

ACORNS

Acorns have had an exciting month; we have continued to explore the 'Countdown to Winter.' We looked at hibernation and conducted a science experiment with hot water bottles. We placed one into 'hibernation' and the other was placed outside, and we discovered how the temperature changed as time passed. However, the highlight of the month was the snow! We headed straight out to experience the weather, snow being a first for some of the children. It was a magical moment for all the children and staff!



In Maths, we have explored 2D shapes and how we can describe them. We have also looked at part-whole models and how we can use them to support our learning on number bonds.



In Drawing Club, we have looked at Bagpuss, Funny Bones and Mr Gumpy's car. The children have been working hard on their blending and applying their phonic knowledge to their writing. Thank you for all the support and work you are doing at home.



You may have seen the new 'car' in Acorns. I would like to express a huge thankyou to Mr Crocker for building this amazing toy for the children. It is fantastic and has been a huge hit with the children.

In the new year we will be starting our learning on 'People who Help Us.' Previous visitors who have supported us in this topic, include the police, military, post service, hospital staff, vets, farmers and fire service. If you or someone who know, would like to visit the school, please do email the school office.

The children may have mentioned that Acorn class have reached the Oak tree, this means that they have earnt 25 merit awards! They have voted as a class to have a movie in the yurt with popcorn and biscuits.

On the 6th we filled the St Catherines to the very back for the Acorn Nativity. I know parents, staff, year 6 and most importantly the Acorns all had a great time!





Merry Christmas from all the Acorn Team

CLASS 1

Class 1 have enjoyed another exciting month of learning. In maths the children have been learning to add and subtract, using objects, drawings or pictures, various representations and finally number lines!

In English learning, Class 1 have been exploring adjectives and how to use them to add more detail to a sentence, which linked to our science topic all about common everyday materials and their properties. Children applied their understanding to design, plan, and build a model house. The children learnt about joining and fixing techniques, and they had a great time using the STEAM cycle to explore and show what they have learnt during their science lessons this month. Children also had a lot of fun going green with our 'Editing Lenses' which help us find and fix mistakes.



In geography, Class 1 have been learning about some features of our local landscape, including human features within the local area (starting with our school site), and physical features of the local landscape. Children used the forest area as a good vantage point to explore human and physical geographical features close by, outside of our environment. Some of us even spotted the monument on Ham Hill!



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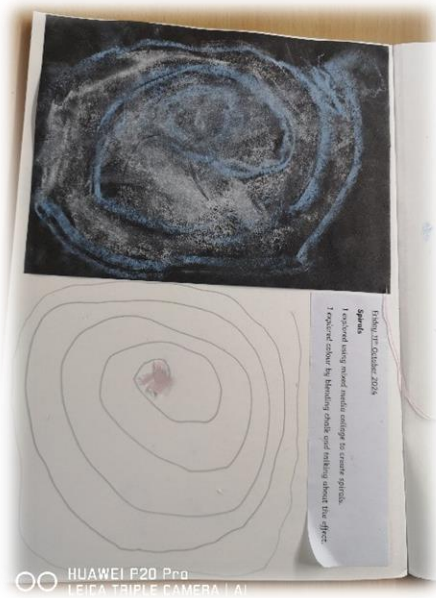


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In PE we have finished our Yoga topic (jungle animal poses), though we will be continuing with our learning on Ball Skills after half term break! In Art, Class 1 have been learning about spirals! Children explored different types of media and discussed the impact. They used chalk and oil pastels to blend colours, and pencils, crayons, and collage to create spiral shapes.



CLASS 2

Class 2 have been very busy recently, in our art work we completed our first unit of work which resulted in some amazing art work focusing on autumn leaves. We learnt how to draw continuous lines, what happens when water colour paint is put on to of wax crayon and then created our finished products.



Our new unit of work is learning about line and how lines can be used to create images from the natural world.

We looked closely at images from film stills from a David Attenborough film. We will spend time over the next few weeks looking closely at small items, focusing on the detail, before learning about monoprints.



In our RE work, we had a wonderful Godly Play session where we looked in detail about the story of Christmas and why Christmas is special for Christians.



We were so proud of our Christmas play "Higgledy Piggledy nativity." We worked really hard learning our words and enjoyed performing to two full audiences.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas.



CLASS 3

It has been a busy end of term for Class 3!

We had a fantastic trip to Carymoor Environmental Centre to take part in a Stone Age Day. We dressed up in animal skins and took part in lots of activities including: handling Stone Age artifacts, learning how to start a fire, taking part in a hunter-gatherer game, visiting a round house and orienteering. I think one of the parts we all enjoyed most was den building. It was very funny when Gary, our group leader, tested to see if they were waterproof in a storm!



We have also finished designing and making our healthy couscous dish. Thank you so much for supporting us by bringing in all the ingredients to help us. The children absolutely loved this unit and were very articulate about food hygiene and safety in the kitchen.



In Science, we are learning about Nutrition and Skeletons in animals and humans. We understand the important role that a good diet and healthy lifestyle can play on our growing bodies. This made some great links to our DT work.

Lights Camel Action. Children in Class 3 and 4 worked so hard to practice songs and dances for their Christmas performance. We were so proud of all of them and believe they really shone like true stars for 2 jam packed performances.





Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a merry Christmas from the Class 3 team.

CLASS 4

The last couple of months have certainly been busy ones and that is no exception for year 4.

Using The Green Book as a basis, we began to look at caring for our environment. This included looking at persuasive letters. Using such features as conjunctions and emotive language we wrote letters about plastic pollution and deforestation. The children were very 'fired up' about how our environment is treated and this was shown clearly through their writing.

To end our project, we spent the day at Carymoor, learning about rubbish and recycling. The children were very enthusiastic and had a wonderful time. We learnt about landfill and how the waste is sorted. In the afternoon, we learnt about how to reuse materials and made our own kite using bread wrappers. Thank you to Mrs Kadoch for accompanying us – we hope she had as much fun as we did!





In art, we have been looking at the work of Shaheem Ahmed and Andy Gilmore to explore pattern making. Using holes, ripping, folding and sewing we created sensory art, then using lines, shapes and dots we looked at geometric designs and tessellation.

During RE, we looked at how the Christmas stories were portrayed by the four gospels. We discussed John 1 and used this to help us to create alternative Christmas cards and carols using concepts such as being enlightened and incarnation. On Monday, we made our own Christingles. As part of this activity, we reflected on how we could spread God's light.



In maths, all the children have embraced learning their times table and are working hard to improve on their speed of recall. I love it when they come up to me to share their successes such as moving up the leader board and making their heat map green. Well done class 4 – you are doing a great job of learning your tables!

In science, we have been learning about circuits and how some materials conduct electricity. In our first lesson, we all became part of a circuit when we all held hands and used the electricity stick to show our circuit was complete. Using our learning to help us, we created our own switches to turn a circuit on.

As part of our DT, we learnt how to make apple crumble. Mr Steyn taught us how to cut peel and chop apples safely. Then using sugar, flour, butter and our own choice of spices, we made a crumble topping. All of our ingredients were put into a tin foil container which we took home to bake. We even made a sleeve for our container explaining how to cook our crumble.



Last week was the culmination of two weeks of hard work, rehearsing for the school performance and Class 4 did us proud! Each and every one of class 3 and 4 put their all into 'Lights Camel Action' to make it a success. From start to finish, the show was full of energy and fun and they all deserved the standing ovation they received on Wednesday night.



Finally, Class 4 would like to say thank you and goodbye to Mr Steyn who has been with us for the last few weeks. Good luck in your training and we hope you enjoy your next placement.

To all parents and carers, we wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

CLASS 5

As we move into November, here's a snapshot of what we've been up to in Class 5:

Christmas Carol Service

We were absolutely blown away by the children's incredible performance at St. Catherine's Church during their Christmas carol service! They sang beautifully and represented our school with pride. Thank you for your support in making this event so special.

English

We are now delving into explanation texts, exploring the fascinating world of *Wallace and Gromit's* cracking contraptions and the mischievous *Mischieviants*. The children are enjoying exploring the different levels of formality involved in these texts.

Maths

Our focus has shifted to multiplication and division, as well as understanding area, perimeter, and angles. We've even been trying to improve our protractor skills by measuring different angles around the school.

Design Technology

In DT, the children have been working hard designing and creating their moving toys using CAMS. Their projects are almost complete, and the finished toys will be coming home soon for you to enjoy!





Science

We've been investigating forces and air resistance, conducting experiments and learning about the principles that govern these phenomena.

PE

Our PE sessions have been a mix of outdoor tag rugby and indoor dance, inspired by *The Greatest Showman*. Pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones has been part of the process, and the children have taken to it really well.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

CLASS 6

November has been another busy month for Class 6 and we can now see the twinkly lights of Christmas! Since half term, we have completed our history work on WWII and are now looking at how geographical features impacted the war. This has included working with maps, using 6-figure grid references and learning about latitude and longitude.

We enjoyed reading our stories to our buddies in Acorns.



In English, we have enjoyed getting to know a dark European fairytale called The Golden Cage. We used it to develop our sentence writing and have worked on including interesting figurative language, dialogue and adverbial phrases. The children wrote amazing endings to this story, not one of them the same, where they developed the character of Valentina further still.

We have been working hard to create our wire loop toys, ready for Christmas. We have had to draw on our school value of perseverance in order to get them all working! We have utilised our design skills to create an attractive, working toy.

Year 6 have been learning about activism through our latest art project. We have been thinking about what is important to us and what messages we would like to share with the world. Our project involves building up layers of collage, paint and printing in order to communicate a message. We have been inspired by the works of Shepherd Fairey.



We have been practicing hard for our Christmas Carol concert, including learning to play the hand chimes.



We loved our trip to Nothe Fort. It was so interesting to find out what life was like for an evacuee during the war. Our workshops in the kitchen, laundry, shop and school room were very insightful but the highlight has to be evacuating at the sound of the air raid siren, hiding in the Anderson shelter with 'bombs' going off all around and then using the hand pump to put out the fire! What a fantastic day we had!



Our grand finale to 2024 was the beautiful, candle lit carol concert in St Catherine's Church. An incredible celebration of Christmas.





Thank you all for the lovely, thoughtful presents.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas from the Year 6 team!