



HUNTINGTOWER

A PRIORY ACADEMY

Tower Times wb 11.12.2023

Welcome to Term 2's newsletter.

Included within this newsletter

- *Organisational information including timings and attendance*
 - *Celebratory items*
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Charitable Endeavours





Every year, we take part in a Remembrance Day service. Our academy opened shortly before the start of World War I and so it is important for our pupils to take time to think about a significant time in history that is linked with our own history. Our Year 6 Tower Captains sold poppy items from the British Legion and the academy collected **£258.26** for the British Legion charity.

On Friday, 17th November, our academy took part in the fund-raising activities for Children in Need. It was suggested that we could have a non-uniform day, asking the children to shine like a star. The children all looked colourful in their own clothes and costumes and we loved the Pudsey touches! Overall, we raised **£535.60**. This all took place in the week that we celebrated our Trust value of generosity. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day special.





Y2 Performance - Twinkly Nativity



Last week the Year 2 pupils performed their Nativity play 'Twinkly Nativity' to their families, friends and members of our community. Across the week, they performed twice to the other pupils in the academy and twice to families, friends and members of our Governing Body. This took tremendous courage and commitment, and the children should be congratulated not only on the quality of their performance but also their hard work in learning their lines, songs with their Makaton signs so that everyone could enjoy it. They performed brilliantly and the contributions towards the tickets will now go to a local charity, Dr Friers.





Daily Routines



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Please remember that:

- Classroom doors and **the Registers open at 8.50am.**
- **Doors and gates close at 9.00am with the Registers.** Any children who arrive **after 9.00am** will have to enter through the main entrance with an adult and it will be marked as **unauthorised late.**
- The academy monitors the attendance of pupils and are required by the Government to inform parents if their child's attendance is lower than 95%. This will be in the form of a letter. From discussions with parents, we have become aware of the confusion relating to number of sessions absent. There are two sessions in each day so if the letter says 4 sessions missed, it means the equivalent of 2 days missed. Please see our [attendance page](#) on our website.

We are aware that traffic is proving challenging at the moment so would ask you to anticipate this in your morning routines so that your child still arrives by 8.50am. We would also ask any families driving their children to school to be mindful of the wider community as well as the families walking to school. Our roads are very busy and challenging at times and we are currently without Ken, our Crossing Patrol Officer on Harlaxton Road. We hope he feels better soon.

In addition, can we remind you that:

- Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle in the classroom for them to access during the day. This should only be water and not squash.
- Children should come in their PE kits (including their coloured PE top) on the days that they have PE. **They should still wear their school jumpers or cardigans and not hooded tops.** Tracksuit bottoms and leggings should be black, dark grey (not light grey) or navy without motifs or visible labels.
- Earrings should be removed for PE days.
- Children and adults are asked to **walk with their scooters and bikes on the academy property.** We have over 420 children and this makes for a very busy time at the beginning and end of the day. The temptation to scoot/ride down the slopes is great but by walking their bikes and scooters, we can keep everyone safe.

Finally,

- As we move into Winter, please ensure that your child is adequately dressed for outside playtimes as well as their time in class. We have had sub-zero temperatures recently and we would recommend that children have a waterproof coat suitable for winter preferably with a hood or with a hat. We encourage the children to look after their own possessions but please make sure all items are named.

Clubs, Events and Everyday Life



Clubs and events have now begun, and we couldn't be more delighted. There have been a wide range of clubs start. Most will continue into the New Year, whilst others will be replaced with new offers. Please check both ClassDojo and Parent Hub for more information about up-and-coming events.

Some of our activities during the day are part of the responsibilities the children take on. Reading Ambassadors have started their training will be running the library for the other children to access in the spring terms. The Junior Online Safety officers have completed their training with the Local Authority and have begun meeting with the classes to share their understanding. The Year 6 Tower Captains are running our academy's postal service for the festive season. They tell us that they thoroughly enjoy the challenge.

The Year 5 and 6 pupils created decorations for the academy's tree for the St Wulfram's Tree Festival. They also worked with the rest of the academy to make decorations or adorn our building. They Year 5 and 6 pupils were also invited to visit the Festival and skate on the rink there. They really enjoyed their visit and took time to take in the amazing trees as well as the beautiful features of the church.

A group of Year 5 pupils have visited St Wulfram's again to take part in a workshop with dancers from the Royal Opera House. They danced with other UKS2 pupils from schools in the town and are looking forward to the performance later on in the year.

Some of our KS2 choir went to sing at two of our local residential homes, Brick Kiln Place and the Royal Windsor. They sang a range of festive songs with Mrs Kightley and Mrs Goddard-Tate supporting. Everyone had really great time!

