

Autumn 2



The Portland Post





A Message from Mrs Green and Mr Handy

What a super half term it has been! The children have continued to enjoy their learning and the progress they have made can be seen not only in their books but also in the confidence they show as they talk about their learning.

We have built upon the children's love of reading and the ASPIRE winners are loving taking home a book from our vending machine. We have also introduced story groups across Foundation and KS1 and Santa's delivery of even more Little Wandle books will be making their way home to you in the new year.

Next half term, we will be running more opportunities for you as parents to learn about the way we teach and our systems in school. These will form part of our Thursday market place and Mr Murphy and his team will continue to be on hand for any questions at this time.

We wish a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2023





Nursery



This half term, we have been exploring the changes to our environment. We used our 'Seasons Come and Season Go' tree book. We also went on our very own Autumn hunt where we found lots of natural objects and sorted them in to group-science and created our very own leaf, stick and acorn portrait. In history, we have looked at old and new toys. Together we have looked at what different celebrations we all celebrate including: Diwali, Bonfire, Hanukkah and Christmas. We read the 'Christmas Story' and learnt all about the birth of Jesus. To finish the term, we all went to visit santa at conkers, rode the christmas train and walked the winter wonderland.

I went to Conkers,
there was snow
because it is winter.
You need to wear
your hat, gloves and
scarf - Violet





Foundation



I loved playing in the snow and seeing Santa!

Kendal



I loved making the chocolate apples. They tasted nice!

Ava



This half term, we have explored human and physical geography in Bilbrough and in the story Stick man. We have enjoyed looking at how the weather has changed from autumn to winter, learnt about Robin Hood and found out lots about different celebrations, including Diwali, Hanukkah, Bonfire night and Christmas- where we got to try lots of different food! We had an exciting visit to The Snowdome where we even got to meet Santa, and worked really hard to learn all of the carols for our Christmas carol performance!

This half term, we have loved making our sparkly diva lamps made from salt dough and our paper lanterns. We really enjoyed painting Bonfire night pictures, writing our letters to Santa and singing Christmas carols to our families!



Year 1



I liked looking at the old toys and putting them into different groups by materials - Seth

This half term, we have been learning about old and new toys and school life in the Victorian times.

We explored an old toy box from 100 years ago and looked at what objects they used in school and at home. We saw old cars, teddy bears, a typewriter, dolls and a quill and ink. The old toys were made out of metal, fabric and wood. We compared the old toys to the toys that we have today and could spot lots of similarities and differences.



I loved reading the story where the toys ran away and played hide and seek - Miah

We have been reading the story lost in the toy museum and we became authors and wrote our own super stories about Bunting who lost his toy friends.





Year 2

I liked doing our Nativity because my mum came to watch and my teachers were proud.

Yusuf

I really loved painting because they looked so good and we put it on a canvas to go on the wall.

Amyrah

This half term, we have been learning about different celebrations around the world. We have learnt all about the different continents and what celebrations are held there each year.

We have explored the Christian meaning of Christmas and why it is so important to them. From this we have produced a Nativity performance with singing, dancing and acting in.

We really enjoyed going to watch the performance of Peter Pan at the theatre and we had the best time with our friends.

In art, we did drip painting in the style of Jackson Pollock and we made our own canvas paintings.





Year 3

“I liked creating our mountain models. It looks like Fuji”

“The equipment they wear is so heavy!”

Elijus

Get your walking boots ready! This half term, we were thrilled by the appearance of our special guest, Mr Frostbite. We have looked at the features of mountains and many famous mountain ranges. We thoroughly enjoyed trying on climbing gear and seeing what is needed to make it to the summit.

We have also designed and created mountain models in our DT with some great teamwork painting them and finally making a model community.

In RE, we have learned about Buddha and his journey facing constant challenges.

We have immersed ourselves in Buddhism, thinking about our own challenges and how we overcome them.





Year 4



I look forward to our swimming lessons. I can now swim without a float.

Millie-Mae

This half term, we have been exploring natural disasters, focusing on earthquakes and floods.

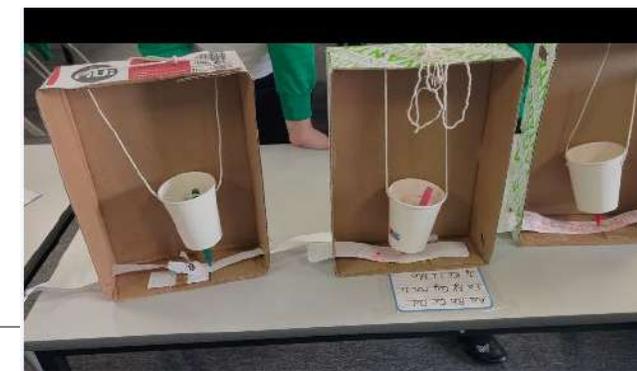
As part of our learning on earthquakes, we created seismographs to measure earthquakes, learnt how to prepare for an earthquake and produced an explanation text all about them!

