



NRCS Newsletter



Spring Term 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we step into the vibrant season of Spring, we take a moment to celebrate the incredible learning, growth, and achievements of our pupils this term. From exciting classroom discoveries to creative projects, it has been a joy to see our school community thrive! I hope you enjoy looking through the school newsletter as much as I do to see the amazing work the pupils have taken part in over the Spring term.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parents and carers for your continued support - your encouragement truly makes a difference in the success of our children. And, of course, a massive shout out to our dedicated staff, whose passion and commitment create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment every day.

Let's embrace the new season with enthusiasm and keep up the fantastic work!

Happy Spring!

Sam



Hedgehog Class

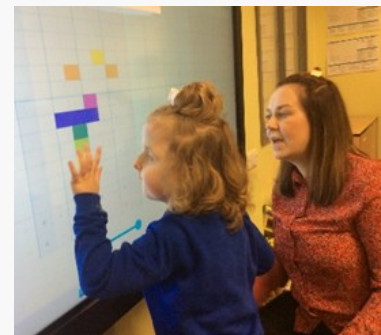


Hedgehog Class have had a lovely term with 5 new pupils joining us. They are all amazing and have settled in well and we have been enjoying our new classroom.

Last half term we had a great time with our class book 'Dear Zoo' with everyone engaging with the story and the animals in it. This half term we have explored colours while reading our class book 'Colours, Colours, Everywhere'.

We have had some fantastic work in math's exploring 2D and 3D shapes as well as continuing our work on counting out sets. We used our senses to explore different materials in Science; everyone especially enjoyed tasting different food types although most had their favourite! This half term we are looking at plants and have been planting seeds. We have had a wonderful time in Art printing and using technology to make patterns. In P.E. we have been using our bodies to move in different ways and developing our ball skills.

It has been a busy but exciting term and it has been a privilege to watch all the Hedgehogs develop and grow.



Rabbit Class

Rabbit class have had a busy and exciting term. We have participated in lots of fun and enjoyable activities!

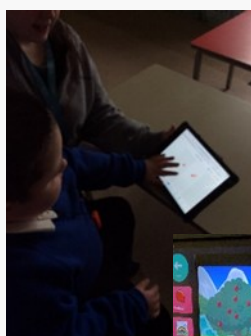


During our English lessons we have done some great work identifying pictures of characters and matching them to our topic story 'Dear Zoo'. We have also been exploring colours including matching and sorting them in to groups and relating them to our spring 2 topic book 'Colours, Colours Everywhere'. We have also been working hard on our pencil control and mark making skills.

In Math's we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have been sorting 2D shapes and making our own 2D and 3D arrangements. We have also been working hard on our number skills, including identifying numbers and beginning to order numbers.



This half term we have also enjoyed exploring ICT devices including the iPads. We have loved using the iPads to make our own music on Chrome Music Lab. We have been using Grid 3 to take part in cause and effect programmes. We have enjoyed making our own choices and listening to the response.



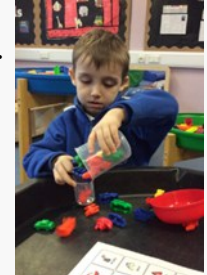
During our independence session we have been working on washing our hands, brushing our teeth and washing our pots. We have also been practicing our cutting skills and chopping a range of different foods to make colourful and healthy snacks.



Eagle Class



We have had a fabulous Spring Term in Eagle Class. We have had so much fun and have learnt so much!



In our Literacy lessons this term our key stories have been 'Dear Zoo' and 'Colours, Colours Everywhere'. We have done some fantastic work exploring the images, identifying the main characters, learning and matching symbols, labelling and writing captions.



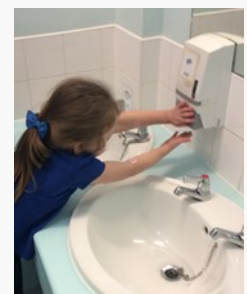
In math's we have practiced counting, making amounts, full/empty, shapes and measuring. We loved filling and pouring, using all of the different sized containers and even used symbols to communicate our understanding of the math concepts.



