

Autumn Term Newsletter 2024



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the term and prepare for the festive season, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a wonderful term filled with hard work, growth, and many moments to celebrate.



The children have demonstrated incredible resilience, kindness, and enthusiasm in their learning and interactions, embodying the values we cherish as a school community. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure every child feels supported and inspired to reach their full potential, and I am immensely proud of their dedication.

I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued partnership and support. Whether it's attending school events, helping with homework, or simply being there to cheer on your child's achievements, your involvement makes all the difference.

It has been wonderful to see so many parents attending the various parent workshops and meetings, class assemblies and celebration events organised by staff in school including the EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance and KS1 Christmas Concert! Your help and support is invaluable as it shows the impact you have in acknowledging the importance of education.

Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place outside on the playground this Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm with mince pies and hot chocolate on sale! We hope you can all attend and continue to support your child and the school to make this final celebration of the year an event to remember!

I want to take a moment to thank each our school staff for their hardwork and determination throughout this term. It is their commitment and passion that continue to make such a positive impact on our children's learning and well-being. Whether it's in the classroom in the office or in the many other ways they contribute to our school community, their efforts are deeply valued and appreciated and embodies the true spirit of teamwork.

Finally, I am sure children and staff are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break and we wish everyone celebrating, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2025, ready for the start of the spring term!

Best Wishes,

Mr N. Odedra

can be very disruptive for all children in class. If a child is late and miss's registration, a late mark will be recorded. Obviously, the school will be sympathetic if this is for a good reason. However, if a pattern of lateness starts to emerge, parents will be sent a letter and if it does not improve, they will be invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher in order to reach a satisfactory solution.

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more absence a year. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern.



Leave of Absence

Requests for leave of absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and a holiday would not be considered exceptional. Requests for leave must also be made to the school in advance. To do this please come into the school office to complete the necessary Leave of Absence form. Parents may receive a penalty notice if their child is absent from school without permission.

Penalty notices are fines.

1st Offence is a fine of £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21days.

2nd Offence is a fine of £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28days. (No option to pay at £80)

3rd Offence a penalty notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates court. Magistrate, s fine can be up to £2,500.

Thank you to all the parents who ensure that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time.



Christmas Stay & Play

Leicester's Family Hub Christmas Stay & Play

MONDAY 23rd	TUESDAY 24th	WEDNESDAY 25th	THURSDAY 26th	FRIDAY 27th	MONDAY 30th	TUESDAY 31st	WEDNESDAY 1st	THURSDAY 2nd	FRIDAY 3rd
Stay & Play Highfields 10am - 11.30am		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Stay & Play Thornby Lodge 1.15pm - 2.45pm	New Year's Eve Children 10am - 12pm noon	CLOSED	Stay & Play Highfields 1pm - 2.30pm	Stay & Play Eggsy Mosaic 10am - 11.30am
Stay & Play Eggsy Mosaic 1pm - 2.30pm					Stay & Play Woodbridge 1.30pm - 3pm			Stay & Play Thornby Lodge 9.30am - 11am	
Stay & Play Thornby Lodge 1.15pm - 2.45pm					Stay & Play Bassment Lays 1pm - 2.30pm			Stay & Play Woodbridge 1.30pm - 3pm	
Stay & Play Woodbridge 1.30pm - 3pm								Stay & Play Bassment Lays 1pm - 2.30pm	
Stay & Play Bassment Lays 1pm - 2.30pm									

families.leicester.gov.uk/childrenscentres/
[facebook.com/leicesterchildrenscentres](https://www.facebook.com/leicesterchildrenscentres)

Year 6 Residential 2024 - Blackwell Adventure in Birmingham



Year 6 kicked off their start to the year with an amazing trip to Blackwell Adventure in Birmingham.

They spent 3 brilliant days team building, overcoming fears, pushing themselves to try new things, practicing their swimming and becoming more independent with the support of their friends and teachers.

Some of the many fantastic activities were:



- Rock climbing
- Zip wire

- Bush craft
- 3G Swing
- Archery

On the last night, they spent the evening singing and toasting marshmallows around a campfire and Mr Rogers was a master marksman during the archery activity!

It was a great few days and the best way to start year 6!



Rainbow's Nurture Group

In History the Rainbow Nurture children have been learning about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age and have designed and made some Bell Beaker Pots to demonstrate their learning.

