

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well...I bet it feels as though it was only yesterday that you were taking photographs of your child in their school uniform ready for their first day of school and then dropping them off at their classroom door. Before we know it their first term at school will be complete. How time has flown and what a fantastic first term it has been! We hope this term you have made ever-lasting memories with your child that will stay with you for life. The Reception team are very proud with how the children have settled into school life and all that they have achieved so far. The children have all worked so hard to settle into their new routines and to learn the school rules and expectations. It's been lovely to watch lots of new friendships develop and to see how happy the children are coming into school each morning. It has also been wonderful to watch the children learn new things and explore their new learning environment. We would like to share some of our most treasured moments with you from their first term in school.



The children have really enjoyed learning their phonics sounds in our daily Little Wandle phonics sessions and experimenting with the new sounds in lots of fun ways, such as fishing for letters in our water trays and painting phonics sounds at our creative table.



The children particularly enjoyed their parents coming into school to watch a phonics session, so thank you to those who could attend. The children often come into school telling us all about doing their homework and it is evident that they've been practising their phonics sounds and letter formation at home. When we share the children's reading books with them in school, they love to tell us all about their reading book and who they have read with at home. The way that the children's reading and writing is coming along is superb, so thank you for encouraging your children's learning at home by completing homework and sharing your child's reading book with them. We also love to see all your Tapestry posts where we can see lots of different learning opportunities from home. We look forward to seeing more of your Tapestry posts in the spring term.

Our first topic was 'Autumn'. We learnt all about seasonal changes and we went on an autumn walk to see what we could find. The children loved exploring the school grounds and collecting leaves and twigs to stick on their strips of paper. In maths we made cross-curricular links and we compared the

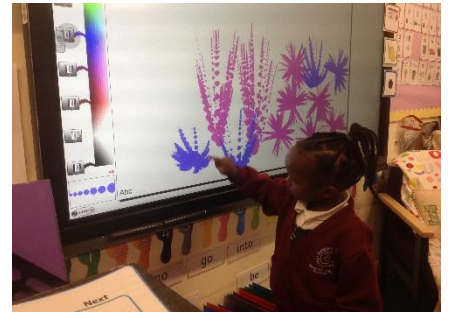
sizes of different autumnal objects, such as pumpkins, sticks, pine cones and leaves. As part of our expressive arts curriculum we made clay hedgehogs- we think they looked great!



After the half term a lot of our learning has been based around autumn and winter festivals. Straight after the half term we learnt about Bonfire Night, learning about how and why we celebrate it. We learnt about Guy Fawkes and we made fireworks pictures on our classroom interactive smartboards. Our next theme was Diwali and we learnt about how Hindus celebrate the festival. We were lucky enough to have a talk from Mrs Deo who talked to us all about Diwali. After our talk we made Diwali cards, created Diwali dances in the outdoor area, made Diya pots out of clay, and we looked at non-fiction Diwali books from our story shelves.



A highlight of the term was writing letters to Father Christmas. We enjoyed posting them in the post box and we are waiting patiently for a reply! We have learnt all about the Nativity story and how Christians celebrate Christmas. We have also compared how we celebrate Christmas in the UK to the rest of the world. When we made these



comparisons, we looked at a world map and where different countries are in the world. We hope Father Christmas can manage to visit all the countries in one night! When we learnt about Christmas we also visited our local church to learn about the nativity story. We discussed how Christmas is in the season of winter and we enjoyed a winter walk around school comparing similarities and differences to our autumn walk.



It really has been a great term for all of us in Reception. We would like to thank all of the fantastic teaching assistants, students and volunteers who have worked so hard alongside us to help the children settle in and to support them with their work. And finally,



we would all like to thank you too for all of your help and support. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and we look forward to hearing all about what the children have been doing when we see them again in the New Year.

Mrs Mills, Mrs Heron and Mrs Cullen