



# Skylarks

## Ask Me About



### Autumn 2: December 2024

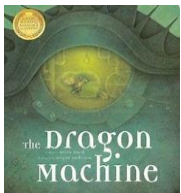
What a busy yet fabulous half term we have had!

I would like to start off by saying a huge well done to our fabulous Skylarks who did amazing in the nativity - what superstars! The nativity was a major part of our second term and the children worked extremely hard with rehearsals and learning all the songs. They all performed beautifully and it was a roaring success.

We have also had a wonderful half term of Forest School where the children have explored, made dens, hunted bugs and made fires. We would like to thank Mrs Flower for her help and support during these sessions.

### English

As we came back to school in the week of Bonfire Night, we started our term off with creating Guy Fawkes 'WANTED' posters. This was a great piece of writing as the children were able to have fun with this - creating catchy phrases. Children also practised writing in the past and present tenses correctly.



Our English has continued to be inspired by our Castles topic. We moved onto diary entries and used 'The Dragon Machine' as a stimulus - writing diary entries from a dragon's perspective. Here, children were able to practise their skills of using commas in a list and embed their skills of using conjunctions (because/and) to join 2 clauses together.

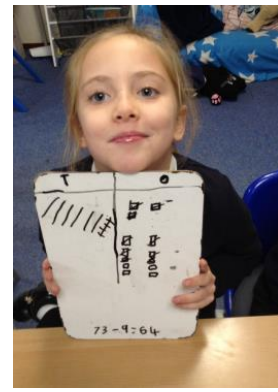
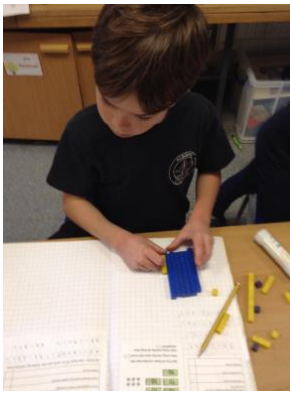
We ended the half term on building on our knowledge of instructions by writing instructions on how to build a snowman. The children had a fantastic go at using their new skill of using **imperative (bossy) verbs** and an **adverb (-ly words)** e.g. **gently push...**

It was fantastic to see so many children independently using previous skills taught to improve their writing.

### Maths

This half-term we have completed our unit on addition and subtraction. We learnt how to add & subtract two digit numbers using place value charts and resources. We even crossed the ten barrier! To end our addition and subtraction unit, we had a great go at comparing number sentences, solving missing number problems and tackling word problems.

Here are some pictures of our maths learning from this term.



In the New Year, we will be starting our 'Shape' topic before moving onto 'Money'. It would be great if you could get the children to handle some money over the holidays so that they become familiar with coins and notes. We will then move onto multiplication and division. We will start by looking at grouping and sharing and arrays then move onto 2, 5 & 10s times tables.

**Maths game to support learning at home:**

- **Place Value games**  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=diennesandcoinsv3>  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/place-value-basketball>
- **More than, Less than**  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/robot-more-or-less>
- **Subtraction**  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/subtraction-grids>

## Science

We have been learning about humans and how to keep healthy. We learnt about different exercises and predicted which would make our heart beat faster. We also looked at healthy and unhealthy food. We then discussed personal hygiene and the importance of looking after our teeth. We have worked scientifically by asking simple questions and recognised that they can be answered in multiple ways through our enquiries.

We then moved on to materials. We have explored different materials and then tested materials to see if they squash, bend, twist and stretch. To finish our materials topic, we conducted an experiment to find which material would be most suitable for an umbrella.



## History

After learning about how castles have changed over time and why, we learnt about the Gunpowder plot in time for Bonfire Night. We then moved onto learning about the Battle of Hastings and then delved into why William the Conqueror built so many castles. We discovered how we know about the events that took place and sorted these into categories.



## DT

We started to explore mechanisms and within this, experimented with levers, linkages and pivots. We were then able to design and make our own 'moving monster'!

### Skylarks Gallery!



### Other Notices

- PE days for Year 2 are Wednesdays and Fridays. Children will need to come to school in their PE kits on these days. Please ensure hair is tied up and earrings are removed.
- An adult will check reading diaries **every Monday**. Please make sure your child has their reading diary with them every day, as we may read with them 1:1 on any day of the week. All children with 5 reading entries in their diary for the week before, will be moved up the reading challenge display. Reading books will also be changed every Monday.

Please don't hesitate to come and say hello to me. If you need to come and chat about anything, I am happy to help. I am happy to set up appointments if needed, but please do so via the school office email.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year!

With kind regards,

Ongoing Learning	
Reading	Please read 5 times a week and write this in your Reading Diary.
Topic	Spring 1's Home Learning grid will be given to children during the first week back.
Maths	Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s forwards and backwards. Addition and subtraction.
English	Please practise letter formations - especially writing letters the correct way round. (b's , d's, p's) Please support your child to learn the Year 1 and 2 common exception words.