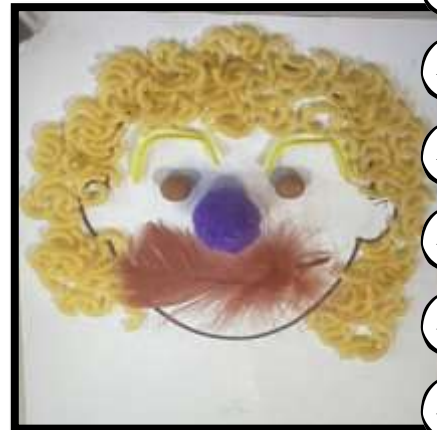
The children love to get practical and have enjoyed Art and Forest School the most!

In forest school for the last week, we got our children to make their own fairy/wizardry doors using natural resources from outside!



For life skills we took the children down to the village and allowed them to make their own hot chocolates. This was loved by all the pupils, they were so excited, some of them already knew how to make it but all of them took their time being super careful handling the jug of water and enjoyed the drink afterwards!

The children's art work has improved beautifully during their first term. In the first week, they drew a self-portrait, using half of a photograph and half of their drawing to match the picture. Over the next few weeks we started looking at sketching techniques like shading, proportions and inspiration from popular artists like Andy Warhol.



One of the most fun lessons in Art was allowing the children to create their own self portrait using random objects like pasta, leaves and chocolate. It is safe to say we enjoyed it just as much as they did! Some beautiful creations were made and it was amazing to see all of their creative sides come out, choosing what object best represents their facial features.

Post 16

Class 2

We have had a great start to the new academic year in Post 16, welcoming new students into the group and further developing relationships with our current students.

We continue working on life skills and developing independence as a huge part of the Post 16 curriculum.



Students have enjoyed starting new units in all areas of the curriculum. In vocational studies, students have been following instructions and working together in order to make apple crumble.

In ICT, students have been using a range of different applications to record information and will move onto finding information using ICT.



We have been busy looking at careers in the local community and students have been thinking about jobs they might like to do in the future and the skills they may need in different job roles.

Students have been learning about what personal information they would need to provide for a job application and what information we shouldn't share with people we don't know.

Unfortunately, we are yet to go out and about in the community but plan to do so after half term.








1
 Sapling class Autumn 1







 Sapling class have settled in really






 well and have enjoyed exploring their



 new school environment.







 In PE we have been




 practising our ball skills.






 In PSED we have been practising





 our play and engagement skills.



Spruce

In Maths this half term we have been exploring the topic of time. We started by looking at how to tell the time on both analogue and digital clocks. No-one will be surprised to know everyone was a lot more confident with the digital! We also looked at seasons and calendars. It was actually really useful to take some time looking at calendars and how to use them to find information. We have also looked at real world problems with time including using journey lengths to work out whether or not people will be late!



In English this half term we have been exploring non-literary texts. This is a very fancy way of describing any text that isn't a traditional book! It includes things like leaflets, posters even photographs and looks at the skills needed to decode the information included. We will be carrying this on after half term where we will be exploring non-continuous texts. This again just means those things where the information isn't provided in one piece. They might need to navigate the page to pick out key information or use sub headings to find the part that applies to them. We have also learnt some techniques to help decode new vocabulary without having to use google or a dictionary.



In PSHE we have looked at types of employment and personal qualities. It can be really difficult to recognise strengths in ourselves so it was really nice to be able to take the time to work out what special skills that we could provide a workplace just because of who we are. For our Life Skills Challenge we have been working on an art unit based around mythical creatures. In computing we have been using different areas of Microsoft Office focussing predominantly on Excel after it became clear it was definitely the one we were least confident with. They have done really well and have even created some incredible pixel art by formatting cells.

Take a look at Pikachu!



Pikachu

Willow Class

Willow class have been very busy in our mathematics lessons. We have been counting in 1s and 10s, working out missing numbers from a set of digit cards, finding missing numbers on a 100 square and even ordering a set of 2-digit numbers. We have loved working with larger numbers this half term!

