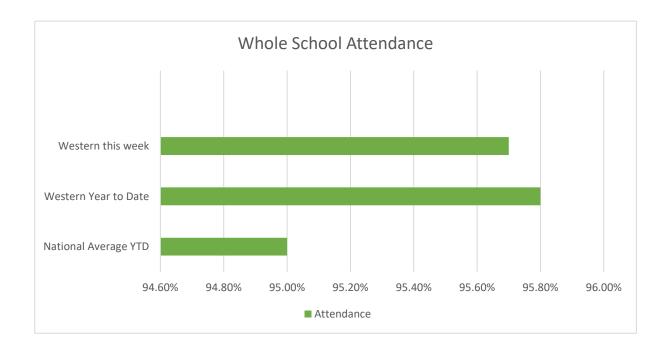


# Newsletter

At Western, we aim to develop kind, ambitious, curious, confident and successful young people who are excited about their futures.

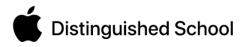
Western Primary School Newsletter

Friday 10th Nov 2023



# Welcome back to our next busy and bustling half of term!

Please remember that, as outlined in a letter to parents/carers on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the end of our school day will be extended by 10 minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in line with the requirements of the Department for Education. This will only apply to pupils in Reception and Years 1 – 6.





#### **Turquoise Room**

This week in the Turquoise room the children have enjoyed the story of, 'Wow! Said the Owl.' We have done lots of colour activities where we have been sorting, labelling and matching colours. The children have also shared their bonfire and firework experiences with us which has inspired some of our creative activities. The children are currently enjoying doing hand printing and are created bonfire pictures.

We have been doing lots of fine motor activities and the children have been threading, doing jigsaws and posting activities. We have matched socks and pegged them on a line too. The children have enjoyed playdough using the rolling pins and cutters.

The children have settled back into their nursery routine really well and it is lovely to see them after their break. It has been lovely to see them interacting with each other playing with each other.













#### Purple Room

WOW! What an exciting first week back after half term. It sounds like everyone had a lovely week off and we have been enjoying hearing all the stories of your adventures. It has been a lovely excuse for children to talk in front of the whole class to build their confidence and speech and language skills.

Something very exciting that a lot of children enjoyed was Bonfire Night so our learning this week has been inspired by the bonfires and fireworks we have seen. We have made fantastic rockets using toilet rolls. Each site work is individual to the child, using all their favourite colours. We have also been splattering paint onto black paper to show fireworks at night. We have enjoyed getting MESSY in Purple Room and have enjoyed exploring in sparkly flour and colourful foam, making marks to represent patterns in the sky. We also gathered up some red, yellow and orange leaves and sticks to build a bonfire tuff tray. The classroom has been very sparkly as we have practised writing our names in a tray of glitter. We have watched fireworks on the big screen and used our flipper flappers to move around the classroom as if we were fireworks too. There was a lot of whooshing and banging and twirling as we moved our bodies in time with what we heard. Fireworks also inspired our maths and we enjoyed creating fruit kebabs. We had to put our fruit into a repeating pattern. We counted down from 5 and blasted our fruit kebab into the air before enjoying it for snack. Yum yum!

We have also been learning about Remembrance Sunday and why we are seeing poppies everywhere. We have enjoyed creating our own poppy artwork and crafts and have been painting poppies with paint brushes and printing them with corks. The children enjoyed making red playdough and used their funky fingers to make a poppy shape too.

In phonics we have been focusing on rhyming pairs. We have been learning that we need to listen carefully to the end of a word to work out if it sounds the same when finding rhyming pairs. We have used this knowledge to work out when two objects rhyme and don't rhyme. We love rhyming stories and have enjoyed lots this week. Purple Room especially love Julia Donaldson's stories!

In our chat times we have also been practising counting from different numbers and not always from 0 or 1. We have been practising counting forwards and backwards in a lot of different styles. Counting in our squeaky little mice voice is always a popular choice. We have also been using our subitising skills and have instantly identified amounts on five frames.

A super busy, super fun week!



























#### **Green Room**

Welcome back after what we hope was a restful half term break.

