



Autumn 2025 Newsletter



As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful progress, achievements, and moments of joy that have filled our school community over the past months. Every term brings its own challenges and celebrations, and once again our pupils, staff, and families have shown remarkable resilience, kindness, and determination.

Our pupils continue to inspire us each day. We have seen fantastic steps forward in communication, independence, emotional regulation, and social interaction. Whether through sensory exploration, outdoor learning, curriculum activities, or classroom projects, each pupil has made progress that is meaningful to them—and we couldn't be prouder. Thank you for the ongoing support you give at home; it truly makes a difference.

A particular highlight of the term has been our Christmas celebrations. Our Christmas concerts were a wonderful opportunity for pupils to share music, movement, and festive cheer in ways that suited their individual strengths and comfort levels. It was heart-warming to see the pride on pupils' faces and the joy shared with families. We were also delighted by the success of this year's Christmas Fair. Thank you to everyone who attended or donated. The atmosphere was truly magical, and the funds raised will directly support new resources for your children. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

A Heartfelt Thank You:

To our incredible pupils - thank you for your enthusiasm and for reminding us every day why our work matters.

To our staff- thank you for your professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment.

And to you, our parents and carers - thank you for your trust, partnership, and support.

I wish you all a restful, safe, and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Lisa



We have had a great term in music ending with our fantastic Progression, choir and music group concert last week. All the pupils were amazing and put on a great performance and I hope you enjoyed our festive show.



During the term, the pupils in the **Engagement** and **Multisensory Pathways** have enjoyed exploring instruments and musical stories to learn about the timbre or the sounds of different instruments and dynamic – how loud or quiet they can play. All the pupils enjoyed exploring the instruments and playing in different ways to create soundscapes about their favourite things, Autumn, Winter, firework night and the three little pigs.



Maple and **Coalport 3** have been learning about pollution and sustainability through their musical stories. In Autumn 1 we explored pollution in the ocean and how we can recycle our plastics to make some musical instruments and in Autumn 2 we explored creating music for different types of sustainable energies – solar energy using long metallic sounds, hydro power with ocean drums and rainmakers, creating ascending patterns on our tuned instruments for growing and bio energy and playing faster and faster as the wind turbines turned. Everyone enjoyed creating their own improvisations to create our sustainable music.



The pupils in **Bridgewater 1**, **Paragon 2**, **Gladstone 1** and **Gladstone 2** have worked hard learning about timbre, tempo and dynamic and using their understanding to create some amazing music. **Bridgewater 1** and **Paragon 2** used the theme of the Little Train of Caipira to create their own train music, getting faster as the train hurtled down the track. They explored different instruments to choose the sounds they wanted and learnt they could use pictures to represent their sounds. **Gladstone 1** and **Gladstone 2** used the theme of Fireworks to learn about graphic scores. They listened to fireworks then created their own using their voices before exploring instruments to create different firework sounds. They understood we could use a symbol to represent the sound and played their firework compositions to their classes.



Wedgwood 1 and Minton 2 have been working on a composition project run by the English National Opera called Plant this seed. They listened to and watched a short opera, composed for the project on the theme of sustainability and looking after our world. We had to decide where we wanted to create our new sustainable world and write some words and music to create our own part of the opera. The pupils have worked really hard with this and have had some amazing ideas. We are going to finish and audio record our work next half term to submit to the ENO to put on their soundcloud for everyone to hear.



This year we have given the pupils in the Functional pathway the opportunity to take music as one of their options. We have had a group of 9 pupils who chose to do this and they have been amazing working really hard to learn about playing in a group and creating our own orchestra. We allowed the pupils to explore all our instruments and choose which they wanted to play, as well as introducing them to an app on the iPad called Clarion. We used the Clarion to learn how to play Jingle Bells which they performed at our Christmas concert. They worked hard playing the different parts, listening to the parts of others and playing as a group to perform a piece of music – just like being in a traditional orchestra. Natasha and I have been really impressed by their enthusiasm and skills and look forward to creating more wonderful music with them next half term. Well done Functional Music Options group – you know who you are 😊



The choir has been amazing this term. It has been great to have so many pupils coming together to sing and make music together. We have been able to sing in parts, which is a difficult skill, but they worked hard and it sounded amazing. Next term we will be starting to learning the songs for the Music Share concert which takes place in Lichfield Cathedral each March. This is always a fantastic concert and a great opportunity for our pupils to perform with other schools. I am looking forward to being able to take our choir along and will send details about this in the new year.

Have a lovely holiday

Lorraine

Coalport 1 – Autumn Newsletter

Coalport 1 have had a fantastic Autumn term. We have loved getting back to swimming and the children were all so excited to be in the pool! We have had so many children develop incredible independence skills and they all work incredibly hard each day. Our topic was 'Me and my favourite things' – the children have therefore been making lots of choices about their learning and had so much fun.



Our sensory stories this term were 'a superpower like mine' and 'five minutes peace'. The children were able to explore a variety of activities including exploring animals, playing musical instruments, water play, and controlling toys on a switch.

During our problem-solving lessons we have explored number through counting and number songs. We have explored measurement thinking about 'big and small', capacity, and length. The children loved linking this to our sensory story five minutes peace by exploring full and empty in bubbly water! We have also been exposed to a variety of 2D and 3D shapes and really enjoy exploring these on the light box.



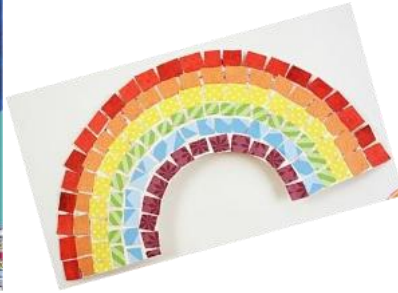
In our communication lessons we have explored a variety of stories together – one of our favourites was the monkey puzzle and we explored lots of different animals alongside this. We practice our mark making skills in a variety of ways: write dance, mark making in sensory material, using paint sticks and chalk! We have been working on making lots of choices and our ability to ask for more of an activity – this has been using symbols, switches, or showing via facial expressions.

