

NewsLetter

Term 2.1



Look at all we accomplished this half term!

This term has been filled with various activities and interactive lessons. Classes have enjoyed going into the community and exploring various places. Have a look below at all the amazing things learners have been up to this half term.

Important Dates

- March is Women's History Month
- Dr. Seuss Day - Mar 2nd
- World Book Day - Mar 5th (Dress up as your favourite book Character)
- British Science Week- Mar 7th - 16th
- Mother's Day - Mar 15th
- Global Recycling Day - Mar 18th
- Eid al-Fitr - Mar 19th - 20th
- Red Nose Day - Mar 21st
- International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination - 21st
- National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day - Mar 18th
- Half Term Holiday Break - Feb 23rd - Feb 27th



Green Class

Green Class has been making great progress in building independent living skills and preparing for adulthood. Students have been working hard on daily life skills, decision-making, and confidence as they move toward greater independence. We were also excited to welcome two new members to our class, and their arrival has created more opportunities to practice communication, teamwork, and social skills. It's been a positive step forward for everyone!



Blue Class

This Spring Term, in English we are using Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon as stimulus for our writing. **We have given ourselves a Horrid Henry style name too. (see next page!)

In Maths we have learned about Capacity, enjoying lots of practical tasks. We are currently working on improving our mental agility in addition and subtraction – using strategies & jottings if required.

In Science we are learning about skeletons in humans and animals. We have learned lots of new vocabulary, including vertebrate, invertebrate, exoskeleton, endoskeleton and hydro skeleton!

Our forest school, travel training visits and creative work are also linked to our Animals topic. We have visited 'Potter's World' Zoo and Newham Grange Farm and used a variety of paper and paint media to create animals with different types of skeletons.

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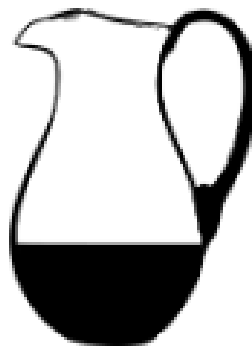
In PSHE and ICT we continue learning how to be safe and healthy.

As well as eating well and cleaning teeth daily, we are also focusing on how lack of sleep affects our health, our mood and our ability to learn.

We are revisiting how to be safe online and who our safe adults are. We are using NSPCC Pantosaurus website to continue learning about appropriate and inappropriate touch and what to do if we feel uncomfortable.

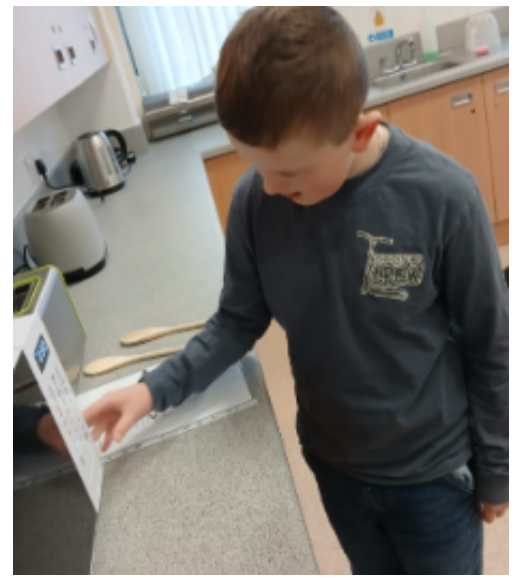
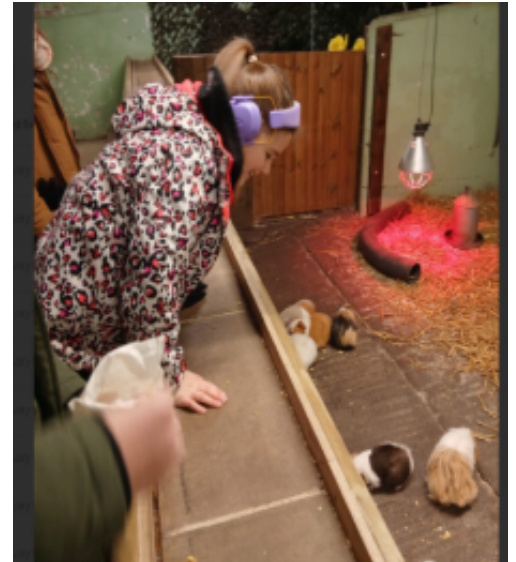
Celebrations!

