



Autumn 2 Primley Wood Primary School Newsletter

Good attendance and punctuality equals success!

This half term's whole School attendance was 95% Our attendance target for the year is 97%. Please help your child to achieve success by ensuring that they come to school every day.

	Robins	Nightingales	Kingfishers	Falcons
	91%	94%	94%	96%
Kestrels	Merlins	Tawny Owls	Sparrowhawks	Redkites
94%	96%	96%	97%	93%

Our attendance champions for the highest attendance this half term are **Sparrowhawks** with an 97%

Upcoming Key Dates **Green events – parents are welcome**

20.12.24	Break-up for Christmas holiday
6.1.25	Back to school
6.1.25	New Year Resolutions Assembly
7.1.25	Writing pupil leadership assembly
7.1.25	Year 4 Class Museum (what we did on residential) 2:45pm in classroom
8.1.25	Coffee morning for parents - <i>all parents welcome</i> 9:00 in school hall
8.1.25	Reception DEAR session 2:45pm (all DEAR sessions in classrooms)
9.1.25	Nursery DEAR session 2.45pm
13.1.25	Parents' Evening booking system goes live
14.1.25	Year 1 DEAR session 2.45pm
14.1.25	Maths pupil leadership assembly
15.1.25	Phonics workshop for Reception parents 9:00 in school hall
17.1.25	Nursery Stay and Play Session 9:00 in Nursery classroom
21.1.25	Reading pupil leadership assembly
21.1.25	Reception Stay and Learn Session 9:00 in Reception classroom
21.1.25	Year 5 DEAR session 2.45pm
22.1.25	Year 3 DEAR session 2.45pm
22.1.25	Year 1 Phonics live lesson in Year 1 classroom
23.1.25	Year 2 DEAR session 2.45pm
27.1.25	Year 6 DEAR session 2.45pm
27.1.25	Holocaust Day Years 5 and 6 only
28.1.25	Science Pupil Leadership Assembly
29.1.25	Chinese New Year celebration
3.2.25	Year 5 Class Museum - 2:45pm in classroom

4.2.25	Year 4 DEAR Session - 2.45pm
4.2.25	Year 6 Class Museum - 2:45 in classroom
5.2.25	Year 1 and 2 Class Museum - 2:45pm in classroom
5.2.25	Year 3 Class Museum - 2:45pm in classroom
7.2.25	NSPCC Number Day
11.2.25	Safer Internet Day
11.2.25	Safer Internet Day Parents' Coffee Morning – 2:45 in school hall <i>discuss keeping children safe online</i>
12.2.25	History Pupil Leadership Assembly
12.2.25	Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 5:30pm (please use the booking system)
13.2.25	Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 5:30pm (please use the booking system)
13.2.25	Child of Achievement Assembly – 9:00am (invitation only)
14.2.25	Heroes' Day with inspirational letter writing (see whole school homework)
14.2.25	Break-up for Half Term



Autumn 2 Child of Achievement certificates were awarded to:

Wrens - Thomas

Robins - Anne

Nightingales - Marnie-Mae

Kingfishers - Jasroop

Falcons – Tanya

Kestrels - Rantej

Merlins - Omer

Sparrowhawks - Elodie

Tawny Owls - Charlie

Red Kites – Alfaroq

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to write the final newsletter of the year and to reflect on the successes of 2024.

It has been a jam-packed half-term for our pupils, starting with learning about Diwali, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day and ending with marvellous Christmas celebrations.

It has been a year since I have been the headteacher of Primley Wood and I am incredibly proud of the journey that the school is on, and the progress made so far. The staff team have worked relentlessly hard to make swift, well-needed changes and refinements in several areas. A year later, we are now beginning to feel and see the impact of many of the effective changes made. Here is a little snapshot of some of the successes so far...

Curriculum

We have redefined our curriculum and have a virtues-led offer, which ensures we focus on the holistic as well as the academic success of every child.

A progressive curriculum (including vocabulary) which starts in Nursery has been mapped out.

Arithmetic is taught daily through precision teaching and arithmetic results are tracked weekly.

We ensure teaching time is purposeful, and we maximise every opportunity to stretch our children further.

Floor books have been introduced for our wider curriculum subjects.

A successful Mocksted inspection was completed.

A new writing process has been implemented, with a tight focus of different genres using high-quality texts.

We have introduced a new reading strategy, aligned with the latest government guidance, which aims to support children in developing skills linked to a wide range of texts.

A new Phonics scheme – Little Wandle

EYFS - Nursery and Reception

The curriculum has been mapped out using quality key texts for our 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds, progressing into Reception.

Core texts and rhymes are planned for each age group to ensure progression.

Personal goals have been created to focus on our key virtues.

Provision areas inside are clear, inviting and well laid out.

A dramatic improvement in the learning environment.

Safeguarding

We have an action-led approach to safeguarding.

The school site is now more secure, with electronic gates.

Social media has been identified as our contextual safeguarding issue and we frequently educate children about this.

We have had successful external safeguarding audits and reviews

Safeguarding is frequently discussed in assemblies; for example, children have been taught about the different coloured lanyards that adults wear in school.

Attendance

Our attendance is above the national average and continues to improve.

Our persistent absence rate has reduced by half over the year.

We celebrate attendance weekly.

We have half-termly awards.

There will be opportunities for children to win amazing prizes for children who achieve 100% at the end of the year.

We take a rigorous approach to attendance, ensuring we swiftly address any concerns.

Love of reading

We have created an ethos that reading is the most important thing in school as it has an impact on access to all learning.