During our topic lessons we started the year exploring with our senses and thinking about our environment. We spent time outside recognising the different things we could hear, see and smell, and we tasted/smelt different foods, scents and flavours. We have done lots of art projects, from creating art using nature, to creating winter collages! Our RE days consisted of learning about special places, and food and light festivals. We enjoyed having our own light festival where we moved around, activated disco lights on the switch, and shared cake!



We had have had a great term and look forwards to more fun in the Spring! Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Coalport 1 – Jordan, Caity, Kim, Becky, Shelby.

Aynsley 1 - Autumn Newsletter



During the Autumn Term, Aynsley 1 have worked hard during English lessons. We have studied the book by Roald Dahl called 'Matilda' and explored a sensory story all about the Planets in our Solar System. We have worked hard on our fine motor skills through activities such as threading, cutting along lines and shapes with scissors and holding a pencil or crayon to do some mark making with our RWI phonics letters.

In our Life Skills sessions, we have been very busy focusing on Home Management and the different tasks we could help with at home. We have washed and dried dishes, had a go at hoovering the carpets and sweeping the floor. Then we have also made our own small snacks (jam on toast), with a warm drink too!

Within our Duke of Edinburgh lessons, the students have continued to develop skills by exploring the artistic style of Mosaic Patterns. We have investigated and explored using different colours, repeating patterns and finally created our own Mosaic style frame for a piece of artwork. We have also created our own Christmas Cards that we are selling at our school Eco fair on the last week of term.

In R.E, our topics this term have been My Family and Celebrations and Christmas. The pupils looked at who is within their family and the celebrations we might have

with them together at home. We created some beautiful pieces of Artwork linked to the Christmas story, and a whole class mural for our window to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas for Christians.

During our ASDAN lessons, we have explored the theme 'all about me'. Showing awareness of themselves as individuals; both within their family and our class, thinking about what makes us unique! We then moved on to our relationships to others e.g. family members, other members of our class. We have been exploring what makes us individual and the different talents we all bring.

For our Mental Health and Wellbeing Day the theme was 'Give' we made rice crispie cakes as a class and then gave them out to adults within our school that help us. We thought about the gift of 'giving' and how it is important to think of others and how we can bring them joy throughout the year.

During our Science lessons, we have looked at the topics of Animals focusing on our bones, and also Forces and Gravity. We have explored the idea that there are bones inside our bodies and that they help us to move around. We explored how toy cars move by pushing and pulling them, and that when we drop something it falls to the floor.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From Eleanor, Mandy, Sarah and Sophie (Aynsley 1 Team)



Aynsley 2 – Autumn Newsletter

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting Autumn term, we would like to share some of the wonderful learning, achievements, and experiences the pupils in **Aynsley 2** have enjoyed over the past few months.

English

This term, pupils have been exploring *The Water Tower*. They began by looking closely at the illustrations to make predictions about the plot, which led to lots of thoughtful discussion and imaginative ideas. The class found the mysterious storyline particularly engaging, especially the cliff-hanger ending! Pupils showed fantastic creativity by writing their own versions of the story and developing alternative endings.

Science

In Science, pupils have been learning about **The Human Body**, focusing on the importance of the skeleton, how our muscles work, and the functions of major organs. Later in the term, they explored **Space, Gravity, and Magnetic Fields**, taking part in investigations and activities that helped them understand how forces shape our world and beyond.

PSHE

Our PSHE lessons have encouraged pupils to think deeply about their own behaviour and the way people treat one another. They learnt about **prejudice, stereotypes, and discrimination**, using real-life scenarios to support their understanding. Pupils also explored the **effects of gambling**, discussing risks, and how social media or pop-up adverts can influence decision-making. These conversations have helped pupils build confidence in recognising and managing potential harms.

RE

In RE, the class has been learning about **Christianity**, with a focus on how Christmas is celebrated across different communities. Pupils also shared how they celebrate special occasions within their own families, helping the class recognise similarities, differences, and the importance of respecting one another's traditions.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Pupils have continued their brilliant work towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award, focusing on the **skill, physical, and volunteering** sections. As part of their volunteering, pupils have made a variety of items to sell at local fayres, helping raise money for the school. Their teamwork, creativity, and commitment have been outstanding.

Trips & Experiences

Aynsley 2 have enjoyed a wide range of trips this term, giving them valuable opportunities to develop independence and real-life skills. These trips have included:

- **Trentham Café** – practising functional and social skills
- **Craft Fayres** – selling handmade items and raising money
- **Swanbank Church** – taking part in Christmas celebrations
- **Freeport** – using money skills and practising Christmas shopping
- **Community Walks** – building road safety awareness and travel training

The pupils have represented the school wonderfully during these outings and have grown in confidence each time.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, enthusiasm, and progress the pupils in Aynsley 2 have shown. We look forward to more exciting learning and opportunities next term.

Wishing you all a restful break and a happy holiday season.

The Aynsley 2 Team



Bridgewater 1

What a wonderful and busy term it has been in Bridgewater 1! The children have worked incredibly hard and taken part in a wide range of exciting learning experiences. In **English**, we enjoyed exploring the texts *Aliens Love Underpants* and *And Tango Makes Three*. The children loved discussing the characters and themes, and taking part in related reading and writing activities. In **Maths**, we continued to build our understanding of number concepts using Numicon, which has helped the children make strong visual and practical links in their learning. Our **Science** work has been full of curiosity, as we learned about animals including humans, light and sound, and even touched on evolution and inheritance.