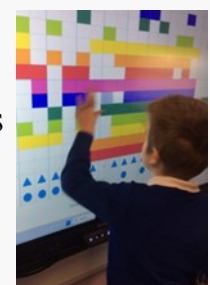
We have had lots of different experiences in our wider topic areas this term. In science we were really excited and loved using our senses to explore; we were really brave and even tried lots of new foods to celebrate Chinese New year!



In independence we have been working on washing our hands, brushing our teeth and washing our pots. We have also been practicing our cutting skills and chopping a range of different foods to make colourful and healthy snacks.



In music we used our computing skills learnt from last term to practice making our own music; we used Music Chrome Lab to explore making sounds and creating patterns.



Frog Class

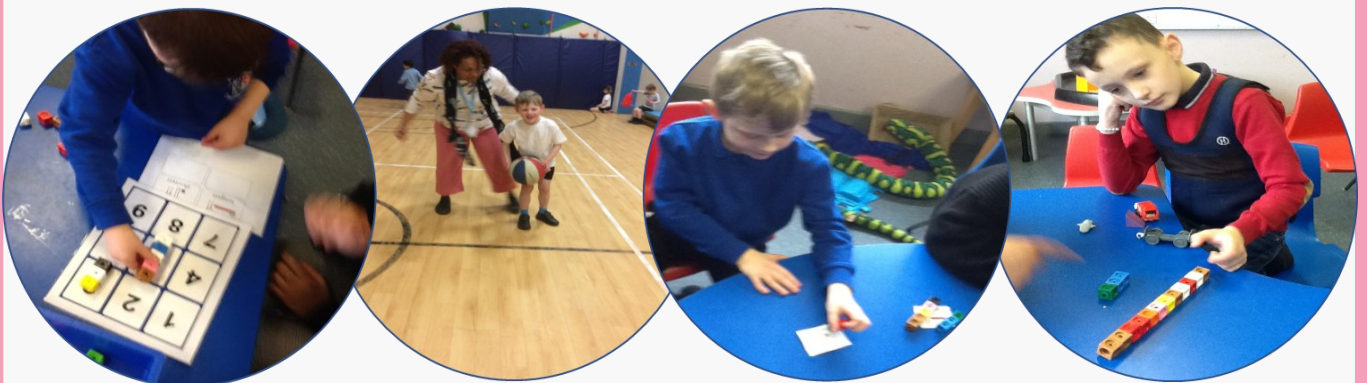
Frog Class have been very busy this term. We have been on a quest to explore colours in line with our class story 'Colours, Colours Everywhere'. We have looked at the colours we can see in different places, both inside and out. We have continued our exploration in Art, where we have been creative with colour and different types of media.

As we began to enter Spring we got in to the spirit of the season by planting seeds as part of our Science lessons. We have learnt how we plant them and how we can encourage them to grow with water to feed them and by looking for the best place for them to grow. We have looked at different plants and spent time labelling the different parts of a plant adding in symbols too!

In English we have been working hard when practicing our writing skills using different methods to gain in confidence and ability. We have been ordering and matching symbols and using our knowledge of 'Harder to Read and Spell Words' too!

In our independence lessons we have been practicing our cutting and chopping skills. We even made pizzas and chose the toppings we liked!

In PE we have had great fun practicing our throwing skills and in math's we have started measuring and using the vocabulary 'longest and shortest'. We chose the longest tongue to go with our coloured frog that we painted!



Caterpillar Class



Caterpillars have had such a busy Spring Term! We are still very much enjoying Rosie from Darts coming in to share music sessions! We really like using the keyboard and trying the guitar, we have even had fun trying to use the violin.

We have also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year; we made our own lanterns and proudly displayed them in our classroom window. We love to see the sun shining through them and showing their amazing colours. We tried Chinese food, some we liked some we didn't and we did some brilliant Chinese Dancing.

In Math's we have explored shape as well as weight, length and capacity! We loved finding out which animals were heavier and taller!

In our independence lessons we have been working on our knife skills and we have loved making lots of different yummy treats such as fruit kebabs, fruit salad and chopped fruit to go on our pancakes on Pancake day.

One of our favourite days this term was our parents joining us for Easter activities in the classroom. We love showing you what we can do and how we spend our time at school.



