

# Bedwell News

December 2024

## This term's highlights:

- Our Christmas Fayre raised £1351 as a result of your amazing support.
- Our KS1 Show was a great success, with 80 children singing, dancing and acting across 3 fab performances..
- We hosted the Stevenage Schools FA tournaments, with 290 children from 30 schools playing on our field.
- Our Halloween Disco saw over 140 children eating, dancing and playing in some fantastic costumes.
- Year 1/ 2 visited Milton Keynes Theatre to watch their pantomime, *Peter Pan*.
- We elected a new team of School Councilors, who have been busy fundraising for new laptops.
- Year 5/6 visited Hendon RAF Museum to support their *Battle of Britain* topic.
- Every class from years 3-6 visited Stevenage Cineworld (for free) as part of this year's *Into Film Festival*.

## What we've been doing this term...

### Fundraising

At the start of term, School Council decided that our fundraising efforts this year should go towards a new set of laptops for our computing lessons. The target we set was £10,000 and we're pleased to announce that thanks to some very generous donations, and the proceeds of Funky Hair Day, the Halloween Disco and the Christmas Fayre, we have now reached our goal. Please can we say a huge thank you to the Stevenage Community Trust, the Learning Circle and Propak for their generous donations, along with everyone else who supported our events or donated to our Crowdfunder page. As a result of these brilliant efforts, we will have our new equipment in place during the Spring term.

Elsewhere this term, our non-uniform day collected £190 for Children in Need, our coffee afternoon raised £110 for Macmillan Cancer Support, our non-uniform day for Mental Health raised £160 and all of the poppies and badges we sold brought in £65 for the Royal British Legion. Again, a big thank you to everyone who helped us to support these fantastic charities.

### Sharing learning

We're really keen to share our learning (and our classrooms) with our parents, carers and families as often as possible, and throughout the term we have organised lots of events, workshops and activity sessions. These have included:

- two *Stay and Play* sessions in Early Years, with the first focussing on the use of *Tapestry* and the second packed with Christmas Craft activities.
- A phonics meeting for Year 1 parents, full of ideas for supporting children in developing their knowledge of the sounds that make up words.
- A reading workshop in Year 3/4, sharing the way we teach decoding and comprehension skills, along with ideas for practicing these at home.
- A SATs meeting for Year 6 parents.
- *Stay & Calculate* sessions for Year 5/6, with each maths set running their own arithmetic workshops.



It has been brilliant to see how the attendance at these events continues to grow, and we have really appreciated the feedback we've been given. There will be lots more events next term, so we look forward to seeing you there!



# Christmas at Bedwell

We really got into the Christmas spirit in the last week of term!

First up, each class rounded-off the term with a brilliant Christmas party. We came to school in our finest party clothes and then had great fun playing games together - including all the classics, such as musical bumps, pass the parcel and musical statues. After that, it was time to pile into our party food - a big thank you to everyone who sent in something to eat.

On Wednesday, we had our Christmas Dinner. After a busy morning preparing food in the kitchen and decorations in the hall, we all sat down to enjoy our meal, complete with crackers and paper hats - and as we were all in our Christmas Jumpers too, it felt very festive!

The final part of our seasonal celebrations came on the very last day of term, when got together to share Christmas songs. Each class performed their chosen song in front of the rest of the school, with our Chair of Governors on hand to choose the winner.





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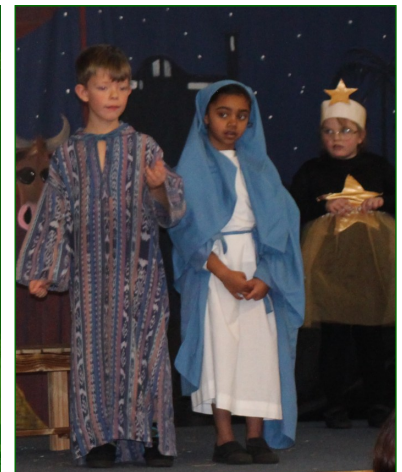


## The Magic Christmas Jigsaw

All of Key Stage 1's enthusiastic practice finally paid-off in the penultimate week of school, when we got the chance to perform our brilliant Christmas production. With over 80 children involved, it was a massive task to get the show ready, but every child involved gave 100% in every performance, first in front of the rest of the school and then to our families over the course of three performances.

All of the staff (and big brothers and sisters in Years 3-6) were really impressed by the way we rose to the occasion, with almost everyone in Year 2 having a speaking part and all three classes getting involved in the songs and dances. We hope you will agree that our *Magic Christmas Jigsaw* retold the Christmas story brilliantly!

Can we also say a big thank you all of the Key Stage 1 teachers and TAs for the time and energy they put into making costumes, supporting practices and making sure it was a magical show!









## School Council

One of our first jobs this term was to elect our new team of School Councillors. Everyone was given the chance to run in elections in their class, presenting speeches to try to convince our classmates that we would be great at this job. Everyone then cast their ballot, with the winning boy and girl in each class elected for the year - you can see some of our winning speeches on the opposite page.

### Schools Parliament

Jazzi, Billie, Dillan and Max represented us at the Autumn meeting of the Stevenage School Parliament, which met in the actual council chambers. As well as meeting the mayor, they participated in a discussion around how we can all support positive mental health for everyone in Stevenage.

### Fundraising

School Council decided to focus on fundraising for new laptops this year and helped to organise events like the Halloween Disco and Funky Hair Day. You can find out more about their progress on the front page.