Our **History** and **Geography** learning has focused on our local area and history and where people live. The children explored Stoke-on-Trent, learning all about bottle kilns and our rich pottery heritage. In **DT**, the children proudly created their own 3D bottle kilns and in **Art**, we studied the work of Vincent van Gogh. We practiced painting skills inspired by his *Sunflowers* and developed collage skills based on his *Bedroom* artwork.

In **PSHE**, we have been learning about keeping safe, and understanding kind and unkind behaviours. In **RE**, we explored our own families, special celebrations, and the meaning of Christmas. In **PE**, we have had great fun playing games together and taking part in swimming sessions, helping to build confidence, coordination and water safety skills. In **Computing**, we have been practicing our typing skills, and in **Life Skills** we have worked on cutting skills and learned how to cross safely at a zebra crossing.

This term we have enjoyed two **Mental Health and Well-Being afternoons**, focusing on the themes of *Connect* and *Give*. The children engaged beautifully and showed thoughtful reflection. Our **Learning for Peace** sessions continue to be a much-loved part of our week, as well as our **Communication Through Play**, giving the children rich opportunities to interact, share, and build social communication skills. We have also been practicing our **Christmas show songs**, which the children have sung with enthusiasm and pride ready to perform at our Christmas Show. We have also enjoyed lots of Christmas themed activities, as well as the eco Christmas Fair during our last week.

We welcomed Sally back from maternity leave this half term, and said goodbye to Becky on Fridays—although we are delighted to still have her with us every other Wednesday morning. It has been a fantastic term full of learning, creativity and growth. We are very proud of everything the children have achieved and look forward to more exciting learning next term.

Steph, Sally, Becky, Carmen, Aarzo, Rachel and Tyrah

Coalport 2- Autumn Newsletter

Well, what a term it's been! We hope everyone enjoyed their summer holidays, as we came back to school and jumped straight back into learning and fun.

Our topic this term has been "Me and My Favourite Things", and we've been exploring lots of different toys, colours, and activities that we all love.

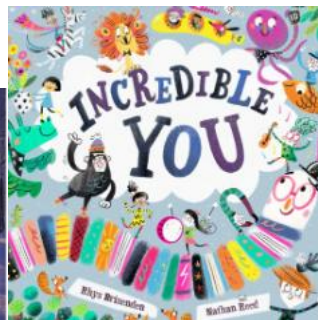
Our sensory stories this term were *Incredible You* and *Grandad's Camper*. Both stories were enjoyed by everyone, with lots of exciting activities and songs to bring each page to life. *Incredible You* is a beautiful story celebrating how everyone is unique, and it inspired some wonderful work from all our children. *Grandad's Camper* took us on a lovely journey through special family memories, sparking great discussions and smiles all round.

During our communication and problem-solving sessions, we've been exploring numbers up to 5 using natural materials such as pinecones, conkers, and shells to help us count. We've also explored the concepts of *big* and *small*, even measuring ourselves and ordering by height! Colour exploration has been a big focus too, with lots of creative painting using different materials and textures.

In topic work, we've been learning all about our bodies, our senses, and the signs of winter. A highlight was our winter massage story, which really heightened our touch and smell senses as we explored chilly items and the wonderful scents of the season. In RE, we've been thinking about special places — like our homes, school, and gardens and we've also learned about food celebrations such as Harvest.

We have had a special visit from Furry Friends, and all enjoyed stroking the different animals. We have made the most of the dry weather by visiting the adventure playground and going on nature walks.

Finally, all the children have worked incredibly hard during our physiotherapy and hydrotherapy sessions this term. We're so proud of their effort, enthusiasm, and progress! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the break.



Coalport 2, Jo, Katie, Laura and Claire.

Doulton



As we reach the end of our busy and exciting Autumn term, we would like to share some of the wonderful moments we have enjoyed together.

This term we were delighted to welcome our new children to the school and to our class.

Everyone settled in beautifully, forming new friendships and quickly becoming part of our EYFS family. We are so proud of how confidently the children have embraced their new routines and environment.



One of the highlights of our term was our special visit from the *Furry Friends* animals. The children were so enthusiastic as they met and learned about each animal. Our absolute favourite was Daisy the dog, who brought lots of smiles, cuddles, and excitement.



We also hosted our lovely Autumn Coffee Morning, where we welcomed parents into school to join us for sensory activities. It was wonderful to see families engaging together, exploring textures, colours, sounds, and creating special shared memories in our learning environment.

Our topic this term has been Toys and Bears, which the children have adored. We explored a wide range of cause-and-effect toys—pushing, pulling, pressing, twisting, and watching what happens! This has encouraged lots of curiosity, problem-solving, and joyful play.



As we move into the final week of term, we are very excited for our Christmas trip to the New Vic Tale Trail. We are all looking forward to experiencing the immersive storytelling of *The Little Mermaid*, which promises to be a magical way to end our term together.

Thank you to all our families for your support throughout the Autumn term. We wish all our children and families a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, restful holiday.

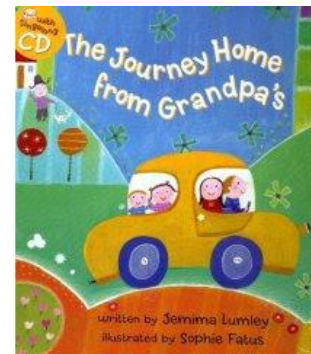
Danica, Clare, Amelia, Charlotte and Sarah.



Doulton 2

What a fantastic term we have had in Doulton 2. We have all enjoyed meeting new friends and learning all about them.

This term we have been reading the sensory stories of Journey Home From Grandpas and The Gingerbread Man. We have enjoyed exploring the scents during the gingerbread man story and exploring the sounds of the animals. During the journey home from grandpas we have found a wide range of transport and worked out how these move.