Our patterns work has gone really well too, we have been looking at patterns in the environment, extending repeating patterns, creating our own repeating patterns and we have even started to explore movement patterns.



In our Literacy lessons we have enjoyed asking and answering questions. All of the children in Willow Class have enjoyed playing 'HedBanz' which has helped us to ask questions about who we are and answered questions to help our friends work out who they are. We soon moved onto the children working out who they were, what they were doing and where they were!

In PE, the children have all worked on developing their throwing and kicking skills with Emma. The children have improved their techniques as well as their aim.

We have had a great time learning about the World.

In Religious Education we have enjoyed exploring different features of the Earth such as mountains, the sea, deserts, icebergs, forests. We looked at what we could see there and what animals live there. We explored how different features of the Earth made us feel too such as penguins in the snow, fish under the sea etc.

In our Understanding the World lessons, we learnt to name our body parts including some tricky ones like ankles, wrists and hips. We have been comparing ourselves to others and identifying similarities and differences. We also looked at skin colour as a part of our 'Black History Month' work.



Hazel

This half term our topic has been 'Heroes'. We have thought about people who are heroes in our own lives.

We have enjoyed designing our own Superhero costumes and practising a running stitch to begin making our costumes out of fabric.

In English we have explored the story of 'Spiderman' and created our own innovated stories, based on the story, changing parts of it.

In Maths, we have explored position and direction. We have been guiding each other around, using the language of forwards, backwards, left and right. We have used the four compass points of north, south, east and west and remembered rhymes to help us: - **"Naughty Elephants Squirt Water"**

In Science, we have enjoyed exploring different materials. We have made predictions and tested our predictions to see if the results were right. We have explored absorbency and waterproof materials. We handled different materials to see which materials would bend, twist, stretch or squash.



In RE, we have explored the Creation story, thinking about what God created on the different days and what we are grateful for. We enjoyed learning and signing Harvest songs.

Hazel Class has enjoyed our Forest school's sessions. We have acted out our Spiderman stories on the stage, we have directed each other around trees and obstacles using positional language. We have enjoyed making dens and beginning to look at the leaves changing colour for Autumn

Rowan

This half term our topic has been 'Heroes'.

In English, we have explored the story of Spiderman and have created our own story stories based on the story of Spiderman. In lessons, we have changed parts of the story by adding our animals to the story.

In History, we have been exploring the Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell and how they were seen as Heroes during the wars.



In Forest School, Rowan class have been exploring the different materials and counting leaves and twigs. We have enjoyed creating dens and playing shops and restaurants.

In Maths, we have been learning about position and direction. We have been exploring language, forwards, backwards, left and right. We have been using compass points of North, South, East and West.

