



What a wonderful Autumn term we have had! The children have enjoyed all the festive activities we held over the past couple of weeks.

Our lucky children were treated to a magnificent Christmas feast this week, complete with party hats and Christmas music.



We would like to thank our catering team for making a delicious Christmas dinner for our pupils.

All the staff at Hannah Ball would like to wish our pupils and their families who will be celebrating Christmas a magical Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

**Mrs. Machingauta**  
Principal

### Dates for your Dairies:



**Monday 6th January**  
2025: Staff Inset

**Tuesday 7th January**  
2025: Spring 1 Term starts- School opens for all pupils

**Friday 14th February**  
2025: Spring 1 Term Ends



**Attendance Matters**  
Every student. Every day.

### Attendance Autumn 2024

**Year 1 - 95.5%**

**Year 6 - 95.1%**

**Year 5 - 95%**

**Well done to Year 1!**



Many congratulations to the 63 children who have received 100% attendance from September to December. After analysing assessment data, it is evident that pupils with good attendance are achieving higher grades and better academic outcomes compared to those with poor attendance. Please support your child to attend school every day.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection during school**

**holidays** If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child during a school holiday **YOU SHOULD ACT WITHOUT DELAY.**

You can contact the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **01296 383 962, 0800 999 7677, or the police on 101 or 999.**

Below are links to organisations which provide excellent support and advice for young people:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> - an excellent source of counselling help and support for all young people

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - an organisation which protects young people online

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - the leading UK charity supporting young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health



This month, our Reception class has truly excelled in preparing for the nativity performance! The children displayed incredible enthusiasm and spirit as they brought the story to life through their singing and acting. Their hard work and dedication were evident, and we couldn't be prouder of their performances.



In addition to the nativity preparations, the children created beautiful Christmas cards for their families and engaged in a variety of festive crafts throughout the month. Their creativity shone brightly, adding a special touch to our holiday celebrations.



We also had an exciting time talking to our police officer visitors who came and told us all about their roles in the community. They told the children about safety rules, such as road safety and how to stay safe in different situations. The police officers also answered lots of our questions about how they help protect people and solve problems.



*Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year!*

# Year 1 Highlights

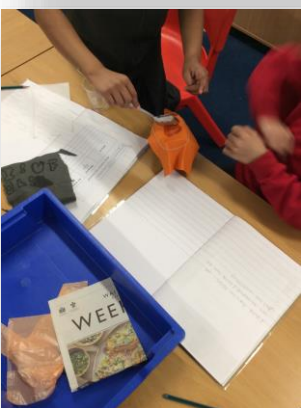


We are thrilled to share that the children delivered a fantastic performance in our Nativity play! Their hard work and dedication truly brought the story to life, and their enthusiasm shone through every moment. From the beautiful singing to the engaging acting, each child played their part with confidence and joy, creating a magical experience for everyone in the audience. A heartfelt well done to each and every one of you for your amazing performance!

This month, Year 1 was fortunate to welcome police officers who visited our classroom. They shared insights about their important role in keeping our community safe and discussed essential safety rules, including road safety and how to stay safe in various situations. The officers also answered many questions from the students, helping them understand how they protect people and solve problems. We truly enjoyed this interactive and informative session!



In English, the children have been exploring the book '**Katie in London.**' We discussed the major sights that Katie visited during her trip, and the children wrote some fantastic diary entries reflecting on her adventures. Their creativity and engagement with the story were impressive!



The children have also thoroughly enjoyed their science experiments, where we tested absorbency and waterproofness. They demonstrated great curiosity, teamwork, and creativity as they explored new ideas and discovered how things work.

We hope they all have a restful break and a Merry Christmas. Happy New Year!