They have also learned about how the lives of the people living in this era have developed over time, from the tools they used, the clothes they wore and the food they ate.

Well done Rainbows!

Mrs Sheerin & Mrs Shepherd



Nursery



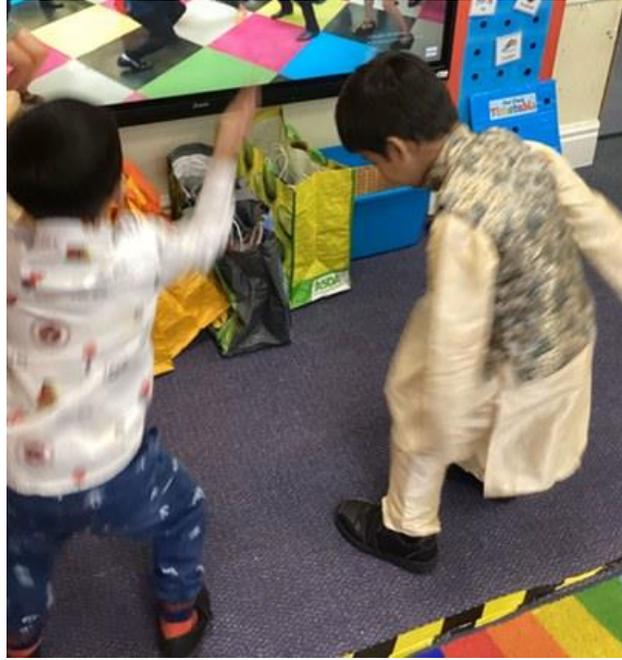
The children have settled in really well this term and are getting to grips with Nursery routines! We have enjoyed exploring our new environment and making new friends.

For our topic Once Upon a time...we enjoyed learning about the stories of Ten little Fingers and Ten little Toes and Little Red Riding Hood. We have now started to use Talk for Writing to help us retell both stories.

In Maths we have been learning all about number 1 and number 2 and we have also been searching for circles and triangles around our school!

In Phonics we have been on a sound hunt and learning about different environmental sounds, different sounds that our voices can make and what sounds we can make using our body!

We enjoyed our Diwali celebration activities with our parents and friends and making Diya lamps.







Christmas Crafts



Neighbourhood Services
Libraries • Community Centres

**WHAT'S ON
FOR CHILDREN**

Christmas Crafts

Join us making children's Christmas crafts
at Belgrave Library on
Saturday 21st December 2024
10.00 – 1pm



Free event, no need to book. For further information please
contact Belgrave Library staff on 0116 454 0400.
Post code: LE4 6JD

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details about Neighbourhood Services:
W: leicester.gov.uk/libraries
leicester.gov.uk/communitycentres
E: libraries@leicester.gov.uk
communityservices@leicester.gov.uk
T: 0116 454 3540



Bonsai Class (DSP - Designated Specialist Provision)



Bonsai Class have enjoyed exploring the texts 'Owl Babies' and 'Dear Santa' as part of their English lessons this half-term. The children have built their vocabulary surrounding these stories and have been able to follow a text map alongside Makaton Signs to support retelling the story.

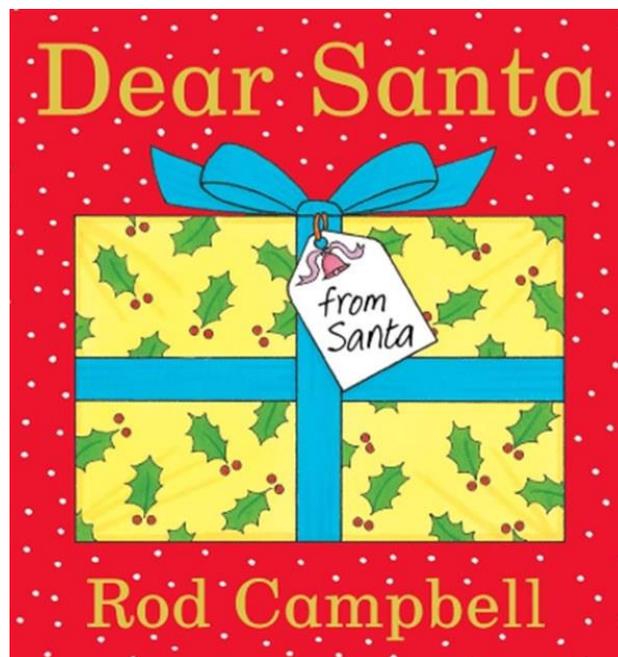
They have also become confident with using the structure of colourful semantics to build independent sentences to support with their writing. We have also explored a range of games to encourage and develop the children's turn-taking skills and assist them with following the rules of a game.