## Highlights from our School Council speeches

I would like to be our class councillor because I am very good at tidying up! I will make sure that our classroom is always tidy and there are lots of things for us to play with. I think that I am the right person for the job because I am kind and helpful.

*River, Fieldmice*

I think that I am the right person for the job because I try to help everybody. I want to make everyone happy and make sure that we all enjoy coming to school. If you elect me, I want us to have more playtimes, more toys and more fun lessons. I would like us to have choosing time every day, and more PE lessons

*Theo, Dormice*

I would like to be our school councillor because I am confident and I would like to help people in my class. If you elect me, I would like us to have more toys and games to play with at lunchtimes and during Golden Time. I would also like us to do more art lessons and have some new books to read in our class libraries.

*Mira, Hedgehogs*

Hello everyone! I am running to become our school councillor because I want to make our school a better place for everyone. If you vote for me, then I would like us to get a reward if we don't lose any Golden Time for the whole term.

*Alex, Rabbits*

I think that I am the right person for the job because I am good at listening and have lots of ideas to improve the school. If you elect me, I would like us to have more discos and more non-uniform days to raise money for the school.

*Tahlia, Moles*

I am running to become our school councillor because I have lots of ideas for making school better! ... I would like us to go on more trips, and be able to suggest where we would like to go. I would also like us to have more fun lessons like art, maths, model making and computing.

*Joe, Badgers*

I am running to be our school councillor this year, because I think that I can really make a difference to how our school is run, making things better for everyone. If you vote for me, I promise that I will try to listen to everyone in class and represent us all. I would like us to have more clubs after school and more trips during the year.

*Krishna, Foxes*

Hello everyone, and thank you for giving me some of your time today. I would like to become school councillor so that I can help to make school better for everyone. I would like us to have more clubs that are not sport based for years 5 and 6, and would also like us to be able to go on more school trips. I will try to listen to everyone and represent all of us and all of the things that we care about.

*Dillan, Falcons*

I think that I can help the school with everything we want to achieve together. I would like to make sure that we have more books and Golden Time toys that older children would love, as well as more iPads and PlayStations for Year 6 Privileges. I would also like to get more books and posters to help us with our grammar.

*Billie-Jean, Eagles*



# Halloween Disco

Back at the end of October, our Halloween Disco gave everyone in Years 2-6 a fantastic opportunity to get together and break out our finest spooky costumes! Our first big event of the year, the disco included lots of food and drink, pumpkin-smash games, nail painting and temporary tattoos, as well as loads of dancing in the hall. Over 130 children attended the event, and we all had a fantastic evening together - as you can hopefully see from the pictures on these pages.

As well as being a great chance to get together and have fun, the Halloween Disco was also a fundraising event, with all the money raised going towards School Council funds - and when we had done all the adding-up and taking-away, we were delighted to discover that we had collected more than £600.

Can we all send a massive thank you to the staff who volunteered to give up their time to organise and run the disco, making our brilliant evening possible!









## Early Years

### Stay and Make

During the run up to Christmas, we have been involved in lots of exciting activities, including our own *Stay and Make* event on the 13th December. We completed a range of different art and craft activities, decorating snowmen and stars, making cards and hats and designing our own Christmas trees. We were delighted to see so many families join in with the activities and enjoying the song which we performed together.

### Celebrations

This half term we have celebrated many festivals and celebrations, such as: Remembrance day, Diwali, Bonfire night and Christmas. Some of us have had first-hand experiences of Diwali, and we were very excited to hear how our classmates celebrate with their families.

### Art

We learnt all about the artist Yayoi Kusama. We created our own dotty art work using cotton buds, our fingers and dabbers, which tied in neatly with Children in Need as we wore dotty clothes.





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## Early Years

### Church visit

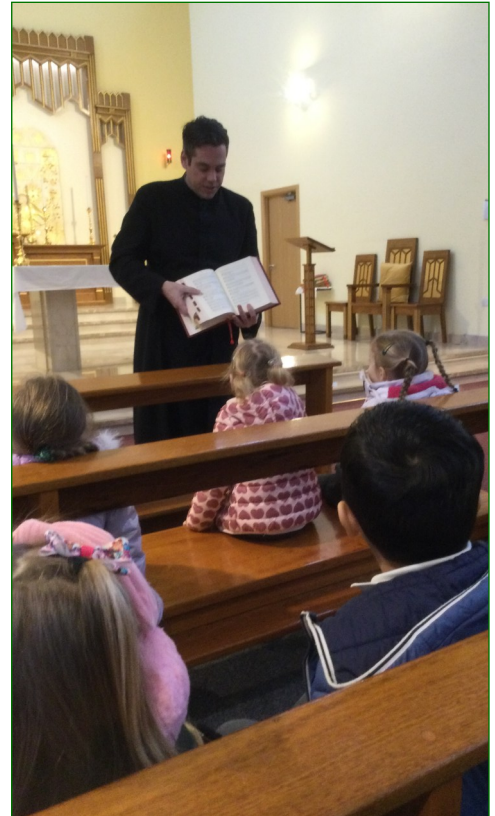
This half-term we have been learning about Christianity and the story of the first Christmas. We thought it would be a fantastic idea to visit one of our local churches to find out what they are like. We visited St Joseph's and met the priest, who showed us around the church and talked to us about what happens there.

