

Year One Autumn Term
December 2023

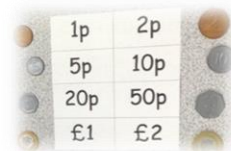


Dear Parents/Carers,

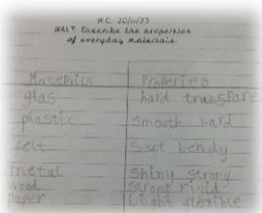
We would like to begin by praising all of the children for their resilience that they have demonstrated throughout the term. It has been a busy term that has seen our pupils settle into Year 1 with admirable enthusiasm. Subsequently, they have produced a range of fantastic work from across the curriculum including a spectacular nativity performance! We have had a fun-filled, packed autumn term.

During Literacy this term, we have explored fantasy stories where we focused on remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops within all of our sentences. We explored how we could use adjectives to describe the appearance and behaviour of characters. We also looked at where stories are set and used our senses to describe them. As part of our non-fiction work, we identified the features of information texts and found out what they are used for. We then used our knowledge of information texts to write our own example around Bessie Coleman. Within the second half of the autumn term, we explored senses poetry. We used our senses to write our own poem around bonfire night. More recently, we have learned all about how to use the past tense. We read the stories 'Five Minutes Peace' and 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and created diary entries in character. We have also worked incredibly hard with learning lines and lyrics for our spectacular nativity performance 'Born in a Barn'.

In Maths, we began the autumn term by focusing on counting and ordering numbers to 20. We learnt all about one more and one less. We then began to explore how we could use counting to solve simple addition and subtraction calculations. We consolidated our use of number and subitising. We also identified a range of 2D and 3D shapes and explored their properties. Within the second half of the term, we began our work on money. We learnt about recognising coin values and used these to make an amount. Within the topic of time, we ordered days of the week and months of the year. We used clocks to explore reading and making o'clock times and used this to help us sequence familiar events.



We began the autumn term in Science by finding out all about 'Animals including Humans'. We listened to 'The Growing Story' by Ruth Krauss and identified parts of the human body. We then used the book 'My Five Senses' by Alikei to help us learn about our senses. As scientists, we gathered data to investigate whether the oldest children are always the tallest. We then moved on to learning all about everyday materials. We looked at different objects and found out about the difference between an object and the material it is made from. We worked hard to identify and describe the properties of a range of everyday materials. We really enjoyed investigating which material would be the most appropriate to use for an umbrella. Throughout the autumn term, we have also learnt about seasonal changes. We have completed several walks around our school grounds to observe these changes happening over time.



During History, we began the year by finding out about our class name and were able to make modern-day comparisons. We explored how travel and transport has changed over time and had the opportunity to think about what different methods of transport there might be in the future.

In Design Technology, we found out what sliders and levers are and used them in our own design following a given brief. We used our cutting and joining skills to make a slider move along a page and sun lever move in the sky.



As part of Geography, we learnt about where our school is and created aerial maps of different areas of our school. We found out about a variety of basic geographical features including different types of houses. We enjoyed using our fieldwork skills to investigate the types of houses in our local area. We were able to identify and group the human and physical features in our local area and worked hard to develop our directional skills.



In Computing, we gained an understanding of how technology can help us. We identified different components of a computer and worked hard to develop our keyboard and mouse skills. Within the second half of the term, we explored the world of digital art and its exciting range of creative tools.



We learnt about the digital artwork of a range of artists and took inspiration from their artwork to create our own digital paintings. Throughout the term, we have also learnt about e-safety where we identified how we can use technology responsibly.



During Art, we explored observational drawing and sketching. We used a mirror to look closely at our facial features and used sketching pencils to create our own self-portraits. We then used paint to add colour to our self-portraits. We then further developed our observational drawing skills by sketching toys from around our classroom. Within the second term, we explored patterns found on different surfaces both indoors and outdoors by creating rubbings. We then used these rubbings to create a collage in the style of the artist Henri Matisse.



This term in music our topic was " All about me", Pulse and Rhythm. We started by clapping and saying our names, this helped us to recognise a rhythm (syllables) in our names. We took it in turns to say our name and then the rest of the class would say hello back by using their voices and clapping the rhythm. This then lead us on to finding out more about each other- favourite food, colour and toy. We then got very excited to use untuned instruments in place of clapping. As we approached Christmas, we started to learn the songs for our production of Born in a barn. We had lots of fun learning the words and actions.

In PE, we developed our skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. We also explored and developed fundamental ball skills from throwing and catching to rolling and dribbling with both our hands and our feet. In gymnastics, we explored and developed basic gymnastic actions on the floor. We used basic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling individually and in combination to create movement sequences. We began to understand the use of levels, directions and shapes when travelling and balancing. Within the topic of



invasion games, we developed our understanding of attacking and defending and found out what being 'in possession' means. We used and developed our skills of sending and receiving a ball with both feet and hands and also worked hard to enhance our dribbling skills. We took part in various games and learnt how to score points in these types of games and how to play to the rules. Throughout the term, within both our indoor and outdoor PE sessions, pupils have had a range of opportunities to work collaboratively with others, taking turns and sharing ideas.

As part of our learning in RE, we began to understand what our world looks like and thought about how it came to be. We thought about how we are similar and different from others and how we are all unique and special. We began to look at different faiths and explored different head coverings, how people from different religions might pray, how they might help the community and how we can too. After the half-term break we found out how and why people might celebrate Harvest and Christmas. We identified where our food comes from, when Harvest is celebrated and how it can help people in need. We also furthered our understanding of the Christmas story and how Christmas is celebrated by different people by visiting a local church.



In PSHE, we learnt about how to stay safe with a particular focus on road safety. We also looked at how we can stay healthy and talked about the importance of washing our hands. As part of the topic 'friendship', we began to understand what it means to be a good friend by recognising kind and thoughtful behaviours. We explored the importance of caring for others feelings and thought carefully about seeing a situation from another person's point of view.

We would like to thank the children for working hard throughout the term as well as all of the parents and carers for their continued support.

Enjoy a well-deserved rest and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

The Year 1 team.