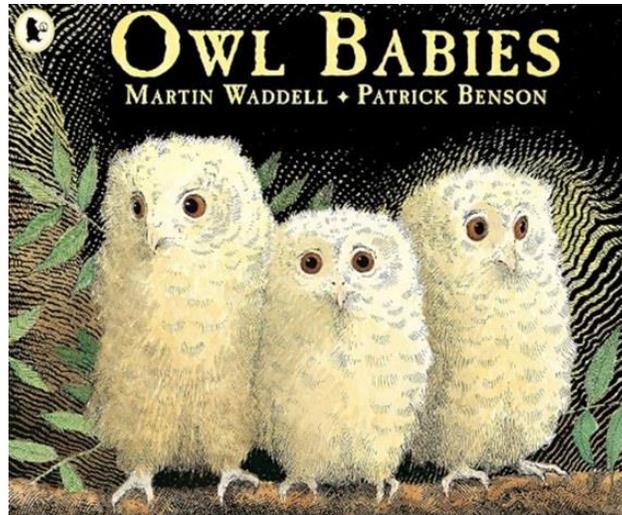
They have really enjoyed playing such as Snakes and Ladders, Pairs Memory Game and Frustration. To help the children with following 2 step and 3 step instructions they have accessed a range of activities in small groups to support their success with these.

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Best Wishes,

DSP & Bonsai Team.





Reception



For many of the children starting Reception at Rushey Mead, the start of the Autumn term was an exciting time to make new friends and settle into a new and longer school routine. The children painted some wonderful self-portraits and compared ways in which families differ. All the children have started to recognise and write their own name.





In Maths, the children are recognising, counting and using numbers to 10. Singing number rhymes and songs helps to memorise the correct number order. The children have also compared the height and length of objects as well as creating simple colour and seasonal patterns.



All Reception children have daily phonics sessions and are making progress in learning new sounds as well as segmenting and blending. The early stages of reading and writing really benefit from daily reading. Thank-you to all the parents who help to cement these important

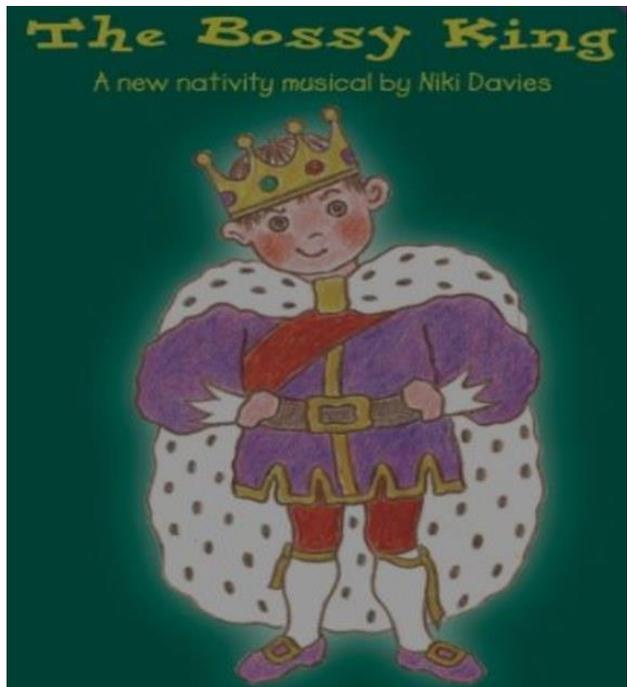
skills at home. In English, the children have enjoyed reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs.'

The Autumn term is always one full of many festivals and celebrations. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our Reception parents to the Diwali event at school. In addition, the children created a poppy wreath and paused for Remembrance on 11th November. Reception finishes a busy term with their Nativity show 'The Bossy King,' which was performed in front of parents / carers in the school hall on Friday 13th December.

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

The Reception Team





Year 1

Welcome to Year One

This term has been truly remarkable for our Year 1 learners!