There have been many sporting events coordinated by Mrs Duxbury-Mead. Football matches, a festival and a tournament have been played by Year 5 and 6 pupils, including an UKS2 football competition, a girls' football match and a Cheer Leading festival. The Girls' football tournament had to be postponed twice due to the weather but it is hoped that it will take place early in 2024.

Please see a selection of photos from the class stories on ClassDojo



1 - Our newly training Junior Online Safety Officers



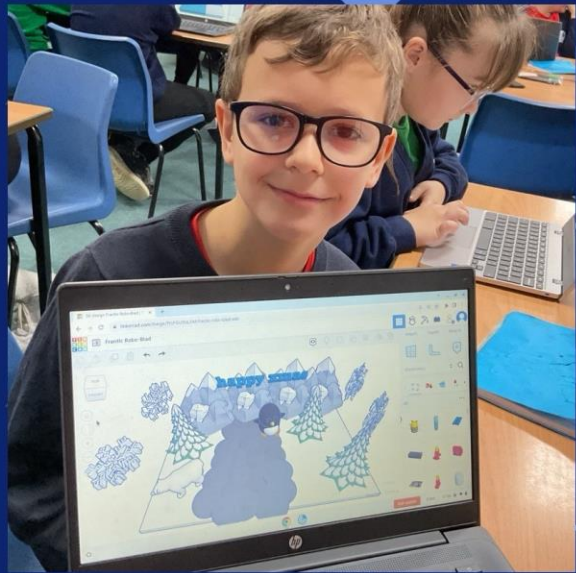
2 - Our Reading Ambassadors



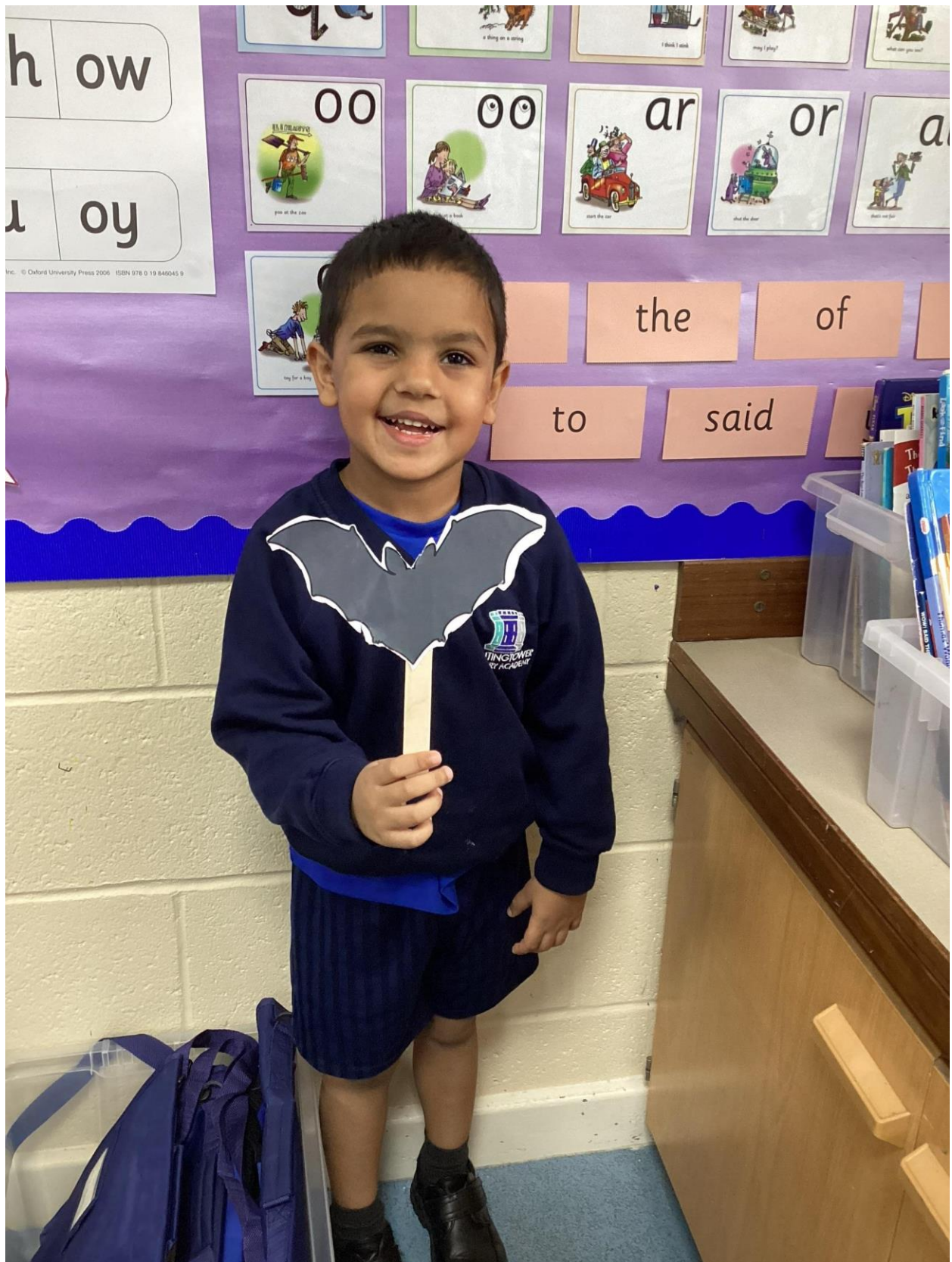








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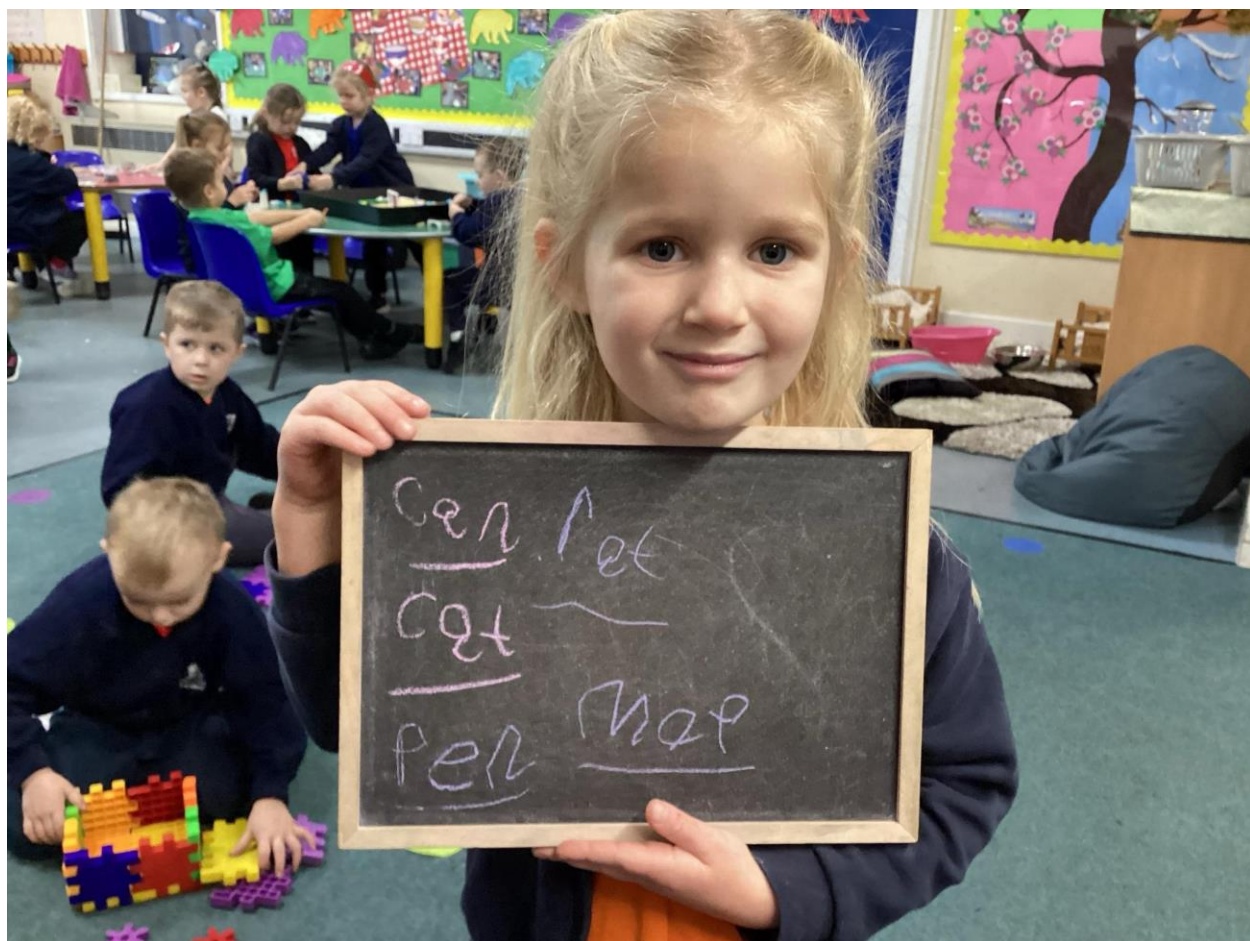




















