



NRCS Newsletter



Christmas Term 2025

School Calendar 2025/26: North Ridge Community School

August 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025 (22 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30					

October 2025 (13 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5			1	2	3	4	5
6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025 (20 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9						1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025 (15 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
20	29	30	31				

January 2026 (20 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
20				1	2	3	4
21	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026 (15 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
24							1
25	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026 (20 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
28							1
29	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
31	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
32	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
33	30	31					

April 2026 (14 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
33			1	2	3	4	5
34	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
35	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
36	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
37	27	28	29	30			

May 2026 (15 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
37					1	2	3
38	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
39	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
40	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
41	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026 (22 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
42	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
44	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
45	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
46	29	30					

July 2026 (18 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
46			1	2	3	4	5
47	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
48	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
49	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
50	27	28	29	30	31		

Bank Holidays 1
 School Holidays 1
 Inset Days 1



As we come to the end of the term, I would like to reflect on the many achievements, both big and small, that have taken place across our school community.

This term, our pupils have shown remarkable perseverance, courage, and individuality. Every step forward, every new skill developed, and every challenge met is a success worth celebrating. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and the unique progress each of them has made.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team. Their compassion, expertise, and commitment ensure that our school remains a safe, nurturing, and inspiring place for all learners. I also wish to thank our families and carers for their ongoing support and partnership. Working together is at the heart of everything we do, and your trust and collaboration make a real difference.

As the term comes to a close, I hope the holiday provides time for rest, enjoyment, and reflection. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next chapter of learning and growth.

Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable break.

Jade Soler Alcaraz
 Head of School



Rabbit Class



We have had such a fabulous term in Rabbit Class. I would like to celebrate how far we have come and how quickly we have accomplished this!

Each child has shown tremendous growth both academically and personally and it has been a joy to welcome them to North Ridge, to watch them learn, explore and shine.

Over the past term (as I am sure you are all aware!) we have had so much fun learning and growing. We love to get messy in class and glitter is a big hit; it has been amazing to see such high levels of engagement and participation so quickly in the year.

We have seen the children in Rabbit Class grow in confidence, take on new challenges, and be kind towards each other. Their hard work is reflected not only in their learning, but in the way they are accepting each other, thinking creatively, and persevering when things get tricky.

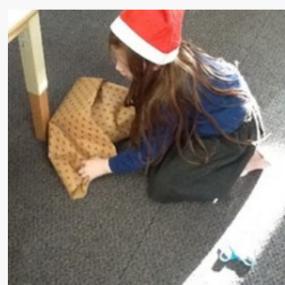


Whether it's learning how to communicate in new environments, mastering new math strategies, exploring sensory materials or showing kindness to a classmate, every child has made meaningful progress.

We are truly inspired by their efforts and proud of the positive learning community they continue to build together.

We look forward to many more exciting moments ahead!

The Rabbit Class team wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.



Parent Participation



We would also like to thank Went Valley Lions who made the event even more special by giving up their own time and supporting us with a visit from Father Christmas. It was so heart-warming to see the pupils enjoying the visit and hopefully this will continue.

Your support with Christmas Jumper day means we raised an amazing £102 for Save The Children—Thank You.

Thank you for your feedback from the family survey. This information is important to us to tailor courses that are beneficial to you and your family. Please keep a look out for Seesaw messages after Christmas for our up and coming events/courses.



We will continue to cascade information from other professionals that may be of help. This information will be via seesaw or the school website.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.



Parent Participation



Our Macmillan Coffee morning was, as always, our first event of the year, where we get together and support a great cause. With your generosity and donations we were able to raise £410.75.

It was amazing to see so many faces, new and familiar joining us to support what has now become an annual event and with your support we know that it will make a difference to others



who are going through a difficult time.



Parents evening and Meet the Teams were both well supported by families. These events are very important as it gives everyone the chance to share information and work together to ensure

we get the best outcomes for our students

Pupils participated in Children in Need by wearing yellow and donating £1. The pupil's learnt about the charity and where their money goes and how it helps others. They had lots of fun with activities based on Children in Need.



It was great to see so many family and friends attend the Christmas Fayre and we know you will be as proud as we of your child's Christmas decorations.

We are delighted to share that this year our Christmas Fayre raised a staggering £1027.57. We continue to be truly grateful for your dedication to our school community to help raise funds that support your child.



Hedgehog Class

Wow! What a start to the new academic year! We have welcomed five new pupils into Hedgehog Class and our North Ridge family.