Beaver Class

We have had another busy but great term in Beaver Class!

In English we have been developing our fine motor skills by using a variety of different tools and media to make marks. We have been tracing and copying patterns and we are now working on letter formation.

In Math's we have continued to go from strength to strength with our counting skills; we have been busy sorting objects by size and length. We have emptied and filled different containers to explore capacity and then used scales to weigh a variety of different objects. We have also been exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

In Independence we have been working on how we transition around school, practicing walking in a line and holding doors open for our peers. We are amazing at lining up independently! In RSHE we have been learning how to recognise our feelings by using happy and sad symbols.

In Science we have been looking at and labelling parts of a flower. We have used this as inspiration to plant carrot tops and different seeds, we are so excited to watch them grow! In a link from Science we have used our learning to paint pictures of flowers in Art; we have had fun exploring texture and used pasta to make flower collages.

In music we have had a brilliant time joining in a variety of action songs. We have played instruments to different types of music, changing speed from fast to slow and from very noisy to quiet. We even practiced moving expressively to the music which we really enjoyed.



Mole Class

We have had an amazing time in Mole class this term. We have been building friendships and relationships with our class mates and adults in both our class and other classes too.

Work wise we have done some fabulous learning. First of all, our class topic was 'Pets and Us' and our class text was a lovely poetry book full of fabulous poems about very strange animals that couldn't possibly be the average pet. The book was called 'Perfectly Peculiar Pets'. We worked very hard to learn all about rhyming words and how to recognise these in a poem. The children were able to write their own poem by the end of the topic. We are very proud!



Our next topic was 'Flower Power' and the class text was 'The Big Book of Blooms'. It is a beautiful book full of fabulous photographs of lots of different and amazing plants and flowers. It contains lots of facts about growing plants, looking after plants and this encouraged us to grow our own plants as well as our class plant – The Venus Flytrap.



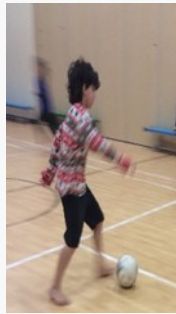
During this term we were also able to celebrate World Book Day. The children were amazing – we dressed up as our favourite book characters, read some lovely stories together and completed lots of reading and book activities throughout the day.

During pancake day we made pancakes and had great fun flipping the pancakes before eating them with our favourite toppings. Setting up a class shop also provided the children with opportunities to buy items, exchange coins for items and make good choices when shopping. The children love the class shop and it has been a huge positive addition to Mole class.



Seal Class

This term Seal Class have really enjoyed using the Sports Hall to practice our Basketball and Football skills, throwing into hoops and learning how to dribble and shoot a ball into the target!



Seal class have enjoyed having Rachel, our Makaton tutor joining us once a week for sessions of Sing and Sign to develop our Makaton signs to support our communication and learning. Our favourite song to sing at the moment is Sleeping Bunnies, Little Green Frog and Wiggly Woo.

In this Spring term we have been learning about how to travel safely in and around school during our travel training sessions, we used our outdoor zebra crossing on the playground and created our very own line up line to learn how to stop and wait using symbols and verbal instructions.



Seal Class are currently exploring different plants and looking into how they grow.



Fox Class

This term in Fox Class, we have been focusing on maintaining positive



relationships, practising our REACH values and showing increasing independence in day-to-day living.



All pupils have explored poetry for the first time at North Ridge,

identifying rhyming words and attempting to create their own lines of poetry. We have focused on Communication skills of listening and speaking by listening to short news articles and by playing games like “Guess Who?”, requiring children to be asked questions and to use the clues to help them with the answer.

Pupils are being shown how to be more independent on a day-to-day basis, being encouraged to tidy up after themselves, asking for help more independently and using good manners when talking to others. Pupils have continued to develop independence skills crossing the road, banking money and saving money. The children also visited the Secondary café and ordered food and drink.

In P.E, we have been lucky enough to enjoy Active Fusion-led sessions for the last half-term, focusing on teamwork, team games and exploring the feelings associated with winning and losing. To keep ourselves happy and safe as part of Mental Health Well-being, we have been practicing Yoga.