This week we have been looking at lots and lots of bright, colourful fireworks. We have explored a tray of glitter to create our own fireworks and we have used lollipop sticks to make marks. We have used our fingers and hands and we have also used straws to gently blow the glitter to see what beautiful patterns it would make.

We have used our fine motor skills to snip toilet roll tubes and we then dipped them into glittery paint and printed it onto some black paper to see what happened. To add to this we also created our own sparklers, using crepe paper and lollipop sticks. We spoke about the bright lights in the sky and the loud noises that fireworks make, some being louder than others, some that whistle and some that pop.

In maths, we have explored shapes this week. We have used a variety of different shapes to make a rocket. The children did this in several ways such as, placing different shapes together, piling shapes on top of each other and finding shapes that fit together: a super activity.

To end our week, we have looked at some activities to acknowledge Armistice day. We have used red and black play dough to create poppies and also used a fork to paint a poppy onto a paper plate.

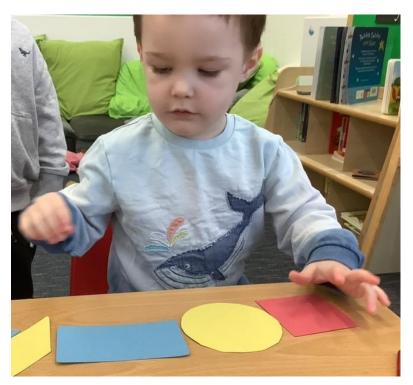
We have danced with our flipper flappers to the only song we could really dance to this week - "Firework" - very appropriate.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to another exciting week next week.













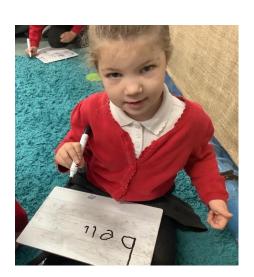


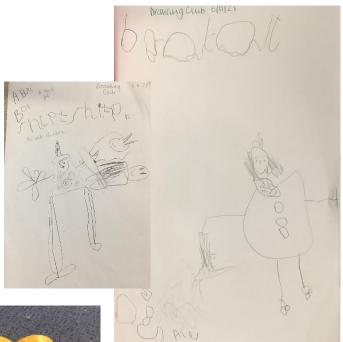


#### Reception

It has been a mix of spooky week, Diwali and Remembrance Sunday in Reception this week. We have painted spooky trees, looked at the origin of the Diwali festival and learnt about why we wear poppies every November. The children have also started Drawing Club, a fun and engaging toolkit that opens up the magical world of tales and stories to the children, whilst at the same time enriching their language skills and developing their fine motor skills. From this, we have seen the children's enthusiasm for mark making soar and they have produced wonderful drawings and codes.

It has been a busy first week back and the children have settled back into the routines well.











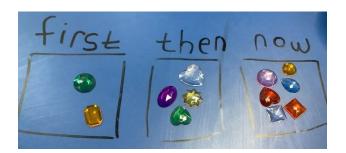


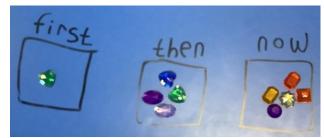


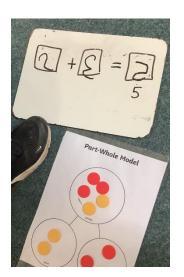
Year 1

The children have had a brilliant week and have already started answering the key question 'What makes London so special?' As part of their learning this week, they have learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Next week they will be writing newspaper reports as if they were there; keep your eyes peeled in next week's newsletter for those!

In maths the children have been using their place value skills to complete addition problems and in science they have started to explore materials. Great work Year One!