They explored the enchanting journey story of *The Jolly Postman*, writing their own imaginative versions and crafting letters to the Wicked Witch in character as the Jolly Postman. The children really enjoyed their writing process and were eager to share with their friends.

In maths, we focused on addition and subtraction up to 20, with children making great progress in fluency. The children are growing in confidence in these mathematical concepts, and we would like them to continue to practice these core concepts at home.

Our science lessons sparked curiosity as we investigated the best material for an outdoor flag and the children demonstrated making good predications with reasons. In history, we explored childhood through the ages, comparing toys from the past to those of today. A highlight was our visit to the Newarke House Museum, where hands-on activities brought history to life.

Reading continues to be a cornerstone of our learning journey. Many children earned reading certificates this term, and we are hoping children will soon be achieving the prestigious Diamond certificate for reading 100 times. A fantastic achievement celebrated with a special gift! Please continue to support regular reading at home to nurture this love of books and to practice their phonics skills.

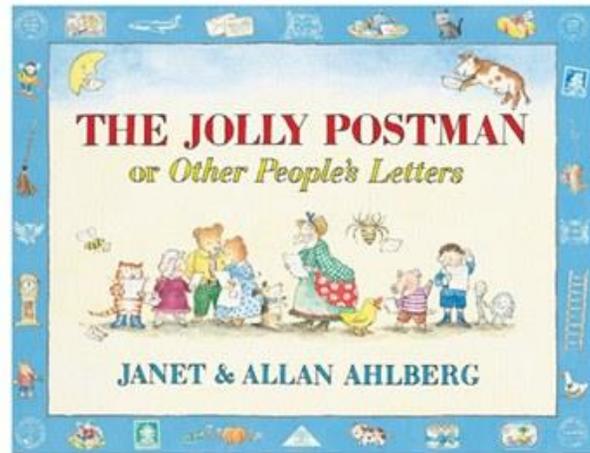
Well done to all the children for their fantastic efforts in completing homework and practising their spellings at home. It's wonderful to see how dedicated you have been, and your hard work is really paying off. Keep up the amazing effort!

Our Key Stage One Carol Concert was a true highlight of this term, as the children showcased their talents for singing with actions to the entire school and parents, filling us with immense pride.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a joyful festive holiday and look forward to another exciting term ahead!

Best Wishes,

Year One Team



1 - *The Jolly Postman* is a children's book written and illustrated by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

The story follows The Jolly Postman as he delivers letters and parcels to various characters from popular children's stories. Among the characters he encounters, he meets Cinderella, The Big Bad Wolf and Jack and The Beanstalk.



2 - *Year 1 children had the chance to explore toys and games from the past through structured hands-on activities, play, mime, rhymes and a specially written story at Newarke House Museum.*



3 - Please continue to support your child with regular reading at home!

Year 2

Welcome to Year 2



Year 2 have been busy in their Cooking lessons this week. As part of their Design and Technology unit 'Remarkable Recipes.' The children learnt about why food is cooked and where food comes from.

The children sorted different objects with their food source including: plants and animals. The children developed the skills that they had learnt from Year 1 by preparing a side salad.

In their final session, the children were able to cook a full meal as a team where the children included their side salad and cooked new potatoes and stuffed peppers. The children really enjoyed eating their masterpiece!

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Year 2 Team.





Family Learning



**English for Parents
Stage 2 - Reading**

Rushey Mead Primary School

The course is suitable for learners whose first language is not English. The tutor will adapt the learning activities to suit all abilities and needs.

- **Stage 2** - This short course will support learners to practice and develop their reading skills.

Day	Monday
Time	9.00am - 11.00am
Start Date	20th January
Sessions	3
Code	FAML382

ALL FAMILY LEARNING COURSES ARE FREE!

Local Offer
live 2025

Save the date

Special educational needs and disability information day

Thursday 6 March 2025

The Kube, Leicester Racecourse,
Leicester LE2 4AL

For further information, email:
info@lcpcf.net or
Localoffer@leicester.gov.uk



Leicester's
SEND
Local Offer

Information and support for ages 0-25

Accelerated Reader



With Accelerated Reader, all the children in Key Stage 2 read an Accelerated Reader (AR) book then take an online quiz, which provides immediate feedback on their understanding of the book. Children respond to regular feedback from their class teacher and are motivated to make progress with their independent reading skills as teachers in Key Stage 2 monitor how often they read and allow the children to change their AR book on regular basis.