### Talk for Writing

This half term we have focused on two brilliant stories - *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Jolly Postman*. We learnt how to retell the stories using actions and key words and then innovated on them by changing characters. To support our learning, we made (and ate) our own gingerbread men, and were visited by a postman, who told us all about the way our letters are delivered.

### Maths

In our maths lessons, we have learnt to represent numerals using manipulatives such as Numicon, tens frames and natural objects. We have also been using Numicon to create number bonds to 10.









## Year 1: Fieldmice

This half term our topic has been *Changing Stevenage*. We have been learning about how Stevenage has changed over the years and finding places on a map. We have also looked at old and new toys and talked about how they have changed.

### Pantomime Trip

We had a fantastic visit to see Peter Pan in Milton Keynes on the 10th December. It was a great opportunity for us to watch a real production after completing our own show, and we quickly knew when we needed to laugh, clap or boo!

### Forest School

This term it has been our turn to attend Forest school every Friday. We have had great fun exploring the forest, engaging in different activities and making our own snack. We particularly liked making log dogs, making magical wands, drinking hot chocolate and playing games at the end of each session.

### Christmas Party

We rounded-off the term with a brilliant Christmas Party in the final week of term.

## English : Reports

This term we have focussed on Traditional Stories. We have looked at a variety of different stories and the characters within them. We have acted out different adventures and practised writing simple sentences to retell stories, write letters and describe characters. On this page you can see us



retelling the stories of *The Princess and the Pea*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

We then looked at a brilliant book called *STOP! That's not my story!* and used the format to write about the story we would like to be in and the reasons for our choices.









## Year 1/2: Dormice

### Maths

We have been working on our understanding of numbers to 100. We have looked carefully at how many tens and ones a number has and how this can be made in a variety of ways. We have then used these skills to support our understanding of doubling, using practical resources to support our work.

### Christmas Party

We loved our Christmas Party in the last week of term, playing lots of fun games and munching our way through the food that we had all brought in to share!

### English

This term we have been reading a fab book called *Dragon Post*, using this to explore the way that letters are written and organised. We have learnt about expanded noun phrases and used these to write a postcard home to our family - and we got very excited when we posted these in the post box! During the term we have also explored instructions, and loved acting out commands to help us understand different sentence types.





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## Year 2: Hedgehogs

### English

As well as exploring instructions, we have also investigated letter writing this term. Building on this, we decided to write postcards home, so we all designed a picture to go on the front and used lots of clever noun phrases to describe our days at school. We were really excited to stick a real stamp on our cards and walk across the road to post them. We hope you enjoyed the surprise!

### Show Business!

We worked really hard over the past half-term to put together our Christmas Show. We took on a variety of roles and everyone had some lines to learn. We are sure you will agree that everybody did a fantastic job and the show was sensational!

### Our Pantomime Trip

After finishing our own show, we headed to Milton Keynes to see how the professionals do it! We loved getting involved in the performance, cheering, booing and shouting "Ahoy Smee!" in all the right places, and our behaviour was impeccable

## English : Instructions



We really enjoyed writing instructions using the book *How to Make Friends with a Ghost* by Rebecca Green as our inspiration. We used lots of bossy verbs to write sentences and explored the difference between statements and commands. We made sure that we used capital letters and full stops correctly, and have also worked hard to make sure that our handwriting is clear and easy to read. To support our work, we also created our own ghost pictures using cotton buds for their bodies. You can see some of our final instructions (and our class display) below:

### How to make your ghost happy

1. Play with your ghost so they feel cheerful.
2. Talk to your ghost but make sure they use kind words.
3. Make a cake for your ghost but make sure that it is chocolate.
4. Share with your ghost when they are sad.
5. Be kind to your ghost so they feel happy.

by Tegan

### How to make friends with your ghost

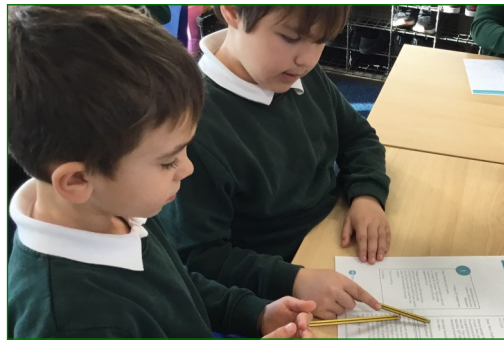
1. Wave at the ghost so that it feels welcome.
2. Go bowling with your ghost.
3. Feed your ghost hotdogs because he likes them.
4. Take your ghost to the woods but don't lose them.
5. Put gloves on your ghost and give them a hat.

by Grayson





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## Year 3: Rabbits

### Natural Disasters

We have explored many different natural disasters in our geography topic this term and even had a zoom talk from an earthquake survivor! To support our learning, we have made cardboard volcanoes, built structures to withstand a (minor) earthquake, created tectonic plates and worked as a team to create a large information poster on a natural disaster of our choice. The curiosity and inquisitiveness throughout this topic have been wonderful to see!

### Art

In Art we have been exploring colour patterns inspired by Wassily Kandinsky, developing our colour mixing skills and our knowledge of colours that complement and contrast. Recently we have been creating prints based on the work of William Morris, exploring the use of patterns and block colours.

### Cinema trip

We enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. We all loved Carl the Eagle Lizard!