- **SHOUT OUT** to Josh who has just joined Blue Class! He is a great cook and has given us some exciting ideas for Term 3!



Blue Class Continued

** As you can see in the photos, Clever Kayden, Courteous Kai, Curious Kellan, Adorable Alfred, Remarkable Riley, Resilient Rustam and Funky Frankey have all enjoyed their learning!



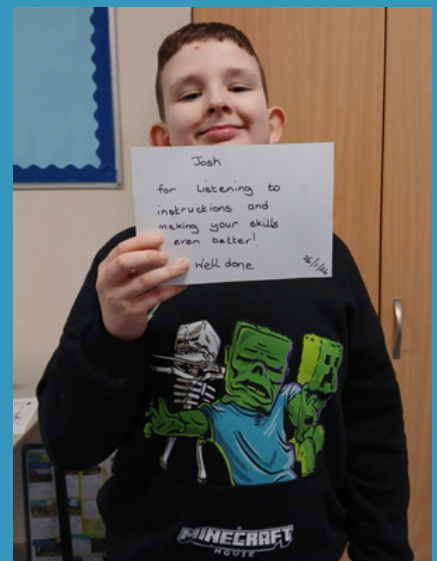


Purple Class

In English this half term Purple class have been looking at persuasive language and how it is used in advertising. In maths they have been started with dividing 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers working their way up to dividing 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. In Topic they have been researching famous people and looking at biographies with the aim of writing their own autobiographies. Cooking this half term has been desserts. So far they have produced tasty apple pies, lovely fruit scones and chocolaty muffins - fluffy cheesecake and rice pudding to follow. Community inclusion has taken us to The Oriental Museum at Durham and Preston Park Museum at Eaglesfield and swimming at our local leisure centre, all of which the class have enjoyed.

Celebrations!

- Shout out to Josh Newton who has started going to trampolining this half term. Not only is he enjoying it but he has come back to school with 2 Amazing Effort Awards. Well Done Josh!





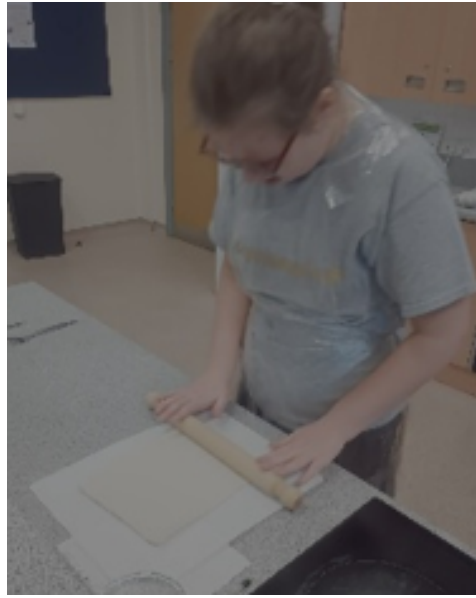
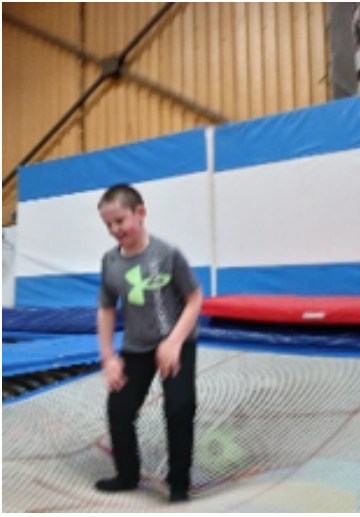
Celebrations!

- Kayce has been doing an amazing job on his Adapted Reading this term!
- Ethan has started Trampolining this term and has done very well with the long drive!

Pink Class

Pink Class have introduced new Adaptive Reading which all learners have been enjoying participating in! As we have moved through the term, we have been learning about safe adults such as police officers, nurses, doctors, etc., and familiar adults such as parents, siblings, teachers, etc. Students have been enjoying travel training this term where they have been shopping, soft play, and sensory rooms. Students have spent the past couple of weeks learning about the Winter Olympics and have participated in whole school activities, PE activities, and crafts all centred around the Winter Olympics. Finally, in cookery students have been making vegan sausage rolls! We are hoping next term will bring less rain so we can enjoy more outdoor spaces!