Below are the children from each year group with the highest word count for their reading right now:

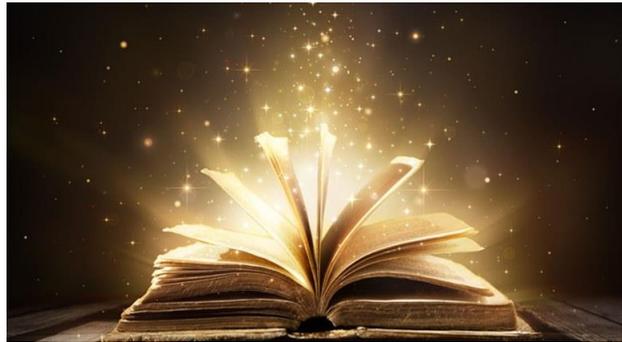
Well done to our Key Stage 2 Reading Superstars:

Year 3: Muhammad Saif (Willow Class)

Year 4: Krish (Monkey Puzzle)

Year 5: Zahran (Pine)

Year 6: Shakeeb (Elder)



The Importance of Swimming



Swimming and water safety are compulsory parts of the National Curriculum at primary school to make sure that children are well equipped to enjoy swimming and know how to keep safe in and around water.



We are thrilled to announce that after the holidays, children in Years 3 and 4 will begin their swimming lessons as part of the PE curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity for them to develop an essential life skill while having fun and building confidence in the water.

Swimming at an early age is incredibly important for several reasons:

- **Life-saving skills:** Swimming teaches children how to stay safe in and around water, a vital skill for life.
- **Improved physical health:** Swimming provides an excellent full-body workout, helping to build strength, stamina, and overall fitness.
- **Boosted confidence:** As children master new skills in the water, their self-esteem grows, and they develop a positive mindset toward challenges.
- **Enhanced coordination and motor skills:** Swimming improves balance, flexibility, and coordination, which benefit children in many areas of life.

We are confident that your children will enjoy this enriching experience and look forward to seeing their progress.

Thank you for your support in helping your child make the most of this exciting opportunity!

Year 3



**WELCOME
TO
YEAR 3!**

We have had a lovely term in Year 3 with many exciting things. First, we began the half term with a visitor who helped us learn more about our History topic. We made Iron Age coins, dug for artefacts, dressed up as Iron Age people and drew cave paintings. It was very interesting. We also learnt more about the Stone Age through our English text, 'Stone Age Boy', and began to introduce speech into our writing, as well as description.



To complete the term, we have been creating mechanical Christmas toys for our DT project, 'Making it Move'. All the children enjoyed learning about different mechanisms and working as a team to build a Cam mechanism.

Thank you for all your support helping your children to read daily and to learn their times tables.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

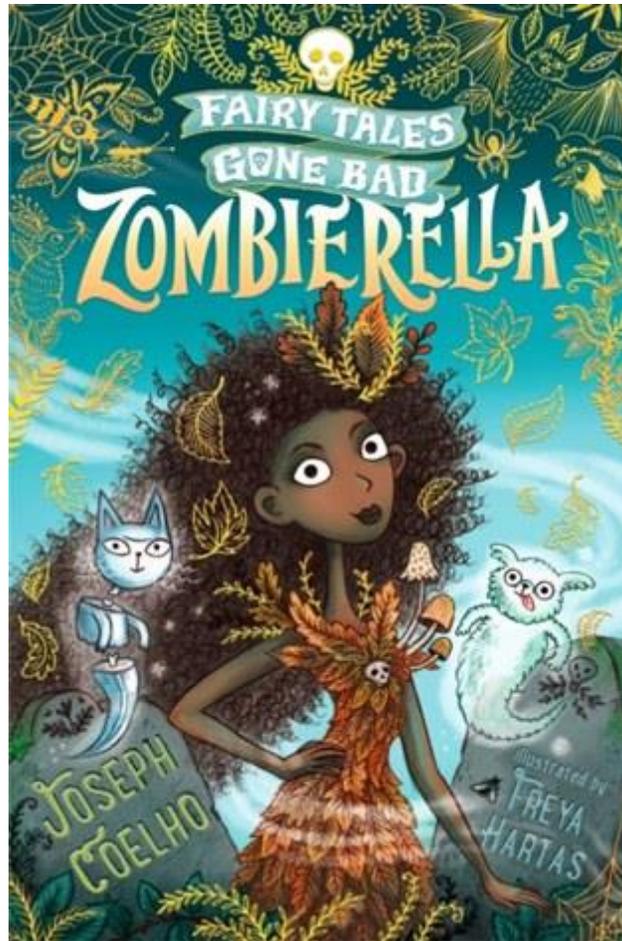
Best Wishes,

Year 3 Team.