We have explored weight, length, temperature and ordering size in Mathematics, whilst also beginning to identify links between mathematical concepts to encourage Mastery. In Science, pupils have explored their outdoor and indoor environments, and looked at plant life/



growth as well. In Music, pupils have played the beat of different songs using musical instruments, even making their own musical instruments.



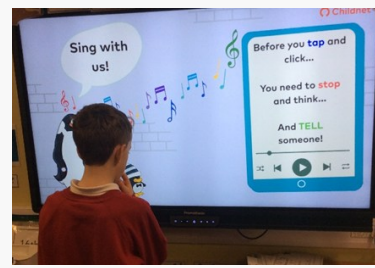
Well done, Fox Class!

Squirrel Class

PE: Squirrel Class have done some amazing learning in PE throughout the Spring term. We worked really hard to develop our skills, practicing balancing bean bags and balls on the tennis rackets and then working carefully to hit them. We did some great listening, following instructions and team work!



Safer Internet Day: On Safer Internet Day we read a story all about how to use the internet safely. We talked about what to do if things pop up on our screens and how we should ‘Stop, Close and Tell’. We also



discussed how we should keep personal information private and we coloured in some posters to display in the classroom.



English: In English our class text in Spring 1 was ‘The Little Red Hen’. We loved the story and talked lots about how important it is to work together and help each other. We worked carefully to follow instructions to make bread and we really enjoyed getting to eat the bread.



Then we were superstars and wrote our own instructions!



Maths: We loved learning about money in math's. We set up our own little shops in class and had to find the right coins or make the right amount to pay for items. Everyone made sure they looked carefully at the size, shape and colour of the coins and we talked about getting change.



Deer Class

Deer class have had a brilliant term.

In English we have really enjoyed working on our poem 'Once I caught a fish alive'. We have done lots of exciting activities working on our fine motor skills with dough disco, using tweezers to catch our fish and using our fingers to paint and to decorate our own fish.



In Math's we have been looking at measuring different objects from weighing our favourite toys to see which is heavier to looking at making cups full, half empty and empty with water.

We have had an amazing time in cooking learning and looking at how to cook different foods. We have enjoyed pancake day where we made our own pancakes and even tried to flip them. We made our own vegetable stew, where we all got involved in the preparation, from cleaning the vegetables, to chopping and stirring them in our pan. We did amazingly well and rewarded our hard work with the stew afterwards!



This term, Deer class have had a lot to celebrate. 3 members of our class had birthdays! We have really enjoyed having different parties for our friends' birthdays, sharing our toys and games with each other as well as enjoying sensory time.



Owl Class

English

This term in English we have learned about instruction writing. We used the book 'The Little Red Hen' as this introduced the process needed to plant, grow, reap and grind the wheat into flour. We explored instruction texts, recognising their features and then made bread following a recipe to gain the knowledge to write our own set of instructions for you lucky parents!

Maths

We have developed our number knowledge through money, multiplication and division this term. We began with money, ensuring we were familiar with the values of coins, picking out the correct coins and ordering them. We used our money knowledge to exchange coins for objects, knowing that we can pay with the right amount, or need change. We put this into practice by holding a 'café' where we could spend money to buy food and drink items.

Other curriculum areas

In our wider curriculum we have enjoyed learning about Jane Goodall in our History lessons, learning who she is and why she is famous. Knowing her love for chimpanzees at an early age became her passion and career, exploring and investigating them in the wild and learning how to protect them. We have also explored and learned about Mother Teresa in RE, learning about her work in India with the poor. We also learned about some of the Christian symbols and their meanings, making our own version of a rosary bead.

In Science, we have used our prior learning about hygiene and germs and explored how most germs are harmful and can be spread through a series of experiments. We have learned how to make sure our experiments are fair tests through only changing one element.



Otter Class

During this term in English we have read 'The Little Red Hen' and learned what she does during the story. She sows a seed, cuts it down, takes it to the mill and makes it into flour. She used the flour to make bread and her friends would not help her. We used this idea to investigate instructions and then we made our own. We then used the instructions to make our own bread to see if we had missed anything out, hope you liked reading your children's instructions on Seesaw.