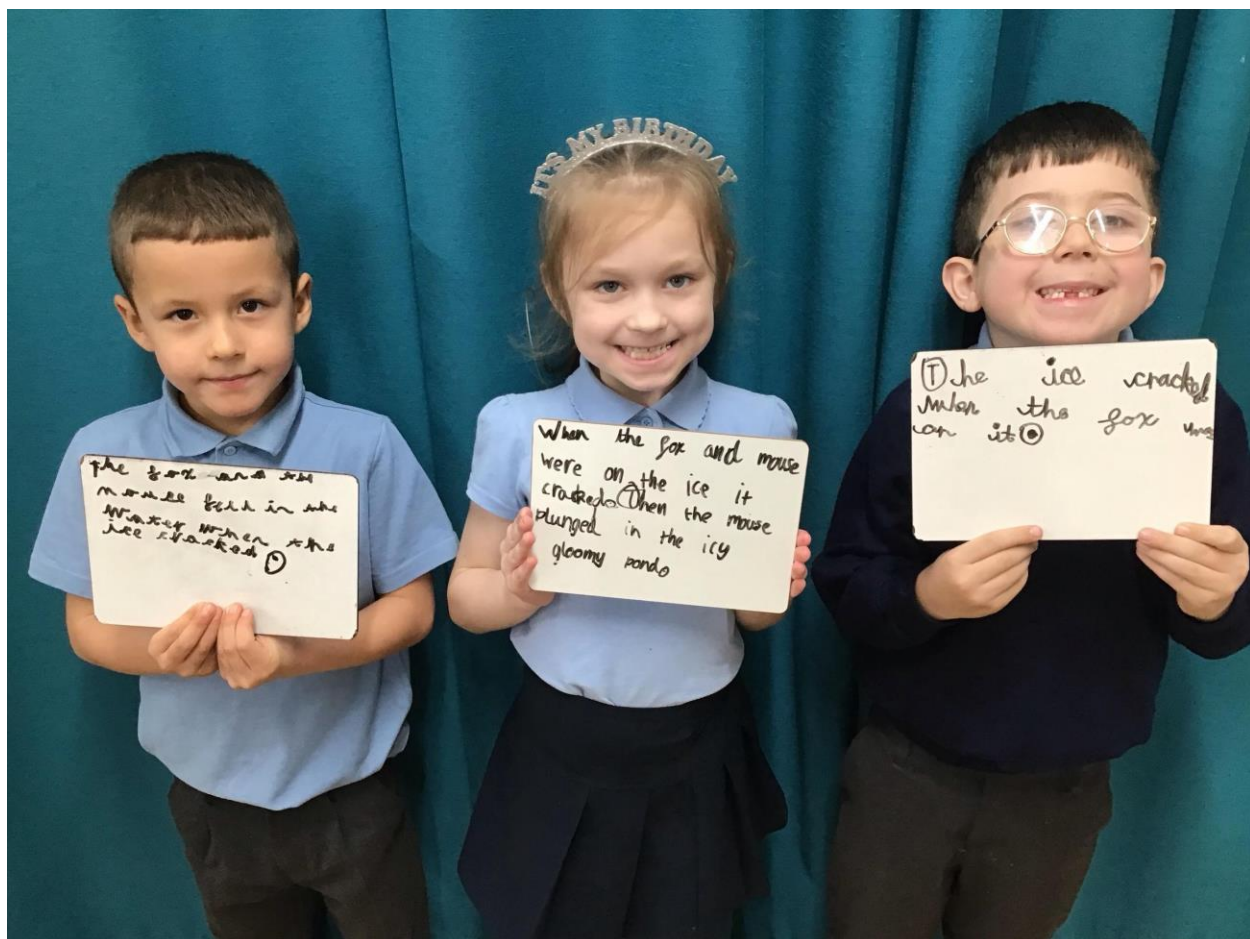




















What is a monarch?

A monarch means
a king or queen.

What is a palace?

A palace is a big
building where a
king or queen lives.