## English : Fables and reports

In English, we started the year exploring a gorgeous story called *Mini-Rabbit: Not Lost*. We loved reading and exploring this adventure, and were inspired to create our own Mini-Rabbit story for an older audience. After that, we explored freestyle poetry and let our imaginations run wild as to what we would cherish in our magic box. To finish the term we have created our own fables with a moral based on our own experiences and explored jobs which you may not have heard of!



### Setting description for a fable

In a peaceful, quiet forest the windy, cool fresh air rushed past. The golden, orange blossom leaves started to fall since it was Autumn. Can you hear the loving songs of the birds and the smell of the sweet, bitter air wisping around my nose?

by Rubi

### Showing a character's feelings

Kevin's tree fell. The wind rushed past him, he was sweating in his fur. His whiskers were trembling, and he tried to scream but just a breath came out. When he opened his eyes, he wanted to shut them, his heart was beating as fast as lightning.

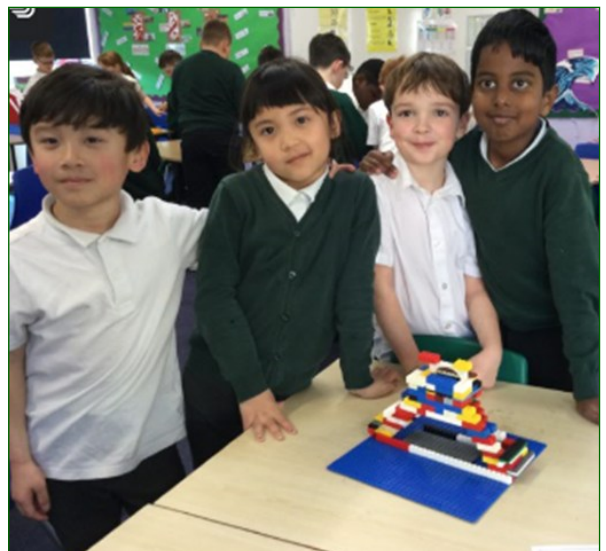
by Daniel

### My dream job : Plane Painter!

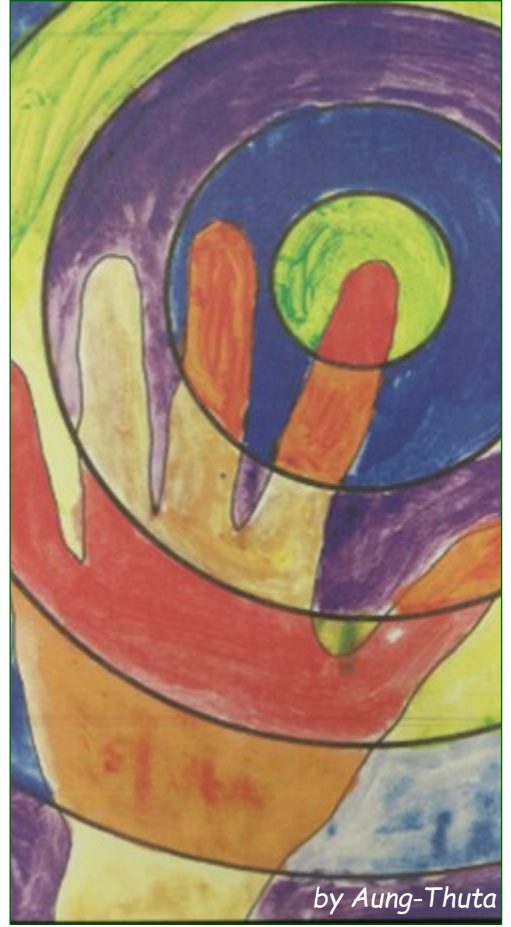
- Uniform: gloves, white jumper, hard black boots, blue t-shirt.
- Skills needed: careful painting, ladder climbing, don't be lazy!

A plane painter is an important job, because if the airplane is not coloured, people will get confused about what plane they should get into.

by Inzali









## Year 3/4: Moles

### English

In our English lessons this term we have been busy writing everything from stories, to poems to reports. In Mole class we particularly enjoyed writing fables. Using *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright as our model text, we learnt about expanded noun phrases, speech and prepositions. We were asked to create short fables with a clear moral and we were all proud of our efforts.

### Art

This term's objective was to develop our shading skills, and we cleverly combined this with our work on tornados to create some colourful 3D twisters. Initially we used pen and coloured pencils, but eventually some of us moved onto creating shades with oil pastel. You can see two brilliant examples of our work on the opposite page.

### Natural Disasters

We have loved learning about natural disasters this term - ask us about tsunamis, hurricanes, volcanoes or earthquakes and we'll tell you all about what they are, what effects they can have and how they form!

## English : Fables

### The Squirrel That Could

Autumn had arrived in the pleasant forest. Towering trees were shedding their fiery, vibrant leaves and a fresh, crisp breeze blew across the lake. On the edge of the forest in a warm, cosy nest lived a lonely squirrel. Squirrel only ate nuts and berries, never went out, never saw his friends and would just spend his days at home. The other woodland creatures would visit from time to time.

"Please come out and play!" asked the badger.

"No thanks" was Squirrel's reply.

Soon a harsh winter rolled in to the forest and Squirrel's food had soon gone. His nest was cold and damp and he grew even more lonely.



It wasn't long until squirrel had a decision to make. Stay and starve or head out into the wintry forest for help and food. Snow had now covered the whole forest, it was freezing. Bravely Squirrel trudged through the thick, bitter snow and found his friend's house. Badger opened the door.

