



We have had a wonderful half term in school, full of learning, celebration and community spirit.

It was a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into school for our recent phonics workshop. The children were incredibly proud to show off their phonics learning and enjoyed demonstrating the strategies they use every day in class. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this valuable session – your involvement makes a real difference to the children's confidence and progress.



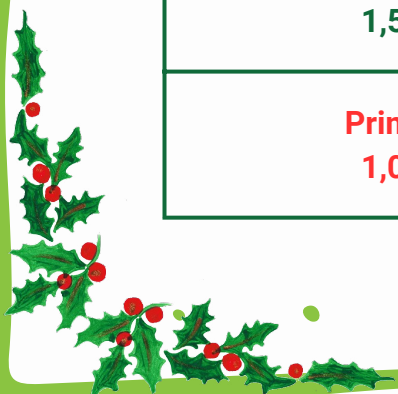
Our Christmas Fair was a fantastic success and brought everyone together in festive cheer. A huge thank you to staff, families and friends who helped organise and support the event. Congratulations to all of our raffle winners – we hope you enjoy your prizes! Your generosity and support help us to continue providing exciting opportunities for our pupils.

We were also delighted to hold our first 0–4 Years Stay and Play session, which was a great success. It was lovely to welcome younger children and their families into our school to explore, play and learn together in a relaxed and friendly environment. We look forward to welcoming you for future sessions.



House Team Points

Green 1,543	Acres 1,648
Primary 1,021	School 1,267



Attendance

Your child's attendance at school every day is vital for their progress and attainment, both academically and socially. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, which is a vital part of growing up, and of course we don't want any child falling behind academically.

**Congratulations to
Oak Tree Class**
for having the best
attendance this half
term.

we are no longer taking phone calls to the school office in the morning for absences.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. It supports you, with official guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England), on the need to stay off school, based on the symptoms or illness you enter.



Fig Tree and Cherry Tree Class

We have had a wonderful half term filled with celebrations, discovery, creativity, and lots of hands-on learning. Below is an overview of our themes and key learning experiences from Autumn 2, so you can see what the children have been exploring in Nursery.



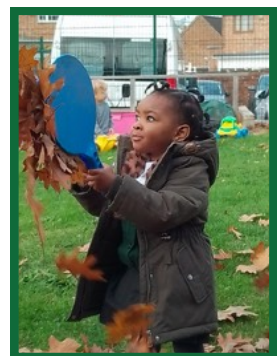
In Week 1, we explored the story Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They investigated real pumpkins through scooping, mixing and sensory play, and created a range of pumpkin-inspired artwork. We also celebrated our Autumn Big Outcome, where parents were invited into Nursery to join a variety of themed activities. Families took part in seasonal crafts, sensory exploration and creative tasks, providing a wonderful opportunity for children to share their learning and enjoy hands-on experiences together.

The week also included firework-themed painting, where the children described sounds such as “pop”, “fizz” and “bang”, and explored different shapes through collage activities. Fine-motor development was supported through tweezers work and seed-transferring challenges, helping to strengthen hand control and coordination.

In Week 2, children created beautiful potato-printed poppy artwork linked to Remembrance Day. They developed counting skills using coloured bears, tweezers and matching bowls, and explored pom-pom sticking activities to support number and pattern awareness. We continued reading stories connected to families, food and culture, and provided rich outdoor learning through construction, train tracks, chalk patterns and small-world play.



Week 3 focused on colour exploration through the story The Leaf Thief: Colours by Alice Hemming. Children experimented with colour mixing, rainbow art using large paintbrushes, and sorting objects such as beads and pom-poms by colour. They also created simple repeated patterns and took part in a Skittles colour experiment. We introduced The Colour Monster to support discussions about feelings and the emotions linked to different colours.



In Week 4, the children investigated night and day, shadows, space and nocturnal animals. Activities included sorting day/night pictures, making lanterns and rockets, threading stars and creating hedgehog and night-sky collages. They experimented with shadows using torches and a light box, built dens indoors and engaged in imaginative small-world night-time play. Stories such as Owl Babies, Whatever Next and How to Catch a Star helped them explore nighttime routines and environments.



