



December 2024 Newsletter

This half term has been a busy one - filled with concerts, parties and festive fun! Despite this, the children have continued to work hard and make good progress with their learning. We are pleased to be able to share the learning that has taken place through our newsletter and update you all on other key events that have taken place over the past 7 weeks.

From everyone at Windhill Primary School, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Take care,

Mrs Howard

Curriculum Learning

Lots of activities have taken place throughout the curriculum across school which our Key Stage leaders (Mrs Fletcher, Miss Larner, Mrs Hicks & Miss Woodward) would like to share with you:

Early Years:

In Early Years this half term we have had lots of magical fun. Our topic has been 'changing seasons' and during this we have looked at what happens during each season and the season we are currently in.

Children in Pre-School have been really busy completing lots of lovely Christmas activities. They have been learning all about winter and had an exciting day in the snow. They have done some ice painting, making snowflakes and wrote their letters to Santa. They made their own Christmas biscuits and enjoyed a hot chocolate.

In Nursery and Reception, we all enjoyed a snow day where we wrapped up and went out on the big field to play in the snow. The children were amazing in their nativities and were so brave performing in front of their grownups in the hall. The children carefully wrote their letters to Santa and walked to the post box to send them to the North Pole.

In Nursery the children really enjoyed our books of the week. Their favourite was 'Goldilocks and the three bears', they predicted where Goldilocks had run away to and then when they found her hiding outside brought her back into Nursery to try some porridge with them.

In Reception the children really enjoyed 'The gingerbread man' and created some fantastic work in their drawing club lessons. The children drew the gingerbread man and were able to think of and draw a friend for the gingerbread man to run away with.

Key Stage One:

Key Stage One have had a particularly busy half term. As part of our topic Healthy Me, the children completed a unit of DT focusing on food and nutrition. They learnt about the five main food groups, the importance of a balanced diet, where food comes from and the importance of food hygiene and safety when preparing food. They concluded their learning by hosting a food experience for their parents and carers where they created a meal of vegetable soup, a sandwich and a fruit skewer. The children have also learnt about the human body in our Healthy Me topic. They have named and located different body parts and they have explored the impact of their diet, sleep, exercise and hygiene on staying healthy. This learning has also helped the children to understand the work done by Florence Nightingale in hospitals to improve conditions and prevent diseases.

All four classes encountered an intruder who left lots of mess in our classrooms. We discovered it was a character called Bertie from our focus literacy text, Dirty Bertie. We used our literacy lessons to generate vocabulary to describe his appearance and qualities and we inferred the type of person he is. We used all of this learning to write a character profile on Bertie. Finally, Key Stage One have worked extremely hard to put together this year's nativity; The Big Little Nativity. The singing sessions paid off as the children knew all of the lyrics and were perfectly in time for each song. The children were all confident in their roles and they acted amazingly well in each performance. Well done, Key Stage One!

Lower Key Stage Two:

Lower key stage 2 have continued to enjoy their lost lands topic. At the beginning of the half term, children watched a 'live' Egyptian mummification. Seeing this gruesome process, performed by our very own Mr Hedar, inspired our first write – instructions on how to mummify a pharaoh. Children have since moved on to learn about ancient Greece and have looked at a number of Greek myths. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Doncaster Heritage who brought our learning to life by getting the children to create masks to re-enact Medusa. Most recently, children have learnt about Theseus and the Minotaur. Everyone has worked extremely hard retelling the myth in their own words and making use of prepositional phrases.

Upper Key Stage Two:

Upper Key Stage Two have had a very busy half term! They continued their learning on The Ancient Maya, finding out about their writing, maths, the game of Pok-a-Tok and answering the big question of *How advanced were the Maya for their time?* To hook the children into their learning on Mexico, they had a Mexico themed morning filled with crafts and cooking. Children came to school dressed in the colours of the flag, made guacamole and salsa and crafted pinatas. It was fantastic to see so many of them trying the foods even if some were not so sure of the flavours!