We have been working very hard learning our class routine and getting to know each other. We have been developing our engagement and attention through lots of fun and exciting activities. We have also been exploring new environments around school. Hedgehog Class particularly love going to the sports hall for our P.E lessons and the swing room, as well as saying hello to the other classes as we walk past.

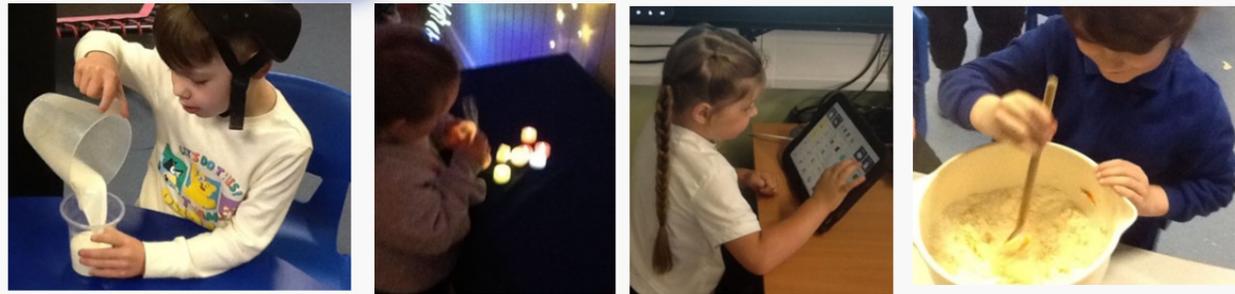
In Autumn 1 it was all things Dinosaurs! Our book for the half term was 'Dinosaur Roar' we used the book to support our English lessons and activities- Listening to the story, exploring the book using Grid 3 via an eBook and exploring new vocabulary such as 'slimy' and 'clean'.

In Autumn 2 our book has been 'The three little pigs'. We have been exploring different materials and textures in science. We have also introduced different appliances that we might see and have in our own homes. We have been focusing on 'pouring' for our independent skill.

We are all excited to see what the next term brings; we hope everyone has the most wonderful Christmas!



Eagle Class



We have been very busy in Eagle class this term. We have been getting used to using Grid3 every day to help with communication and everyone has been doing really well using it to choose snack each day, as well as to help with our learning and everyday communication.

In Math's, we have looked at patterns, trying to continue a pattern using colours or objects. This half term, we are focusing on numbers to 5. We have been going on scavenger hunts, counting out scoops of ingredients and playing shops to reinforce learning in practical ways.



Before the holidays, our class book was 'Dinosaur Roar'. We loved the rhyming words and we have done lots of dinosaur-themed role-play, mark-making, matching and craft activities.

We looked at different vegetables in Science and explored which ones were hard or soft by using different tools to squish them!

This half term, our class text is 'The Three Little Pigs'. As well as getting to know the story, we are looking at different materials in Science and trying to build houses with straw, sticks and bricks.

This term in Independence, we have been practicing mixing together ingredients and pouring. We really enjoyed pouring milk to make our own milkshakes!

We celebrated Diwali by learning about the celebration, trying special food, making our own Diwa lights from clay and enjoying the lights in the cabin.



Attendance across school so far this year has been a challenge, with illness playing a huge part in pupil absence. Despite the ongoing struggles we have had a positive start to the academic year and we are confident that, as per previous years, as we approach the new year and the weather changes we will continue to see attendance levels go from strength to strength.

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

Notifying the office ensures that operations run smoothly.

Our whole school attendance this term is currently 92%

With your support we are striving to build on this throughout the Spring 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.

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.

The Bridge

This term The Bridge have been taking part in lots of exciting activities. We have been going out every fortnight to take part in travel training, going by foot to the local shops and by bus into the city centre. On Thursday mornings the D of E group have been preparing breakfast sandwiches and selling them to pupils and staff. We have taken part in some Asdan activities where we have looked at improving our local areas and have tidied the garden area in the playground. We have planted bulbs ready for Spring.

The Police came for a visit and many of the pupils talked with the police and even went into the police van. The nurses have also visited and talked to the pupils about healthy lifestyles which has linked well with our other Asdan unit on Healthy Living. Some pupils have completed some careers activities with a visitor from the Department for Work and pensions, whilst other pupils have visited colleges including the Communication College, Doncaster College and The Ridge.



Frog Class

What a fabulously, fun term we've had in Frog Class! The children have been busy exploring stories, meeting special visitors, and enjoying festive fun.