Our maths has been focused on numbers, colours and shapes. We have been finding the shapes in various sensory materials and printing with them. We have also been finding out about the number corelate to amounts of objects. We have explored colours in a variety of ways, we have seen a clear preference for exploring on the light box. We made patterns using a range of colours and items.



During topic we have been learning about ourselves and what we enjoy doing. We have been around the school to find our favourite places. We have also been building relationships by playing and learning together with our peers. We have loved exploring the signs of winter by finding the snow and ice as well as creating our own winter collages.

Have a great Christmas and New Year! Doulton 2 Team

Gladstone

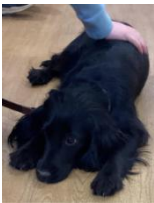
What a wonderful Autumn term we have had. All the children have settled extremely well into their new classes and have formed some lovely relationships with one another.

English- Throughout this term we have explored two key texts “Peter Pan” and “The Kapok Tree”. The children have thoroughly enjoyed both texts and have participated in a range of activities such as story sequencing, role play, writing sentences and lots more! The children have all been able to recall the story well.

Maths- In our maths lessons we have been exploring addition, subtraction, comparing lengths, ordering Numicon and practicing our number formation.

Science- During our science lessons we have been learning all about “Evolution and Inheritance and Animals including humans” The children have explored what features they inherit from their parents through looking at images of themselves and their families. We have explored animal features and how they help them to survive in their environments and comparing which animals live within different habitats.

P.E- The children have enjoyed Swimming and Forest schools this term. The children are all developing their confidence in the pool and have been practicing their front, back crawl and how to float on their backs. During forest schools the children have created artwork using leaves, built dens and learnt how to care for the outdoor environment



Fury Friends- Our main highlight of the term was the visit of the therapy animals.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our fury friend's session handling and holding animals including a guineapig, rabbit and dog. The children all showed love and care when holding the animals. Daisy the Cocker Spaniel was our favourite!



History- During History this term we have explored different types of homes and their names. We have been identifying where we live on google maps when typing our address in the search engine. We have also explored Emma Bridgewater and Josiah Wedgewood through making fact files and exploring their pottery.

Geography- Throughout our Geography lessons this term we have been on several walks within the community so that we can practice following maps and identifying local features on our walks. The children also had the opportunity to buy an item

from the shop. We have created maps of inside of school and compared different building types including shops, schools and homes.

Thank you for your continued support this term and this year we really appreciate it. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break, and we will see you all in the new year!

Gladstone 1 Team- Shannon, Laura, Anna and Ebony.

Gladstone 2

This autumn term has been a busy and happy time in our class. We've been learning new things, trying fun activities, and getting to know each other. In this newsletter, you'll find some of our favourite moments and highlights from the term.

Daily routines

Every morning the pupils come into class and organise their belongings, then start reading their individual reading books. We have really mastered this routine, and it sets us up for a busy day of learning. It has been great to see independence developing among the pupils as the weeks have gone on and they have really mastered this routine.

Topic days

This year we have started topic days so that we can immerse ourselves in our learning of the different subjects. During our Geography days we have been on a local walk, and learned about the different types of homes people live in. We have followed and created maps of the school and the local area. The children especially enjoyed a lesson on google maps where they could find school and explore other areas of Stoke on Trent. They were very excited to find Macdonalds! In History we have looked at the life of Josiah Wedgwood and the pottery industry.



Trip to Wedgwood

We went on a wonderful trip to Wedgwood, where we learned how pottery is made and even had the chance to create with clay ourselves. The children loved shaping their own pieces and exploring the different tools and techniques. It was a fun, hands-on experience that everyone enjoyed.

Visit from Furry Friends

We had a lovely visit from Furry Friends this term, giving pupils the chance to meet and gently stroke a tortoise, a guinea pig, and a friendly dog. The session was

calming, engaging, and full of smiles, helping pupils build confidence around animals while enjoying a soothing sensory experience.

Table Cricket

We really enjoyed our table cricket sessions this term. They have helped to build coordination, teamwork, and confidence. The game's simple rules and adapted equipment make it easy for everyone to take part, and the pupils have really enjoyed developing new skills while playing together. It has been lovely to hear them cheering each other on.



Science

Science is a popular subject in our class, and the topics taught this term have been really motivating for the pupils. We have looked at different types of animals and compared their features, and at evolution and how different animals have adapted over time. We had a very engaging lesson looking at fossils and learning about how they are formed.

Christmas

We had a magical end to our term with all the Christmas activities, and a highlight was our fantastic pupils singing at the progression concert.

We would like to thank our parents for your support this term and we look forward to a fun and busy Spring term!



From Maddie, Gemma and Chloe

Autumn term seems to have whizzed by in Maple and Coalport 3. Our new pupils have settled wonderfully, growing friendships have been very special to watch.

We have very much enjoyed the topic of pollution and sustainability covering the stories of Rainforest Ramble and how to make the perfect cup of coffee. Pupils have really shone in their learning and understanding when grasping new concepts.

It has been nice to resume some swim sessions with all pupils demonstrating a real enjoyment of this time. Pupils have been practising taking steps and moving from one end of the pool to the other in various ways.

We have very much enjoyed entering our community with walks to local cafes and shops. We have also resumed our disability awareness sessions at St Thomas Aquinas and also with trainee TA's at Newcastle college. We have been very touched by the feedback received.

We have enjoyed our options learning centring on digital life, experimental science and books and literature. The books and literature group particularly enjoyed creating hobbit holes and hobbits with the experimental science group making some fantastic predictions surrounding which material (string, strawberry laces or elastic bands) would hold the most weight. The digital life group have enjoyed some extra sensory room slots alongside exploring communicative technologies such as Facetime and phones.



Our Christmas festivities in class are very much underway, we would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Minton 2 – Autumn Term newsletter

What a fantastic term it has been in Minton 2! The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects and have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning experiences.