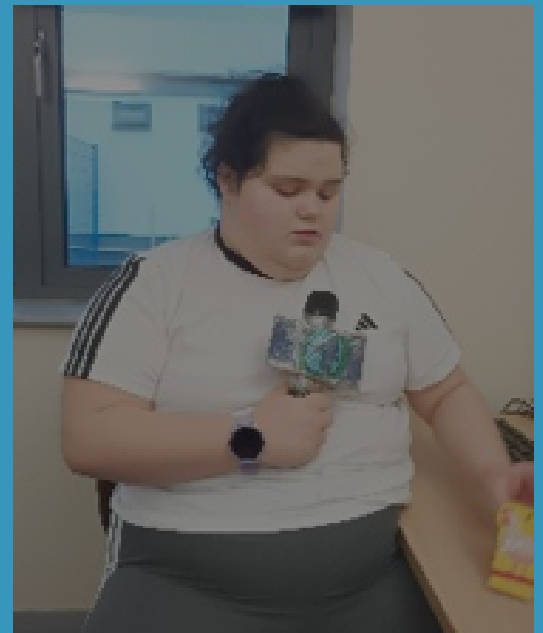


Celebrations!

- Student shout out to Darcie this term for trying her best at trampolining and for being our class reporter keeping us up to date with all the latest important information around school.

Orange Class

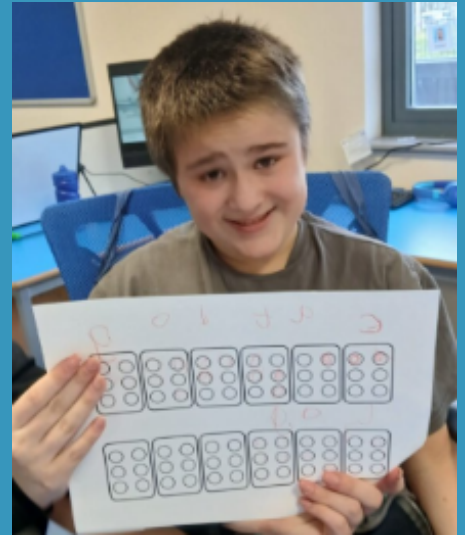
Orange class worked on counting to 100, counting in 2's, improving our measuring skills and pattern making. We have looked at different stories and learned some Makaton linked to our stories. For travel training we have been swimming to the Alan Shearer Centre and the dolphin centre. We have used a public bus and made lots of things in cookery, including smoothies, milkshakes, pies and pancakes. In science we have looked at healthy eating and different types of food such as starches, oils and sugar in our diet. In PSHE we have been looking at germs with a UV torch and handwashing.





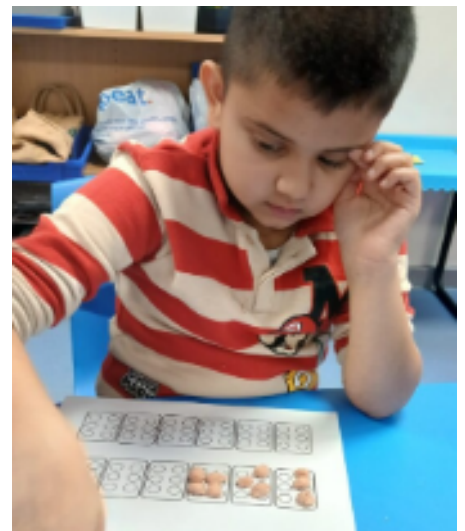
Celebrations!

- A huge shout out to Kamil, who is really starting to enjoy exploring new experiences!



Silver Class

January was a busy month for Silver Class learners! We begin each day with our Sensory start. We love 'Danny go!' He helps us to get moving! We also enjoy making our own dough for Dough Disco. We began the term following patterns to write our names in braille as well as other words we know how to spell. Each week, we have enjoyed shopping for ingredients and then making different meals in the DS room. Our favourite so far is chicken nuggets! To support community inclusion, we have enjoyed visiting lots of different parks and exploring the play park. We love going on the slides and swings!





