

NewsLetter

October 2025



What an amazing half-term we have had!

This half-term has been filled with many fun memories and meaningful learning. Students have been learning about various different topics such as harvest, colours, space, Black History Month, and so many more! Students have enjoyed whole school celebrations of Roald Dahl Day, Harvest, and MacMillan Coffee. All our classes have wonderful updates to share about what their students have been working on. Great job, students!

Important Dates

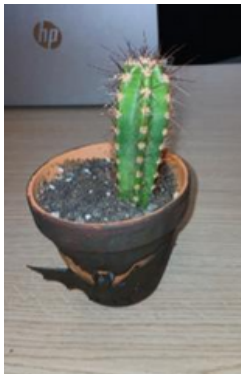
- Diwali festival – 7th November
- Green Careers Week - 3rd November to 8th November
- Bonfire Night - 5th November
- Remembrance Day - 11th November
- World Science day - 10th November
- Anti Bullying Week - 10th Nov to 14th Nov 2025
- Children in Need - 14th November
- World Children's Day, Children's Rights - 20th Nov 2025
- International Day of People with disabilities - 3rd December
- Bodhi day - 8th December
- Christmas Break Dec 22nd to Jan 2nd
- Inset Days (School closed) Jan 5th

Black Class

Post 14 black class have settled in nicely to the new term. In October we have celebrated Black History month by learning about Dame Floella Benjamin, incorporating her story into our English Lessons. We have also collected items for the local foodbank which we will deliver to their head office very soon. The retail group have been very busy creating items for our Spookalicious pop up shop in the 21st October and we will also be selling hot dogs for £1. Lastly we will be hosting a Halloween dress up competition and party/disco in the hall on the afternoon of 24 October.

Celebrations!

- Joshua has agreed to represent Black class at the student council.



Black Class learners in their retail group have made the following: Spooky Scary Skeletons, The Evil Cacti in their horror Pots and our Stylishly Sinister Sparkles.



White Class

This term White class have been settling into their larger classroom, which has made a huge difference allowing them much more personal and learning space. They learners have enjoyed getting to know the new peers and are currently building some lovely friendships.

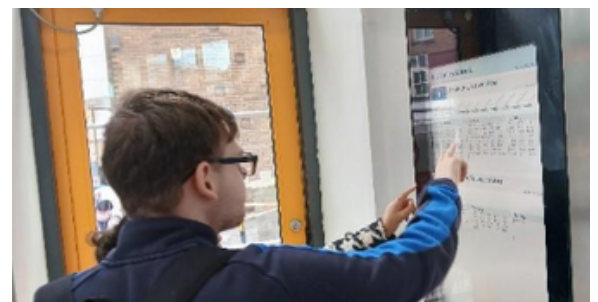
Studies have included science learning about space and the planets which they have all enjoyed researching. Maths groups are working well challenging learners to work independently and building confidence.

English has been allowing them to explore creative writing, developing their imaginations and literacy skills.

PSHE has been focusing on the importance of friendships and different types of relationships. Learners have participated in some excellent discussions around these topics demonstrating good knowledge, understand and communication skills.

Learners have been enjoying their swimming sessions in Aycliffe pool and trampolining every week. Some of the learners are going to be entering a trampolining competition to demonstrate their skills.

Community inclusion has been a great success this term. Focusing on travel training they have planned a journey of their choice and taken public transport out for the whole day. All learners had an amazing day, proving to themselves that they have the confidence to explore their local community.





Red Class

Red Class has covered the topics Colour and Harvest this term. We have had many continuous provision activities linked to these, including play with coloured jelly, mixing water and pompoms and sorting objects into colours/ shapes. Attention Autism has also been linked to both Colour and Harvest this term. We have been identifying colours through making the hungry caterpillar with handprints, finger painting rainbows and creating rainbow coloured butterflies. Harvest activities have included matching fruit and vegetables to the matching shadow, creating autumn trees with hand and fingerprints and tracing different size and shaped leaves.

Red Class enjoyed their Teddy Bears Picnic, enjoying spending time with their peers and parents. Red Class have also attended the MacMillan coffee afternoon, the harvest afternoon and took part in a variety of activities for space week.



Celebrations!