Queen Victoria



Queen Elizabeth II



Buckingham Palace



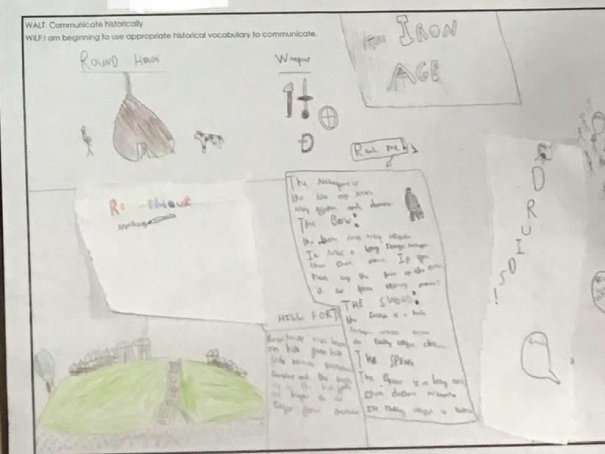
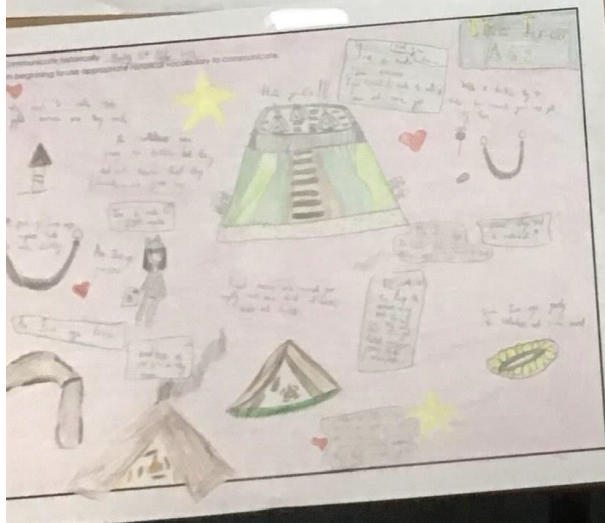
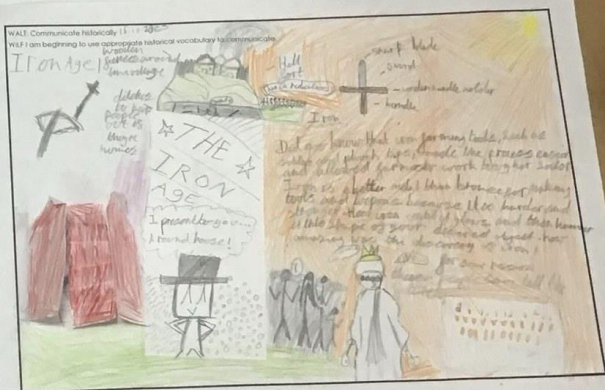
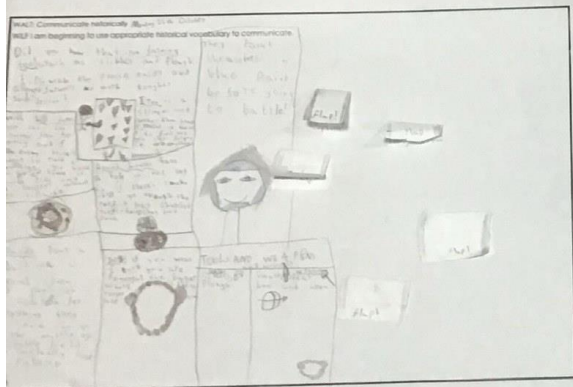
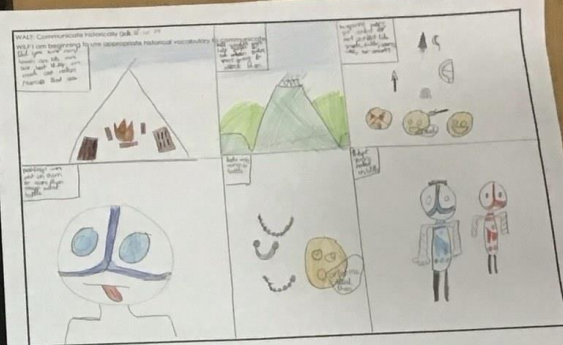
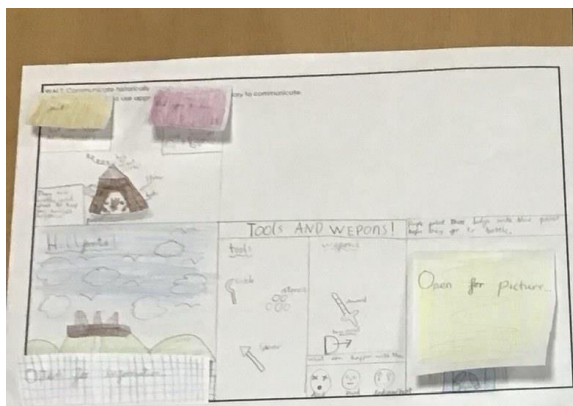




















