

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term, it's a wonderful time to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past few months. From the joy of welcoming new pupils to the excitement of festive preparations, this term has been full of learning, growth and community spirit. I'm incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm shown by our pupils, staff and families.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a place where everyone can thrive and be happy, caring and successful.

Reception

Brown Bears have had a fantastic first term at school. We learnt about seasonal changes that happen during autumn and explored a variety of autumn treasures like conkers, pine cones, acorns and leaves from different trees. We have finished this half term by learning about lots of different festivals that happen during autumn and the beginning of winter. We talked about how people celebrate Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas and we ended this week trying different Christmas foods from around the world.



Next half term, we are looking forward to comparing hot and cold countries and looking at how animals adapt to live in hot and cold climates.

Nursery

Nursery have had a busy and successful half term. We explored the children's autumn treasures and enjoyed lots of activities linked to The Bear Hunt story. This included making bears with moving parts and even a bear cave.



At the beginning of the term, Nursery visited the local greengrocers to buy vegetables which they made into soup. We have learnt about many seasonal celebrations: Bonfire Night,

Diwali and culminating with lots of festive fun for Christmas.



The children have enjoyed sensory explorations with leaves, paint, snow and 'Grinch' slime.



What a wonderful Nativity! We are very proud of all the children for learning so many songs and actions and performing them in front of a large audience. I hope you also got a chance to see their wonderful hoop that was hung in the Activity Room.

See you all in the New Year when we look forward to welcoming eight new children.

Years 3 and 4

In Years 3 and 4, the children have enjoyed their music unit of 'Rock and Roll'. They enjoyed learning about the history of rock and roll music, singing the songs and performing dances. We have also been busy using Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as inspiration for our writing. We have written non-chronological reports and recount diaries.



Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed using West Side Story as inspiration during dance lessons to perform Capoeira - a Brazilian martial art. They have also had great fun learning about the solar system to write their own non-chronological reports. Did you know, that you can fit Earth in to the size of Jupiter more than 1300 times? The children were so proud of their writing that they published it to make a wonderful display.

Children in Need

On Friday 15th November, we supported Children in Need by wearing all things spotty! Thank you for your support, we raised £230.

Year 1

Year 1 have had great fun over the last half term. They have explored lots of stories from 'Beauty and the Beast' to 'Tiddler'. The children have enjoyed writing their own sentences about these stories and characters. In maths, we have been focusing on addition within 10 and representations of this. All the children have been working extremely hard! However, the main event of this half term was our Nativity performance of 'We Three Kings' in which Year 1 dazzled the audience as singing stars! They had a fantastic time learning and practicing the songs and their singing was phenomenal! Thank you for all your support over the past few weeks - the Year 1 team wish you all a happy and restful break.

Year 2

Year 2 worked hard this half term to put together their Nativity performance of 'We Three Kings'. The children enjoyed learning their lines and singing the songs. The performances to their grown ups were Oscar worthy! In science, the children have been busy learning about mini beasts and micro habitats. They took part in their own mini beast hunt on the trim trail and then carried out an investigation all about woodlice.



Christmas Cracked

This half term, Year 6 had a wonderful opportunity to visit Lovat Hall and take part in the 'Christmas Cracked' session, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The session explored the true meaning of Christmas in a fun and interactive way. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Geoff and the church team for organizing this engaging experience. The children reflected well on the significance of Christmas for Christians.





Across the school the children took part in Maths Week England between 11th and 17th November.

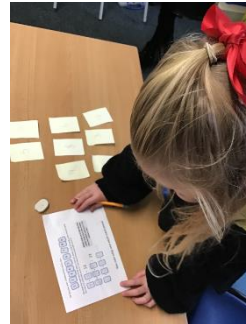
In Nursery, the children were helping an owl to read the numbers on his packing list and counting the right amounts into his travel bag.



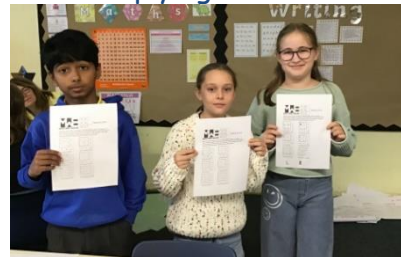
Reception and Year 1 were pirates and had to find all the different ways they could put 15 pieces of treasure into four piles.



In Year 2 the children had to use the numbers 1 to 9 to solve some calculations.



Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had a go at solving yohaku problems, which involved adding and multiplying numbers to find amounts.



All the children showed great perseverance and enjoyed coming up with the solutions to their problems. They got to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

White Rose



For our maths curriculum we use the White Rose materials. There is a free 1-minute maths app which helps children to build greater number confidence and fluency. It can be downloaded from the Apple App Store, Google Play Store or Amazon Store and is worth using.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November - we raised a fantastic £158.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a great success, thank you for all the donations and help towards making it happen. We are looking at spending the money on some new resources for the playground.

The School Council

The School Council were lucky to meet two local MPs, Jane Carr and Liam Andrews. We asked them lots of questions about the local area, events and the political parties. We learnt lots of different things and can't wait to share them with our classmates.

Music

The choir have been busy singing for the people of Newport Pagnell. We visited two care homes and kicked off Christmas by singing in St Peter and St Paul's Church for the switching on of the town's lights. Well done Cedars super singers!

And finally... a reminder that we return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025. In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Best wishes

Mrs Joanne Goldsmith