Week 5 introduced the theme of winter and polar habitats through the story *Who's Hiding in the Snow?* by Katherine McEwan. Children explored sensory trays filled with foam, water and faux snow, and sorted winter clothing in the home corner. They created winter collages, snow globes and Arctic scenes, and practised counting by filling containers with "snowballs". Outdoors, they experimented with simple shelter building and discussed how animals keep warm in cold environments.

Our final two weeks, Weeks 6 and 7, were filled with Christmas-themed learning linked to *Peep Inside Christmas* and *We're Going on a Sleigh Ride*. Children created salt-dough decorations, Christmas masks, reindeer cards and festive fine-motor crafts. They sorted Christmas objects by size and colour, counted decorations, and engaged with Christmas role play such as Santa's Workshop and a post office. Sensory trays included pinecones, tinsel and winter materials, and children wrote letters to Santa and practised mark making in glitter. We finished with festive songs including 'Jingle Bells', 'Away in a Manger' and the '12 Days of Christmas'.



Community News

It's been wonderful to meet so many of you over the last month and I look forward to working with you and the school in 2026. Your support and input is very welcome.

I've listened to your feedback and we'll be starting our Greenacres Community Morning Brew, Speech and Language and Early Years coffee mornings on Thursday morning once a month. We hope to see as many of you there.

January dates:

- Speech and Language 15th January at 8.45-9.30am
- Greenacres Community Morning Brew 22nd January (all school) at 8.45-9.30am
- Early Years 29th January (nursery and reception) at 8.45-9.30am

You would have likely noticed the textile bin just left of the reception entrance. The student ECO council were pleased with the addition. If you have any clothes that can be re-used or recycled, it's a really great place to donate. The Trust also receives a small amount of money based on how much it's filled, so every little helps.



I hope you've seen my email regarding our event on the 12th January with National Energy Action. This is an amazing organisation that does so much by supporting people with energy-saving appliances, fuel-vouchers and beneficial advice. Everyone that attends receives a winter care package so it's definitely worth coming.



Lastly, we had our first 0-4 years Stay and Play. I know some parents said it would be difficult to come as they have older children. This is an event for 0-4 year olds but if we can, we are happy to accommodate older children if you check with us beforehand so we can plan staff numbers in advance.

Please keep an eye out for more information on our Community Kitchen coming in February.

I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas, if you celebrate, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Daisy

Hazel Tree Class

Wow what a busy half term we have had in Hazel Tree Class. We are so proud of how amazingly the children are doing, how hard they have been working and all the progress they have made already. This term we have had two big events, we had our phonics stay and play and the Christmas sing song. We were so happy to see so many of you at the stay and play, the children were so proud to show off all their hard work and loved having you all in the classroom. I'm sure you will agree that the children did so well and were very brave during the Christmas sing song. It definitely got us in the mood for lots of Christmas fun this week.



This half-term our topic has been 'Celebrations'. We have learnt all about Diwali, fireworks night, explored light and dark, and finally our most favourite topic - Christmas! We have loved getting creative and using different media to create christmas crafts, wintry paintings and cards



In maths, we have continued our focus on the numbers 1-5 but we have looked more closely at how each number is made up. We have talked about how 5 is 4 and another one, and 4 is 3 and another 1. We love to use number blocks to help us and have really enjoyed making our own number blocks with the cubes.



We have done so much learning in phonics this term. We have learnt lots of new sounds and even some digraphs (two letters that make one sound!) like ng, nk, ch, sh and th. We have also added lots of new tricky words to our list! We have really enjoyed playing tricky word bingo to help us remember them!

Elder Tree Class

We have had a busy and exciting Autumn 2 term in Year 1, and the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning.

This half term has been extra special with lots of visitors and exciting activities in school. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a Princesses and Knights workshop, where they learned through fun and interactive activities. We were also treated to a performance of The Gingerbread Man, which everyone loved. We also had a fantastic time performing 'The Big Little Nativity' we have some amazing singing superstars in Year 1.

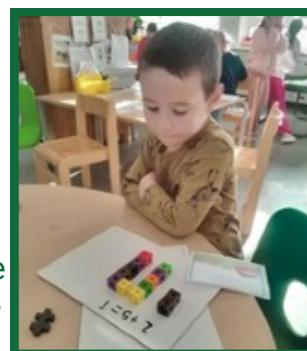


As part of our community links, the children proudly performed some of their Nativity songs to senior citizens in the local community. They sang beautifully and showed wonderful confidence and kindness, making it a truly special experience for everyone involved.