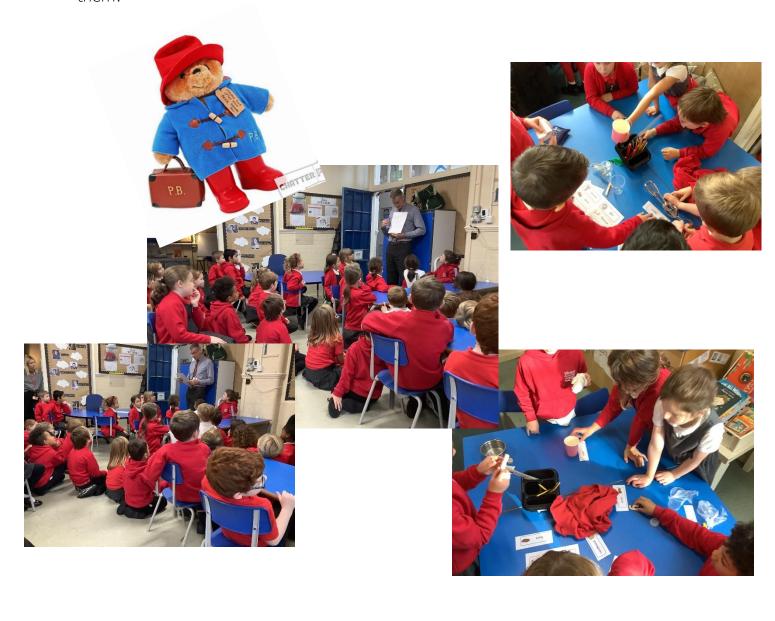




#### Year 2

Year 2 started the week with a most unexpected delivery from Mr Broad... It was a letter from Paddington bear! Paddington has found himself in a sticky situation and in need of help from Year 2. He has asked us to help him find the perfect bread for his beloved marmalade sandwiches. This led us to carry out some taste tests during our Design Technology lesson. We really enjoyed evaluating lots of different varieties of bread and we really hope that Paddington likes the loaf we choose.

In science we have been looking at materials and their properties. After quickly recapping what we had learnt about materials in Year 1, we then went on to create riddles about different materials and used the Keynote app to present them.

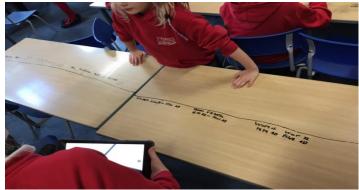




#### Year 3/4

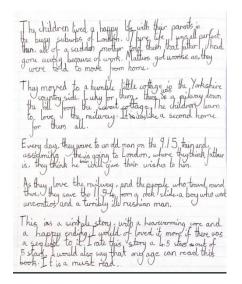
This week, year 3/4 have begun a new topic. It is a very interesting history topic that explores the question: 'Were Stone Age people like us?' In groups, we ordered some important dates, in history, on a timeline:

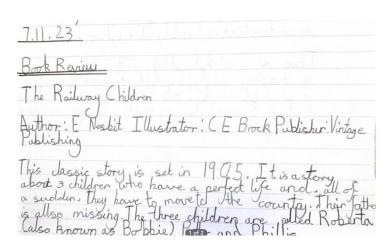


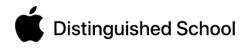


In science, we set up an investigation to explore the process of evaporation. We filled two jars (one with a lid and one without) with the same amount of water and placed them both on the windowsill, in the classroom. Each day, we are observing and marking the levels of the water to monitor the evaporation of the water.

In English, we have been working on book reviews about our class book from last half term, The Railway Children:



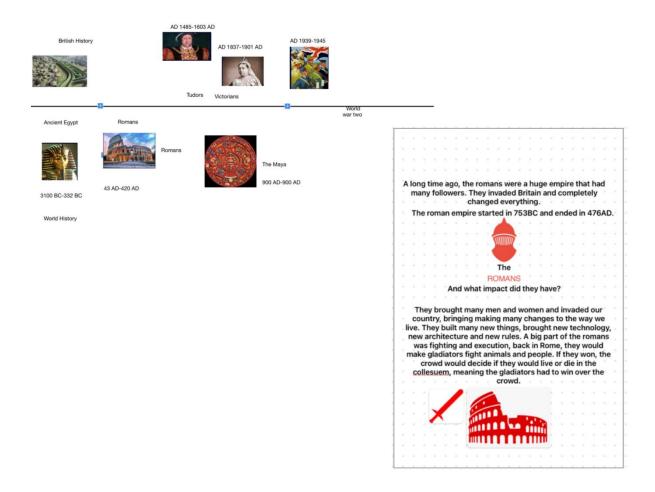


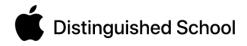




#### Year 5/6

Welcome back to everyone in Year 5/6 for what is set to be another busy half term of learning! On Monday we launched our new history topic which has a focus of the ancient civilisation of the Romans. The key question that we will be endeavouring to answer over the next few weeks is, 'What impact did the Roman invasions have on life in Britain?'. Our first lesson saw us placing the Roman period on a timeline to show where it fits with British and world history. The children produced a timeline on Pages to show different periods in history that they have learnt throughout their time at Western and organised them chronologically.







