

Nativity



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education.

Reception delighted families this week with a wonderful Nativity performance. The children confidently took to the stage, singing familiar songs and retelling the Christmas story with enthusiasm and joy. This special performance created a lovely and lasting memory for both the children and their families.









Magnificent Monarchs

Year Two visited Warwick Castle on Monday as part of their history topic, *Magnificent Monarchs*. During the visit, the children explored the castle and learned about life in the past, including the role of kings and queens. They took part in interactive activities such as touring the state rooms, walking along the ramparts, and watching live demonstrations that brought history to life. The children also saw suits of armour, learned about castle defences, and discovered how people lived and worked in a castle long ago, making the visit an exciting and memorable way to deepen their understanding of monarchs and castles.





Magnificent Monarchs



Making Gingerbread



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Pupils in Rainbows group have enjoyed making and decorating gingerbread biscuits this week. They had to read and follow a recipe as well carefully weigh out the different ingredients.

If you would like to make your own gingerbread, here is the recipe:

Ingredients

100g salted butter
3 tbsp golden syrup
100g dark muscovado sugar
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tbsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
225g plain flour
50g icing sugar

Heat the butter, sugar and syrup in a pan.

In a bowl combine the bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon and flour. Add the syrup mixture and use your hands to form a dough.

Place the dough between two sheets of baking paper and roll so it is 1/2cm thick. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

Heat the oven to 170(fan oven)/190/gas mark 5.

Use a cookie cutter to cut shapes from the dough.

Place each shape on lined baking tray and cook for 10—12 minutes.

When cool, mix the icing sugar with 1—2teaspoons of cold water and decorate each biscuit.



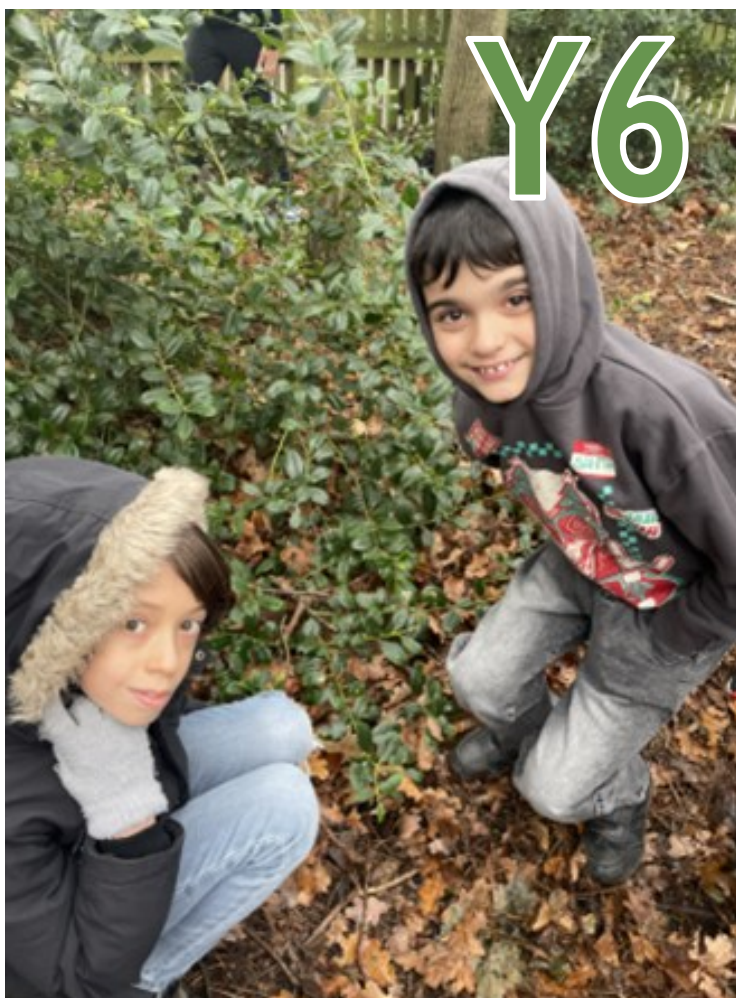
Y5 News Reports



This week, Year Five have been creating news reports on the subject of their class text, 'Cosmic'. To develop confidence with formal language and the features of news reports, the children worked in small groups as reporters, editors and camera crew to script and film news broadcasts which included an interview with one of their book characters. After this, children wrote their own news report on the shocking story of children being sent to space!