Frequent 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions.

'Read and snuggle' bags, containing books, hot chocolate and a class teddy are available to take home.

Whole-school reading time is held at the end of the day.

We have purchased high-quality texts for every class that are age-appropriate.

Successful book fairs have further promoted reading for pleasure.

An E-library that allows children to access books at their phonics level.

Phonics

Our Little Wandle scheme has been a huge success.

Parents have attended workshops to learn how to support their children at home.

Live lessons allow parents to see what Little Wandle looks like in action.

We had our highest ever phonics results and are on track to achieve over 90% this year.

The money in the PWPS bank account will go towards purchasing more books.

Assessment

Every pupil's progress and attainment in school is now tracked on a regular basis and actions are taken quickly to minimise any learning gaps.

The leadership team frequently look at pupils' books and drop into lessons.

Teachers mark work using a 'feedforward' approach, providing effective feedback to help children improve daily.

Learning environment

The whole school is much tidier.

Resources across the school are better organised.

The PE cupboard is tidy and well-resourced.

The hall is clean and fresh.

High-quality wall displays decorate our corridors and classrooms.

Several areas of the school have been painted.

The school site is well-maintained.

The outside area has been maintained (weeds, bushes, etc removed).

Pupil voice

We have several pupil leadership teams.

'Votes for schools' has been introduced.

We have a Primley Wood pupil bank account.

Our School Council meets weekly.

Pupil leaders meet frequently and are currently creating an assembly.

Playground

We have purchased new equipment, including a gazebo, a stage and picnic tables.

Playground boxes are filled with toys for children to play with.

We have more staff supervising on the playground.

We have play leaders on the playground.

The playground is considerably tidier.

Personal development and enrichment

Our personal development offer is very strong. We teach children about key virtues and hold frequent personal development events, such as our careers fayre, global awareness week and children's mental health day, etc.

We offer a variety of clubs and have assigned a PE coach to ensure our pupils receive high-quality PE lessons.

Communication

A half-termly overview of what pupils are learning is provided.

Key dates given to parents before the next half term (parent events are marked in green).

A new, up-to-date website has been launched.

Half-termly coffee mornings are held.

We maintain an open-door policy.

Parents - we thank you for your growing support over the past year. Your kind comments and feedback has meant the world to the whole staff team. The community spirit that is growing is magical. The Friends of Primley Wood have been hugely successful, and I can't thank them enough for everything they do. Next year, it would be fantastic to see more parents joining this group; every parent is welcome.

Sit back, relax with a cup of hot chocolate and enjoy our Autumn 2 newsletter. Please make a note of all the key dates for next half-term.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on the 6th of January.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday everyone, and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Seetle Kaur

Head Teacher of Primley Wood Primary School

Read all about us...

Nursery

It has been another exciting half term in Nursery – with lots to celebrate! We have been learning all about Diwali, Bonfire Night, Winter, Christmas, Hanukkah, and have celebrated lots of birthdays this term! We have demonstrated our virtues of kindness and compassion while learning about the different ways people celebrate special times in their lives.

We enjoyed making Diya lamps out of clay, glitter, and paint and creating some impressive firework art. We role-played a birthday picnic, using our math's skills to share food at our party and count candles on birthday cakes.



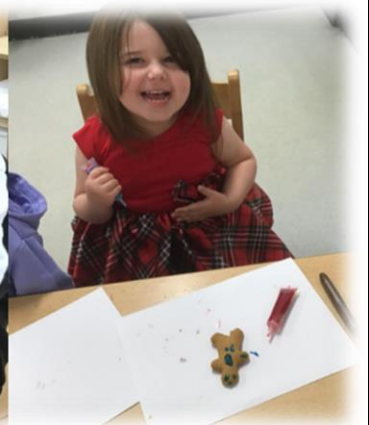
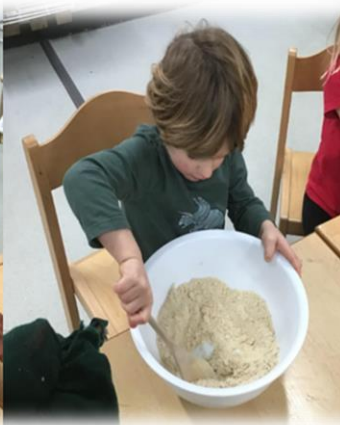
A key highlight for the children this term was the snow! Every morning, we talked about the weather and lots of the children were hoping that it would snow and oh, what fun we had with it when it came! The children were fascinated by the snow, ice and how it melted during the day. We discussed how we can keep warm and healthy in winter by wearing our coats, gloves, scarves and hats and the children went on to design their own hats and gloves.



The children helped decorate the nursery ready for Christmas! They took turns putting their decorations on the tree and used their fine motor skills to thread string onto baubles. We have looked at the colours and shapes that we usually see at Christmas time and lots of the children can confidently name 2D shapes such as a circle, triangle, rectangle and star. Together, we also made a cosy fireplace for our home corner and the children have had the chance to make stockings to hang along the fireplace.



