

NewsLetter

Term 1



Term 1 Wrapped!

We have had a busy half term indeed! Students have celebrated Remembrance Day, Children in Need, and World Kindness Day. We had some wonderful visitors such as a Police Officer, and Pudsey even came to say hello to all the students. Students across the school have enjoyed traveling into the community utilising various transportation methods (minibus, bus, train, etc.) to go to leisure centres, trampolining, cafes, shops, parks, the farm, and museums. Students throughout the school have been enjoying a large range of topics covering coping strategies, winter themes, fine motor activities, different types of texts, emergency vehicles, 2D and 3D shapes, and so much more! Aycliffe school wishes everyone a very happy holiday season!

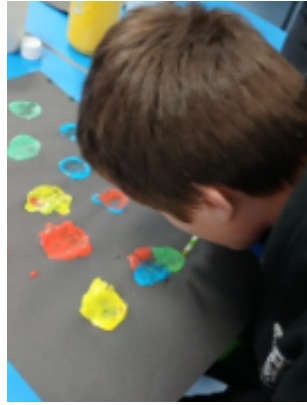
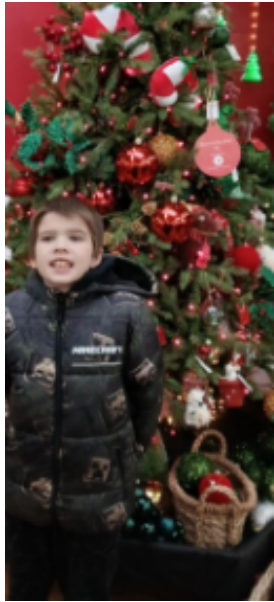
Important Dates

- Students return from Winter Break - Jan 6th
- World Braille day- Jan 4th
- World religion day - Jan 19th
- National pie day – Jan 23rd
- National Lego day - Jan 28th
- Data Protection Day - Jan 28th
- February is LGBTQ+ History Month
- Winter Olympics - Feb 4th to 20th
- National story telling week - Feb 1st-9th
- Chinese New Year - Feb 17th
- Ramadan - Feb 18th
- World inventor's day - Feb 11th
- Safer internet day - Feb 11th
- Children's Mental Health Week - Feb 9th-15th
- Sexual Abuse and Sexual Awareness week Feb 3rd-7th



Formal Introduction of Principal Tracey Clements

Dear parents/ carers, just a short note to formally introduce myself as the new school principal. I have been with Aycliffe school in an interim capacity, and it has now been confirmed as a permanent post. I am delighted and look forward to working with you to provide the best outcomes for our young people. This is an amazing school because of our learners and the dedication of the staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or just want to say hi.

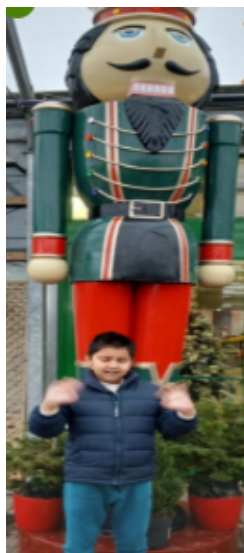


Silver Class

Silver class have had a fun half term. We have enjoyed visiting different places including the Garden Centre, which helped us to get into the Christmas Spirit!

We have enjoyed lots of sensory activities this half term. We used paint and chalk to make firework pictures. We really enjoyed using straws to blow the paint!

We love our PE sessions in the hall, moving in different ways. We are getting really good at throwing and catching. We had our own competition to see who could get the most beanbags in the hoop!



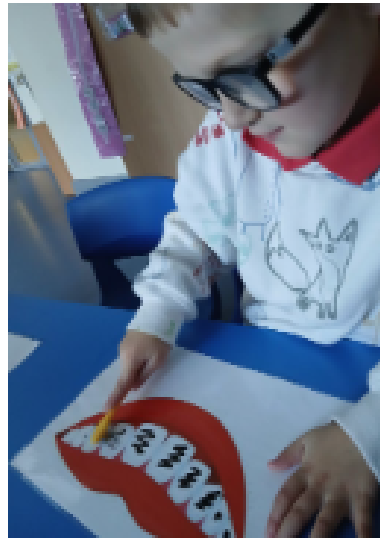
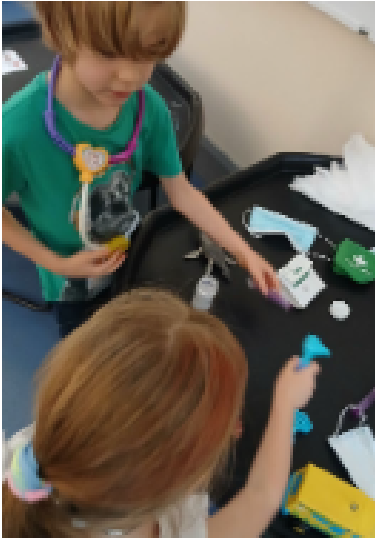
Celebrations!