At the moment we are looking at different poems and have started to write our own class one, we will be moving on to writing our own very soon.

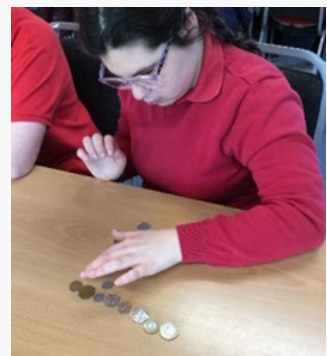
In math's we have covered a number of different topics. We started with money where we learnt about the properties of coins, their values and sequenced them by value. To help embed our learning we visited our school café that Oak class have been running.

We have done lots of work on multiplication, division, weight and length. At the moment we are learning about capacity and temperature. We have been learning how to read the scales, the marks on jugs and other items.

The pupils enjoyed carrying out different experiments in Science. They put bread in different areas and conditions to see which slice would grow mould.

They found out how easy it was to spread germs by using paint and shaking each other's hands.

This half term we have been using torches to explore light and learn about shadows.



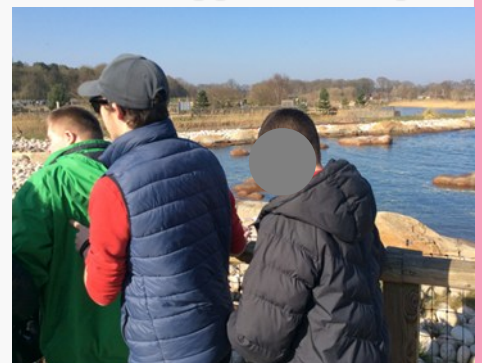
Oak Class



As part of our ASDAN qualification this term we have been working through different ways to stay safe. We have identified ways to stay safe and then practiced following these. We have identified different signs both inside and outside school that keep us safe such as fire exits, keep clear signs and no entry signs. Oak class have then practiced following safety routines such as finding safe places to cross the road and being out in the community to complete this.

We have demonstrated following rules in the kitchen to stay safe such as washing hands, wearing aprons and using oven gloves. As part of our Enterprise activities in the kitchen we have run Oak Enterprise Café, in this we have welcomed different classes into the café, asked customers what they would like, prepared food and collected money.

As part of our Career work we have visited the Wildlife Park and enjoyed seeing all the animals such as the lions, sea lions, cheetahs, giraffes, polar bears and many more. We have considered the different job roles that we could do at the Wildlife Park. As part of this trip we participated in a careers event where we accessed information about different Colleges, Sixth Forms, Apprenticeships and employment opportunities.



The Bridge Class



First of all, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the students and parents for making me feel so welcome. It's tricky to take on a different class half way through the year but the students have adapted very well and have made it easy for me to settle in.

This term in Maths group A have been learning how to divide using a number line and group B have been using a part whole method. We have been using everyday objects as well as counters.

The students have also been handling different money and using problem solving to decide if they have enough money to pay for objects especially in the café and when they go out travel training.

The last few weeks in Math's the students have been looking at capacity and temperature. They have been ordering containers by their capacity and reading different size



containers as well as deciding which containers are full, half full and empty.



In literacy the students have spent the term writing instructions. They have written instructions for making sandwiches and for washing the pots. They have found features in existing instructions and then tried to emulate them in their own. During

guided reading students have been learning how to retrieve information from bus timetables, invitations and even recipes.

The students and staff enjoyed their trip to the Wildlife park and careers fair. They got the chance to meet and speak to the fire bridge, the army and even saw some ex pupils at the Communication College stand.



The students enjoyed making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, golden syrup was a firm favourite for toppings.



Duke of Edinburgh



24 February 2025

Dear

On behalf of everyone who works for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, I want to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations on achieving your Gold Award. You have earned our immense respect for all the time, effort and persistence you have demonstrated to achieve the highest level.

I have the greatest possible pleasure in enclosing your certificate and Gold Badge to recognise your outstanding achievement. They symbolise far more than just recognition of your success. They also reflect all you have contributed to your community through your voluntary services, the skills you have developed, the physical challenges you have overcome and the experiences you have gained through adventure, as well as through living and working with others. They will always remind you, your family and your friends of what you achieved and, hopefully, what you have enjoyed during your time doing your DofE.