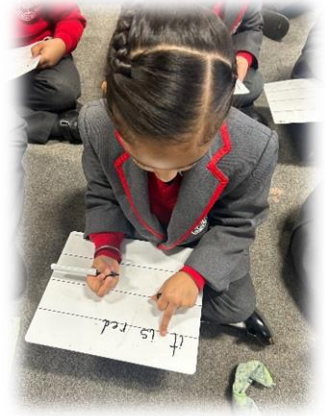
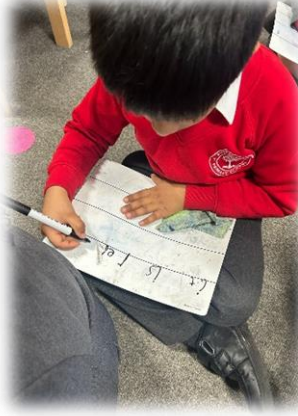
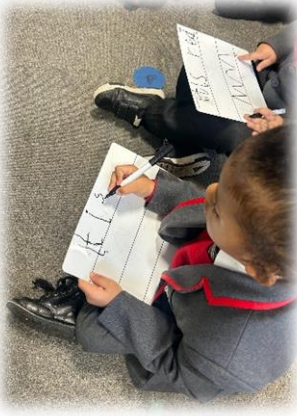
We have enjoyed lots of new books such as *Binny's Diwali*, *We're going to a Birthday Party* and *The Gingerbread man*. The children have been wonderful at joining in and remembering the repeated phrases in the book: "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" We then made our own gingerbread men at Nursery. The children loved mixing, patting and rolling all the ingredients and luckily our gingerbread men did not run away!



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!

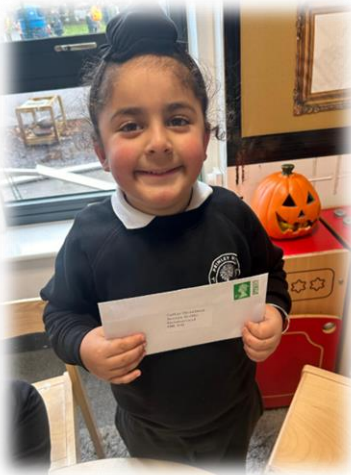
Reception

This half-term, Reception has been filled with lots of fun and exciting learning. We've been putting our phonic knowledge to work by writing captions and sentences, helping us become more confident writers. Our focus has been on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops and many of us have been demonstrating the virtue of creativeness when coming up with super sentences. Lots of visitors to our school have commented on how well Reception are doing with their writing and reading which makes us all extremely proud.



In English, we enjoyed some fantastic stories, such as *The First Christmas*, *The Best Diwali Ever*, *Postman Bear* and *Mog the Cat*, which sparked our imaginations and led to some great discussions. In provision, we explored some new areas, including a Christmas post-box station where the children loved writing letters and cards to their friends. Reception also did a great job of decorating the classroom in preparation for some festive fun!

One of the highlights this term has been walking to the postbox to post our letters to Santa. We are eagerly awaiting replies and can't wait to see what he has written back to us. We are hoping that he will bring us some new toys for 2025.



In Math's, we have been exploring shapes, learning about their properties and even going on shape hunts around the classroom to find real-world examples. We discovered that Reception has lots of rectangles in the form of books, bricks, posters and tables. The children have also been focusing on their number formation, and we've come up with some excellent rhymes to help us remember how to form our numbers correctly.

In the forest, our topic was all about fire! Before heading into the forest, we discussed safety and how to stay safe around a fire. Next we went up to the forest to forage for firewood, learning all about the 'snap test!' Did you know that if you snap a stick and it's green inside, then it's too wet for a fire? To finish our topic, we built a fire, enjoyed toasting some marshmallows and listened to a story – a lovely way to end our half-term! 😊



Finally, we have been extra busy preparing for our wonderful Christmas show— practicing songs and learning our lines, which has been a great way to build confidence as we perform in front of our families and friends.

We enjoyed our Christmas dinner and had fun telling jokes and wearing our party hats.



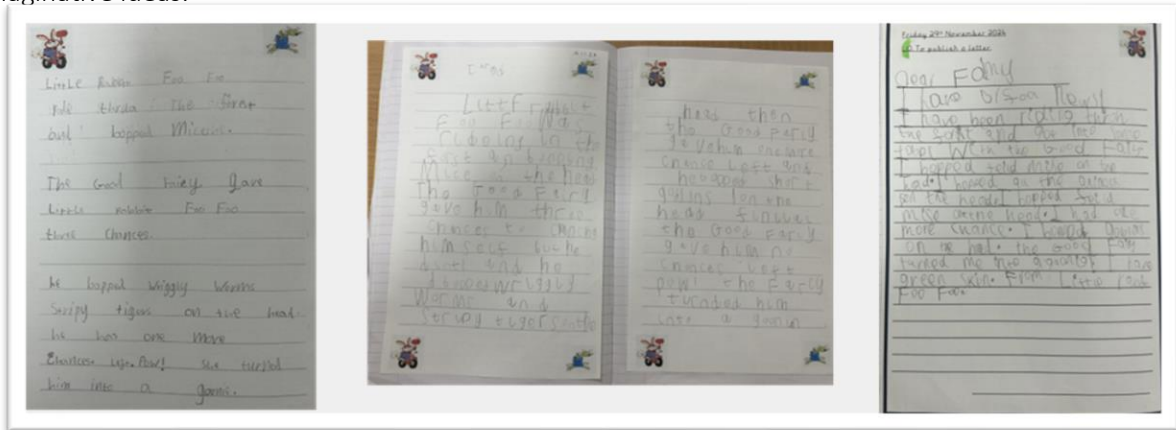
We loved our Christmas party. We had a good dance and enjoyed more food.



It's been a magical and busy half term filled with lots of festive fun! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and see you in 2025!