- Good luck to Oliver who is taking part in the Trampolining competition at the start of December. He has been practicing so hard at training, and we know he will be amazing! Go Oliver!



- Well done to Leo who is now Silver Class Student Council representative. Thank you, Leo!





Red Class

Red Class has covered the topics: 'What's your emergency,' and 'Baby Jesus is born this term. Students have participated in various continuous provision activities related to these topics such as: doctor and nurse role play, putting out the fire with spray bottles, teeth brushing, sorting the size of the people who help us from big to small, dressing a snowman with the correct number of eyes, hats, scarfs and buttons, making Christmas trees with lollypop sticks, counting baubles, and making snowflake decorations for our Christmas home corner. We also had many whole school celebrations such as Remembrance Day, and Children in Need. For Remembrance Day we created some Poppys for Remembrance Day using paper plates; these were displayed in the school hall on Remembrance Day. As a class we then listened to some relaxing music and listened to a story about Remembrance Day. Red class celebrated Children in need day by meeting Pudsey the bear, creating Pudsey the bear artwork and completing the 25 star jumps for Children in need. In math's this term, some children have been developing their counting. In cookery sessions this term we have been making and decorating cupcakes, which have been very tasty!

Celebrations!

- Red Class have also been practicing very hard each week for their Christmas Show; they have become a lot more confident with the songs and Makaton signs that we are using.
- Students each week have gone to various parts of the community such as: the swimming pool, multiple play parks, Tesco and Locomotion train. Students especially enjoyed looking at trains and listening to videos throughout the museum.





Black & White Class

This term Black and White class have been working hard towards their Functional Skills English, Maths and ICT qualifications. The learners have been diligently working on a variety of topics. One of which was examining the different types of text and learning to recognise the purpose of the text. They have all been able to identify and understand the main points of the texts alongside the correct use of spelling and punctuation.

Science this term White group has been focusing on finding evidence that humans really did set foot on the moon. Then debating whether the evidence is fact or fiction. Black group have been working on the Module Chemical Change. Exploring evidence around Jack the Rippers murders and how the 21st century scientific technology can pinpoint the person responsible.

Maths groups are working well challenging learners to work independently and building confidence.

Celebrations!

- Both classes have come together to work on the Christmas event and are working on “Christmas Play that Went Wrong”. Hopefully this will be a smash hit with the rest of the school. All learners are assisting in their own way with prop making and practicing.



Black & White Class Continued

PSHE has been discussing British values and how to look after our planet. Other groups have been looking at different types of careers and pathways into further education. 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.

In ILS students continue to enjoy the cookery sessions and are always pleased with themselves when they produce some wonderful food.

Community inclusion is something that the learners really look forward to every week. A visit to the Sunderland Winter Gardens and Bishop Auckland Palace.

Celebrations!

- Kai is also enjoying continuing his sport enrichment with Blue class.
- As part of the Harvest festival students also donated groceries to the Food bank.
- Learners Lewis Brandon and Roman are still working hard at New Warlands Farm every fortnight.



Green Class

This term we have focused on managing feelings within our PSHE sessions. We have discussed big feelings and learned about why and when we might feel them. We have learned about self-regulation strategies, this has helped us to feel positive and relaxed. We have had lots of celebrations such as Children in Need and Bonfire Night, we all got involved and had a great time. We have also been learning how to stay safe in the winter, we have learned about appropriate clothing and how to walk safely when it is icy. We have visited different sensory rooms for our community inclusion sessions, we have really enjoyed this as we gain lots of sensory feedback from this. We have learned lots of new Makaton signs in our communication sessions, this has allowed us to communicate with one another and form friendships within the classroom.



Celebrations!

- Lucy has settled well into the class after joining us in September. She has mixed in well with her peers.
- All learners coped well with the pool being closed and have thoroughly enjoyed being back in the pool now it is open!
- Dylan has sat at his desk in classroom and engaged in his lesson with his peers, Dylan typically completes this kind of work when he is on offsite so we are so proud of him for not only completing his work but remaining engaged in a busier environment than he is used to!





Blue Class

This half term we have continued to work hard and challenge ourselves! As well as learning to write informal letters, use and apply 2D and 3D shapes, we have enjoyed our creative curriculum which is also becoming more Christmassy!

We have continued learning all about the Romans and have completed our design and making of Roman Shields. We have learned a brand-new topic in Science, 'All about Sound', and are carrying out many scientific investigations around volume and pitch, including how to make our own instruments.

During Forest School, we have been orienteering using simple maps and directions and building bird boxes.