"Perfect timing. Today is Christmas. Come and have a feast. "

It was then that Squirrel realised he should have done this years ago.

by Rajan

### The Bear and the Squirrel

Spring had arrived in the sweltering jungle. The towering trees were now free from the winter's ice and snow. The shining, hot sun made everything glisten. On one particularly warm morning a short, brown squirrel was climbing up a tree to grab a juicy pinecone, as he jumped from one branch to another it snapped beneath him sending him down onto the nose of a sleeping bear. His heart was beating wildly and his paws were shaking as he prayed the bear would not wake up, but it was too late. The bear grabbed him by the tail and pulled him close.



"Please let me go!" begged the squirrel. "If you let me go I will repay you."

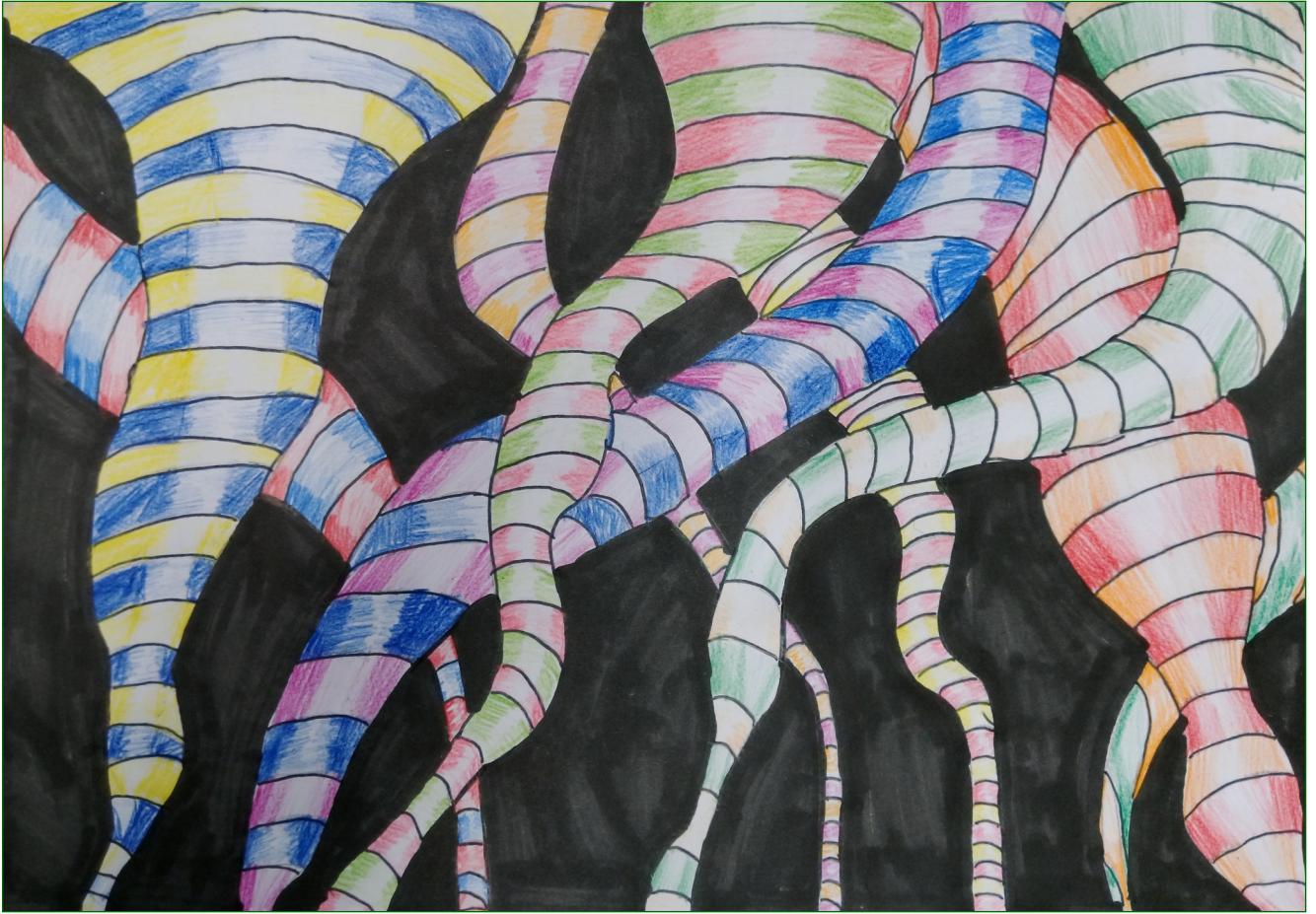
The bear laughed. "How could a tiny thing like you help a big beast like me?" said the bear.

"Ok I will let you go this time. You are lucky."

Two hours later Bear was out walking and was caught in a hunter's trap. He yelled for help and the squirrel heard and sprinted over. He used his sharp, little teeth to cut through the rope and free the bear. From that day on Bear never judged anyone else by their size.

by Cayden







## Year 4: Badgers

We've had a busy term in Badger class, learning about a huge range of topics and putting together some excellent pieces of work! In English, we have looked at explanation texts, graphic novels and persuasion texts. In Geography, we have been looking at lots of different natural disasters including tornadoes, hurricanes and volcanic eruptions.

To support our work on natural disasters, we have completed several art and DT projects to help us better understand these complex processes. We created models to demonstrate the way tectonic plates move to cause earthquakes and built the net of a volcano to show the different layers of the earth. To round off our topic, we created reports, some of which you can see on the opposite page.