# Year 2 Highlights

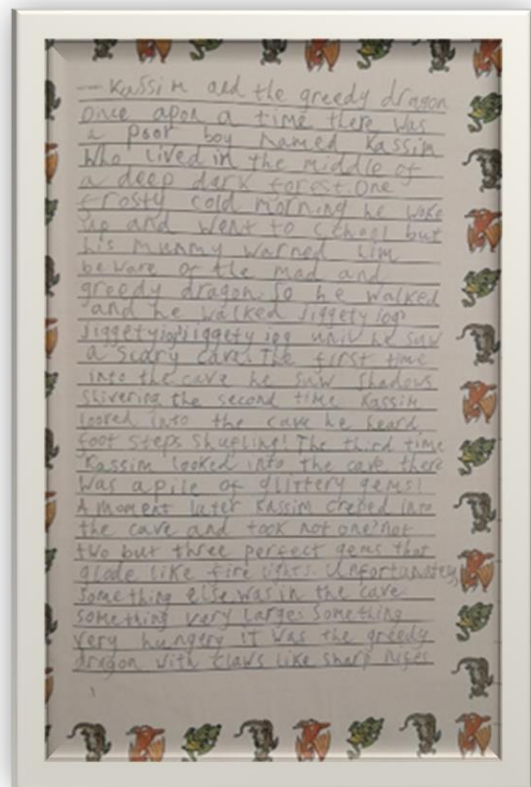
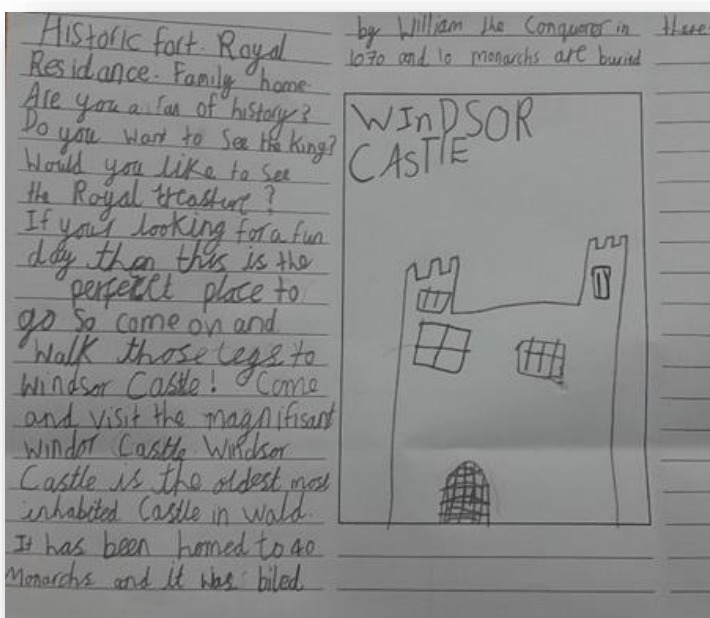


Year 2 has produced some excellent writing this half term!

They began by retelling the story of **Kassim and the Greedy Dragon** and creating informative leaflets about Windsor Castle. The pupils employed a variety of persuasive devices to convince their readers to visit Windsor Castle and organised their texts effectively using subheadings.

To conclude our Castles topic, the children documented their Windsor Castle trip in the style of **The Bayeux Tapestry**, creatively telling the story of their day. Each child illustrated a different part of the experience, and together they collaborated on one very long piece of fabric, showcasing their teamwork and artistic skills.

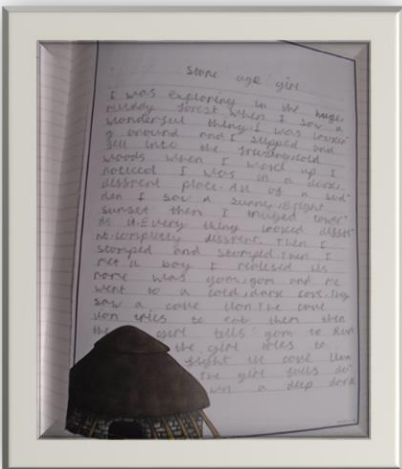
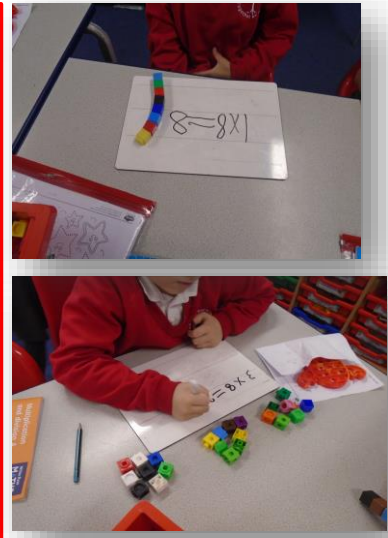
Additionally, the pupils designed and constructed their own castles in pairs using recycled materials, further enhancing their understanding of castle architecture and design.