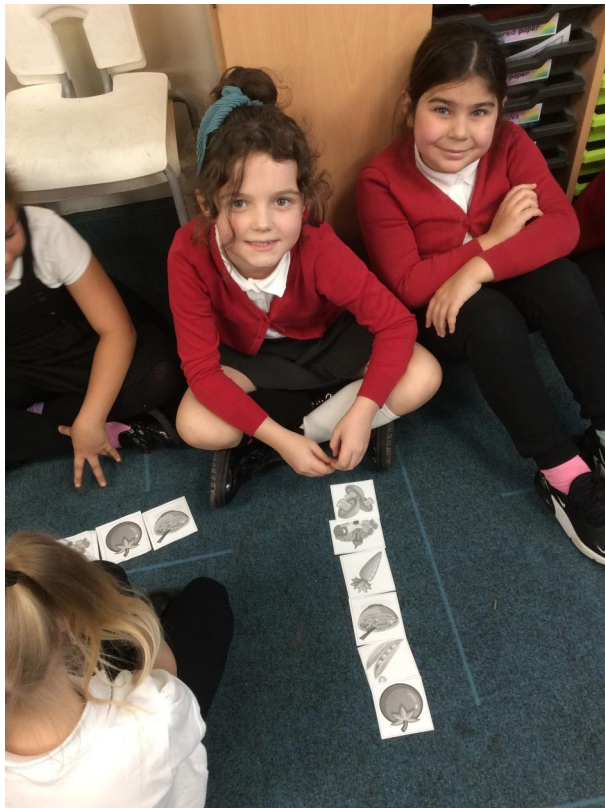
Over the course of the term, they have been reading *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. The children have been engrossed in the story of Auggie and his experiences of school after being home-schooled all of his life. They have completed numerous writes from different perspectives and have shown good inference and retrieval skills in reading.

Children have worked hard on the Key Stage Two production of *No One Wraps Like An Elf*. They enjoyed learning songs, rehearsing scenes or being part of the stage crew designing and making props. A huge well done to everyone for a very successful performance!















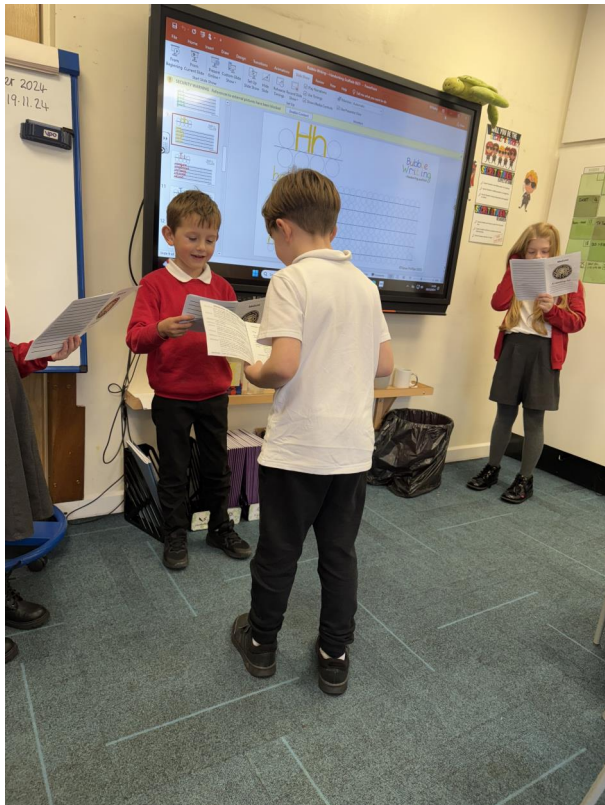
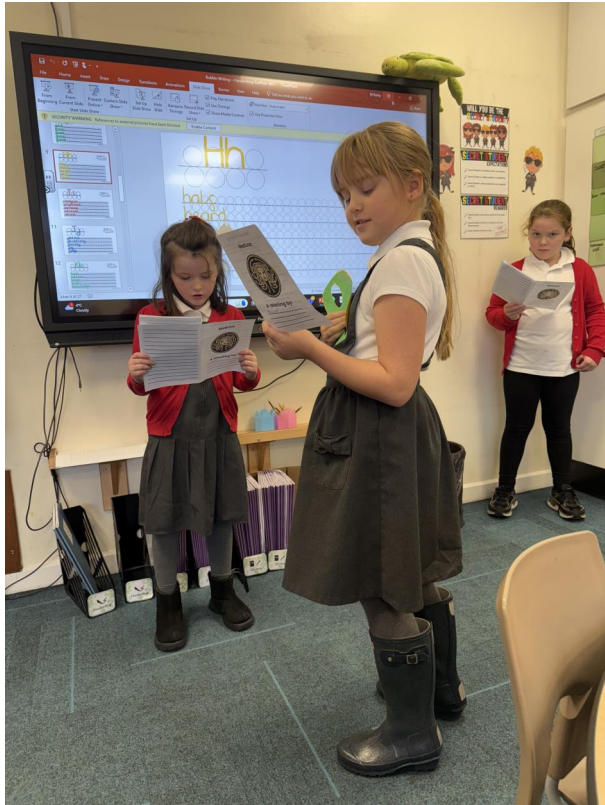