Red Class

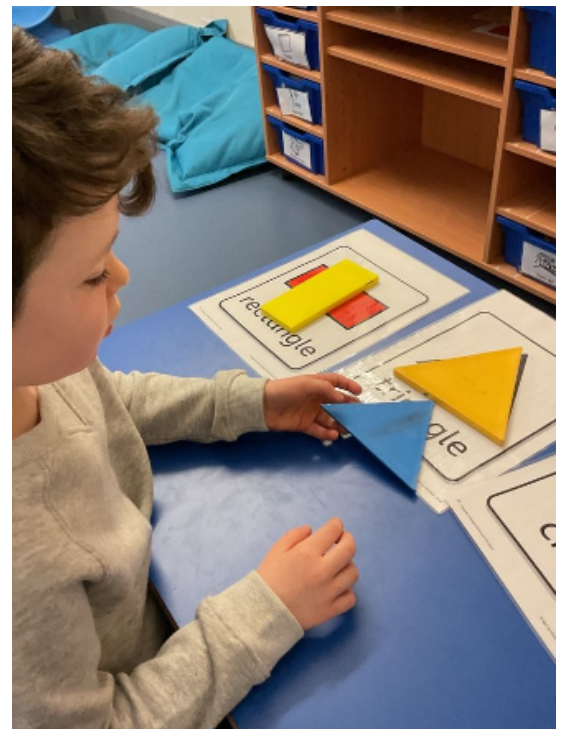
This half term Red Class has been focusing on hot and cold places. We have really enjoyed looking at what animals belong in which place and what these places look like. When looking at cold places we had different tuff trays with ice and snow around the animals you would find in Antarctica. When looking at hot places we had tuff trays with sand and desert animals which the children really enjoyed playing in. Attention Group this term has also linked to this topic. We have completed many fun activities linked to this, including painting ice, making snowflakes, decorating cactus, making snakes, and creating art with sand.

In math's we have been focusing on 2D and 3D shapes. Starting by identifying the names of each shape, matching real objects to the correct shape, then using our counting skills to count the number of sides and corners of 2D shapes. Some children have even started to count the edges, faces, and vertices of 3D shapes.

We have continued to go on the minibus each week. We have been visiting a variety of play parks, museums and started going to sensory rooms, which we have been really enjoying.

Celebrations!

A big well done to Harry for starting to use speech daily, he has progressed so much since Christmas it has been lovely to hear!!



Red Class Continued

This term we have started to create sentences using colourful semantics. We have worked through many sentences as a class by looking at a picture and identifying who is in the picture, what they are doing and where they are. We have now progressed onto making our own sentences with symbols by looking at pictures.

This term in cookery we have been following a recipe to make Rocky Roads. We have also continued to do lots of exercise, we have a PE session where we have been practicing our throwing and catching skills, we have daily sensory circuits and weekly swimming sessions.





Black & White Class

Exploring the local area during independent living skills and preparing for adulthood. The learners have been getting public transport into Durham, they have visited Durham cathedral, the oriental museum and the society.

During English the learners have been taking part in structured debates and honing their active listening skills, producing some fantastic work.

The learners have been exploring decimal numbers and multiplication in maths.

In science the learners have been studying the human body as part of our ASDAN scheme. We have been focussing on the digestive system and nutrition.

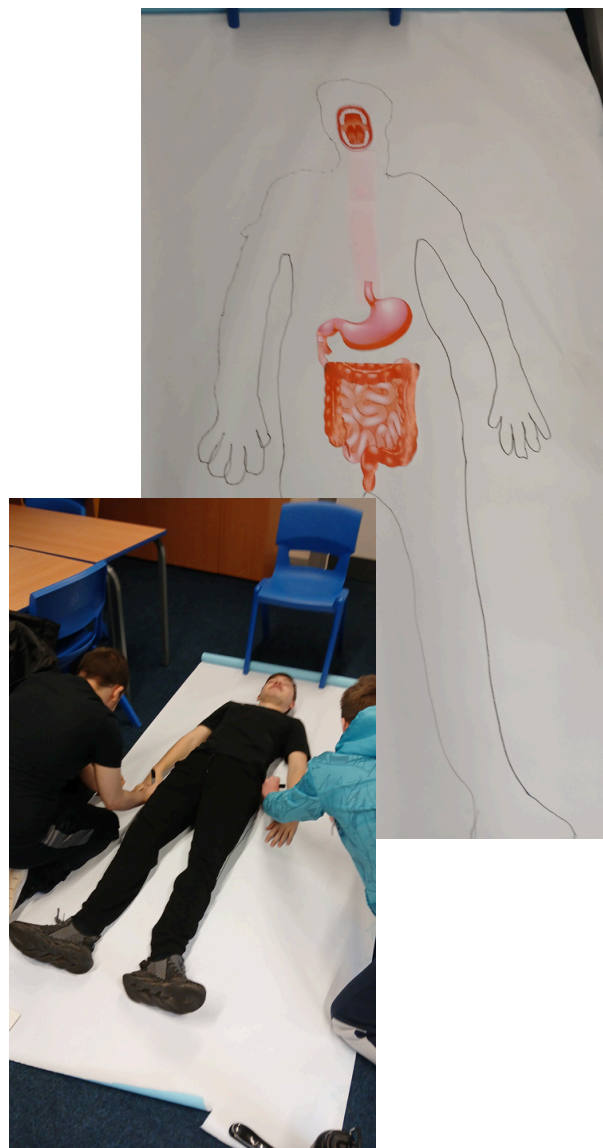
During one lesson the learners drew around one of their classmates and correctly identified where each of the major organs of the digestive system is positioned and applied the correct labels.