In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction number sentences and exploring number bonds. The children have enjoyed using practical resources such as cubes, counters and playdough to help them work out their number sentences and explain their thinking. We have also been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, identifying and talking about their properties such as sides, corners and faces.

In Phonics, the children have been learning our new and exciting Phase 5 sounds. We have been exploring alternative sounds and spellings for different words and practising reading and spelling words that contain these sounds. The children have shown fantastic effort when spotting the different ways sounds can be written and applying this knowledge in their reading and writing.



In English, we have been focusing on writing clear sentences by remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. The children have worked hard to apply these skills in their independent writing. We also had a go at writing instructions, learning how to use bossy verbs to tell someone what to do. The children showed great enthusiasm and creativity during these lessons.

Cowslip Class

What a wonderful term we've had in the Speech Bubble class! The children have been working incredibly hard, especially in phonics, where we've been focusing on applying our growing knowledge of phonemes in both reading and writing.

We've enjoyed reading a wide range of phonically decodable books, and it's exciting to see our class library – and the children's confidence – growing week by week. A huge thank you to all of you for supporting reading at home. The children are showing such enthusiasm for books and always look forward to our daily phonics sessions!

In writing, we are practising sounding out simple words and building sentences. We support our writing with visuals and word banks, and are learning to use capital letters, full stops, and to leave finger spaces between our words. We'll continue to build on these important skills next term.



Some of the books we've enjoyed this term include Brown Bear, Brown Bear, This is the Bear, and various alphabet-based books. The children love listening to stories and songs, and we encourage you to continue reading to your child at home – it makes a big difference and nurtures their current curiosity about books.

In Maths, we've been learning number bonds within 10 and how to write number sentences. We've also started using mental arithmetic strategies, such as using fingers to solve simple problems. Many children can now count to 20 and back with growing confidence!



We've also been focusing on teamwork and positive social skills. We often work in pairs – building number tracks, reading together, and supporting one another. Learning how to play kindly and work cooperatively has been just as important as anything else we've done.

We've also been developing our creative side – just look at the amazing hand puppets the children have made! It's been a joy to see their imaginations come to life through art and design.



Thank you for all your support this term. We have been very busy learning and growing throughout the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays and are proud of all the good work our children have done. Once again, they have shown fantastic resilience, willingness and improvement in all aspects of their development; we are all really proud of this.

All children have become accustomed to our daily and weekly timetables. They have worked really hard with activities in their core learning which takes place every morning. Here are some examples:



In English, we have continued to work on our expressive language, Reading and Writing skills. In doing so, we have enjoyed reading interactive and exciting stories such as *The Gruffalo's Child*, *The Great Explorer* and *Stick Man*. The children have engaged actively in rhythm, rhyme and repetition when reading. Similarly, they have written sentences about events and made fact files about arctic animals.

In Maths, we have followed the curriculum, working on number facts, addition, subtraction and shapes. The children have made very good progress in this, engaging in learning activities with interest and creativity.



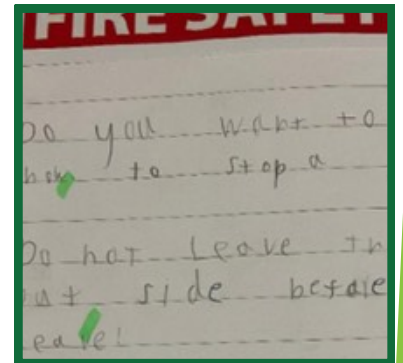
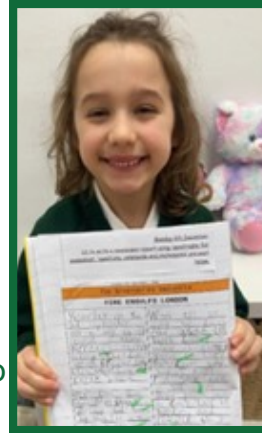
We have been very lucky to continue our P.E sessions with a P.E expert throughout this term. The children have come leaps and bounds with their skills and have made amazing progress!

The children had so much fun, we hope to continue to embed this next term!