English

We have loved exploring *The Wind in the Willows*. The children learnt all about the characters and the adventures of Mr Toad! They also produced detailed fact files on toads, using both research and their knowledge from the book. This term we also explored two inspiring figures using the *Little People, Big Dreams* series - Ernest Shackleton and David Attenborough. The children learned about their adventures and contributions to exploration and nature, then compared the two explorers, discussing their similarities, differences, and achievements.

Maths

In Maths, the class has been working collaboratively using the Numicon scheme of work. Practical resources have helped deepen understanding of number, and group activities have encouraged teamwork.

Science

This term we covered three fascinating Science topics. In *Light and Sound*, we investigated how light travels and how different sounds are made. During *Evolution and Inheritance*, we explored family traits, dinosaurs, and fossils. Our unit on *Animals and Humans* helped us learn how to group animals based on their characteristics.

History

Our focus on the local area was a real highlight, especially our wonderful trip to the World of Wedgwood. The children enjoyed working with clay and exploring the museum to find out more about local history.

Geography

We continued learning about our local area, taking walks around Blurton to observe features of our community. We also studied different types of homes and houses, using Google Maps to locate our own addresses and compare environments.

Art

Inspired by Vincent van Gogh, the children created beautiful paintings of flowers based on his sunflower work. They also produced mixed-media collages inspired by *The Bedroom*, experimenting with colours, textures, and techniques.

Design Technology

In DT, the children used recyclable materials to design and build model homes. They

focused on developing their cutting and gluing skills, working carefully to join materials and create strong, neat structures.

Computing

This term we discovered what a computer is and how it works. The children also practised their typing skills and developed confidence in using the keyboard accurately.

PSHE

Our PSHE learning centred around respect and kindness, discussing what it means to treat others well. More recently, we explored how to manage online information, including how to recognise what is real and what may be fake.

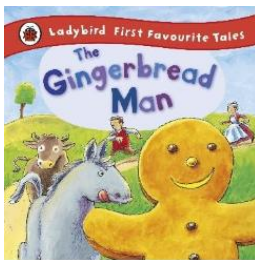
Well done to all of Minton 2 for your hard work, enthusiasm, and brilliant achievements this term. We wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and a restful, joyful holiday!

From Hannah, Katrina, Amy, Mandy, Louise and Deb



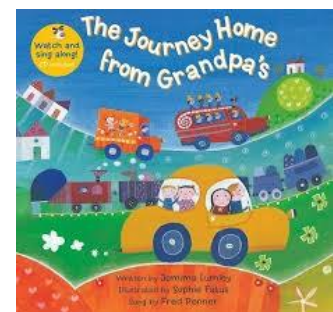
Paragon 1

We have had a lovely first term in Paragon 1 exploring the topic 'My Favourite Things'! In Autumn 1, we enjoyed learning all about ourselves and our peers and getting to know our likes and dislikes. We have explored our bodies, senses, families and our school and community. Throughout Autumn 2, we've focused on family celebrations, looking at birthdays, Eid, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas and enjoyed lots of fun, sensory activities to extend our learning!



At the start of the year, our Sensory Story was 'The Gingerbread Man', where we loved exploring the animals and their sounds. We also enjoyed joining in with the repeated refrain 'run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man' and moving our feet to the sound of a drum! Our next story, 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's', allowed us to explore different modes of transport. We particularly enjoyed exploring colours and identifying full/empty using water.

In R.E, we have learned all about special places with family, including Christian and Islamic special places and special times with family, where we explored how different religions take part in different celebrations.



One of our favourite moments this term was meeting some furry friends during our Mental Health and Wellbeing Day! We met guinea pigs, rabbits, a dog and a tortoise where we were able to give them a cuddle if we were very gentle.

We have had lots of fun learning different songs, stories and signs to help us with our learning. Paragon 1 also performed in the Christmas Concert where we dressed up as snowmen and enjoyed dancing on the stage!

Everyone has worked super hard this term, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in and the progress that they have made. We are now getting ready for our next topic 'Curious Minds'.

Paragon 1 Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Megan, Lydia, Louise and Kinga x

REGENCY 1 AUTUMN TERM 2025

During the Autumn term, the pupils in Regency 1 have started to get used to our changed timetable and areas of study as they are now years 9 and 10, they are working on ASDAN, Options and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE).

ASDAN- The pupils are busy collecting their own, individual evidence to build up their ASDAN profile. Some of this is written, some is photographs. They have been working on thinking how to solve everyday problems in life.

ASDAN Options. All pupils chose an option to work on over the term. These were- Art & DT, DIY, Health & Social Care, Music Technology, and Hospitality.

DofE- Pupils are starting to collect and build their evidence towards a Bronze Award. Firstly, we looked at developing a new skill, we chose learning how to sign effectively using Makaton and First Aid skills. Our PE sessions and walks in the community also count towards the physical element of the award.

RE is now covered by two whole days every half term. The subject is covered by studying the area in question by looking at food, art and practices as well as the underlying values of the religion. We have looked at Celebrations first, which covered all sorts of life events in different religions. Secondly, we looked at the story behind Christmas.

PE, We spent the first half term working out to keep fit videos to try and build co-ordination, balance and stamina. There was a definite improvement in the amount of time they were able to participate for before needing a break. We then worked on basketball skills and had a few sessions in the pool building on water confidence.

PSHE Prejudice, Discrimination & Diversity. Lots of work on being able to accept others and their point of view. Emergency situations. This involved thinking whether a situation could be called an emergency or dealt with by First Aid. We looked at risk and how to manage risk and how to spot risky situations.

IT (Improving Productivity & User Fundamentals) All pupils are working towards gaining an award in IT. This involves doing tasks to complete evidence sections.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) Connect- Pupils worked in pairs to make a large co-operative drawing and connected with British nature by researching different wildlife. We also worked on a big piece of art using leaves and twigs to make a face on the floor. Give- We gave a donation of books to a local charity shop and gave time to the community by doing a litter pick around the local shops.