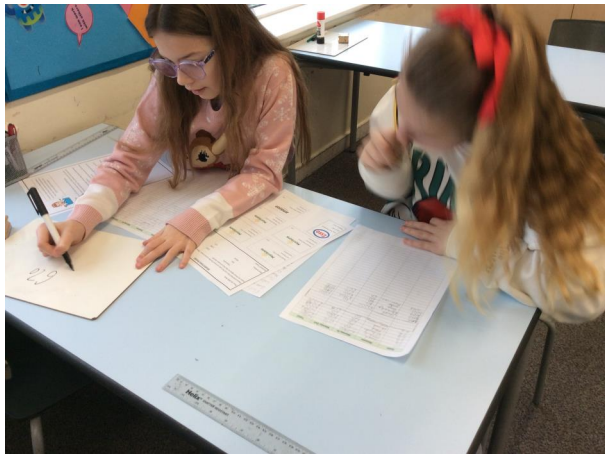
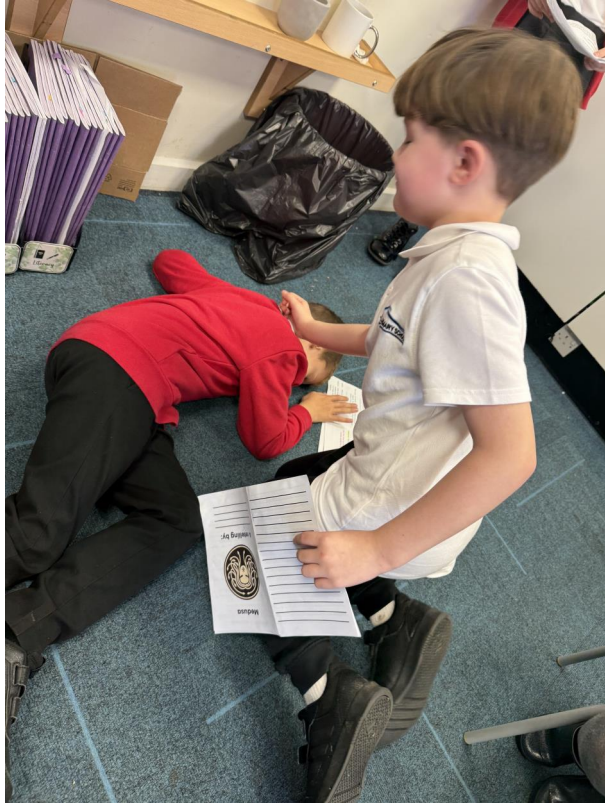










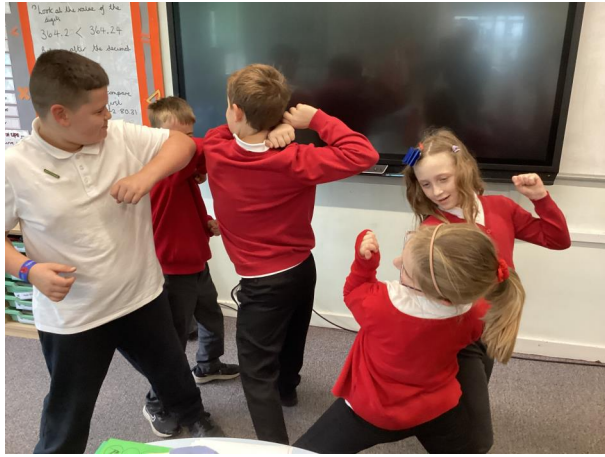


















Several children took part in a Basketball Tournament at Hall Cross school in November. They demonstrated fantastic team-work and came joint first out of several teams participating in the Doncaster wide event. Well done everyone involved!

Maths Ambassadors

After receiving several applications for the roles, we are pleased to announce that this year's new Maths Ambassadors are (LtoR): Sam, Daniel, Ameea, Robbie, Lily Jo, and Layla. These pupils will be joined by some Key Stage One representatives and will be in charge of promoting maths around school, including helping with days such as Times Table Rockstars Day and Financial Maths Days. They will also be in charge of making monthly recommended

reads in our Maths Through Stories section in school, so keep an eye for the books they think you'll love.