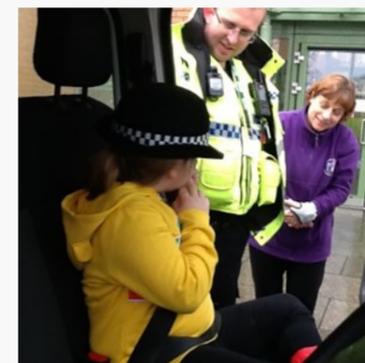
This term, we focused on two wonderful books: *Dinosaur Roar* and *The Three Little Pigs*. The children brought these stories to life through sensory activities and role-play. They had lots of fun exploring the different textures (all except the chia seed slime) – it was a fantastic way to make reading interactive and fun!

We also practiced our stirring and pouring skills in Independence lessons by making yummy treats! The children enjoyed creating marshmallow crispy cakes and peppermint creams. We were thrilled to welcome members of our local Police force into the classroom. The children got to meet PCSO Phil and sit in the Police van! It was a great opportunity to build positive connections with our community.

To finish the term, we are looking forward to celebrating with our friends in Beaver class at our Christmas party trip to *Fuzzy Ed's* – the perfect way to

end the year and spread some holiday cheer.

We are so proud of everything the children have achieved this term and look forward to more exciting learning adventures in the new term!



Caterpillar Class

We have had an amazing start to the year in Caterpillar class and we have really enjoyed exploring and learning new things.

We have loved reading our books, 'Dinosaur Roar' and 'The Three Little pigs'.

We used 'Dinosaur Roar' as inspiration and enjoyed using Grid3 to help us explore all things Dinosaur. We looked at Key words in English and explored different materials in sensory, linking them to the textures we might find in the story.

In math's, we have enjoyed exploring different Shapes and in PE we have been working on different movements. We really got into character by moving like a Dinosaur. We have been stomping, hopping and running fast and slow—we had so much fun.

We used our knowledge of The Three little pig story to influence our work when matching symbols and photos to key words in the book.

We really enjoyed getting messy and exploring the different materials the pigs used to make their houses. The straw and sticks were a big hit, especially when we tried to build our own houses.

We finished the term by getting into the Christmas spirit and looking at all things Christmas, our favourite part was reading 'We're going on an Elf hunt'.

We have had a very fun and busy term and we are excited to see what the new year brings.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from Team Caterpillar.

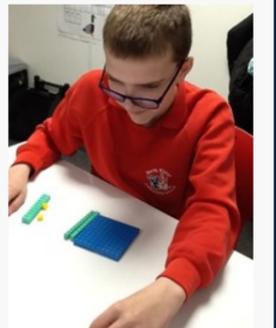


Tower Bridge



In English we have learned about a magical adventure, using 'Our Tower' book and we created our own recount of an experience we had when the Sandall Beat Rangers came to visit us. We have recently used another fiction book, this time a traditional tale- 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. We have sequenced the story and used our prior learning of time conjunctions to

support us to write instructions. Again, we focused on writing instructions for the Christmas Fayre item we made, allowing others to be able to make the same craft we did in future. We have enjoyed sharing our finished pieces with an audience too.



We have particularly enjoyed our Art sessions, using a range of media to develop our skills- printing, rubbing and pattern making which then all combined together when we could make a room from a house. In Music sessions, we enjoyed learning a range of songs and their signs and in PE, we have enjoyed using our bodies to move in different ways and combine these movements to create a sequence. In particular, we enjoyed the use of ribbons!

In Independence, we have used our learning about hygiene and safety in the kitchen when making a range of foods using the microwave, toaster and an air fryer then the importance of washing up and tidying the kitchen after!

We have also explored dangers at home, in school and in the wider community and learned how to keep ourselves safe, including the Ranger visit, having the Police visit school and our Pantomime visit at Cast. We all enjoyed these experiences and were able to be safe!



Humber Bridge



Maths

This term we have strengthened our understanding of place value and number by exploring different ways to partition, add and subtract. Pupils have been encouraged to try a range of strategies before choosing the one that works best for them. We have

worked with part-whole models, number lines, and some children have even begun using the column method. We also spent time revisiting our work on shape, building on what we already know by looking more closely at their properties and investigating whether they can form tessellations.



English

In English, our focus has been on a magical journey inspired by the book 'Our Tower'. Using this story, we wrote our own recounts based on the visit from the Sandall Beat Rangers. More recently, we explored another text, the traditional tale 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. We ordered the events of the story and applied our previous learning about time conjunctions to help us write clear instructions. This supported us when creating instructions for the Christmas Fayre items we made, so others could recreate them in the future. We thoroughly enjoyed presenting our completed work to an audience as well.