I would like to start by extending a huge well done to Year 3 during assessment week! We all know that assessments can be challenging, but the Year 3 pupils tried incredibly hard, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts

In our Maths lessons, we focused on multiplication and subtraction. We practised our times tables, learning the 8 times table through a fun song that made it easier to remember. The children truly enjoyed singing along, which boosted their confidence with their times tables. We also tackled subtraction, solving problems and employing various strategies to arrive at the correct answers. This approach made Maths more engaging and enjoyable for everyone.



During our English lessons, we wrote our own adventure stories inspired by the book **Stone Age Boy**. The pupils imagined what life would be like in the Stone Age and created exciting narratives about characters embarking on adventures similar to those in the book. They loved using their creativity to explore life in the past and how different it was during that era. It was a fantastic way to practice writing and storytelling while learning about history!

In our Science lessons, we delved into the fascinating world of rocks, soil, and fossils. The children learned about the different types of rocks, the formation of soil, and how fossils are created. They were excited to discover how fossils provide insights into the animals and plants that existed long ago. We also had fun experimenting with various types of soil and observing how rocks can change over time. This topic helped us understand the natural world around us and the history of our planet!



*We hope the children enjoy a well rested break (and the parents too).*



## Christingles



As part of our RE unit on symbolism in the Christmas story, the children created their own **Christingles** and annotated what each part represents. This hands-on activity helped deepen their understanding of the symbolism inherent in the Christmas narrative.

## Art

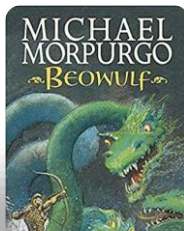
In our Art lessons, the children have been exploring how paint can create a variety of effects. They used **watercolour paint** and **oil pastels** to produce vibrant, creative backgrounds. This technique allows the areas where the oil pastel is applied to resist the watercolour paint, resulting in detailed highlights known as the **resist effect**.

Once the backgrounds were dry, each child ripped the colourful sheets into strips to create a collage. They then traced the eyes and nose of their chosen animal and outlined these features, along with the beaks, using either black paint or chalk. The children had an amazing artistic experience, as evidenced by the impressive work showcased here.



## Beowulf Saves the Day

In our English and Reading lessons, we delved into the Old English poem **Beowulf** and the adaptation written by **Michael Morpurgo**. This exploration led to some excellent suspense writing, where the children learned to conceal threats, use short sentences for dramatic effect, and incorporate strong verbs to heighten tension.



For the rest of the night, no one could sleep as they grieved over their fallen friend. They prayed for light to speed them home, all but Beowulf who stood there on the rock, ready for battle. Falling defeated, everyone wanted to go home except Beowulf. They trusted Beowulf for some reason. Lonely, he trembled. Would the creature return?

From the deep depths of the bushes something rustled. Something slithered, its desire noted at his very soul. Its eyes were lakes of size; nothing could stop it. Without a sound, it came closer and closer. It stalked. It



As we wrap up our first term, we're thrilled to share the incredible journey our Year 5 students have embarked on over the past 14 weeks. They have engaged in both historical narrative and argumentative writing, delved into the lives of King Henry VIII and his wives, explored the different properties of materials, created beautiful portraits, and expanded their knowledge of fractions. I am incredibly proud of all the hard work Year 5 has put in this term!



Over the past three weeks, our Year 5 students have been learning how to write a balanced argument, a vital skill that enables them to explore different perspectives on important issues.