Year 1

What a super half-term we had in Year 1! We have continued learning Phase 5 graphemes in Phonics and have been applying our new phonic knowledge when spelling new words. In English, we have been doing lots of writing linked to one of our favourite stories: Little Rabbit Foo Foo. We have written a narrative, letter and invitation, focusing on key skills such as using correct punctuation, adjectives and the joining word 'because'. Our stamina for writing has greatly improved and we have enjoyed sharing our work in class. Now that we are more confident in our writing, we can use our virtue of creativity to think of our own imaginative ideas.



In Maths, we have learned how to add and subtract numbers within 10, using part-whole models, number lines and counters to help improve our understanding. There has been lots of new vocabulary for us to learn and we have had time to practice solving different mathematical problems. We also explored 2D and 3D shapes and have noticed that we see shapes all around us!



Our Science topic this half-term was *Animals Including Humans: All About Animals*. We have really enjoyed learning about birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and fish, as well as herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We did lots of sorting activities and had discussions about the features of animals in pairs and as a whole class. In Geography, we have been learning all about where we are in the world, before focusing on our school and local area. We loved looking at Google Earth and different maps and talked about where the UK is in relation to other countries. We have done lots of fieldwork in the playground, identifying the features of our school grounds. We then did a survey on our views of the playground before designing our own updated versions. In RE, we have explored different religions in the context of listening and expressing joy. This links to our virtues of kindness, patience and courtesy, which we focus on every day in class. We have done a wide range of activities based on why it is important to listen and how people show joy and celebrate. In Art, we have been learning about colours and colour mixing, which has been so much fun! Our PSHE topic has taught us about relaxation techniques and the importance of looking after ourselves by getting regular exercise and good quality sleep. In Computing, we have continued to use the Paintz app, this time focusing on making careful choices to create shapes and pictures. We even had a go at recreating a famous piece of artwork by Henri Matisse! Finally, in Music we learnt about dynamics and tempo, practiced singing new songs and used instruments to represent animals. Once again, I am so proud of Year 1's progress this half-term. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Year 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic, fun-filled half term! In Math's, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes, counting sides, edges, and vertices accurately, using our virtues of patience and understanding. We have also learned how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers with and without exchanges.



In PSHE, we have been building our growth mindset! We have taken part in lots of challenging activities, including building a card house, threading beads and building a tower. We discussed how we felt before, during and after the activities. We developed a growth mindset by reframing how we approached tricky tasks. Instead of saying "I can't do this" we said, "I will try again."



In Science, Year 2 has been learning about habitats around the world and how we can protect our environment. We conducted our very own litter pick inside the school grounds! We used litter pickers and plastic gloves and managed to fill up two huge bin bags! Many children asked to do it again. Well-done, Year 2, for demonstrating your virtues of cleanliness and compassion! In P.E., we have discussed the benefits of physical activity for our health and well-being. We played lots of games and got our blood pumping! As we reflected, we discussed how happy we feel after doing these activities, as well as the importance of doing physical activity every day.



Overall, Year 2 has been so busy this half term and I am so proud of their increasing resilience towards learning and their virtue of creativity. Their passion and enthusiasm are infectious and they are true role models to others. I hope you all have a restful and fun-filled half term and I will look forward to seeing the children again in 2025! 😊

Year 3 Falcons

Year 3 has had another fantastic half-term working incredibly hard across all parts of the curriculum. The children have been captivated by our class story '*Iron Man*' by Ted Hughes. This text has proven to be an incredible stimulus resulting in wonderful writing in our English lessons. We have produced a newspaper article, a narrative and a formal letter. The children have been considering how to make appropriate vocabulary choices, practicing using their magpie journals to acquire new words and apply them creatively in their own writing. They have worked diligently to produce brilliant pieces of writing which they should be very proud of.

This half-term in Math's, we have focused on multiplication and division. The children have demonstrated the virtue of curiosity in these lessons to solve problems and work systematically to solve questions. We have been using manipulatives to help embed our learning and practice our times tables at every given opportunity.

Our Geography lessons have transported us to the Amazon Rainforest which has been fascinating! Pupils learned about the importance of the Amazon Rainforest from its biodiversity, how it provides a home for indigenous communities and how it is known as the 'lungs of the earth'. The children finished this unit by writing a letter to the President of Brazil to alert him of the impact of deforestation.

In DT, Falcons have been demonstrating the virtue of creativity by designing their own seasonal tarts. They have learnt all about fruits and vegetables that grow in different climates and how eating seasonal foods positively affects the environment. They had lots of fun developing their cutting and peeling skills and tasting different types of fruit and vegetables.



The Falcons have also spent this half term developing their physical and musical talents. They have been improving their netball and team game skills in PE, while in Music they have been creating compositions and telling stories through music.

In PSHE, we have been learning all about Health and Wellbeing, carving out time to discuss resilience, self-belief and thinking of tangible strategies to help us to feel fit and healthy. In class we have also been discovering new ways to relax and calm down, now incorporating daily 'meditation time' into our afternoons.

One of the highlights this half term has been working collaboratively to learn our own rendition of the 12 days of Christmas and decorating biscuits and Christmas decorations for the school Christmas Fayre!

We are extremely proud of how hard the children have worked this half-term. They have been a pleasure to teach, and we've had so much fun getting to know them all more as individuals. We hope they enjoy their well-deserved Christmas break and look forward to seeing them again in the New Year

Year 4 Merlins

What an amazing half term in Merlins class!

Merlin's Class has shown tremendous hard work, good behaviour, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning this half term. I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far and look forward to seeing even more amazing work after Christmas.

In Science, the children have been exploring the electrifying topic of electricity. They have delved into understanding circuits and how electricity powers our everyday appliances. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn have been wonderful to witness.