Our focus then moved onto floods and learning about the states of matter and the water cycle in science. We conducted a scientific enquiry investigating how we could get blocks of ice to melt in the quickest time!

We continued to attend weekly swimming sessions at Harvey Hadden and are all really proud of the progress we have made.

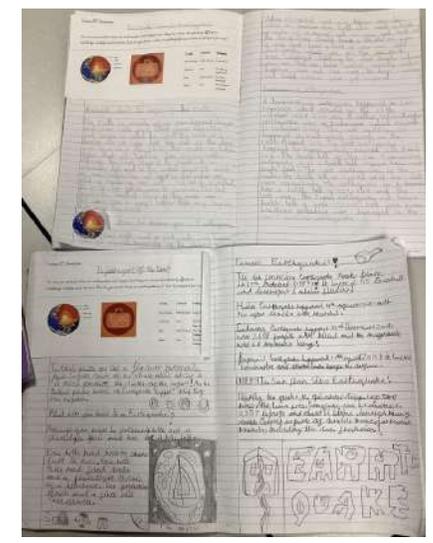
In life skills, we have been looking about the importance of money, how it is earned, used and how companies try and convince us to spend our money through their adverts.

In DT, we have linked used our skills in preparation to prepare for Christmas. We all showed fantastic levels of resilience when sewing together our stockings!



I now know why they put salt on the roads when it's icy - salt helps melt the ice.

Jake





Year 5



I liked the salt water experiment to find out about how long it took for nails to rust.

I liked writing a narrative because I enjoy writing.

This half term:

We learnt about the Viking diet and what they ate. We made Viking bread that tasted really salty. We designed, created and tested Viking long ships. We realised that we needed to adapt our design so that it would float. We also wrote kenning poems like the one below:



Merciless invaders
Fearless conquerors
ship sailors
skull splitters
sea faring
ruthless raiders



I liked designing and making the viking Long ships.

We excavated artefacts learning about the jobs of historians and archaeologists. We have written narratives and letters, learnt about the meaning of peace for different religions and participated in a space challenge!



Year 6

Residential was amazing. We got to swing on high ropes - Aisha

We have had an amazing half term. In the first week, we went on our school residential to Beaumanor Hall. We went canoeing on a canal, completed a high ropes challenge, did archery and practiced our orienteering skills. We made so many memories that we will never forget.

This term, we have been learning about the Victorians. We learned about Queen Victoria and wrote an explanation text about her life and her legacy.

We then looked at the workhouses and examined what life would have been like for the working class during that time. This led us to create a painting of the Southwell workhouse in Nottinghamshire inspired by the artist Lowry. We painted on canvas using acrylic paints.

At the end of the term, we have been working towards writing our own ending to the story of 'A Christmas Carol.' We used emotive language that added suspense to our stories in order to draw in our readers.

I liked reading about Scrooge. We wrote our own story about him - Elsieanna





Attendance and Punctuality

We have had a lot of children take poorly this half term with coughs, cold and fever which has affected lots of us and we have not been able to attend school.

We hope that the nasty virus goes away over the Christmas holidays so that we can ensure we are in school to be able to take part in our lessons and catch up with our learning with our friends.

Our key findings from last half term

- 98** Days of education has been lost on unagreed holiday during term time.
- 741** days of education was lost due to illness
- 27** days of education were lost due to medical appointments in school time
- 70** day of education were lost and have been unauthorised due to no medical evidence.
- 40** days of education have been lost and there is still no reason from parents/carers as to why their child/ren was not in school.
- 157** Children arrived late registering **568** late marks.
- 105** Children attended school everyday.



Autumn Term 2 prize winners

COME ON PORTLAND FAMILIES WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER.





Pupil Parliament

During this half term, we had our voices heard during UK Parliament week and even got to vote!



Should all Children be treated the same across the Academy Trust?

The result →

Yes	74%
No	21%
Unsure	5%



We now have an interactive display where we can make suggestions. Some of the things we have suggested are: Cheerleading Club, Swimming Club and Gymnastic Club.

We have made suggestions on DOJO prizes and would like less plastic items to help save our planet.

We are looking forward to next half term when we can put into action some of our suggestions.

We are hoping to visit the houses of Parliament again this year.