We have also drawn some colourful tornado art to go alongside our topic, developing our pencil control and exploring different shading effects. You can see some brilliant examples of our artwork on the right.

## English : Explanations

This term, we have been working hard to improve our writing. Most recently, we have been looking at explanation texts and designed some inventions to make everyday life easier. Some of us decided to write about a snack machine, whilst others designed a machine that would do your homework! Check out some brilliant examples of our finished pieces below:

### How the Snoozatron works

Are you fed up because you're getting sleepless nights? Well, you are not the first. 75% of people feel the exact same. But now, you don't have to be like other people in the world because now you will have the Snoozatron!

#### How it works:

Firstly, pull the lever which is on the right-hand side. Next, a signal is sent to Gromit and wakes him up. Then, some metal arms come out, from under the bed to tuck Wallace in. While that is going on, another arm comes out and drops a teddy next to Wallace. After a while, a music box comes out on a conveyer belt above Wallace's head. Finally, Gromit comes out of the floor and jumps on a spring, dressed as a sheep.

#### Points to note:

Every so often, don't forget to change the music box because it will get very boring very quickly. Every week don't forget to clean the arms otherwise the arms won't help you. Also don't forget to help Gromit off the spring or the next time you want help he will say no!

It is important to change the machine if you don't like it. If your machine is broken, contact the number below and they will help you.

*by Ella*

### How the Cooking Robot works

Are you fed up of getting burnt food? A whopping 85% of people hate having burnt food. But with the Cooking Robot you will never get burnt food again.

#### How it works:

Firstly, you put the ingredients on the conveyor belt that is on the right-hand side of the machine. After that, it sends a signal to the gears to rotate so the food can come into the machine. At this point, the hands inside the machine start mixing the food to make the meal. As soon as this happens, it goes into the oven inside the machine so it can cook. After that, it sends an alert to the machine to send the food out so you can eat it.

#### Points to note:

Every week, you need to clean the gear otherwise it won't work. You need to exchange the ingredients once a week because you will be bored of having the same thing.

It is important to take care of your machine otherwise it won't work. If you're not happy with it, contact the number below.

*by Alex*



## Whats a... WILDFIRE?

Miss Moore

**Interesting facts**

Wildfires always start in forests. Travel about 16-20 km per hour. Then 4 out of 5 wildfires are caused by people. An even serious danger to us. They are caused by up to 90% of a serious cause of wildfires!

**Fighting wildfires**

Firefighters try to deprive a wildfire of its fuel. Fuel is grass and dry leaves. They use bulldozers and fire cutters to clear the area of anything that could be a fire. They make a firebreak when the fire reaches the ground and runs out of fuel.

**Effects of wildfires**

Wildfires can destroy homes and forests. They can also cause air pollution. Wildfires can also cause global warming.

**Pictures of Wildfires:**

## Whats a... WILDFIRE?

**What is a wildfire?**

A wildfire is a fire that spreads out of control in a natural area. It can be caused by lightning, human activities, or natural causes like dry weather.

**Why do wildfires happen?**

Wildfires can happen in dry weather. They can also be caused by lightning strikes. Human activities like campfires and power lines can also start wildfires.

**How do wildfires spread?**

Wildfires spread by burning dry grass, leaves, and trees. They can travel very fast, up to 100 km per hour.

**What is the impact of wildfires?**

Wildfires can destroy homes and forests. They can also cause air pollution. Wildfires can also cause global warming.

## Whats a... TSUNAMI?

**What is a tsunami?**

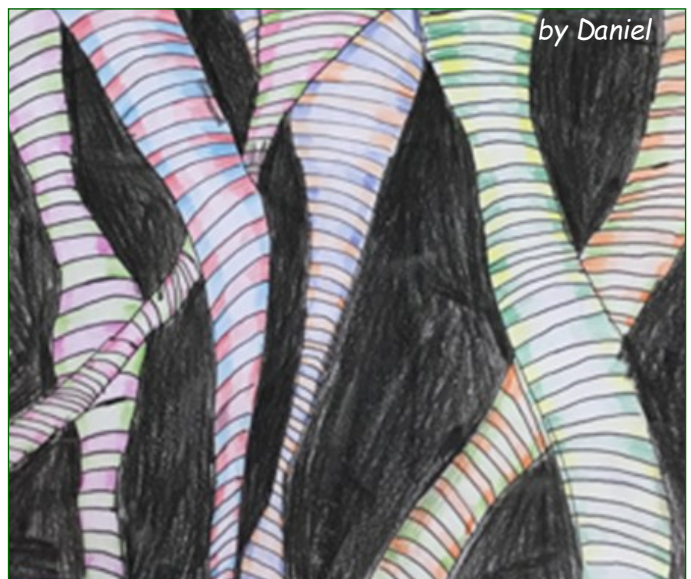
A tsunami is a series of waves in the ocean, caused by the displacement of water. It can be caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides.

**How do tsunamis form?**

Tsunamis form when the ocean floor is suddenly displaced. This can happen during an earthquake or a volcanic eruption. The displaced water then moves back and forth, creating waves.

**What are the effects of tsunamis?**

Tsunamis can cause massive destruction. They can destroy homes, businesses, and infrastructure. They can also cause loss of life and property.





## Year 5: Foxes

We've packed an awful lot into our first term of the year!