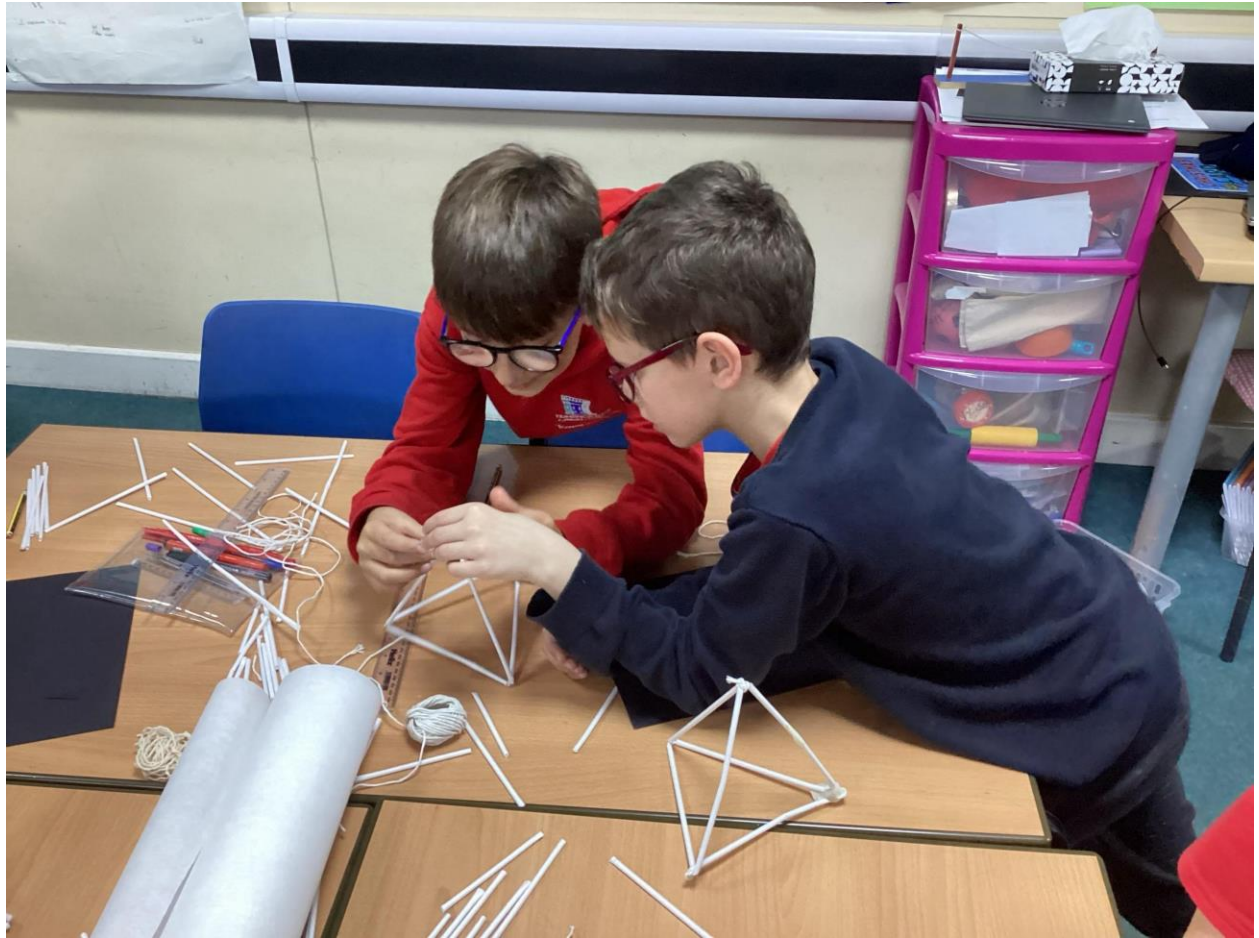












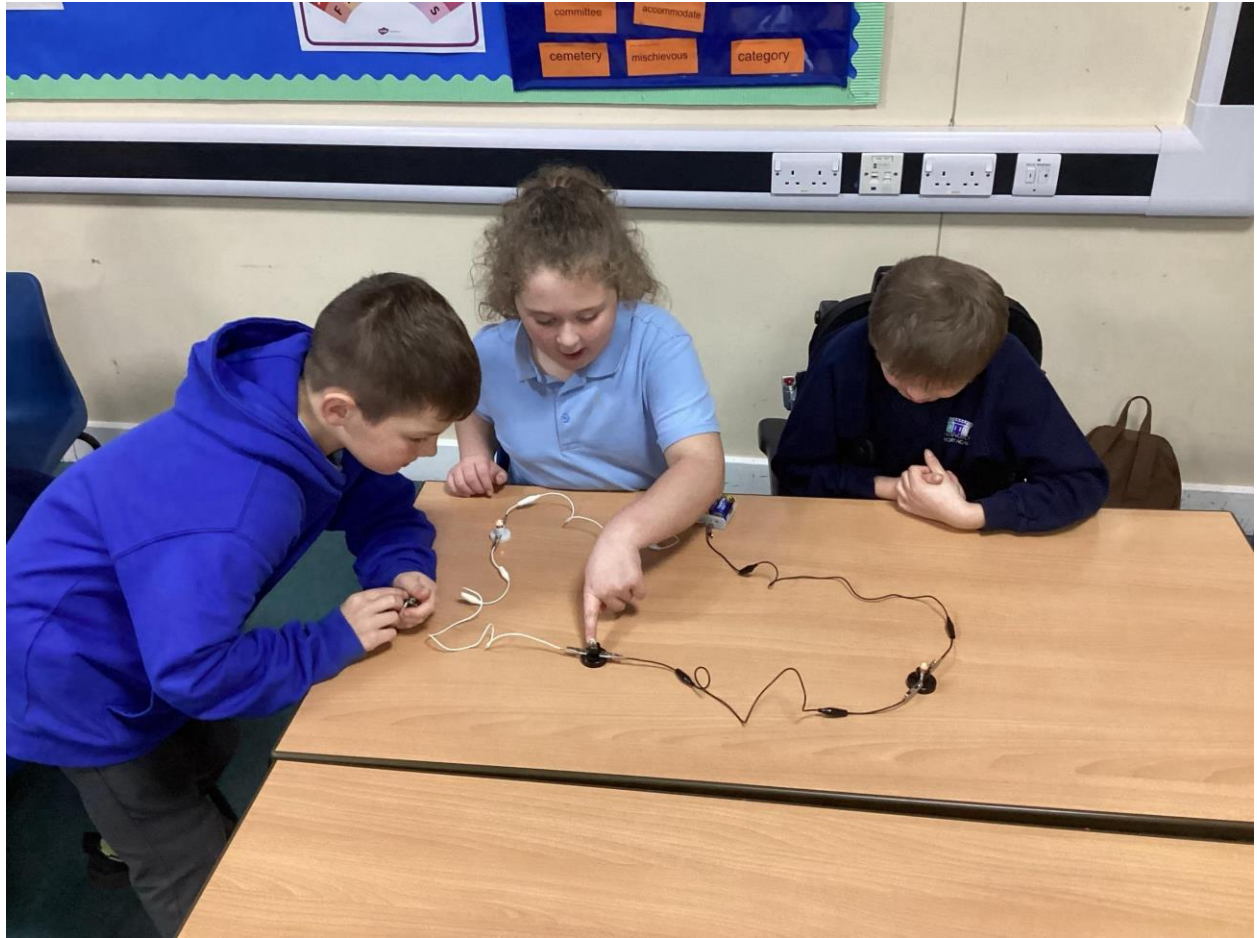






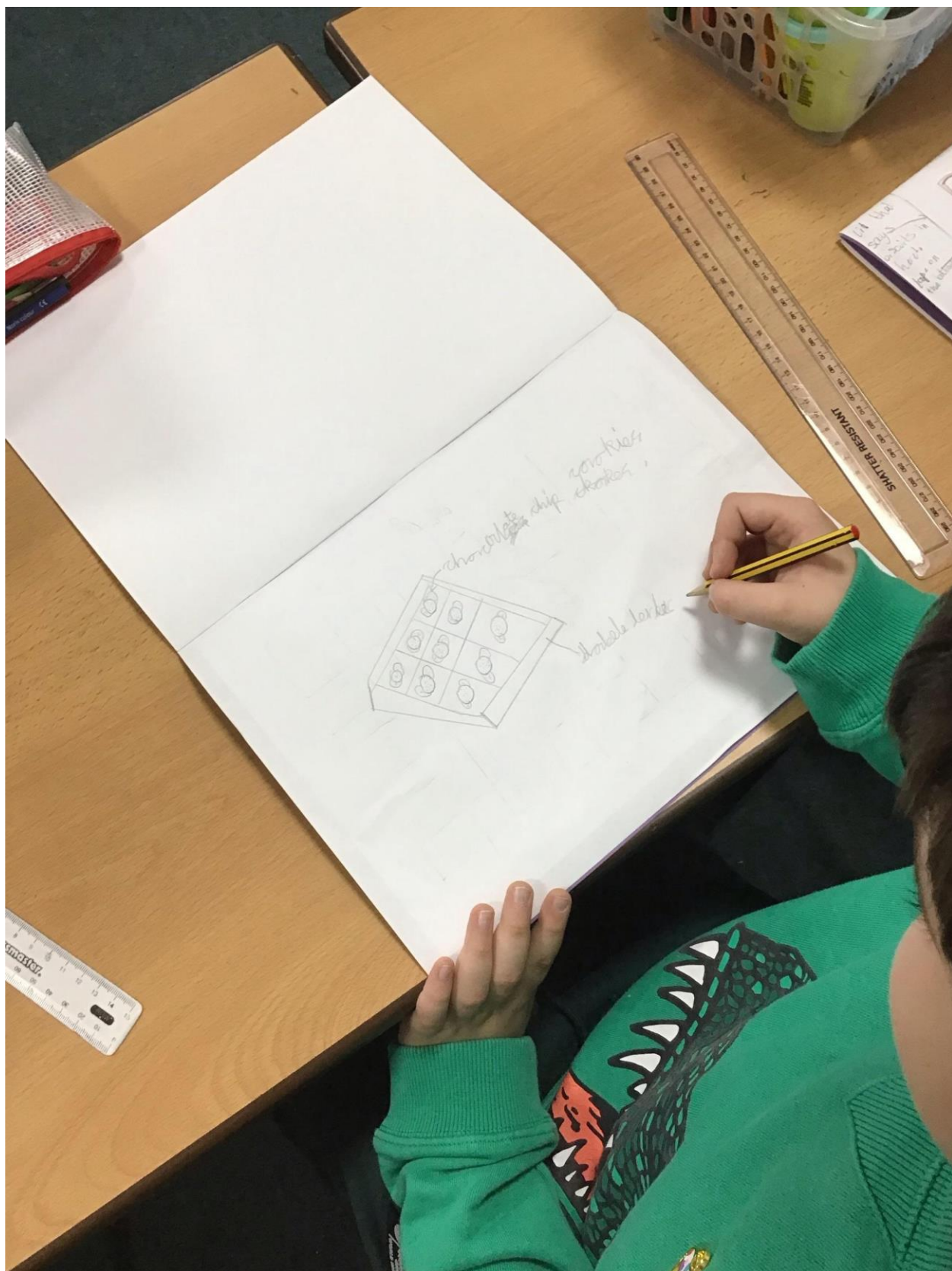




















End of Term

We held our final Assemblies of the term including our Endeavour Assembly. A child from each class is nominated and celebrated in Assembly. We hold this assembly three times a year in memory of Miss Shone a staff member who sadly died. We know that she would have been just as proud of these children as we are. In each Key Stage, there is a child selected to take home the trophy for the term and this term, it was a member from the Pandas and Panthers class. Congratulations to all.

We also celebrated the termly attendance winners. Whilst the overall attendance for the academy for this term is 94.6%, four classes were higher than 95%: Meerkats 97.2%, Tigers 97.4%, Panthers 96.3% and Wolves 95.4%. Congratulations to Meerkats and Tigers Classes for winning the termly trophies. They will now be choosing a reward activity with their teachers.

We also celebrated the hard work of all of the children. We recognise hard work in our academy by rewarding Merits (children often call them Dojo Merits as we record them on ClassDojo). Children are also rewarded for making good choices. Overall, the children have earned **60293** in total this term (nearly 6000 more than this time last year)!

The team who won this term was **Crane** who had **15586**. It was very close, and the children are already keen to impress and earn more merits next term. The easiest way to earn merits every week is simply to read as often as possible.