We have enjoyed learning how to cook flapjacks, omelettes and pizza pockets and have continued to do lots of exercise (team games & trampolining).



Celebrations!

- SHOUT OUT to Frankey and Rustam who are through to a schools trampolining competition!
- We have improved our online digital skills and keyboard skills, particularly when creating a Word document. Riley has amazed us with her artistic skills! Rustam has applied his mathematical knowledge to challenging problems! Kayden has enjoyed going on a Sound Hunt. Kellan has amazed us with his scientific knowledge. Frankey and Alfred are reading and understanding fluently at their own level.
- On Saturday 6th December Rustam and Frankey participated in an Inter Schools Trampolining competition. Rustam came first and Frankey came second in their category! WELL DONE BOYS!!



Pink Class

Pink class have centred our learning on several books this term. We started out with Sparks in the Sky to learn all about Bonfire Night. Students then enjoyed Going on a Jungle Journey where students practiced a large range of gross motor movements such as stomping, swinging, tip toeing, etc. Then, student read The Cave, where we learned about hibernation and the changes of the seasons. To round out the half term, we have been focusing on winter themed books like Smeds and Smoos and The Snowflake. Students have enjoyed activities centred around these books such as playing in sensory trays of fake snow, drinking pink milk, art projects, building playdough snowmen, and so much more! Students have been enjoying baking and decorating sugar cookies in cookery. Students have made great progress following a visual schedule to use kitchen tools such as blenders, and hand mixers safely. Students participated in many whole school activities such as Remembrance Day, Police visit, Children in Need and World Kindness Day!

Celebrations!

- Jackson started a new routine this half term and has been doing so well adjusting to the changes in his timetable.
- Shayaan has been engaging in a large range of sensory activities. Great job trying new things!





Yellow Class

This half term yellow class have focussed on various fun things. Our overall topic has been 'People Who Help Us'. We have enjoyed having a doctors for our role play area and have spent lots of time with emergency vehicles playing with them on the small world mat. We enjoyed making marks with these wheeled vehicles too and loved an attention autism activity where we made the policeman have a fizzy hair explosion!

Our travel training sessions have focussed mainly around swimming at the dolphin centre. We have worked hard on travelling safely in the mini bus and walking holding hands to ensure we are safe in the community.

Everybody in class is working to their own personal timetable with coverage of different things. Children have spent time exploring how to build towers, how to regulate our emotions through use of sensory equipment or materials. Some of us have been learning letters enjoying activities where we write the letter in shaving foam, or hunt for the letter in sand with staff reinforcing the sound this letter makes. Others have been working on listening and attention activities such as environmental walks where we listen for sounds such as horns beeping, or leaves crunching.

Celebrations!

- As a class we all continue to work on our communication skills, we have one core word each week and in this half term have worked on the words 'home', 'bus', 'eat', 'drink' (this week we have enjoying different drinks in class such as juice and hot chocolate- yummy!).





Purple Class

This term Purple class has been looking at the history and geography of Newton Aycliffe from its beginnings in the distant past, through the second world war and concept of its new town status. They have even had a go at creating their own new towns.

The students are becoming a group of great little chefs. At the start of term they decide what they would like to cook. They researched the recipes and planned the shopping trips to Tesco's to buy the ingredients needed. Each week we have been treated to great dishes such as mince and dumplings, lasagna and pigs in blankets Toad on the hole.

Well done boys. Keep up the good work!

Celebrations!

- Great job to all of the learners who have transitioned to Purple Class!





Orange Class

This term orange class have been working on non-fiction texts, money, and the human body. We have practised using a public bus, paying for tickets to get us back to school. We have enjoyed trampolining and swimming at the leisure centre. We have also visited the Alan Shearer centre to use some of their sensory rooms.

Celebrations!

- This month Orange Class have been using public transport going into Darlington. Students have been exploring different areas. In addition, they travelled to Durham and watched the trains. Students have been learning overall about the different modes of transportation throughout this half term!





Whole School Events

- Invention exhibit linked to Safer Internet Day – Feb 11th
- Lego exhibit – Week Commencing Jan 19th
- Pie tasting afternoon – Jan 28th

Safeguarding

Discussing online safety with your child is essential in today's digital world. It helps them learn how to navigate the internet responsibly, recognise potential risks, and make smart choices. Above are 7 questions to help you start a conversation about online safety!



Careers

During term 1, our learners have met people from different job roles. Blue and Purple class participated in a 'build a bridge' challenge, which was organised by GMI Construction. The learners had to work in teams to design and build a bridge using provided materials, with the aim of creating the bridge which could hold the most weight. Both teams displayed excellent problem solving and communication skills to complete the challenge, with both teams performing brilliantly.