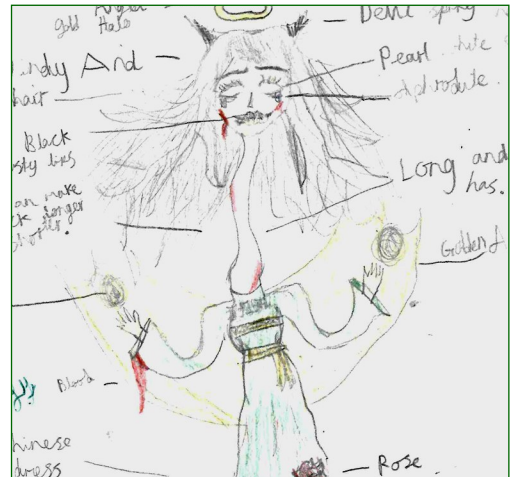
- In English, we've explored gorgeous books called *The Promise* and *Cloud Tea Monkeys*, which have inspired us to produce some great descriptive writing.
- Our weekly swimming sessions have been great fun, with many of us making excellent progress, beginning to swim unaided or (for those of us who had been swimming before) learning self-rescue techniques.
- In computing, we have used clever programmable devices called *BBC Microbits*, writing code to send morse code signals across the classroom and play rock-paper-scissors.
- Miss Smith has helped us to take our first steps in learning French, describing ourselves and naming common objects.
- In science, we have learnt about the heart, blood and keeping healthy.
- Many of us have had the chance to represent the school at football and cross-country.

## English : Reports

We started the year by exploring non-chronological reports, describing fantastical monsters and beasts from around the world. We finished the unit by designing our own creatures and writing extended reports on them - just like Malaikah has done in the fantastic example below:

### The Yunamhinarah

Even though this bloody monster looks dangerous, the Yunamhinarah is actually caring and fascinating! This creature is 7 feet tall and if you see it, you should say, "Hello Madam! You look marvellous!" She will immediately grant you three wishes. If you would like to give her some food, give her watermelon popsicles. She will say, "Thank you!" (but you will need to make sure the popsicle is immense).



#### Appearance

When you spot the Yunamhinarah, the first thing you will spot is its wiggly, giraffe-like neck. The unbelievable thing is, she has clear, white, pearl eyes (and cries Aphrodite tears). Surprisingly, her magical, leafy green Chinese dress is covered in ruby red blood! She also has golden shimmering wings like an angel.

#### What it eats

The amazing Yunamhinarah often eats strawberries, although her favourite fruit is watermelon. She eats red velvet cake (because she loves red), with whipped cream and colourful sprinkles. She also eats chicken stuffed with peppers and tomatoes! Her favourite deserts are watermelon popsicles and strawberry pie. She drinks banana and strawberry smoothies through a rainbow straw!

#### Where it lives

This terrifying creature wants to live like real humans, so she lives in a majestic town in China. She pretends to be an average human and lives in a small house. It is basically a haunted house filled with spooky spiderwebs and gooey slime. Inside, it is magical and fascinating (it is very different from the outside). She also has a magical talking mirror!

#### Powers and abilities

Although this tremendous monster pretends to be a human, she can also control nature. For example, she can make roots and plants grow by rubbing her magical hands together and touching whatever plant she wants to grow. Every time she frightens someone, her giraffe neck grows longer and longer. Last but not least, flying! Her gigantic golden wings unfold and allow her to fly far above the town.

by Malaikah





## History : Battle of Britain

Throughout the term we have been learning about the Second World War and, in particular, about the Battle of Britain. To support our learning, we visited the RAF Museum in Hendon. During the day, we saw lots of planes from World War 2 and took part in a workshop where we learnt about (and dressed-up as) lesser known heroes and heroines. Here are a few of the things we learnt:

*In our group, we learnt about a man called Douglas Bader. When he was showing-off to his girlfriend, he crashed his plane and lost his legs. However, even though he didn't have any legs he kept flying, and during WW2 he led a fighter group. He was shot-down and taken prisoner by the Germans. He lost his false leg, so the RAF were allowed to parachute a spare one into the camp where he was being held!*

*Carson*

*Bonnie and I were Joan Mortimer. She did a very good job by placing red flags to warn the pilots that there were bombs scattered around the airfield. She was awarded with 12 medals for her bravery.*

*Nyoreme*

*I think my favourite part of our trip was the section where we got to design our own plane. We got to choose the size and shape of the wings (as well as the colour of the plane) and then when you started playing in the simulator, you could play with the plane you had designed, so you could see if it worked!*

*Chloe*



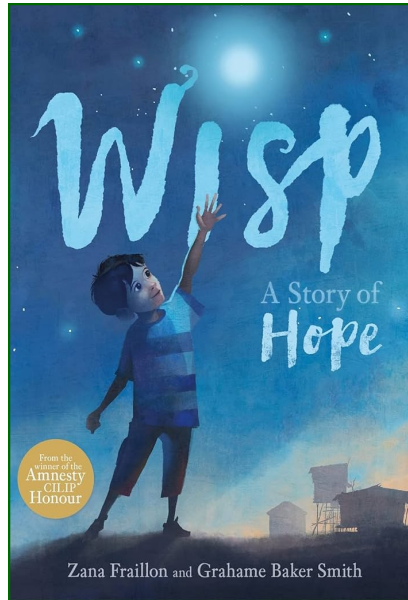
## Year 5/6: Eagles & Falcons

We were delighted by how many parents and carers joined us for our *Stay and Calculate* session earlier in the term. Each of our maths groups ran their own workshop, sharing some of the key maths that they've been working on this term. Mr Roberts' group looked at fractions, finding equivalent and then using this skill to add, subtract and order. In Mrs Draper's group, we focussed on written calculation strategies, showing our parents how we add and subtract quickly and accurately. Finally, in Mrs Thomas' maths class the focus was on place value and number facts.