Musically, we've journeyed into the vibrant sounds of the rainforest. The class has enjoyed experimenting with instruments and rhythms, bringing the essence of these incredible ecosystems into our classroom.

In English, the children have been hard at work crafting captivating newspaper reports and imaginative story endings. Their creativity and writing skills continue to impress us all.

Mathematics lessons have been buzzing with activity as the children tackle multiplication and division. Mastering their times tables has been a key focus area, and the progress being made is excellent.

In Geography, we enjoyed finding out all about "Where does our food come from?"



I am particularly proud of them for learning our new Primley Wood School song and performing it at the new parents' open day in November.



Year 4 Kestrels

We have had an exciting and productive half-term in Kestrels and I am thrilled to share our learning journey with you!

In Maths, the children have shown great enthusiasm and progress in mastering multiplication and division. Their hard work and determination have been truly impressive, and they have developed a solid understanding of these essential skills.

Our Science lessons have been particularly engaging as we explored electricity. The children learned how sockets work and created circuits using batteries, bulbs, and wires. These hands-on activities sparked their curiosity and deepened their understanding of how electricity powers our world.

Reading has been a delightful adventure with the book *The Lost Happy Endings*. The children enjoyed uncovering hidden meanings and gathering information from the text through inference and fact retrieval. Their analytical skills have grown significantly, and they have become more confident readers.

In Writing, our lessons have been vibrant and creative. The students have been crafting narratives and exploring expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials of time, and the present perfect tense. Their creativity and imagination have truly shone through in their writing, and I am proud of their progress.

Geography has taken us on a journey to discover the origins and uses of cocoa beans. We have learned about the importance of fair trade and how it benefits farmers and communities around the world. The children have developed a deeper understanding of global trade practices and the impact of their choices.

In PSHE, we have focused on understanding and managing our emotions. The children have learned positive coping strategies and ways to express their feelings constructively. This has been an important part of their personal development, and they have shown great maturity in discussing their emotions.

We really enjoyed this half-term and I look forward to continuing our learning adventure next term. The children's enthusiasm and dedication have made this a wonderful experience, and I am excited to see what we will achieve together in the coming months.

Year 5 Sparrowhawks

What a fun-filled Autumn the Sparrowhawks have had!



We have been immersed in the world of forces in Science and conducted in-class experiments. From testing the strength of magnets to exploring gravity, our young scientists have been busy discovering how forces shape our world. Above Manseerat and Manraj are testing out friction on this ramp. We timed how fast the cars went down different surfaces!



Our weekly visits to the library have been a highlight, fostering a love of reading among the Sparrowhawks. Each visit is an adventure, with new books and stories waiting to be discovered.

In English, we have been captivated by our class book, *Street Child*, which tells the story of a boy in Victorian London. We have created three pieces of writing – a newspaper article, a story starter and a formal letter. The Sparrowhawks have loved acting out scenes from the book, bringing history to life in our classroom as you can see here!



In PSHE, we have been exercising our mindfulness and even tried out yoga as a class. These sessions have helped us relax and focus, bringing a sense of calm to our busy days.



We were thrilled to have Cycle North visit Year 5. They worked hard with us over a week, and many of us earned certificates for our efforts. A special highlight was our virtual lesson with author Jacqueline Wilson. Her insights and stories have truly inspired our budding authors. What an amazing term it has been!

Year 5 Tawny Owls

As we wrap up this exciting term, the Year 5 Tawny Owls have shown remarkable dedication and enthusiasm across all areas of their learning. In English, the children have delved into the world of historical fiction by reading *Street Child*. Through this engaging text, they have improved their writing by creating a newsletter, a story starter, and a formal letter. Their hard work has truly helped enhance their writing skills. (This is one of our pupils performing a persuasive speech, this lesson helped us to compose a compelling argument before writing a formal letter).

In Maths, the focus has been on understanding fractions, allowing the students to grasp this key concept with confidence and clarity. Our science lessons introduced the fascinating world of forces, with students exploring how they work and affect our everyday lives.

Geography lessons this term whisked us away to the Alps, as students compared local facilities

on a community walk to those found in alpine regions. This comparison broadened their understanding of different environments and cultures. The Tawny Owls also developed their physical and musical talents this term. In PE, they honed their tennis skills, while in Music, they had a fantastic time singing and learning about the blues.

We started a friendship tree for our R.E. lessons so that we could see the impact kindness has on one another:

"When I'm struggling, someone always helps me."

"Everyone in this class is kind to me."

"When I'm upset, my friends comfort me."

"If I'm lonely my friends come and play with me."



During this half-term, some children also participated in Bikeability training and showcased their talents in the Christmas performance.

Another highlight of the term was our virtual lesson with the renowned author Jacqueline Wilson, which inspired and motivated the children immensely. Throughout all these activities, the Tawny Owls demonstrated our school virtues, showing respect,

responsibility and kindness at every turn. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to another successful term ahead!