The topic of discussion has been the differences between crime and punishment in Tudor times compared to today. Through this exercise, students are developing critical thinking skills as they consider both sides of the argument. They are reflecting on which approach might be most effective in addressing crime and its consequences. This exploration not only enhances their writing skills but also deepens their understanding of historical and modern justice systems.



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During science this term, our Year 5 students have been exploring the different properties of materials, including thermal conductivity, transparency, reversibility, and hardness.

Through hands-on experiments and exploration, they have tested how materials react to heat, assessed their transparency, and investigated how some materials can return to their original form after changes. This experiential learning approach has significantly enhanced their understanding of how materials are utilised in the world around us.



Thank you so much for an incredible first term! I am proud of all the hard work, dedication, and teamwork I have witnessed among our Year 5 students this term.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





It has been a short but eventful few weeks since our last update on our Year 6 journey, and I am excited to share some of the highlights with you.

Firstly, we recently completed our third set of SATs past papers, and I am delighted to report that many of our pupils have shown significant improvement since their baseline assessments. This progress is a testament to their hard work and the dedication of our parents in supporting them, particularly through attendance at our free booster clubs.

Your commitment to their learning is truly inspiring, and it is wonderful to see the positive results already starting to show. Thank you for your ongoing support!

In English, we have concluded our work on "Rose Blanche," and I must say that the writing produced has been truly remarkable. The children have demonstrated deep understanding and empathy through their reflections on the text, and their pieces have been a joy to read.

This exploration has not only enhanced their writing skills but also allowed them to connect emotionally with the themes of the story. The insights they have shared showcase their ability to think critically and express themselves creatively, which is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

I am incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their writing skills in future projects.

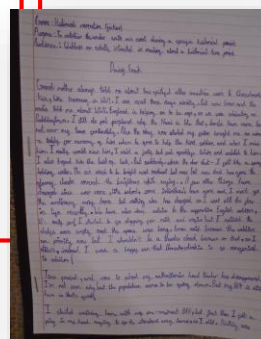
Finally, we had the pleasure of a fantastic trip to the Union Baptist Church, where the children participated in team-building activities and crafts. This outing provided a wonderful opportunity for them to bond and showcase their creativity in a supportive environment.

As always, I am incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm Year 6 brings to everything they do. Thank you for your continued support in making this a successful and memorable year for our pupils.



We also had the privilege of hosting a visit from our local police officers, who shared valuable insights into their important work within our community. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to spend their playtime engaging with the officers and learning more about their roles.

This interactive experience not only helped demystify the work of the police but also fostered a sense of trust and understanding between the pupils and law enforcement. The officers discussed various aspects of their responsibilities, including community safety and crime prevention, which sparked thoughtful questions and discussions among the children. We are grateful for the time the officers spent with us and look forward to more opportunities to connect our pupils with local community figures.







# Autumn 2 Celebrations

In our final assembly, we celebrated pupils who have excelled in different areas of learning. I was pleased to give the Principal's Award to the following children: **Nawal, Uzair, Leo, Paige, Anaysa, Habibah and Ashvin.** These pupils have displayed all our values throughout the Autumn Term.



## Star Readers Autumn 2024

For writing the most creative stories over the term:

- Reception – Aisha-Noor
- Year 1- Kilian
- Year 2 - Onyx
- Year 3 - Ellie
- Year 4 - Hajrah
- Year 5 - Husna
- Year 6 - Maya



## Star Writers Autumn 2024

For writing the most creative stories over the term:

- Reception - Beatrix
- Year 1 - Caleb
- Year 2 - Emaan
- Year 3 - Arielle
- Year 4 - Aleeza
- Year 5 - Texas
- Year 6 - Esterlyn



## Mathematicians of Autumn 2024

- Reception -
- Year 1 - Hawa
- Year 2 - Pasandee
- Year 3 - Mohamed
- Year 4 - Abdullah
- Year 5 - Aarib
- Year 6 - Logan



## Handwriting Award Autumn 2024

- Reception - Yahya
- Year 1 - Dylan
- Year 2 - Nelly
- Year 3 - Seith
- Year 4 - Ashvika
- Year 5 - Omunique
- Year 6 - Alice