During history the learners have been learning about the history of Newcastle castle and researching spooky stories associated with the castle.



Celebrations!

- Our nomination for 6th form would be Alexis Wheater - She has tried really hard this term and has applied herself to every lesson she has had. She has been really enjoying her lessons, especially art where she used her memory and drawn the view from her seat when she watches Middlesbrough play football.



Black & White Class Continued

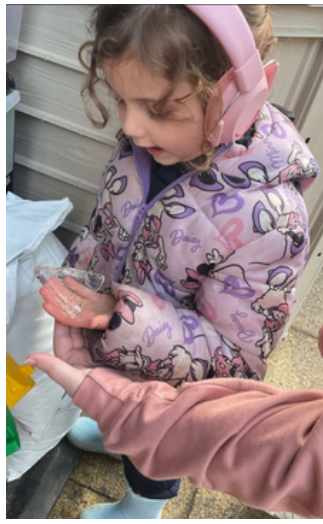
The classes have been studying Digital Functional Skills in ICT and working hard towards their qualifications.

In art our learners have been studying British artists such as Paula Rego and Sonia Boyce. They have enjoyed replicating some of the artist's work in their own style.

During Science we have been studying the eye and how we see. We have dissected a sheep's eye in class, and the learners were able to recall their understanding of the theory and identify the structures of the eye. Well done Black and White class.

All in all, black and white class have been working extremely hard this half term! Well done everyone!





Yellow Class

This half term our overarching topic for Understanding the World has been 'Where in the World'. We have explored different environments such as cold, frozen areas of the world through ice exploration in the garden and tuff spots with white snow and arctic animals. We then looked at a jungle environment and have explored a muddy wet environment in our water tray, filled with leaves, branches, snakes and minibeasts. One day we enjoyed a sensory jungle experience in class where we had bubbles blowing, a tuff spot with warm bubbly water, jungle sounds and images playing on the interactive whiteboard and material with dangly green vines waved over our head!



Celebrations!

- Yellow class have continued to enjoyed community inclusion visiting various soft plays and swimming pools. I am very proud of how brilliant yellow class are when travelling and exploring new places, everyone is becoming increasingly confident when travelling on the bus and all transition beautifully from one environment to the next with the help of our objects of reference and symbols.





Safeguarding

Social media platforms are now a central part of young people's daily lives. While they offer opportunities for connection and creativity, they can also present risks to emotional wellbeing. Below are some proactive safeguarding steps families can take to protect their learners.

- Understand the algorithm
- Avoid the main feeds
- Discuss what they've seen
- Monitor their activity
- Turn off push notifications
- Use devices together

Winter Half Term Events

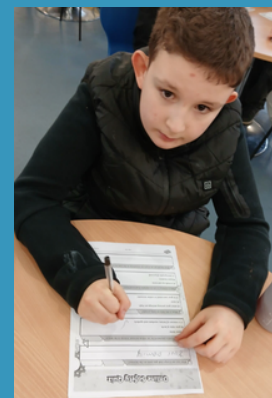
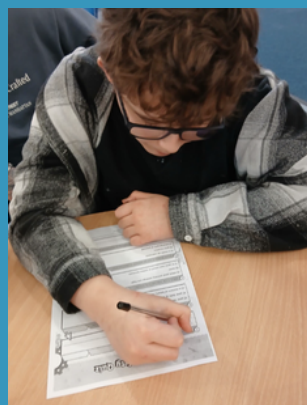
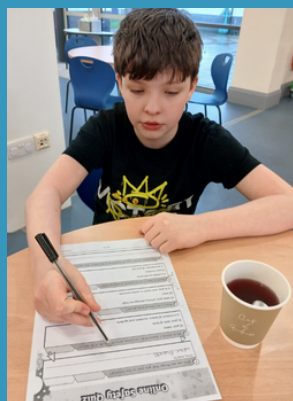
World Religions Day