We have had a busy and exciting time in Year 2, and the children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, the children have been using the knowledge they have gained from the wider curriculum, such as habitats, to create their own non-chronological reports. They have also enjoyed becoming newspaper writers, creating their own newspaper articles about the Great Fire of London. The children pretended they were reporters at the time of the fire, which helped to bring their writing to life.



In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. The children have been practising key skills such as: Subtracting a 1-digit number from a 2-digit number and Adding two 2-digit numbers across a ten



The children have been using a range of different resources and practical equipment to help secure this new knowledge and build their confidence.

In Geography, we have been learning about where we are in the world, as well as exploring our heritage and family origins. The children used Google Maps to locate the different countries that their families come from. It was wonderful to see how proud they were to share their backgrounds, and they had great fun discovering how many different countries are represented in our class.



In Science, the children have been learning about different habitats and why certain animals are suited to particular environments. They explored how animals' features help them to survive.

We also enjoyed a fantastic school trip to the Horniman Museum, which helped to further embed our learning. During a habitats workshop, the children explored a variety of animals, examined different types of fur, and even looked closely at animal teeth. It was a memorable and hands-on experience.

We are delighted to announce the set up of our new Eco-Club for Greenacres! We've already been very busy sharing ideas and planning how we can make our school even 'greener' this year.



One of the things we're most excited about is our brand-new green textile recycling bin, located just outside the front door. We really encourage everyone to start using it! This brilliant textile bin gives us all the chance to up-cycle and re-use old clothes instead of throwing them away. Every donation helps reduce waste, protect the environment, and strengthen the recycling culture in our school. Let's make it a huge success together!

We've also been talking a lot about the "Be Bright, Be Seen" TfL challenge, which reminds us how important it is to stay safe on darker days when walking or cycling home from school. Wearing bright or reflective clothing can make a big difference, and we'll be sharing more tips to help keep everyone safe.

We're looking forward to more eco-projects and can't wait to make Greenacres greener than ever!

Maple Tree Class

This half term, Year 3 worked hard on writing instructions and strengthening their maths skills, especially multiplication and problem-solving. The class also enjoyed festive activities, creative DT projects, and reflecting on their learning as they prepared for the end of the term.



In Year 3, pupils began learning multiplication and quickly showed great enthusiasm and confidence in developing this new skill. They have been especially impressive when using IXL in maths, working hard both in school and at home to practise regularly, challenge themselves, and make excellent progress—something to be very proud of.

Year 3 also enjoyed getting into the festive spirit by making colourful baubles and delicious green Rice Krispie treats for the Christmas fayre. They worked creatively and cooperatively, taking great pride in their handmade items and showing fantastic enthusiasm throughout the activities. They loved using the glitter and decorations!



In PSHE, Year 3 took part in an anti-bullying workshop, where they listened carefully and showed maturity beyond their years. They got the chance to act and work in groups. This half term we have been especially proud to see them becoming more aware of their behaviour on the playground, making thoughtful choices and actively showing inclusion by ensuring everyone felt welcome and supported.



The Orchard

What a wonderful and busy term it has been in The Orchard! Our topic this term, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” has supported the children to explore seasonal change through rich, sensory and play-based learning experiences.

We shared several much-loved stories, including The Gruffalo’s Child, Where’s the Polar Bear? and Stick Man. Through these texts, the children learned about winter and Arctic animals, developing their understanding of cold environments, animal names and key features of the winter season.



The children also thoroughly enjoyed their weekly PE sessions, delivered by a specialist company that supports children with SEND. These sessions focused on climbing, balancing and moving their bodies in functional and purposeful ways, and it was lovely to see the children grow in confidence while having so much fun.

As part of our topic work, we visited Forest School, where the children went on a “Stick Man” hunt in the natural environment. This was a calm and engaging experience that supported curiosity, exploration and connection with nature.

To end the term, we were delighted to invite parents into The Orchard for a festive craft session. It was a lovely turnout, and the children clearly enjoyed sharing this special time with their families and proudly showing off their creative work.



Aspen Tree Class

We have had a wonderful Autumn 2 in Year 4, filled with curiosity, creativity and fantastic learning across the curriculum. From developing new skills in Art and deepening our understanding in Science, to exploring important questions in RE and strengthening our confidence in Maths and English, the children have worked incredibly hard. They have shown great enthusiasm, resilience and pride in everything they have learned this term, and we are truly proud of their progress and effort.