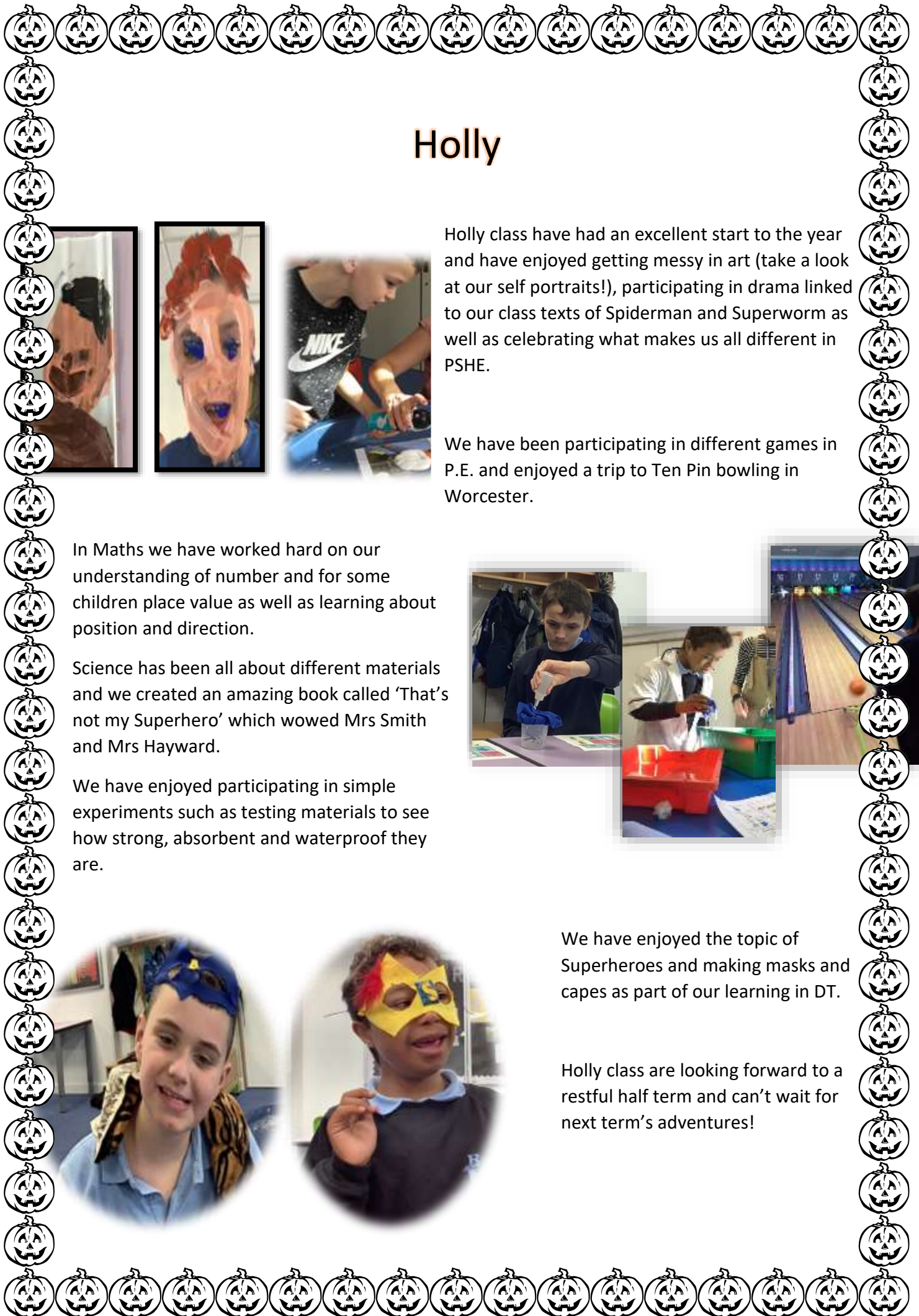


In Science, we have been learning about different materials. We have been experimenting the different absorbency of materials and testing out whether they are waterproof. We have been making some predictions before the experiments to see if our results were correct. We have also used been testing out different materials to see if they bend, twist, stretch or squash.

In RE, we have been exploring the 7 days of creation and learnt a song to help us remember each day. We have enjoyed practicing our Harvest Festival song 'Harvest Samba'.



Holly



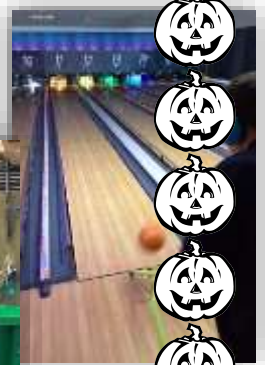
Holly class have had an excellent start to the year and have enjoyed getting messy in art (take a look at our self portraits!), participating in drama linked to our class texts of Spiderman and Superworm as well as celebrating what makes us all different in PSHE.

We have been participating in different games in P.E. and enjoyed a trip to Ten Pin bowling in Worcester.

