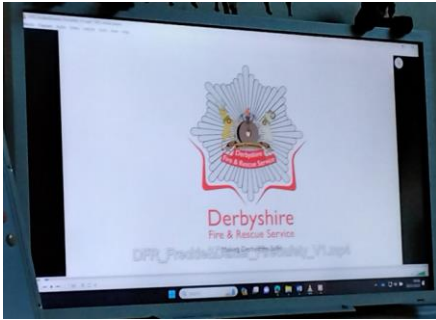


What has happened over the term?

The answer to the question is lots! We had a visit from the Fire Service as they spoke to the children about emergency procedures, water safety and the different types of rescues they are involved in, including rescuing animals. Each class has a fire dog which is slowly making it round to every child's home. Thank you to all of you who have looked after the dog so far, and completed the activities on the accompanying leaflet. To those who have not received the dog yet, sorry it is not a real dog!

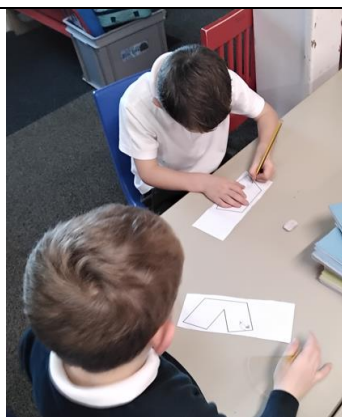


We also had a visitor from the Open Centre as part of our Religions and Worldviews focus on Judaism.



The children had the opportunity to see a range of Jewish artefacts, try on some traditional items related to the Jewish faith and also ask lots of questions to deepen their knowledge and understanding.

In PSHE the children have been considering the similarities and differences between themselves and others, along with celebrating these differences and reinforcing the knowledge that everyone is special and unique. Each week they have focused on an different item for a gingerbread character and this week they will finally complete this, with the finished piece going home to be shared. Our PSHE lessons have helped to develop the children's knowledge of the British Values, especially respect, tolerance and individual liberty.



What else has happened? Well who could forget our wonderful Nativity! We feel so proud of all our children who sang, acted, danced or told the story of 'A Miracle in Town'. We would also like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came to watch the children and hope you are still singing some of those songs! At the time of typing this newsletter the generous donations are being counted, so that information will be released once a total has been established.



(More Nativity photos can be found in our Year 1/2 section on our website.)

The children have loved completing a range of Christmas pictures for our community, with a group of Y2 going to Bramble Lodge where they sang a selection of our Nativity songs to the residents and carers. Christmas is certainly a time to support those in the community.

Read-a-Rainbow... The Pot of Gold!

A gigantic well done to two happy Hedgehogs who have completed the Read-a-Rainbow challenge, meaning that since starting Year 2 in September they have read/ been read to at home over 200 times! Congratulations! Who will be the first Badger and Deer to reach the pot of gold?



If your child is still on a red bookmark then winter is the perfect time to spend time curled up with a book ready to move onto the next bookmark. Remember to colour in a segment each time a book/magazine/comic is shared at home, 25 reads and your child will be able to move on to the next colour. An adult at home just needs to make a note in the reading diary that they have read.

Reading Information

Our children have a love of reading and read lots throughout the day every day, this includes reading instructions in Maths, reading sentences in Science along with many other occasions when they share a book or a reading book. Where children experience difficulties with reading, then they will read their phonic books more regularly to an adult in school for additional support.

Year 1 and some Year 2 have a phonic reading book. This book is read in school in a group three times a week. Each session focuses on a different element, first decoding (Tuesday), then prosody (Wednesday) and then finally a comprehension session (Friday). It is after reading the book on Friday that that book is sent home. By the time it goes home the book should be fluently read (between 95-100%). Sometimes a child can read the words on the pages, but they don't use expression. This is an important part of the reading process.

If your child reads the book with ease (expressive, and not robotic style) then that is perfect. Ask them a variety of questions about the book and in particular the vocabulary. If your child finds the book tricky, take a break and go back to it at another time, they could be feeling tired or not focused on reading.

All children using the Little Wandle books are assessed to ensure they are reading books at the right level and therefore the children work within a group. Sometimes children may read a book they have previously read, this may be because they are revisiting it as the child is still on the same level and improvements could be made by looking at a familiar text. This should not happen often, if it is then further assessments would be needed.