Christmas Concerts & Activities



How amazing were all the children in their Christmas nativities and performances! We are just as proud of them all as I'm sure you are.

A huge 'Thank you' to the children and staff for putting the shows together, and also to everyone who came to school to watch the productions.

The children have also enjoyed taking part in lots of other Christmassy activities too. It wouldn't be Christmas without the annual Early Years walk to the post box to send letters to Santa. Children also enjoyed watching 'Sparkles' and her Christmas show, and we welcomed into school Adam from the Baptist Church who delivered an assembly all about the

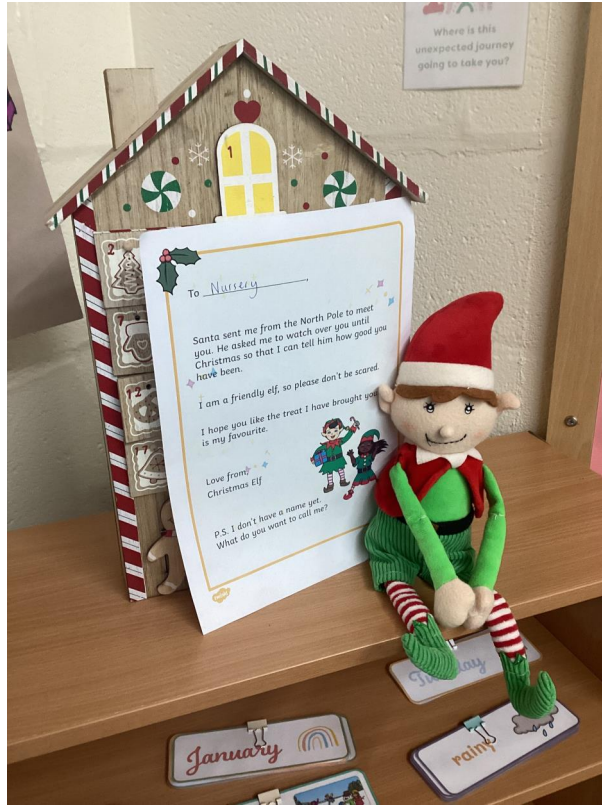
importance of the Christmas tree. He then invited our school choir to take part in a carol concert at the church for the community - it was lovely to see so many of you there.

This week has been extra busy with Christmas dinner and jumper day, and the whole school party, where the DJ kept everyone entertained with party games and a disco. After such a busy month, everyone is ready for a well-earned rest.

























Attendance

You will remember that we set the children a challenge to attend school on time, every day throughout November to be in with a chance of winning advent calendars for the family, along with a Molton Brown luxury advent calendar.





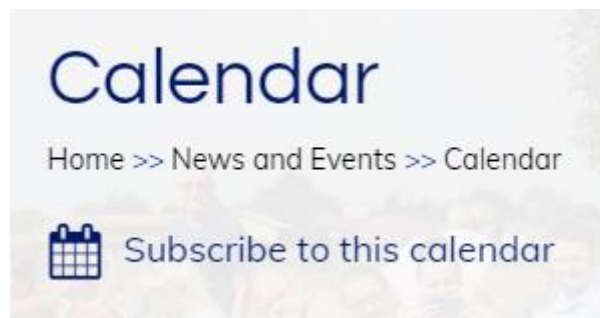
Well done to Arlo who won first prize.

Several other children also won a chocolate calendar. Well done to everyone who was entered into the draw.

Look out for more attendance prizes in the new year, including Just Eat vouchers!

Diary Dates

Don't forget that you can sync school diary dates with your on-line diaries by clicking the 'Subscribe to this calendar' button on the school website: Calendar | Windhill Primary School¹. This will ensure you don't miss anything happening in school.



19th Dec (3.15pm)	School closes for Christmas Break
Fri 20th Dec	Inset Day - school closed to all pupils
Mon 6th January	All pupils return to school
9th Jan	Year 4 pupils start swimming lessons
15th Jan	Panto in school
4th Feb	Year 6 @ Crucial Crew
10th Feb (3.30pm - 6pm)	Open Evening

¹<https://www.windhillprimary.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/11/>

11th Feb (3.30pm - 5pm) Open Evening
12th Feb Young Voices @ Sheffield Arena
14th Feb **Inset Day** - school closed to all pupils
24th Feb School reopens for all pupils
6th March World Book Day
28th March School closes for Easter break

From everyone @ Windhill Primary school, we wish you all a 'Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!'