In Maths we have worked hard on our understanding of number and for some children place value as well as learning about position and direction.

Science has been all about different materials and we created an amazing book called 'That's not my Superhero' which wowed Mrs Smith and Mrs Hayward.

We have enjoyed participating in simple experiments such as testing materials to see how strong, absorbent and waterproof they are.



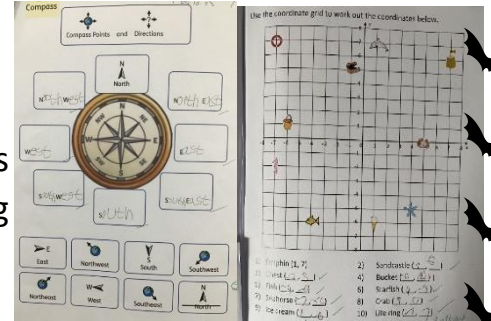
We have enjoyed the topic of Superheroes and making masks and capes as part of our learning in DT.

Holly class are looking forward to a restful half term and can't wait for next term's adventures!



In English, we have been looking at Superheroes. We have created some amazing work using adjectives and had great fun describing characters and writing stories!

In Maths, we have been developing our compass skills and plotting co-ordinates as part of our work involving position and direction.



In Art, we have been practising our shading and drawing techniques. We completed self-portraits and our favourite animals.



In History, we have been learning about the Romans. We enjoyed relating to life as a Roman Soldier and making our own shields and swords.



In Life Skills, we have been learning about preparing simple drinks and snacks. We have thoroughly enjoyed baking cakes and cookies and creating our own sausage rolls, pizza and bread!

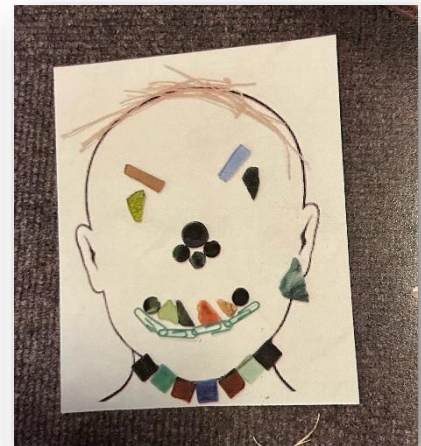


Pear

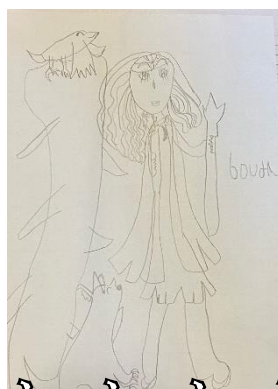
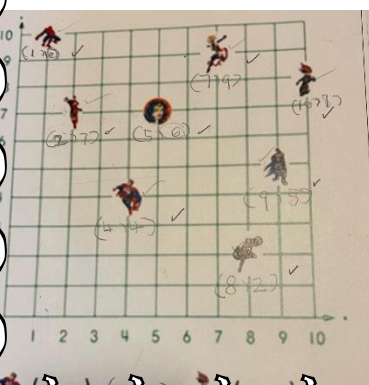
In English this half term, we have been looking at Superheroes. We have used the Titanium video to explore drama, writing and what we would choose as our own superpowers! What would you choose?



In Art, we have been practising our shading and drawing techniques. We have created fantastic portraits and even used nature in our designs!



In maths, we have been learning about position and direction. We plotted and described coordinates in 4 quadrants.



In history, we have been learning about the Romans. We have learnt how and why they invaded and also learnt about Boudicca's resistance. Do you think she is a hero or a villain?

Sycamore

In Sycamore class this half term, we have welcomed our six new starters and we are so impressed with their progress settling in so far! Our theme has been "I am a superhero!". We have done lots of work around ourselves, our interests and our families.

In Literacy, we have been learning to demonstrate the four rules of listening. We have been building up our concentration and ability to attend in small groups. We have also been building up our phonics listening skills so that we are familiar with listening for the initial sounds in words!