Other curriculum areas

In our wider curriculum we have particularly enjoyed our DofE and travel training sessions where we have explored the wider community – developing our road safety by travelling to local shops. This has also helped us with our money and budgeting skills knowing what we can afford to buy and if to expect change.



Thank you Humber Bridge Class for a lovely Autumn Term, have a wonderful Christmas break and see you in the New Year!

Beaver Class

This term we have been getting to know our new friends in Beaver Class.



This term in Maths we have been very busy. We started out by ordering numbers to 10. Then we moved on to matching numerals with their

amounts. We had to recognise the digit and then count out how many objects we need. Finally, we were making and matching our own patterns.



In Science this term we have been learning about hard and soft. We used dinosaurs to see if the vegetables were hard or soft by stamping on them. It was lots of fun and we got very messy!!

We have also been looking at different materials and if they are strong enough to withstand the 'puff' of the Big Bad Wolf!

This term one of our class text has been 'Dinosaur Roar'!

We loved the rhyming words in it. We made our own dinosaurs by choosing different body parts and sticking them together and then we used symbols to describe them. Our other class book has been 'The Three Little Pigs.' We have enjoyed ordering pictures, writing



captions and finally re-writing the story, changing the houses of the three little pigs into pizza houses and marshmallow houses.



This term in Independence we have been practicing using kitchen appliances to make our own toast. We practiced washing our hands, putting on

aprons and carefully putting the bread in the toaster. Later on in the term we have been practicing pouring, we have poured dry ingredients to make bowls of cereal and wet ingredients to make hot chocolate.



Fox Class

All pupils have made fantastic progress with following instructions and listening to what they are being asked to do. We remind ourselves of the 'Fox Class rules' and know what is expected of us when we are at school with pupils building positive relationships and showing kindness to each other in line with the North Ridge REACH Values.

In Independence, Fox Class are becoming increasingly independent with washing hands as well as washing and drying up classroom plates, bowls, spoons and forks. This term in Fox Class, pupils have been focusing on keeping safe in the kitchen; turn-taking and sharing with familiar and unfamiliar adults and children and identifying what we are good at/enjoy doing. In PE, we have focused on co-ordination and balance. A Total Communication Approach has been adopted by North Ridge to increase independence and every child's right to be able to communicate using their preferred method.

In Science, pupils have really engaged in practical experiments, having enjoyed making predictions and watching to see if they are right! Fox Class has explored light and dark and how a shadow is formed, as well as exploring names of the parts of our bodies, diet and health.

In Art, pupils have created their own Christmas craft decorations, some of

which were sold at the Christmas Fayre. The children took great responsibility for selling goods on their stall as well as having designated tasks in organising their own Fox Class Christmas Party as part of their learning in Careers.

Well done, Fox Class! You have made fantastic progress this term, let's keep up the great work and learning in 2026!



Badger Class

Badger Class have been enjoying practising their independence skills in cookery. We have been making sure we wash our hands carefully and have been using the toaster and microwave with support, to make beans on toast.



In English, we have enjoyed basing our learning on the books 'Our Tower' and 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. We learnt lots of new vocabulary and used this to help us do some of our own writing.



We have done lots of learning throughout this term on addition and subtraction. We have used practical items and number lines to help us answer questions and even looked at a selection of word problems.

We had an amazing trip to Cast, we watched Cinderella and all loved it! Everyone's behaviour was incredible throughout, well done everyone!

Otter Class



During this term we have been developing our learning on addition and subtraction and then place value and number. We have been exploring different techniques to use for each area of learning.



In English, the pupils have enjoyed learning about the books 'Our Tower' and 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. Throughout the lessons, we

have been developing our key vocabulary, using these to create sentences for different parts of the stories. Once we finished, the pupils read their sentences out to the class.



Last half term in Independence we were improving our skills in navigating to different areas of school, finding our own equipment and developing our social skills with pupils from different classes.



This half term we have been cooking. We have been using the toaster and microwave to make beans on toast and the air fryer to make jacket potatoes.



The pupils really enjoyed their visit to the pantomime to watch Cinderella. It was great to see how independent they are becoming using the buses and travelling safely.



Mole Class



We have had a very busy time in Mole class this term.

First of all, our class topic was Brilliant Bodies and our class text was a fabulously funny book full of mysteries and adventures called – Funny Bones: The Mystery Tour. Our

children loved this text and were able to retell the story in words, symbols, pictures and in small groups. We practised our sequencing, story telling using puppets and began to develop our sentence skills.

Our Brilliant bodies topic was also covered in Science, where we explored how to keep our bodies healthy through both our diet and exercise. We had lots of fun tasting lots of different healthy foods and keeping healthy during our weekly PE sessions.