Science- We covered work on Human and Animal Skeletons and secondly, we investigated Forces, carrying out a number of experiments.

We also have daily phonics, reading and spelling sessions and read A Christmas Carol this term and based our English work on it.

We always make time for discussion and enjoy our conversations going off in another direction and then using Google and YouTube to discover even further. We have started doing daily immersive interactive warm-ups to get the brain and muscles moving. Best of all, we have a lot of fun. Best wishes for the Christmas holiday, however you celebrate, the new Year and for 2026.

Ian, Shelley, Zoe and all in Regency 1



Regency 2- Autumn Newsletter

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting Autumn term, we would like to share some of our wonderful learning opportunities, achievements and experiences that the pupils in **Regency 2** have enjoyed over the last few months.

English.

This term, pupils have been exploring a written text, Dracula. They began by exploring the different characters and looking closely at the illustrations to predict what may happen. The children found the text particularly engaging, and exciting.

Pupils showed clear understanding and creativity by recalling the story and discussing numerous different predictions. We then looked at 'me and my world', discussing adjectives, opinions, feelings and personal information. The children showed a deep level of understanding, particularly when using adjectives, to make their writing more fun and engaging.

Maths.

Autumn term has been a particularly busy term for maths in Regency 2. We have been practicing our 2-, 3 and 5-times tables daily. The children have shown a level of perseverance and a great sense of achievement. We then looked closely into money- how it used and why. The children spent several weeks practicing their money skills, using different values of coins to make different amounts. We then went for a little walk down to our local co-op to practice our money skills further.

PSHE.

During PSHE, our lessons have encouraged pupils to reflect on their behaviour and how we want to be treated. The pupils have looked closely into prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination, using different scenarios to support their understanding. We then looked closely into Emergency services, 999 and the recovery position. The children found this particularly engaging, by using the telephone to make a '999' call and report an incident. The children practiced the recovery position and discussed the importance of it and why it is used.

ASDAN.

During ASDAN, some of the children have been working closely as a group to create their own 'business'. The children discussed the different job roles needed, the name of their business and what their business will be. The children worked together and listened closely to each other's ideas and then made a final decision. The children decided to create Christmas themed plates to sell at our Christmas school fair, and their business would be called 'operation Christmas'. We discussed where we were

going to sell the plates and how much for. The other children have been looking at local charities within the area and creating small decorative items that they can donate to the local charities, to brighten up their garden spaces. The children

discussed how it would make the charities feel, and how the service users would benefit from them.

Duke of Edinburgh.

Autumn term has been a busy term for Regency 2 during our Duke of Edinburgh sessions. We have been focusing on the **Skills and Physical** sections of the Duke of Edinburgh award. During our skills development, we have been developing our cooking and artistic skills. We have been looking closely at different forms of painting, using different resources and looking closely at the marks they create for example, marble painting. During cooking, we have made several meals including chili con carne and pasta bake. The children discussed the safety of using different utensils, the hygiene you should follow before, during and after cooking a meal and the safety precautions of using hot appliances.

Trips and Opportunities within the community.

Regency 2 have enjoyed a wide range of trips this term, giving them valuable opportunities to develop independence and real-life skills.

These have included:

- **Local walks within the community-** practicing road safety and travel training.
- **Walk to the local Co-op-** practicing money handling skills, communication skills and social skills.
- **Walk to the local Cenotaph-** understanding why the cenotaph is important and who we remember whilst visiting.
- **Brewers' fayre-** links into our ASDAN topic of community and social skills.



We hope you have a lovely Christmas and thank you all for your continued support.

Regency 2 Team – Sam, Melody, Megan and Scott



Spode 1 newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy term and the children have had a fantastic time! We are really pleased with the progress that they have made and it has been great to see how far they have come in such a short time.

This term, we have looked at two sensory stories, 'In Every House, On Every Street', and 'The Everywhere Bear'. The children particularly enjoyed our first sensory story and have shown strong engagement with bubbles, parachute, puppets and sensory mark making. They have continued to develop their engagement so that all of the children can sit for 15 minutes which is a huge achievement!

In our Communication and problem solving sessions, we have enjoyed developing our book handling skills, mark making, fine motor and communication skills. Books are a firm favourite in Spode 1 and all of the children have enjoyed exploring the books in our book corner and are developing favourite stories. The children have all made progress in their mark making and we are enjoying seeing them engage for longer periods over time, especially when using sensory materials or paint. In our maths activities, we have enjoyed exploring capacity, colour and shape as well as exploring number through Numicon. The children are starting to show good matching skills and have particularly enjoyed our exploration of number rhymes recently.

In our Topic sessions, we have enjoyed exploring the themes of 'The Story so Far', and 'Toys and Bears'. The children enjoyed exploring pictures of their families and themselves, as well as taking the time to explore the school environment through our swim, soft play, light room and sensory diet room sessions. They have shown a strong interest in painting and modelling with dough and the children have enjoyed creating a range of art pieces with the staff in class. We have particularly enjoyed our Forest School sessions this half term and the children have shown a strong interest in the outdoors and exploring natural environments.

In terms of PSED, the children have developed good bonds with their key workers and the children have been developing their interaction and play skills with the staff in class. They have enjoyed exploring the small world play, construction and sensory play and we have seen great improvement in their interaction skills from all of the children.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas performance, ECO Fair, and our Engagement pathway sessions this term. It has been lovely to meet and get to know you all and we look forward to planning more of these events in the Spring term.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

The Spode 1 team (Cath, Stacey, Kaye, Natalie, and Milli)

Spode 2



We've had a wonderful and busy half term in Spode 2, filled with exciting learning and lots of fun! Our main topic has been "Me and My Favourite Things," and the children have loved exploring all the things that make them unique. Alongside this, we've also been learning about different celebrations, winter, our families, our bodies, and our community, which the children have all really enjoyed!