Our science topic this term was Sound. They investigated pitch using elastic bands, discovering that thicker bands make a lower pitch and thinner bands make a higher pitch because they vibrate at different speeds. Another highlight was an investigation into what happens to sound as distance increases, where the children measured distances, listened carefully and recorded how the sound became fainter the further away they moved. These hands-on activities helped them understand how vibrations behave and how different factors affect the sounds we hear.



As part of our inquiry question "What are the core beliefs of Christianity?", Year 4 visited our local church to explore how Christians follow and express their beliefs. The focus of the visit was understanding the Ten Commandments and why they are important to Christians today. The children learned how these commandments guide Christians to live with kindness, respect and responsibility. They also explored key features of the church, such as the altar and discussed how these reflect Christian beliefs and values. The children asked thoughtful questions and made strong links to our classroom learning. This visit greatly deepened their understanding of how Christians live out their beliefs in worship and daily life

This term in Art, our learning intention was to know how to deliberately practise more sophisticated painting techniques, including the blocking of paint. The children experimented with a wide range of methods such as dabbing, paint wash, pointillism, shade stippling, finger painting, spread-and-dab techniques using tissues, and creating texture through layered brushwork. They enjoyed exploring how each technique changes the effect of the artwork and had great fun applying these skills to create detailed and expressive pieces



Sycamore Tree Class

In Science, we have been learning about gravity and what causes it. We tested the effects of gravity in a science experiment and found that gravity affects all objects the same, even objects with different masses. We learnt about mechanisms that can reduce the force of gravity like pulleys and gears.

Friday 14th November 2025
 LI: To know that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the earth and the falling objects.

Entry ticket:
 What do you remember from learning about forces in Year 3?
 I remember we learned about magnets.

Aim:
 I am trying to find out which ball will hit the ground first.

Prediction:
 I predict that the biggest ball will hit the ground first because it will be heavy.

Method:
 Fair test:
 I will keep these things the same:
 The height we kept the same.
 will only change the size and weight of the

Results table

	Weight	Order they landed estimated	Order they landed
Ball 1	10g	3rd	same
Ball 2	600g	2nd	same
Ball 3	800g	1st	same

Conclusion:
 My prediction was wrong because all the balls hit the ground at the same time. I think this was because gravity pushed all the balls at the same speed.

Exit ticket:
 What is gravity?
 Gravity is force that comes from the sun.

Friday 14th November 2025
 LI: To know that the Maya lived in areas without rivers. They had dug canals and irrigation systems to grow crops in the dry season.

Reason Explanation

Geographic Location	The Maya lived in areas without rivers. They had dug canals and irrigation systems to grow crops in the dry season.
Wet and Dry Seasons	The Maya had to live in the wet season and dig canals to collect rainwater in the dry season.
High Ground and Fertile Areas	Some Maya cities were on high ground, which had fertile soil.
Cultural and Religious Reasons	Some places were special to the Maya, so they built cities there.
Adaptability and Innovation	The Maya created a system to collect rainwater and made systems to use it.

Word Bank:
 • canals
 • irrigation
 • dug
 • collect

We continued our studies of the Maya in History, learning about the decline of the Maya civilization. We analysed the achievements of the Maya and how they have impacted the world today.

In Geography, we studied the Yucatan Peninsula, the home of the Maya civilization. We studied the physical geography, the impact of living in a rainforest and the challenges that the Maya faced in everyday life.

In RE, our focus has been on Buddhism. We learnt about the significance of the Buddha and the stories he told that influence Buddhist beliefs. We learnt about the practices of Buddhists and how they live their lives.

Monday 18th November 2025
 LI: To know some of the Buddha stories and how teachings influence the beliefs and values of all Buddhists.

Entry ticket:
 Why are stories of Buddha important to Buddhists?

1. Buddha was born in a palace and lived a life of luxury.

2. Buddha saw the suffering of his people and decided to leave his palace to find a way to end suffering.

3. Buddha spent years searching for the truth and finally found it under a tree.

4. Buddha taught that everyone can reach enlightenment by following his teachings.

5. Buddha's teachings became the foundation of Buddhism.

6. Buddha's teachings are still followed by millions of people today.

7. Buddha's teachings are the basis of Buddhist beliefs and practices.

8. Buddha's teachings are the source of Buddhist wisdom and knowledge.

9. Buddha's teachings are the key to understanding the human condition.

10. Buddha's teachings are the path to a better life.

11. Buddha's teachings are the light that guides us through the darkness of ignorance.

Oak Tree Class

We've had a fantastic half-term in Year 6, filled with exciting learning experiences and hands-on activities! Here's a look at what we've been up to:



This half-term, our class explored the topic of evolution. The children learned about adaptation and how animals and plants evolve over time. Through lots of discussions and a school trip to the Natural History Museum, our pupils developed a strong understanding of how evolution shapes the diversity of life we see today.