In addition to the Phonic book children also choose a share book, which they can change any day.

Most Year 2 children have completed the Little Wandle phonics and are reading a reading book, along with their shared book. These children can change their reading books as often as they like as the books are kept in the classroom and easily accessible to them. These children participate in Fred's Reading, which replaces the Little Wandle group reading sessions. Each term the children are assessed to see if they are ready for the next reading level.

Curriculum- What will the children be learning this term?



Year 1- Addition within 20, Subtraction within 20, Numbers to 50

Year 2- Multiplication and division. Length, height, mass, capacity and temperature



English- Information text

Science- Animals including humans. This will build on the knowledge the children gained in Autumn 1.

Design and Technology- Textiles- puppet making! If you have any puppets at home please bring these into school the first week of term for us to explore.

History- History of toys and books. How have these changed over the years? We are hoping to have a visitor in... more new will be shared once confirmed.



PE- Indoor- Gymnastics

Outdoor- Running

Badgers have PE on Mondays and Thursdays

Hedgehogs have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays

Deer have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Over Christmas please check PE kits and ensure all items are labelled ready for the new year. Your support with this really does help the children as they are able to locate their belongings and return them to their bags.

Religion & Worldviews- What makes some places sacred? (Christian, Jewish and Non-religious)



Power and Identity- developing confidence, sharing ideas and building resilience.

Each class will have a focus which matches the areas identified on our action plans.

PSHE- Dreams and Goals; Identifying goals, tackling new challenges, working with a partner and feelings of success. These link beautifully to Thrive.



Links to British Value of Mutual Respect, individual liberty and tolerance

Music- Rhythm in the way we walk Banana rap



Computing pictograms and spreadsheets

Club Information

This will be sent out separately to this newsletter, so please keep a look out- this is usually sent via parent pay.



NUT ALLERGIES

We have children in school who could have an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts or nut traces. Please only send your children to school with packed lunches that do not contain nuts or products containing nut traces. This includes Nutella and other chocolate spreads/products that contain nut traces or MAY contain nut traces.

Thank you!

Important Dates

8.1.24 First day back
9.1.24 Bring in a puppet if you have one
6.2.24 Internet Safety Day
7.2.24 Erewash gymnastics festival (10 KS1 children) details to be sent nearer the time.
12.2.24 Parents evening
12.2-15.2 Scholastic book fair in school
15.2.24 Parents evening. Last day
16.2.24 INSET day
26.2.24 First day of Spring term 2
7.3.24 World book day- watch out for information coming out nearer the time.
28.3.24 @9:15am KS1 and Reception Easter bonnet parade. Last day

Communication

If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher please either email in using the department email (see details at the bottom of this newsletter), phone the admin team or speak to us at the end of the day. Mr Askew will continue to meet the children at drop off, so messages can also be passed on at this point. Please note the department email is not checked throughout the day every day, so anything important should go through the office/ via Mr Askew on drop off.



Homework

We will start the term with paper based homework, then the following week will be online with My Maths and Purple Mash.

Paper based: 12.1, 26.1, 9.2

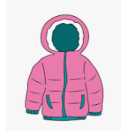
Online: 19.1, 2.2, 16.2

Please encourage your child to hand in their homework book once they have completed it.

Shoe Box Church

As part of our Religion and Worldviews learning this term we be looking at the important features and artefacts you may find in a church. The children will be working together to make a 'shoe box church' with all the common features of a church inside. To help them with this it would be great if the children could bring in any *clean* shoe boxes, small boxes, yoghurt pots, junk modelling, remembering we can only accept items which do not contain nuts/traces of nuts, that they could use to build pews, altars, fonts, stained glass windows etc...

Please could these be in school the week commencing 15.1.24



Cold Weather



Please check all belongings have names in, we try really hard in school to ensure the right clothes go home with the right children, but we are still finding many items of clothing left without names and the children do not recognise their jumpers.

As the weather is colder during the winter months it is important that all children have a warm coat, hat and gloves, again all labelled with your child's name. We will do our best to ensure children have their coats zipped up for playtimes and home time, however we have noticed many children are unable to fasten their own coats. Whilst adults do help the children, it is quite a challenge to zip up a class full of coats and locate gloves and hats, so your help in practising this over the Christmas period would be greatly appreciated. Then hopefully together we can all keep the children warm.

Merry Christmas!