- During cookery Harry has followed instructions correctly to make himself a sandwich, he has washed his hands, buttered the bread independently and added the toppings of his choosing.



- During stage 4 of Attention Autism Group Ivan made a person by gluing leaves for the body, arms and head and gluing goggle eyes for the face.



- Max has also been chosen to represent Red Class at student council meetings!



Celebrations!

- Kamil enjoyed using different actions of pouring, scooping and shaking to make and pour his own cold drink – a delicious chocolate milkshake!



Silver Class

Silver Class had a fun half term. We began the term exploring Farm animals. We compared the sizes of the animals using 'big' and 'small' and learnt about animals and their offspring. We made a chocolate river and enjoyed chocolate milkshakes from Charlie and the Charlie Factory as we celebrated Roald Dahl day. We enjoyed learning about space during Space Week, building rockets and making planets.

Each week, we have visited Tesco to buy ingredients for cookery. Our favourite thing to make was sausage rolls!





Blue Class

This half term has been super busy! As well as learning about Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes, improving our telling of the time and addition & subtraction skills, we have enjoyed our creative curriculum.

We have learned all about the Romans and visited Binchester & Arbeia roman forts. We have consolidated our knowledge of the properties of materials through many scientific investigations! During Forest School, we have been on bug hunts, made bird feeders and completed forest art.

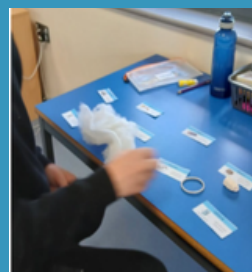
We have kept ourselves healthy through learning how to cook a variety of fresh burgers, doing lots of exercise (sensory circuit, team games, trampolining & swimming) and keeping our bodies and teeth clean.

We have revisited online safety and know to TAG – Tell A Grown up – if we feel uncomfortable or worried about anything or anyone.



Celebrations!

- Riley is particularly proud of organising and hosting the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon! Rustam has progressed very well with his reading comprehension. Kayden can sort materials according to their properties. Kellan knows to Tell A Grown up if he is uncomfortable online. Alfred enjoys tactile sensory experiences. Frankey and Kai know if a material is magnetic or not magnetic and soluble or insoluble!





Pink Class

Pink Class has had a wonderful start to the half-term! Students have been exploring the topics of Colour, Harvest, and Black History, taking part in a range of exciting activities such as colour sorting, art projects, and scavenger hunts.

We've enjoyed getting out into the community each week for our class shopping trips, visiting local parks, and going on sensory walks. In cookery, students have been building their skills by making banana oatmeal cookies, garlic bread, and jam sandwiches. Delicious work, everyone!

Our class has also loved reading Don't Call Me Sweet, We're Going on a Monster Hunt, The Colour Monster Goes to School, and The Suitcase. We've brought each story to life with creative crafts and sensory storytelling sessions.

Students have been developing their fine motor skills through threading, pinching, and puzzles, and strengthening their gross motor skills by rolling on scooter boards, riding bikes, running, and playing at the park.

What a fantastic start to the year, Pink Class — keep up the great work!



Celebrations!

- Ethan and Ayan have been following their visual shopping lists to buy our class's big shop. Way to go!



- Gabriel and Kayce are new additions to Pink Class. We are so glad to have you both!





Yellow Class

Yellow Class have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new school year. We have welcomed 4 new friends into our class! We've started the year with lots of sensory play all based around colour. We've enjoyed exploring gloop, jelly, cornflour, pasta, mud amongst other fun activities. One of our favourite things to do is play 'ready steady go' in the EYFS corridor, this helps us develop good listening skills, builds on our Makaton knowledge and enhances our social skills playing alongside friends. We are trying really hard to build upon our communication skills and have already learnt 4 new makaton signs and symbols including 'more', 'help', 'stop' and 'toilet'. What an amazing start to the new school year!