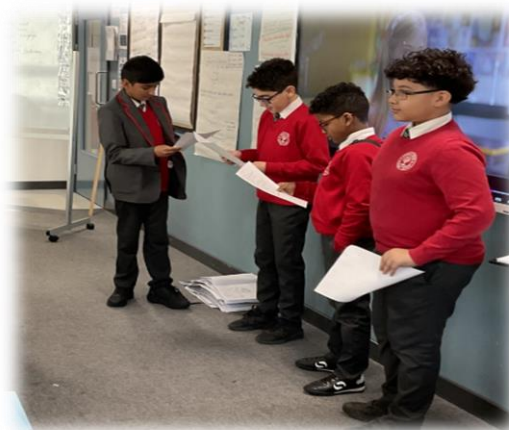


Year 6 Redkites

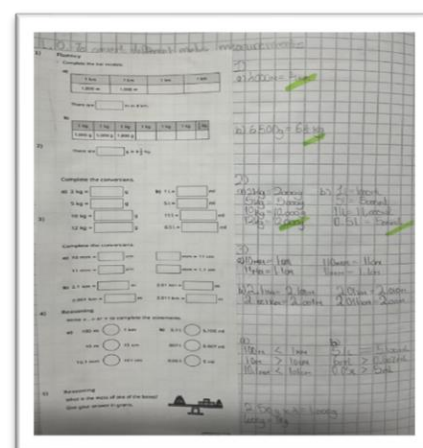
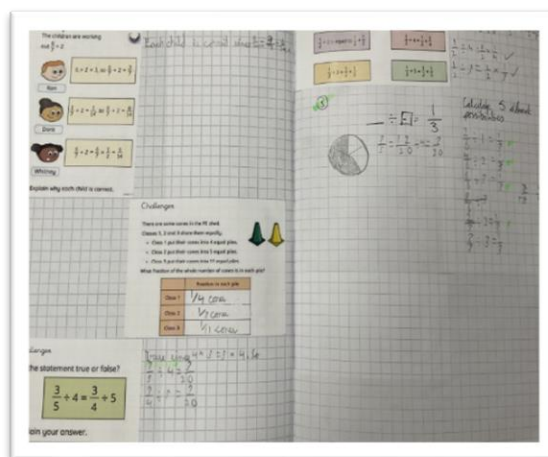
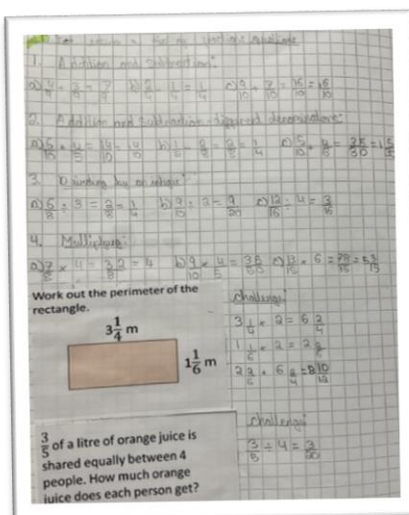
In Year 6, we have had an incredibly productive half term!

Our main book this term has been the novel '*Wonder*'. This book explores virtues such as acceptance, forgiveness and compassion. The children have shown a really keen interest in this book with many choosing to read it independently alongside our studies. Due to the enthusiasm of the children, we have based various pieces of work around the text including a narrative from the perspective of August as well as a newspaper report based on his joining of school. Throughout both pieces, children showed a great level of understanding and produced some excellent work. Throughout their writing and book study, the children have shown a great level of the virtue of compassion not just for *Auggie* (the main character) but all those affected by the theme of difference within the narrative.

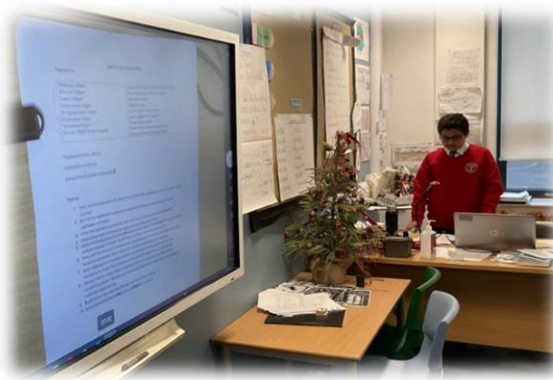
To further curate a love and understanding for the text, the children undertook some role play and acted out various scenes from the novel. This was a brilliant display of the virtue of creativity on the part of the children as they worked brilliantly to show the characters' feelings in the way in which they performed.



The children have also been working hard within their Maths. Throughout this half-term, the focus has been on fractions. Children have been taught how to find fractions of amounts, multiply and divide fractions by integers, multiply a pair of fractions alongside thorough arithmetic testing and practice. The children have risen to the challenge and have produced some incredible work.



In our afternoon sessions, the children have been learning a wide range of different subjects ranging from how global population has changed over time to studying the value of prayer and unity within R.E. Within D.T, we have been focusing on food and its importance within culture! The children were encouraged to bring in some of their favourite recipes from home.



After we had looked over a variety of recipes, we decided that it was time for us to do some cooking of our own. We settled on our main ingredient and decided that we were going to create some stuffed peppers! We looked at some instructional videos to make sure that we were completely prepared and could use the equipment safely. We spoke at length about some of the flavour profiles we wanted to create and cast our minds back to the start of the term where we conducted our very own tasting session. The peppers were a great success!



Overall, the second autumn term has been a successful one! It finally concluded in our own performance of 'Bad Guys' from the musical 'Bugsy Malone' which the children greatly enjoyed. The children deserve a good rest over the Christmas period to recharge their batteries and I hope that you have a fantastic new year.

Children in Need

This term, we celebrated Children in Need by coming to school dressed in spots, stripes, or non-uniform. We spent time learning what Children in Need is and about all the amazing work that the charity does to support young people. We used our virtues of kindness and compassion and discussed different ways that we could help support the charity this year and in the future. We also found out some interesting facts about Pudsey Bear! Did you know that Pudsey Bear originally started off as a brown bear? Pudsey Bear was changed to the distinctive yellow colour because yellow is a colour that symbolises hope and optimism.