Year 4



The children have settled in wonderfully this term and have continued to work hard developing their love of learning. We've had a very busy but exciting start to Year 4 and have thoroughly enjoyed our history topic where we explored Anglo-Saxon and Viking life, accommodated for a special Viking workshop and weaved as though we were from 406AD! In science we explored the digestive system which we particularly enjoyed and in RE we explored Buddhism.



In English we read Zombierella – a spooky spin on Cinderella- and The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We have focused on using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and speech effectively.

It was lovely to meet you at Parents' Evening and we want to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and are excited to continue our learning next term!

Year 5

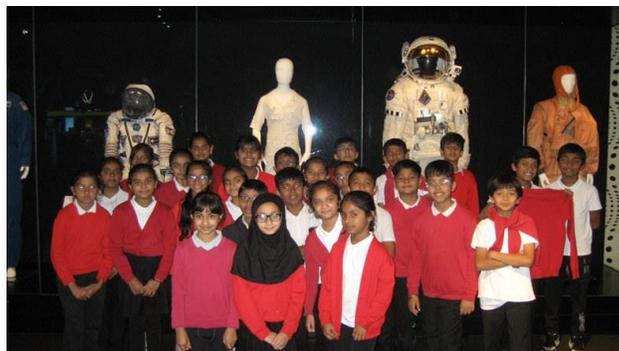
Year 5

Our Year 5 pupils had an out-of-this-world experience on their trip to the National Space Centre in October.

From the moment they stepped into the awe-inspiring Rocket Tower, our students were captivated by the wonders of space exploration. They marvelled at the real rockets and explored the interactive exhibits.

A highlight of the trip was the planetarium show, where they were transported on a cosmic journey through the solar system and beyond. The immersive experience left them with a newfound appreciation for the vastness of the universe.

Our Year 5 pupils returned to school with their heads full of stars and their hearts filled with excitement. This unforgettable trip has sparked a passion for science and exploration that will undoubtedly fuel their learning for years to come.





The Y5 pupils were also transported back to the Middle Ages during a captivating workshop. Immersed in the era, they donned authentic medieval attire, feeling like lords, ladies, and knights. With nimble fingers, they mastered the art of weaving, a skill essential to daily life in the period. The workshop also delved into the rich symbolism of colours in medieval society, revealing how hues conveyed status, power, and religious beliefs. This workshop complemented their learning about King Richard III in History and English.



4 - Children from Cedar Class!



5 - Children from Pine Class!



6 - Children from Sycamore Class!

Have a lovely Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,

Year 5 Teachers.

French Curriulum



Bonjour!

It's been another great term of French for Key Stage 2 children. All year groups have been developing their skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Year 5 and 6 children participated in French lessons from the beginning of the academic year until October half term and then the Year 3 and 4 children had their sessions after October half term. A particular mention to the year 3's who have only just begun their journey learning French. They have made so much progress and can already hold a simple conversation with a partner! Very well done!

All year groups have also enjoyed their Christmas French lessons at the end of this term. They have joined in with French Christmas songs, read seasonal stories - which they effectively translated key parts into English and they have learnt about common French customs and traditions during Christmas time.

Please encourage your children to continue practicing their French over the Christmas break so that they can remember what they have been taught. This is especially important now that the children have their French lessons weekly but only for one half of each term. The key vocabulary for each year group can be found on our special 'Knowledge Organisers'. These can be accessed via our school website. The image below shows the pathway to take to locate them. Ask the children which topics they have been working on so far this year.

Joyeux Noël!

Madame March



Additional online resources can also be used to supplement their practice such as: Quizlet, Duo Lingo, YouTube videos, Oak National Academy website, French activity books etc.... Practice really does make progress!

Why not ask them to teach you some of the words and phrases that they know?



Spring Term French dates:

Years 5/6 Thurs 9th January-Thurs 13th February

Years 3/4 Thurs 27th February-Thurs 10th April

Joyeux Noël!