We also welcomed a visitor into school, as you can see on the right. This was Ruby's great grandad, who had been evacuated in the war. He spoke with great fondness about his experiences and had the most wonderful memories to share. We were captivated by the tales that he told, which brought to life all we had learnt about growing up during World War 2.

## English : Description

In English, we've explored a variety of texts, and most recently, *Wisp: A Story of Hope*, where the children experimented with different sentence structures, effective vocabulary and abstract nouns. Here are a couple of descriptions, written by Dillan and Elyse:



A hazel glow shimmered across the inky, night sky. Dark rays of moonlight morphed into bright golden beams, which danced all around. People's arms waved in majestic union. The heartbeat of a song echoed through the glowing camp, the fence was out of view - and so was sadness. Idris smiled softly. Golden Wisps orbited their owners, pulsing bright to the beat of the music. Hope filled the night air, but not just hope.

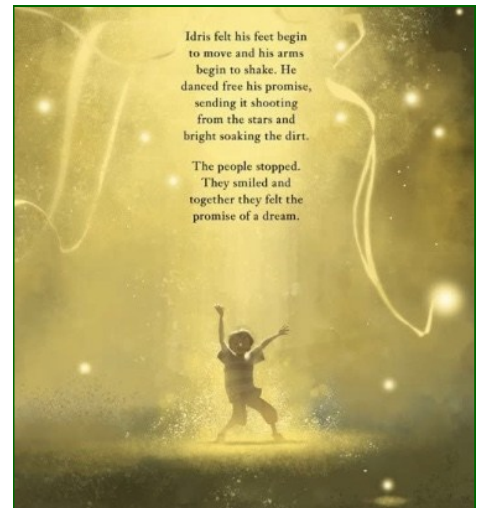
A promise. A promise of a dream.

The people felt hopeful. They felt love. They felt free...

*by Dillan*

Many days came, and many nights passed. Idris was eager to find his Wisp, yet none were to be seen. Well not for Idris anyway. Rememberings flew, twirled and danced in the inky sky, while Idris tasted the pull of the moonlight. Together they watched the pulsing Wisp release a thousand memories from years ago. Glistening upon the sky, the Moon brightened, leaving everyone in wonder. Together they felt love. Together they felt at peace. Yet, best of all, Idris felt hope.

*by Elyse*





December 2024 : Bedwell School News





## Year 5/6: Eagles & Falcons

In November, we visited the RAF Museum at Hendon, where we all had a great time exploring the planes and equipment used during the World War 2. This was a great way to cement everything we've learnt about in our *Battle of Britain* topic, exploring the lives of lesser known heroes and heroines like Joan Mortimer (who stayed at her RAF post even when bombs hit the building she was working in) and Ray Holmes (who rammed his plane into a German fighter that targeted Buckingham Palace!) During the day we saw lots of World War 2 aircraft, including Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancaster Bombers.

As part of our topic, we have also learnt about the causes of WW2, the lives of evacuees and the reasons why the Battle of Britain is considered a turning point in the War. We have shared stories of what family members did during the War, and have tried to imagine what it would have been like to live during this period in history.









## Diary Dates

### 6th January

Inset day (staff training - school closed to children)

### 7th January

Start of Spring Term

### 24th January

Foundation Stage Stay & Play session

### 12th February

Parents' Evening

### 17th - 21st February

Half-term

### 3rd March

Big Talk sessions throughout the school

### 6th March

World Book Day

### 14th March

Foundation Stage Stay & Play session

### 24th -28th March

Science Week across the school

### 3rd April

Easter Disco (open to Years 1-6)

### 4th April

End of term 2pm

### 23rd April

Start of Summer Term

### 5th May

May Bank Holiday

### 7th May

Foundation Stage Stay & Play session

### 12th - 16th May

Year 6 SATs Week

## Sports Update

### Football

Our four school football teams have all been in action this term, kicking-off their seasons with a mix of league games, tournaments and friendlies. Our Year 5/6 'A' team took part in the Stevenage Schools Autumn Tournament



(which we hosted at Bedwell), narrowly missing out on a place in the finals. In their last few games, however, they have really found their shooting boots, winning 11-1 in the league and 5-2 in the Stevenage Cup. Our Girls team, meanwhile, took part in their Autumn Tournament (again at Bedwell) and then began their league season with a solid 2-0 win. After that, our Year 5/6 'B' team were super keen to get playing, narrowly losing out to a strong opponent, while our Year 3/4 squad (pictured above) showed excellent skill and determination in their first two friendlies.

### Cross Country

In one of the first big sporting events of the year, our Cross-Country teams competed at the Stevenage Festival at Fairlands. Running against hundreds of other Year 5/6 children on a one-mile course around the lakes, our team showed great resolve, resulting in some fantastic performances including 17th place (out of 160) for Bobbyjax in the Year 5 boys race, 19th place for Ayla in the Year 5 girls event, 15th for Jazzi in the Year 6 girls championship and Charlie who finished 34th overall in the Year 6 boys race.