Our sensory stories this term were *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Journey Home from Grandpa's*. The children thoroughly enjoyed engaging with these stories through actions, textures, sounds, and smells. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm, and engagement improve with each session we have done. In Maths, we have been focusing on number, one-to-one correspondence, size, and capacity. The children have explored these concepts through hands-on activities, practical play, and lots of opportunities to investigate and problem-solve. In English, we have been developing book-handling skills and strengthening our fine motor abilities. The children have spent time exploring books, turning pages, and building their hand strength through the use of Play-Doh, and sensory mark making activities.

We have also spent some time focusing on special places, and special times with our families. The children particularly enjoyed looking at pictures of themselves and their peers, helping build interaction and connections within the class. We have also explored different festivals and foods, which the children all thoroughly enjoyed, exploring different tastes, music and traditions.



This half term, we have also been busy practicing for our Christmas show, and the children worked so hard to put on a wonderful performance for you all. We really hope you enjoyed "Stepping into Christmas" with us—it was a joy to see the children shine! We have also loved celebrating Christmas Jumper Day, enjoyed lots of Christmas activities and making sure our classroom had a festive feel. During Autumn 2, we enjoyed a class trip to Amerton Farm. The children had a fantastic time meeting Santa and visiting the animals. Their excitement and smiles made the day truly magical for us all.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into Spode 2 and how confidently they have taken on their new routines and are already looking forward to seeing how they progress even further in the Spring term! Thank you so much for such a wonderful term, and we are all so proud of everything you have all achieved. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and we can't wait to see you all again in the New Year! Lucie, Katie, Savannah and Kat x

Wedgwood 1

This term has flown by in Wedgwood 1 and all the children have settled into being in this class with different routines and have made new friends.

We have done lots of exciting activities and learnt about lots of different things.

In Science, we have been learning about 'electricity'. The children explored the classroom and found different plug sockets and demonstrated how to plug something in safely. Some of the children also explored what plugs are made out of and labelled a diagram.

We also learnt about 'Animals including humans'. The children could recognise and name different animals based on their sounds. Some of the children could order up to 3 stages of the lifecycle of a chicken.

Whilst learning about 'Where people live', the children could recognise pictures of their homes and state who lives in them. They then compared different types of homes such as bungalows, flats and house. When focusing on 'My Local Area and the UK', the children could find specific places within our school community and they enjoyed a walk in the local area to find specific items listed.

Within Art, the children have enjoyed learning about the artist Van Gogh and explored his sunflower and bedroom artwork. The children looked at the artwork and then developed their painting and collage skills to make their own versions of these specific artwork pieces.

When learning about 'Our Local Area' in History, the children learnt about how Stoke-on-Trent and explored through photographs, specific places and how they have changed over time. The children looked at Josiah Wedgwood and Emma Bridgewater pottery and began to compare how they look different.

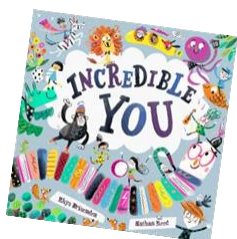
In Design Technology (DT), the children worked within small groups and built a tower. We then tested their stability, strength and height through a variety of tests. Only 1 tower remained standing. The children all enjoyed this activity.

Well done this term for all your hard work. Have a good Christmas and New Year.

Steph, Kim, Zea and Elaine



Minton 1



We have had a busy Autumn Term in Minton 1 with lots of exciting activities and trips. Our main topic focus for this half term has been “Me and my Favourite Things”. It has been lovely exploring what makes us unique and what we enjoy playing with and exploring as individuals.

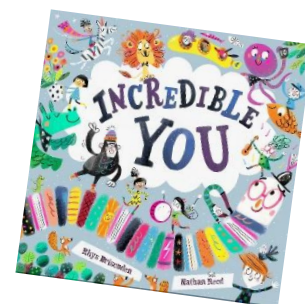


Our sensory stories this term have been Granddad's Camper and Incredible you. The pupils loved exploring the sensory activities that linked to the story and enjoyed learning about the adventures that Granddad went on and what makes each of us incredible. We created self portraits and collected items to play with that make us happy.

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We have carried out weekly cookery sessions. Each week we went to our local Tesco and used a communication device to purchase the ingredients we needed for our cookery lesson the next day. We then used the items we had purchased to make main meals and desserts. We shared these as a class and took them to share with our families.

Within our topic sessions we have focused on model making and have made different models using a variety of resources, We have used recyclable materials as part of our ECO, clay, dough and made our own dough to make our candle holders. We have been looking at cause and effect by going to the light room and exploring how to operate the light resources, change their colour and how to turn them on and off.

We have been exploring the adventure playground and gymnastic skills as part of our Physical Education sessions. We developed our independence in accessing the playground equipment and explored different skills such as balancing, jumping, stepping and crawling.

We have been using our personal care boxes to develop our sequencing when using deodorant, body spray, tooth brushing and face washing. We are learning about what comes first, now and next in the sequence and when we would use these items throughout the day.



As part of our Christmas treat we went on a visit with A1 to West Midlands Safari Park to take part in the Santa Safari.

We drove around the drive through Safari and got the chance to see some animals up close. We then went on a walk through the North Pole sensory experience where we explored different lights, switches and mechanical toys that lead us to Santa's house. We met Santa, had a photo and we even got to choose a gift from his workshop.