Aycliffe School has celebrated World Religion Day! Learners were encouraged to learn about different religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity. There were several different activities for learners to participate in such as sensory trays with key figures or vocabulary relating to the religion, word searches with key vocabulary, crafts pertaining to various religions, and colouring pages with key figures to each religion.



Safer Internet Day

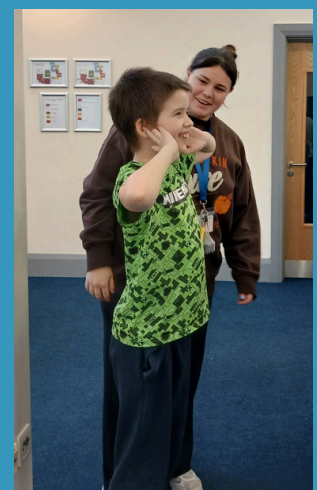
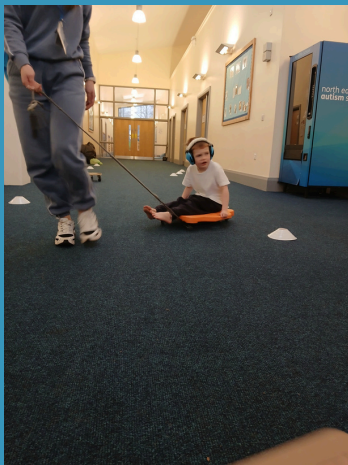
Students participated in a variety of activities throughout the school and attended a presentation from our Safeguarding and Welfare Officer.



Winter Half Term Events

Mock Winter Olympics

Students at Aycliffe School have been getting into the Olympic Spirit. Students came to participate in the following activities: Olympic Medal Craft, Snowball Toss, Indoor Ball Curling, Fake Snow Sensory Tray, Sensory Circuit, and Scooter Board Sledding. Students also enjoyed watching Olympic Sports such as curling, bobsledding, and snowboarding. It was a great day filled with smiles, movement, and giggles!



Winter Half Term Events

Mental Health Day

Students at Aycliffe school participated in a wide variety of activities to learn about and raise awareness of mental health. Students learned about different ways they can support their own mental health. As part of a whole school activity, learners made a whole school collage detailing the different things that made them feel like they belonged. Students listed their favourite activities, favourite people, and details about environments that made them feel safe.



Winter Half Term Events

LGBTQ+ Month

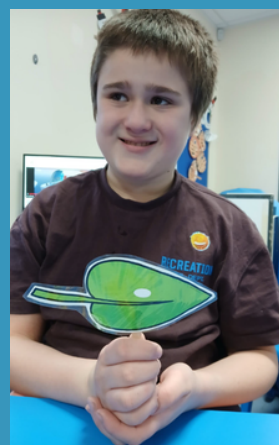
Aycliffe School celebrated the lives of LGBTQ people by reading about different achievements, struggles, and activism. Each class studied a book that contained age-appropriate material so students could learn about and celebrate the LGBTQ community. Students shared what they learned from their book in a whole school event where students presented their own book reports/projects.



Winter Half Term Events

Storytelling Week

Aycliffe School loves to read! Students spent extra time reading this term to celebrate Storytelling week. Yay reading!



Winter Half Term Events

Stay 'n' Play

Yellow and Red class enjoyed a wonderful afternoon shared with parents, family and carers. We chose the theme of 'love' following on from Valentines day. We wanted to celebrate the love we all have for the children in our care. We enjoyed a variety of activities including making sensory bottles with heart sequins and glitter. We explored red playdough with heart cutters and played in beautiful petal filled water trays. Special thanks to Claire who made some beautiful pinata's... heart themed of course, which we then all got to enjoy some sweet treats from! A truly lovely afternoon ❤️



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