#### House Captains and Vice Captains

In the last week of half term our House Captains and Vice Captains attended our weekly leadership meeting. The children are working hard to represent their fellow pupils and came to the meeting to discuss issues they feel strongly about and to talk about how the school can be improved from a pupil perspective. Over the course of this year the children will represent the views of the pupil community and work hard with staff to make improvements.





#### Your Harrogate Radio



This week our House Captains and some of our Earth Squad have recorded School of the Week for Your Harrogate Radio. The children spoke articulately and proudly about our school and we will look forward to hearing what they have to say next week on the radio at 7.35 a.m.

#### To listen:



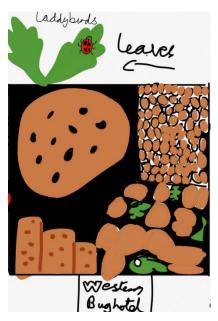


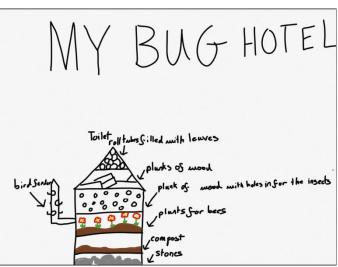


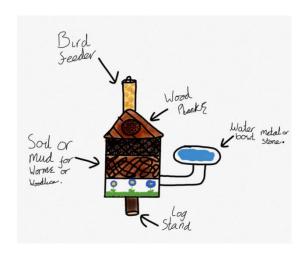
#### Earth Squad News

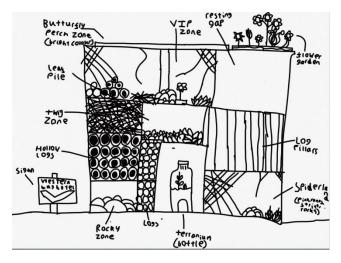
This week Earth Squad designed bug hotels for a new and exciting project at the front of school. They carefully considered materials and which creatures they wanted to encourage.

Look out for more information soon.









#### KS1 Art Club

On a Monday we are holding an Art Club for KS1 children at lunchtime. The children have enjoyed exploring line. In week one we made 3D Art using different patterns and this week we used lines to create a 3D effect.

















#### Elf Advent Trail

The local community of The Pinewoods Committee have asked if anyone would like to design doors for their Elf Advent Trail. The Design and The Arts Success children have collaborated well to design two different doors for the trail. We have then marked these out on the doors; these will be painted next week.











#### **PTA News**

The year 3/4 party is taking place on Friday 1st December from 6:00-8:00pm at Harrogate Grammar School. Rascals' Entertainment will be hosting a disco with music, games and fun competitions... with the added fun of UV lights!



Tickets will be £5 each, and a stall will be available for children to purchase drinks, snacks and party accessories (volunteers for the stall, as always are appreciated!)



We ask that parents/guardians stay for safekeeping, and to enjoy the bar!

(Payment details will be shared over WhatsApp groups, so keep an eye out!)



#### Mrs Blake

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Sheena Blake was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award at the Your Harrogate Local Heroes Awards on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This award celebrates Sheena's commitment, dedication and hard work to a job that she loves. The awards also gave Sheena the opportunity to talk about her fundraising for the Brain Cancer charity. Sheena remains committed to raising awareness of this terrible disease and continues to fundraise alongside her own fight against it. If you would like to donate to this cause, please follow the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sblake?utm\_source=copyLink&utm\_medium =one\_page&utm\_content=page/sblake&utm\_campaign=pfpshare&utm\_term=422a93fc30c140fd95ac2aa4eff14769