Our next topic was Winter Wonderland and the class text was 'Arctic Animals'. It is a beautiful book full of fabulous photographs of lots of different and amazing arctic animals and their environment. It contains lots of facts about the habitat, diet and appearance of arctic animals which the children used to support their report writing.

During this term we were also able to celebrate Children In Need day. The children were amazing – we dressed up in the colour yellow and spent the day learning about the charity and why the country supports this cause every year and what the money is spent on.



Seal Class

This term has been so busy in Seal class. We have been embedding our class routines and practicing moving around school safely.

In literacy we started out by reading the story of 'Funny Bones.' We labelled characters and scenes from the story and then moved on to recounts. We then moved onto our second topic of 'Arctic Animals' where we have worked on using different vocabulary to describe different animals. We had fun learning about our new vocabulary.

In number we have been counting to 20. We have sung songs, practiced adding and subtracting, found the same and learnt the names and properties of 2D shapes.

In science this term we started out by looking at different light sources. We had a hunt around school looking at different sources and also investigated shadows and what makes them larger and smaller. We have also experienced dark and how much harder it is to do things in the dark.

In Independence we have been looking at how we can be more independent and hygienic by washing our hands and brushing our teeth. We all had our own toothbrush and practiced brushing them for 2 minutes. We also looked at how to cook basic foods and then how to wash and dry pots afterwards.

In other areas of the curriculum, we have practiced throwing balls at moving targets in PE, created our own Christmas decorations in Art, learnt how to take photographs in Computing and even met Police officers in our Career sessions.



Deer Class

Deer Class have had a brilliant first term back!

All of Deer Class have made fantastic progress in following instructions and listening to what they are being asked to do. Deer Class pupils are showing kindness to each other in line with the North Ridge



REACH Values. Pupils have been practicing turn taking and

sharing. In English, we have really enjoyed working on our story 'Our Tower' and 'The elves and the shoemaker'. We have done lots of exciting activities

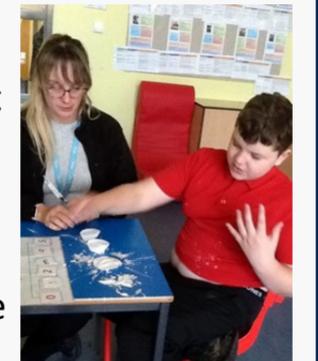
working on our fine motor skills within these books for example, creating our own leather shoes including choosing the material, making our very own towers using different materials as well as continuing to practice our mark making and writing our names.



In Math's, we have been looking at addition and subtraction. During our math's lessons we have looked at using lots of different items to support us with our

addition and subtraction as well as working together in groups. We really

enjoyed using the shaving foam and splatting one currant bun and seeing how many was left after one had been taken away. We have really enjoyed developing our



independence in our cooking lessons. In this time we have learnt how to use



a variety of kitchen appliances including toasters, microwaves and air fryers and how we can use them to make lots of delicious food.

Owl Class

In Owl Class we have had a very busy half term!

In English we looked at the 'Funnybones story: The Mystery Tour'! We really liked the part about the Ghost and the Ghost Train!

Taking inspiration from our book, we have loved spending time getting creative this half term. We all did some great mark-making and enjoyed making use of symbols to describe the characters in the book.

We have also been looking at a non-fiction story 'Arctic Animals' and we used some great descriptive words! When it snowed some of us went outside and decided that the snow was "cold and freezing", but it didn't stop us having a brilliant time!

We have had so much fun making shadows using torches and the natural light from sun! From our experiments we found out we need a source of light to make shadows and that different objects make different shadow shapes.

Most recently, some of us visited CAST theatre in town, we had a brilliant trip to see the Cinderella Pantomime!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have done some amazing learning in our Independence sessions over the Autumn term. We have been working hard on our independence skills including our brushing our teeth and washing and drying our hands. We have also been developing our cookery skills and following instructions to make a range of different treats including Mango Lassi, Coconut squares and Gingerbread. We continued to work hard on our personal hygiene, focusing on washing our hands.

During our English sessions we have enjoyed the books 'Funny bones, Mystery Tour' and 'Arctic Animals'. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary and worked hard to use symbols to identify characters and create sentences using colourful semantics to answer 'wh' questions.

In Maths, we have done lots of learning on addition and subtraction and using concrete objects to help us solve problems. We have also been working on identifying and sorting 2D shapes as well completing 2D shape repeating patterns.

We have really enjoyed making Christmas cards and decorations to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

Well done Squirrel Class!