In Art, we explored the work of William Morris, focusing on his patterns and nature-inspired designs. The children used colour, symmetry and patterns to create their own artwork influenced by his style.



A fantastic highlight of the half-term was our trip to the Natural History Museum. The children took part in an engaging evolution workshop, where they learned about adaptation, fossils, and how species change over time. Their enthusiasm and curiosity were wonderful to see, and they asked some brilliant questions throughout the day.

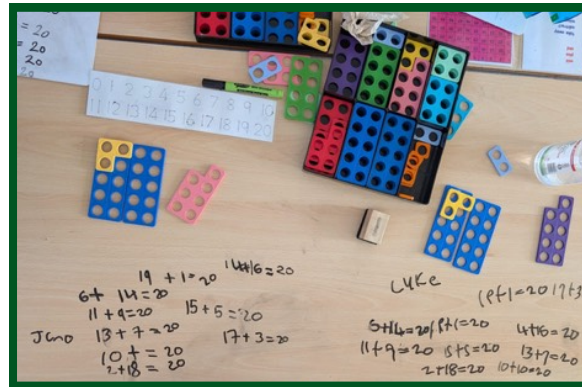
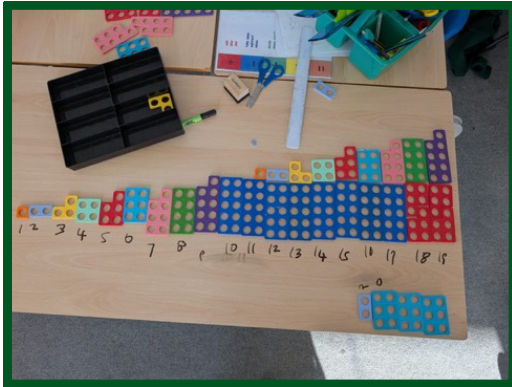
We are incredibly proud of how well our Year 6 students have engaged in our extended day sessions.

As the children are now preparing for their SATs, it is vital that they begin to develop regular independent home learning. From next term, pupils should aim to complete one hour per week of IXL Maths and Grammar, alongside keeping up to date with Reading Plus. These resources are already very familiar to the children and are an excellent way to consolidate learning.

To help the class get into the swing of this routine, over the Christmas break I am asking pupils to complete one hour of IXL Maths (SATs), one hour of IXL Grammar (SATs), and five lessons on Reading Plus. These resources are already very familiar to the children and are an excellent way to consolidate learning.

Tansy Class

Speech Bubble class have had a busy and productive half term! We have been working hard on our addition within 20 in maths, using different resources to help us with our adding and subtracting.



In writing we have been crafting our own versions of the Red Riding Hood story and acting it out as well!



In science we have been thinking about living and non living things and what their characteristics are. Some of us went on a trip to the Natural History Museum too which helped us which helped our science learning come to life!



We finished the term by doing some fantastic singing at our Christmas Concert, where we also learned and performed some Makaton signs. Well done speech bubble for all your hard work this half term!

Dates for Next Half Term

Date	Event
Monday 5 th January	Term starts
	Nursery closed
	Reward day for Green Team
Monday 12 th January	Parent advice workshop - National Energy Action
Wednesday 14 th January	Parent's evening
Thursday 15 th January	Parent's evening
	Communication and Language Coffee Morning
Saturday 17 th January	Little Acorns stay and play
Thursday 22 nd January	Greenacres community Coffee Morning
Thursday 29 th January	Year 2 trip to the London Archives
	Early years community Coffee Morning
February	Year 2 fundraising for RSPCA
February	Year 1 Kids Cafe
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 1 Big Outcome
Friday 6 th February	Year 2 Big Outcome
Friday 13 th February	Break up
Saturday 14 th February	Little Acorns stay and play