Purple Class

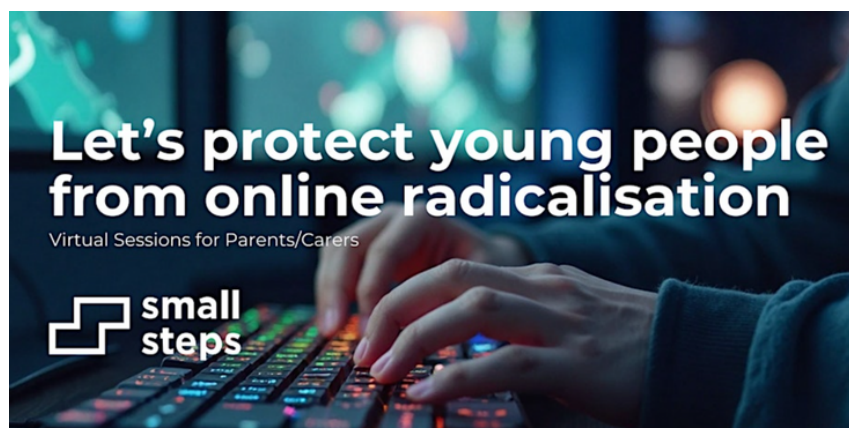
This half term, we have proudly welcomed Josh, Logan, and Max to our school community. In Literacy, the learners have been engaged with *Stig of the Dump*, where they made predictions and analysed the text, honing their summarising skills.

In History, the class explored the Battle of Hastings and concluded the half term by designing their own Norman shields, showcasing their creativity. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Brendon from GMI Construction at the term's end, who facilitated a fascinating 'Building a Bridge' challenge. Here are Josh and Max modelling the personal protective equipment (PPE) that Brendon kindly brought along.

Orange Class

Students travelled to the planetarium after studying space this half term.





Safeguarding

Parent and Carer Online Safety Sessions – Protecting Young People from Online Radicalisation

Durham and Darlington Councils are offering free 90-minute virtual sessions to help parents and carers understand and protect young people from harmful online content.

The sessions, delivered by Small Steps, aim to raise awareness of online risks including extremist groups, the manosphere, the incel movement, cybercrime, and child exploitation.

You'll learn about:

- How and why young people may be drawn into extremist ideas
- Recognising signs of radicalisation
- Having open and supportive conversations
- The risks of misinformation and online propaganda
- Building resilience and critical thinking in young people

Upcoming dates:

- Wednesday 17 September at 1:30 PM
- Tuesday 7 October at 10:00 AM
- Wednesday 12 November at 6:00 PM

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-protect-young-people-from-online-radicalisation-parentscarers-tickets-1461676627139>

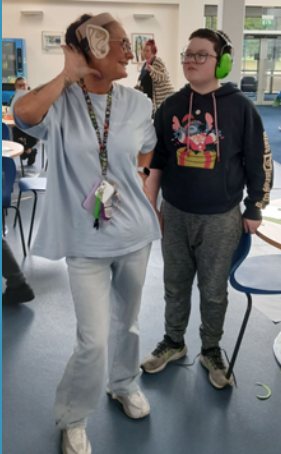
Whole School Events

- Children in Need Fundraiser - 17th November
- Anti Bullying Week - Odd sock day 10th November
- Green Careers Events ****
- Fire brigade/police visit - *****
- Holiday Jumper Day - *****
- Winter Lunch - 15th of December
- Winter Show/Parent Progress Afternoon – 17th December for Red, Yellow, Pink, Silver, Orange
- Winter Show/Parent Progress afternoon - 18th December for Green, White, Black, Purple, Blue

Autumn Half Term Events

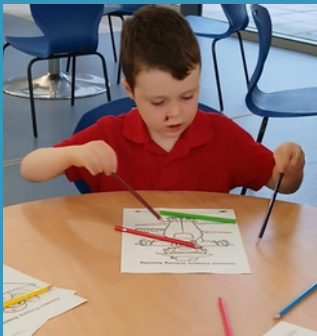
Roald Dahl Day

Students participated in the following activities to celebrate Roald Dahl Day: Golden Ticket Hunt, Making BFG ears, character colouring, James and the Giant Peach film, make a Fantastic Mr Fox mask, make an enormous crocodile paper chain character, and character wordsearches.



Autumn Harvest

Students learned about the importance of different community members who participate in harvest such as farmers, farmhands, engineers, and scientists. Students enjoyed colouring activities, fine motor tasks, and also explored the topic further in their classrooms!



MacMillian Coffee

Each classroom made their own baked goods for our MacMillian Coffee. As a school we successfully raised £110! Way to go!