Congratulations also to two of our Year 5 pupils who won a county wide competition to design a Christmas card for Lincolnshire Police. These cards have now been printed and will be used to send festive wishes from our local police force. This is an amazing achievement and we are really proud.

Finally, thank you to everyone who ensured that their child came to academy looking very festive on their party days. The kitchen provided a wonderful Christmas meal, and the children had a great time. We even had a very special visitor.

We hope you have a good holiday and enjoy the festivities that it offers. Life has certainly been more challenging in the recent months, but we hope you get to spend some time together. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Wednesday, 3rd January 2024**







You Said, We Did...

We have continued to reflect upon the surveys from last year. We listened to your comments and thoughts about how to increase your understanding of attendance. Attendance information is generally shared more frequently through Parent Hub and ClassDojo as well as parents receiving advisory letters from the academy if we identify anything of concern relating to their attendance. Every week, we

celebrate class attendance identifying a trophy winner for each phase. This is reported with the whole academy attendance on ClassDojo.

We also listened to parents' request to have more out of school activities. This term, we were delighted to host the Year 5 and Year 4 discos. The children had the most amazing time and said that they can't wait for it to happen again. We can announce that it will be Year 3 and Year 2's turn next on Thursday, 21st March 2024. Please keep an eye on ClassDojo and Parent Hub in the new year for more information.

Many parents who completed the survey also asked for more support helping their child with their wellbeing including sleep patterns and emotion regulation. We have been fortunate to become part of the pilot of the Mental Health Support Team for Grantham and you may have seen their questionnaire to help plan some parent sessions for you. These will hopefully take place in the Spring term. They have also delivered workshops and worked with the staff in Year 3. The children really enjoyed the session with the Team and the daily sessions with their teacher.

In the children's survey, only 42% of Year 5 and 6 said that they read at home regularly. We have begun a programme of training with the staff to understand more about reading for passion. We are working with the Grantham Library to plan some visits for the children and are currently collating a list of books that we will be purchasing in the new year. You may have seen Mrs Dewhurst's posts on our School Story on ClassDojo recommending books. We are looking forward to World Book Day in March but believe that every day should be World Book Day.