We have had a lovely term in Minton 1 and we are so proud of all the pupils achievements. We are looking forward to the Spring term and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

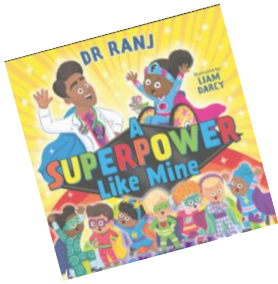
Natasha, Emma, Kelly and Gemma



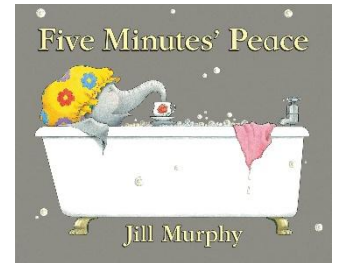
Wedgwood 2

We've had a busy and fantastic term in Wedgwood 2. Our main topic has been "Me and My Favourite Things," and the children have loved exploring all the things that make them special. In addition, we have been learning about various celebrations, winter, our families, our bodies, and our community, and the children have shown great enthusiasm.

Our sensory stories this term were A Superpower Like Mine and 5 minutes peace.



The children have really enjoyed engaging with these stories through sounds, smells and different textures. Each session they are engaging more and more. In Maths, we have been focusing on number, one-to-one correspondence, shape, and capacity. The children have explored these ideas in lots of different practical ways. In English, we have been developing book-handling skills and strengthening our fine motor skills. We have worked really hard to develop our prewriting skills.



In topic, we have been focusing on recognising one another, choosing favourite places around the school, and noticing different places of worship. We loved looking at baby photos of ourselves and friends. This really helped us to build connections with one another. In addition, we explored a range of festivals and foods, with the children thoroughly enjoying discovering different tastes, music, and traditions.

We have been exploring the adventure playground and gymnastic skills as part of our Physical Education sessions. We developed our independence in accessing the playground equipment and explored different skills such as balancing, jumping, stepping and crawling. We have loved using the hall, sensory diet room and the adventure playground to explore new skills and now we can request different rooms for our PE.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new class with some new faces! We are so proud with all the progress they have made and all their kindness they are sharing with each other.

Thank you for a brilliant term. We are extremely proud of all your achievements and hope you have a joyful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and ready for the Spring term.

Katie, Gemma, Danielle, Lisa, Ruth, Sophie

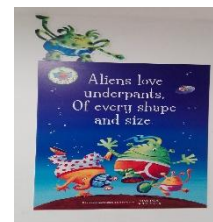


Paragon 2 Autumn Newsletter

We have had a lovely Autumn term in Paragon 2, and it has been a pleasure welcoming the children back.

English

We began by reading *Aliens Love Underpants*, where the children enjoyed exploring and matching rhyming words through fun hands-on activities.

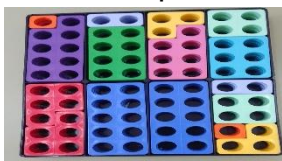


We also read *And Tango Makes Three*, focusing on listening carefully and learning about environmental and instrumental sounds. The children explored different sounds using instruments, developing their sound awareness, and enjoyment of music and listening activities.

Throughout the term, we also worked on sentence construction using *Colourful Semantics*, which the children have been amazing at!

Maths

The children explored Numicon through hands-on, practical activities. They matched



Numicon pieces to numerals and created number lines.

We also began learning about number rods, giving children opportunities to explore and compare them.

These activities helped develop counting skills, understanding of size, and early mathematical language.

Topic

In Art we enjoyed learning about Vincent Van Gogh and re-created the sunflower painting! In Geography, we learned about our local area by exploring our classroom and school environment. In History, we learned about Stoke-on-Trent and explored local features. The children particularly enjoyed a sensory story about Stoke-on-Trent, which helped bring local history to life. In Science, we learned about light and dark. Children enjoyed creating shadows using their hands and a variety of objects, exploring how shadows are formed through practical investigation.

PE

We also had a fantastic time doing Table Cricket, the children worked on their teamwork and competitive skills and really enjoyed the activity! We also practised our Dance skills, and listened to different types of music and moved our body to the music, we enjoyed using ribbons to dance to the music especially.

It has been a wonderful start to the year in Paragon 2.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting term of learning together! Have an amazing Christmas! Chloe, Stacey, Donna and Amelia

Bridgewater 2

Autumn 2025

Our sensory stories this term have linked to our umbrella topic of 'Me and My Favourite Things'. We first created a sensory story to "A Superhero Like Me". The story looks at all of the superpowers we all possess within us. The children enjoyed dressing up as superheroes and engaged really well with all the sensory aspects of the story.

Our current sensory story has been the children's classic '5 Minutes Peace. Our Pupils have really loved this story and we feel they have got so much out of it and the activities we have done each day to go alongside our sensory story sessions. I think their favourite part was when they got to taste and explore different types of cereal. Both books had a set of targets to link with the stories to develop their understanding over time and by the end of the half term the children could easily predict which event was coming in the next part of the story and they were using communication boards or books and expressions to communicate what was happening in the story. All children have been fully involved in the sensory aspects of this story and have been able to use pictures, props or words to complete a simple story map.

For the first half term our topic sessions have linked to finding out about things that we like and our families, homes and local environment, we have explored our school and identified key features using a simple map, we have identified members of our family and school community. This half term we have been exploring different celebrations we all may experience at this time of year; we have looked at changes we see from Autumn to Winter and been for walks to identify seasonal changes we can see around school. We have explored different celebrations like Eid, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas, thinking about ways in which people celebrate these celebrations in different religions and cultures. The children have enjoyed tasting foods from other cultures and having different themed celebrations within our class.

The children have continued to all work hard on their individual targets. We have seen progress with everyone, and all are doing well working towards their own independence. Targets or activities that children were not really tolerating or showing a great interest in before, children are now starting to show more engagement and willingness to explore. We have continued to develop communication skills using a wide range of different support aids.

On behalf of all the staff in Bridgewater 2 I just want to say how super proud of their achievements this term. They have all made lots of progress since September! We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!