We all hope that you will be able to accept our invitation to attend a Gold Award Celebration. This is a collective moment to recognise and celebrate your achievement that you can share with your family, friends and fellow Awardees. I very much hope to be able to see you at one of these events in due course.

As you embark on the next stage of your journey, I wish you every possible success. Whatever the future holds I hope that you will always feel part of the wider Award family and community which stretches across some 150 countries. Just as you should feel justly proud of your achievements through the DofE, we take pride in yours and will continue to take an interest in whatever and wherever your future takes you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward'.

HRH The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT GCVO
Patron and Trustee

At Christmas we shared news that some of our students had successfully completed their DofE Gold Award. We are immensely proud of each of them. Their hard work, efforts and commitments have been rewarded as they have now received official recognition with their award certificates, gold badges and an amazing letter from the Duke of Edinburgh.

Our Gold achievers are now eagerly awaiting an invitation to a presentation ceremony which will be attended by a member of the Royal Family taking place in the Summer term.



We are truly humbled in your overwhelming generosity and support for our most recent fundraiser.

All the fundraising we do means a lot and we never take your support for granted however this charity is particularly close to our hearts, as we are experiencing first hand the difference your kindness is making to Sophia and her family, for them to know that we as a school and our surrounding school community are with them every step of the way.

Together, we had an astounding 51 prizes donated from staff and parents to make our raffle a true success and with your help we raised an amazing **£775**, which I'm sure we all agree will go to great use.

Thank you once again for showing great kindness and helping us to continue to support our chosen charities.

Parent Participation

We began this term with CAMHS supporting parents with training sessions that, again, included information to support our families of children with learning difficulties, ASD, ADHD and sensory needs. There will be a final refresher session for everyone who has attended this and the past terms training. The date for this will be provided by CAMHS. This session was, again, positively received, and we will look at providing more sessions in the future.



Our proposed Safer Internet day was postponed due to the lack of uptake from parents and carers. We will revisit this for next year and we will always welcome suggestions for such events to better suit our families, such as Teams rather than in person.

Please update us with your preferences on future questionnaires.

Parents evening on 12th March was attended in person by the families of 37 pupils, with further families being contacted via the telephone. It is always welcomed and fabulous to see parents engaging with the school.

Our Easter Family Day was a definite favourite last year, allowing pupils and parents to come together in the classrooms to complete a variety of fun activities, which is why we decided to do it again this year. We hope everyone enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did. We will add the photos from the event next half term.



If we can please remind you to check Seesaw regularly to ensure you are up to date with events taking place in school and for support available within the community.

Coming soon....



We are looking at First Aid training as our next training session for parents/carers following the request from the recent questionnaire.



Another request from the survey was for school to host a social coffee morning where parents and carers can just meet for a chat. We will be sending out dates in the summer term, so please keep an eye out for that.



Attendance across school this year continues to be a challenge, with illness playing a huge part in pupil absence. Despite the ongoing struggle we have had a positive start to this half term and we are confident that as we approach the fairer weather seasons we will continue to see attendance levels go from strength to strength.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for co-operation in notifying the school office of illness and appointments and would ask that this continues in to the Summer term.

Notifying the office ensures that operations run smoothly.

Our whole school attendance this term is currently **90.2%** With your support we are striving to build on this throughout the Summer term.

Regular school attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the school curriculum and reach their potential.

North Ridge Community School strives to promote an ethos and culture which encourages good attendance and where each pupil will feel valued and secure.

As we approach holiday season, please be aware that we are unable to authorise any absences for family holidays as per the government guidelines and school policy. Although we understand your reasons, we cannot authorise any requests.

As always, our door is always open.

If you have any concerns, or if there is anyway we can offer support, please don't hesitate to ask.

School Calendar 2024/25:



September 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024							
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43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2024							
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47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							
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48							1
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1	30	31					

January 2025							
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5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025							
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March 2025							
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14	31						

April 2025							
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May 2025							
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June 2025							
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27	30						

July 2025							
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31	28	29	30	31			

August 2025							
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34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
35	25	26	27	28	29	30	31