Madame March

Year 6



The Year 6 children have made a fantastic start to the Autumn term! It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, hard work, and positive attitude as they settle into their final year at school.

This term in English, Year 6 students have been enjoying our class novel *Holes*. Inspired by the book, they have written setting descriptions, informal letters, and engaging information texts.

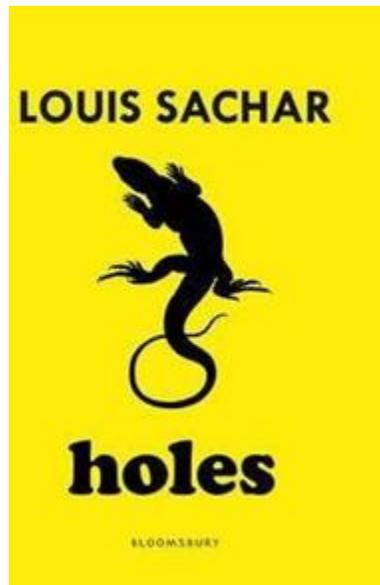
We also enjoyed celebrating Diwali. It was fantastic to see students and parents come together for this special occasion, enjoying a variety of activities that highlighted the importance of light, community, and joy.

In addition, our class assemblies have been a great success, focusing on British values such as rule of law, democracy and individual liberty. The students worked hard to deliver thoughtful and engaging assemblies, and we were pleased that so many parents could attend.

It's been a term full of learning, creativity, and celebration - well done, Year 6!



7 - Class assemblies focussed of British Values.



8 - A Year 6 recommended read: 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.



9 - Diwali celebrations in full swing!

Rushey Mead Primary School Diary Dates 2024-25



Christmas & New Year Holiday: Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025		
Spring 1		
06.01.25	School Closed for Staff Inset Day	
07.01.25	Children back to school	
13.01.25	Curriculum Meeting for Years 5/6	3:30 – 4:00
14.01.25	Curriculum Meeting for Years EYFS	3:30 – 4:00
16.01.25	Curriculum Meeting for Years 3/4	3:30 – 4:00
20.01.25	Curriculum Meetings for Years 1/2	3:30 - 4:00
20.01.25 – 03.02.25	Family Learning Course: Exploring Everyday Science	
03.02.25 – 07.02.25	Children's Mental Health Week	
03.02.25	Year 1 Phonics Screening Parent Workshop	3:30 -4:00
04.02.25	Year 2 SATs Parent Maths Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
07.02.25	Nursery Parent Reading Workshop	11:30 - 12:00
07.02.25	Reception Parent Reading Workshop	2:30 - 3:00
10.02.25 – 14.02.25	Tech Week	
11.02.25	Online Safety Meeting for Parents with Digital Leaders	3:30 – 4:00
13.02.25	Year 2 SATs Parent Reading Workshop	3:30 - 4:00
Spring Half Term Holiday: Monday 17 th February 2025 to Friday 21 st February 2025		
Spring 2		
24.02.25	Children back in school	
03.03.25 – 17.03.25	Family Learning Course: Parents Preparing for SATs (English)	
06.03.25	World Book Day	
12.03.25 & 13.03.25	Parents' Evening	3:30 - 6:30
24.03.25 – 07.04.25	Family Learning Course: Parents Preparing for SATs (Maths)	
01.04.25	Eid-UI-Fitr Celebrations	Home-time
11.04.25	Easter Bonnet Parade	
11.04.25	Vaisakhi Celebrations	Home-time
Easter Holidays: Monday 14 th April 2025 to Friday 25 th April 2025		

Leicester City Council: Local Authority School Holidays 2024/2025



Leicester City Council
Local authority school holidays 2024/2025



Term No 1: 39 days (7 weeks 4 days)	
Schools Open	Tuesday 27 August 2024
Schools Close	Friday 18 October 2024
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 21 October 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024

Term No 2: 40 days (8 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 28 October 2024
Schools Close	Friday 20 December 2024
Christmas & New Year Holiday	Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 6 January 2025
Schools Close	Friday 14 February 2025
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

Term No 4: 35 days (7 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 24 February 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 April 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Term No 5: 19 days (3 weeks 4 days)	
Schools Open	Monday 28 April 2025
May Bank Holiday (schools closed)	Monday 5 May 2025
Schools Close	Friday 23 May 2025
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 2 June 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 July 2025
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 14 July 2025

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!