Thank you to all our friends and families for your kind donations to this wonderful charity.



UK Parliament day

On 22nd November, we celebrated UK Parliament Day. This was a brilliant opportunity for each year group to spend some time learning about what Parliament is and how Parliament affects us today and in the future. Some of the activities that we enjoyed included debates, learning about the different Houses of Parliament, the role of the Monarch, and voting. In Early Years, the children used their voting skills to vote on which book they wanted at story time. In Key Stage 1, the children looked at the Monarch and they designed and made their own crowns. In Key Stage 2, the children wrote persuasive letters to our local MP. This was an exciting day for the whole school to enjoy.



Anti-bullying week

18th-22nd November was Anti-Bullying Week, and we kicked it off with a whole school assembly where the children discussed the meaning of respect, kindness, and forgiveness. The assembly gave the key messages:

- Bullying is an action that is intentional and repetitive.
- We must always speak to an adult, families and friends, if you think bullying is happening.
- The bully also needs support.
- We never label and always show forgiveness.

It was a wonderful opportunity to link some of our school virtues to the national campaign and our own ways of behaviour. Our Anti-Bullying Pupil Leaders came up with the fantastic idea of holding a poster competition, and an odd socks day to celebrate uniqueness. These pupils demonstrated their ability to lead and share their passion for Anti-Bullying to drive positive behaviour around school.



Cross Country Event

We were so incredibly proud of the children who competed in the Leeds North-East Cross-Country Event. Children from Years 3-7 participated in the event with distances ranging from 800m to a whole mile for the older children. It was certainly a challenge that required all the children's perseverance and resilience when the going got tough. It was truly inspiring to see how they supported each other and encouraged everyone from their best friends to others they had never met. The attitude they showed was second to none.

We had a few tears, but an awful lot of smiles, and I know everyone who took part can be incredibly proud of the way they took on this challenge. We will be back next year after some after-school cross-country club practice to help us prepare for the event. The children were already talking on the way home about a Summer Athletic event where they can apply their learning from this and show off their running, jumping, and throwing abilities.



Gurpurb assembly

Mr Singh visited our school to explain why Sikhs celebrate Gurpurab (the first Guru's birthday, Guru Nanak Dev Ji). He spoke about the life of the first guru. Some children performed some meditation too which sounded fantastic. Mr Singh was really impressed!



Bikeability

This half term, Year 5 pupils participated in Bikeability with Cycle North, and what fantastic achievements our children have made by taking part. Despite the chilly weather, the pupils demonstrated their virtues and showed remarkable resilience, gaining valuable skills and knowledge about bike riding. For some, it was an exciting first-time experience learning to ride a bike. Others progressed to earn their Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability certificates. Achieving Level 2 is particularly noteworthy as it involves venturing beyond the school grounds, learning to be safe cyclists on the road. Every child, regardless of their starting point, has shown tremendous effort and determination. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the confidence they've built. This programme has not only taught them essential cycling skills but also instilled a sense of responsibility and awareness as future road users. Celebrating these accomplishments highlights the importance of perseverance and learning, inspiring all of us to keep striving towards new goals.



Training the teachers of the future

This year, we have been given the opportunity to have three student teachers from York St John University join us for their first teacher training placement. Mr Byas has been working in Year 1, Miss Mowle in Year 4, and Mr Moore in Year 5.

Our staff and pupils have been very welcoming, and Team Primley Wood are always here to provide support and advice. The student teachers have spoken positively about our school, saying:

‘The teaching standards in this school are exceptional. The support that we have received has been fantastic. The school is very warm, welcoming, and inclusive.’

We wish them all the best as they continue their teacher training in the coming months.

Year 6 links to learning

As we creep closer to the SATs (an end of Key stage 2 assessment), we want to ensure pupils are as ready as possible. The BBC Bitesize website provides some good links to support pupils. Below is a link to the BBC Bitesize website but specifically the area for KS2: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn>

A general expectation for their revision could vary from:

- Grammar
- Maths
- Reading top tips
- Read 10-15 pages at least of an age-appropriate text

Please encourage your child to spend half an hour a day to revise. Below is another useful link to another school's website. This website contains a huge amount of revision material spanning all of the subjects the children will be encountering. The link is as follows: <https://www.northwoodcommunityprimaryschool.co.uk/year-6-sats-revision-booklets/>

Pupil leadership teams – what's next?

Our Pupil Leadership Teams have really spread their wings this half term. Pupils now lead all sorts of different areas in school: School Councillors, Hall Helpers, Play Leaders, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, all manner of Subject Leaders from Reading, Writing, and Maths to Art, Geography, and PSHE. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have already led a whole school assembly. Taking inspiration from this, we wanted to provide all pupil leaders with further opportunities to really take the lead in their subjects through sharing with others. For the past few weeks, pupil leaders have been working diligently with their Teacher Leads to produce assemblies which will share all the amazing things about their subject with other children. In the Spring Term, each week a Pupil Leadership Team will take to the stage in the hall and talk to others about their subject, how our teachers make it amazing, and share examples of what excellent looks like in each subject. Our virtue of helpfulness has never been more fitting than the work these children have done! We're excited for the next step in their responsibilities before we get them involved in improving what their subjects look like when they're taught in the classroom.