Blue and Purple class also participated in the Cyber Aware Challenge, which was organised by Durham Police. Each class worked to completed a series of escape room style challenges in order to solve a crime. This activity also developed learners' teamworking and problem solving skills. On this occasion, Purple class managed to solve the crime the quickest, managing to do so in a very impressive 28 minutes. Well done Purple class!

Durham Police visited school to offer a session to learners from Black, White, Blue and Purple class. The session gave our learners the opportunity to ask a serving Police officer about their role within the Police, and also to gain an understanding of how they can keep themselves safe from danger.

Autumn Half Term Events

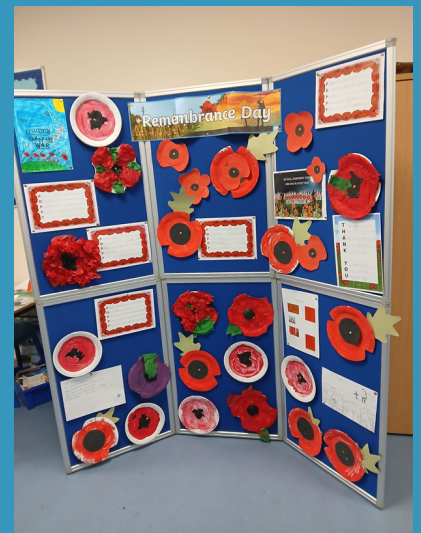
Pudsey Visit

Aycliffe School was so lucky to have Pudsey bear come to visit all our learners.



Remembrance Day

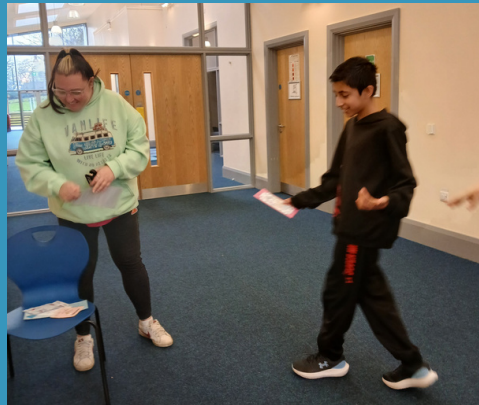
Students across the school took time this week to learn about the significance of Remembrance Day. Through a variety of lessons and activities, they explored why we commemorate this important occasion. Each class created a special craft, which was proudly displayed during our Remembrance Day assembly. Together, students observed a minute of silence to honour all those we remember.



Autumn Half Term Events

World Kindness Day

Students across the school came together to celebrate World Kindness Day by spreading positivity in meaningful ways. They created thoughtful thank-you cards for our cooks, caretakers, and leadership team, and shared notes of encouragement, stickers, and snacks with one another. It was a wonderful day filled with small acts of kindness that made a big impact throughout our school community.



Children in need

Our school had a wonderful day supporting Children in Need, filled with excitement, creativity, and community spirit. Students across all year groups participated in a variety of crafts and activities designed to raise awareness and celebrate the importance of helping others. Through the hard work and generosity of our students, families, and staff, we raised a fantastic £116.50. This contribution will help support vulnerable children and young people across the UK. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and helped make it such a success.



Autumn Half Term Events

Police Visit

On November 14th we were visited by a police officer who delivered an informative session for our learners. He discussed important topics including hate crimes, racial comments, and the impact of homophobic language. The officer explained why these behaviours are harmful and how they can be reported and/or prevented. After the session, he took some time to greet several of our learners, especially those who are enthusiastic about the police, which made the visit particularly meaningful and engaging for them.



Special Christmas Event

Students enjoyed preparing for the holiday season by making Christmas decorations, designing a Christmas placemat, writing letters to Santa, exploring winter themed sensory trays, and entering a Christmas card competition!



Autumn Half Term Events

Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff all around the school dressed up in their favourite Holiday Jumper!



Autumn Half Term Events

Christmas Dinner

Our incredible kitchen staff made a large array of holiday food for staff and students. They made pigs in a blanket, roasted potatoes, mash potatoes, carrots, peas, gravy, Yorkshire puddings, turkey, ham, broccoli, Quorn roast joints, and Quorn and pasta bake. Available were also divine desserts such as chocolate brownie cheesecake, cupcakes, doughnuts, cookies, milk shakes and trifles.



Christmas Show

Thank you to all the families who came to watch our students at the Christmas Show! Our students have been working very diligently to ensure their show was spectacular for each and every member of the audience. Thank you to all learners, and staff who made the show so wonderful to watch!

Autumn Half Term Events

Christmas Tree

Each class was able to decorate Aycliffe School's tree with their own baubles., and homemade decorations. What a gorgeous tree it is!





Happy Holiday Season, to all!

Aycliffe School wishes all students, families, and staff a wonderful holiday season! May all have a wonderful new year filled with joy, laughter, and happiness.