In maths we have been learning about patterns. We have been making and finished 2 and 3 step patterns. We have also been recognising patterns in the environment (socks, superhero capes, animal fur, etc). In number, we have been building on our number and counting knowledge. We have engaged in a range of number songs, recognising numerals and finding the missing number!

We have begun our fantastic work in communication too! Developing lots of new skills such as PECS, using ALDs to support communication and our listening skills. The children this term have enjoyed our "what's in the box?" sessions the most!



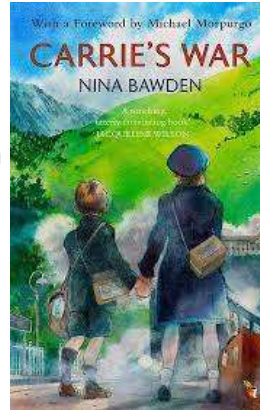
We practiced really hard for our harvest festival and did some fantastic singing and dancing for single dangle scarecrow!

Next half term, our theme will be "time to rhyme!". We will be continuing to develop all of our communication skills and looking at lots of new song and rhymes!

Pine



Pine have made an excellent start to their accredited courses in the Autumn Term! They have been looking at Number and the Number System in Maths, Response to Prowse in English, Diwali in Humanities, Spreadsheets in Computing and The Human Body in Science!



In Life Skills this term we have been doing a unit on Cooking using different methods.

Some of the things we have cooked include Muffins, Hot Dogs, Chicken Nuggets and Chips, Pizza, Mini Victoria Sponges, Rocky Road, Oreo Cheesecake, Cookie Dough & Spaghetti Bolognese!

A very talented group of cooks!



In PE we have been learning map reading and compass skills. As part of this we went on a trip to the Lickey Hills!

We have also been using the fitness pod to begin to create our own personal fitness plan.

All in all, a very busy but successful half term! Enjoy the holiday and see you in November!



Bay

We have had lots of fun in Maths experiencing in, on, through and under. We enjoyed filling tubs with paper, hiding under the parachute and shaking lentils through a colander.



In art we created self portraits in the style of Picasso by adding a collage of shapes to our faces.

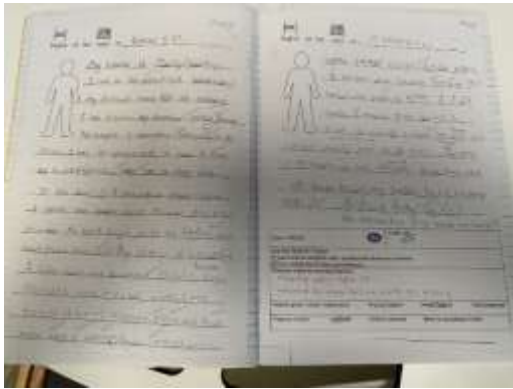


In our history lessons we have been learning about Florence Nightingale. We enjoyed dressing up as nurses and doctors.



Birch

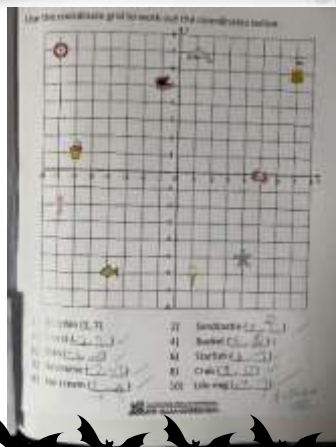
In English this half term, we have been looking at Superheroes. We created our own superheroes and then wrote stories about them. We also created Super-Villains and wrote about those too.



In Art, we have been practising our shading and drawing techniques. We drew famous people, ourselves and then animals.



In maths, we have been learning about position and direction. We plotted and described coordinates in 4 quadrants.



In history, we have been learning about the Romans. We have learnt how and why they invaded and also learnt about Queen Boudicca's resistance.