Open day events

What a spectacular turnout we had for our recent Open Day events! The whole school opened its doors and welcomed in prospective families for our Reception cohort in 2025. The events began with some wonderful speeches from some of our current students, they had such wonderful things to tell the audience about our school. The event continued with a presentation led by the SLT Team to share our vision and curriculum. We then took a tour around all the different classrooms in school, where we were able to showcase our wonderful learning environments and celebrate the work that was on show. We had some really positive feedback from the prospective parents, and we hope to see them again once a place is given on national offer day!



New website and prospectus

Please have a look at our newly launched website. The breathtaking photos.

We also have launched our new prospectus, which showcases our amazing school.

[Primley Wood Primary School - Prospectus and NSMAT Journals](#)

The School Office now has a new email account pwps.enquiries@pwps.nishkamschools.org please use this as the main point of contact for all enquires.

Year 4 residential

What a spectacular residential! We are so proud of our Year 4 pupils who had an amazing time at Robin Wood. They discovered how brave they are, their hidden talents and how to work as a team. Thank you to Mrs Kennedy, Mr Metcalf and Mrs Mawji for looking after our pupils.



News from our School council

This year at Primley Wood the School Council have been meeting every week to discuss school life. We have enjoyed looking at the key events that have happened this term and together we have spoken about ways that the school council can help promote and share information amongst our friends and families. Some of the topics on our agenda have been Anti-Bullying Week, Children in Need and the Christmas fayre. The councillors always use their virtues of courtesy, compassion and patience and we look forward to working collaboratively for the rest of this year and supporting with important communication and changes at Primley Wood.

EYFS Christmas performance

Lights, camera, action! Nursery and Reception have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to bring you their performance of 'Shine, Star, Shine!' From the very first note of the opening song to the heartfelt finale, the children brought the story of the first Christmas to life with such enthusiasm and joy that it left all of us beaming with pride. The effort put into learning lines, songs, and choreography was evident, and their hard work truly paid off. Well done EYFS!

Years 1-3 Christmas performance

We are delighted to share with you the success of the KS1 Christmas performance! Children from Years 1, 2 and 3 each performed a Christmas song, with absolute talent. Year 1 kicked off the show with an extremely adorable performance of "Jingle Bells", followed by Year 2 dancing their hearts out to "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and finally, Year 3 blew us all away with a special rendition of "Primley Wood's 12 Days of Christmas". The performance concluded with us joining together in a passionate rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Well done children for your fantastic effort in rehearsals and you made us so proud on the big day. Happy Christmas!



KS2 Christmas Performance

The Christmas performance at our school was a delightful showcase of talent and the exploration of important virtues by our Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 students. Year 4 captivated the audience with their energetic rendition of “Revolting Children” from *Matilda*. They also presented an insightful reading highlighting leadership and courage, reminding us of the importance of standing up for what is right. Year 5 continued the festive cheer with “Consider Yourself” from *Oliver*. They shared a thoughtful retelling of the classic story of Scrooge, focusing on the virtues of generosity and kindness, capturing the essence of the Christmas spirit. Year 6 added a touch of fun with their lively performance of “Bad Guys” from *Bugsy Malone*, alongside a beautiful poem that welcomed the arrival of winter. Their introduction to the performance demonstrated confidence and set a spirited tone for the afternoon’s performance. The afternoon concluded with every year group joining together in a heart-warming rendition of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” a perfect ending to a memorable event of music and storytelling.



Friends of Primley Wood

We can't thank the Friends of Primley Wood enough for their outstanding support this term. To give up your time to contact local shops and companies, ask for contributions, create wonderful raffle hampers and organise a fayre etc. is commendable and your kindness and support means the world to all of the pupils and staff. A special mention to Emily and Harsimran who have put a huge amount of effort into getting parent support and organising our Christmas Fayre. They also took their time to deliver a phenomenal assembly that made our pupils very excited about the Christmas Fayre. What an achievement to source over 40 amazing hampers as raffle prizes. We are not sure what we will do without you next year!





Our Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was a fantastic event filled with festive cheer and excitement! Dather Christmas visited us in his grotto, delighting children and adults alike. We had a giant inflatable snow globe, adding to the magical atmosphere. Nearly every table, hosted by our dedicated staff and parent volunteers, offered prizes to be won, making the event even more thrilling. Thanks to everyone's efforts and generosity. We raised an impressive £1300 which will go into our Primley Wood Pupil's bank account. It was a truly memorable day for our school community.

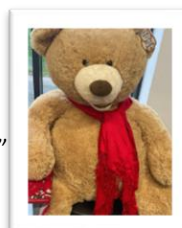
Here's a few of the children and staff's thoughts:

"It was amazing. I loved seeing Santa!"

"I was really excited when I bought by raffle tickets! I had a feeling that I was going to win."

"All the preparation was worth it. I think everyone enjoyed it."

"Jumping in the snow globe was my favourite part!"



Spreading the magic called kindness ...

A few Christmas jokes chosen by our creative staff for our families to enjoy...

What did Frosty's girlfriend give him when she was mad at him? *The cold shoulder.*

How did the elf learn to play piano? *He was elf-taught.*

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? *"Get out of my face."*

What did the Elves learn at school? *The elf-phablet.*

What illness did Santa get? *Tinsel-litus.*

Why do snowmen live at the North Pole? *Because it's cool.*

What is every parent's favourite Christmas song? *Silent Night!*

Why did the snowman go to the veg market? *They were picking their nose!*

What type of photos do elves take? *Elf-ies!*

What falls but never gets hurt? *Snow!*

Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing? *They always drop their needles!*

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk? *Jingle smells!*



Have a magical holiday everyone.

We will see you in 2025!