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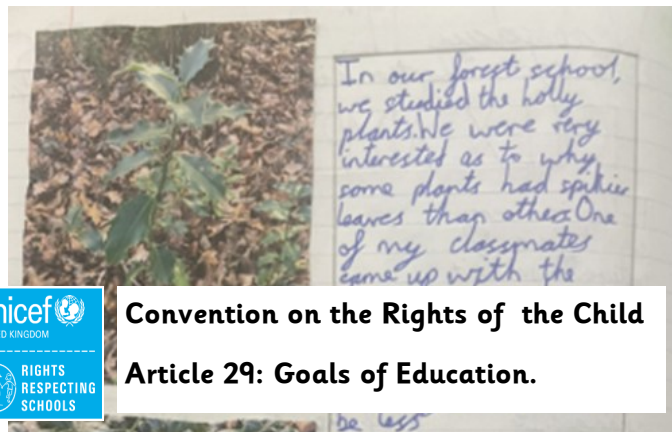
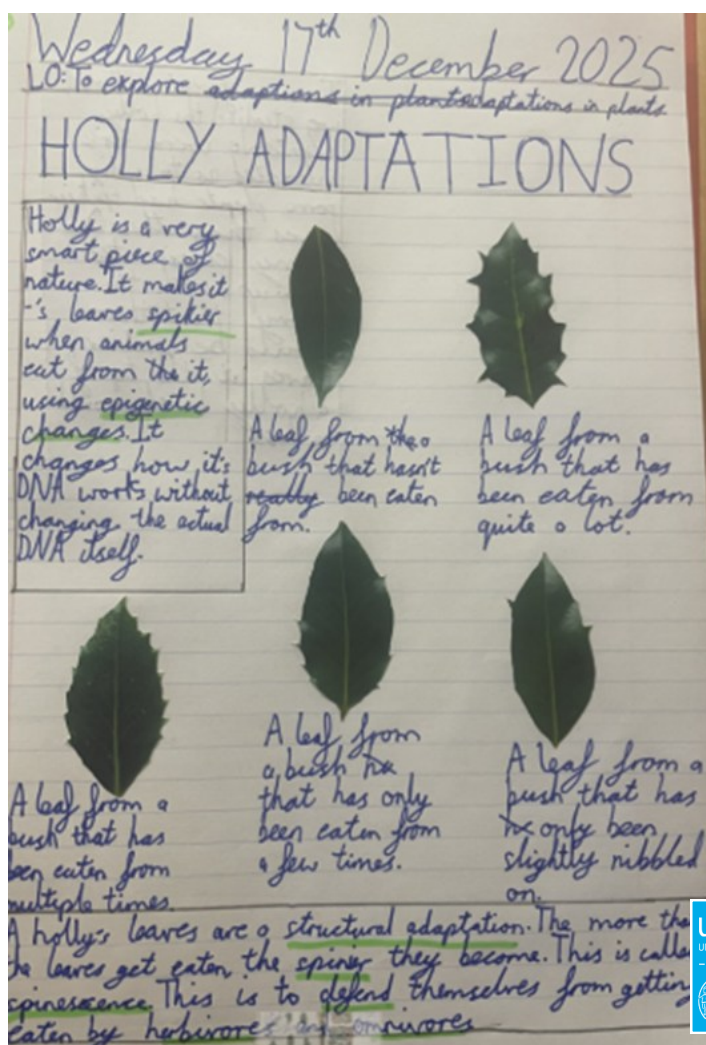
Y6 Science

Year 6 took part in an engaging Science lesson this week exploring plant adaptations, with a particular focus on holly. During a Forest School session, pupils observed holly bushes and noticed that the spikiest leaves were found nearer the bottom of the plants. This was discussed as being likely due to animals nibbling the leaves, and possibly children interacting with them too.

Holly adapts to defend itself from being eaten by herbivores, particularly deer. The more its leaves are cut or eaten, the spikier new leaves grow. This defensive response is called spinescence.

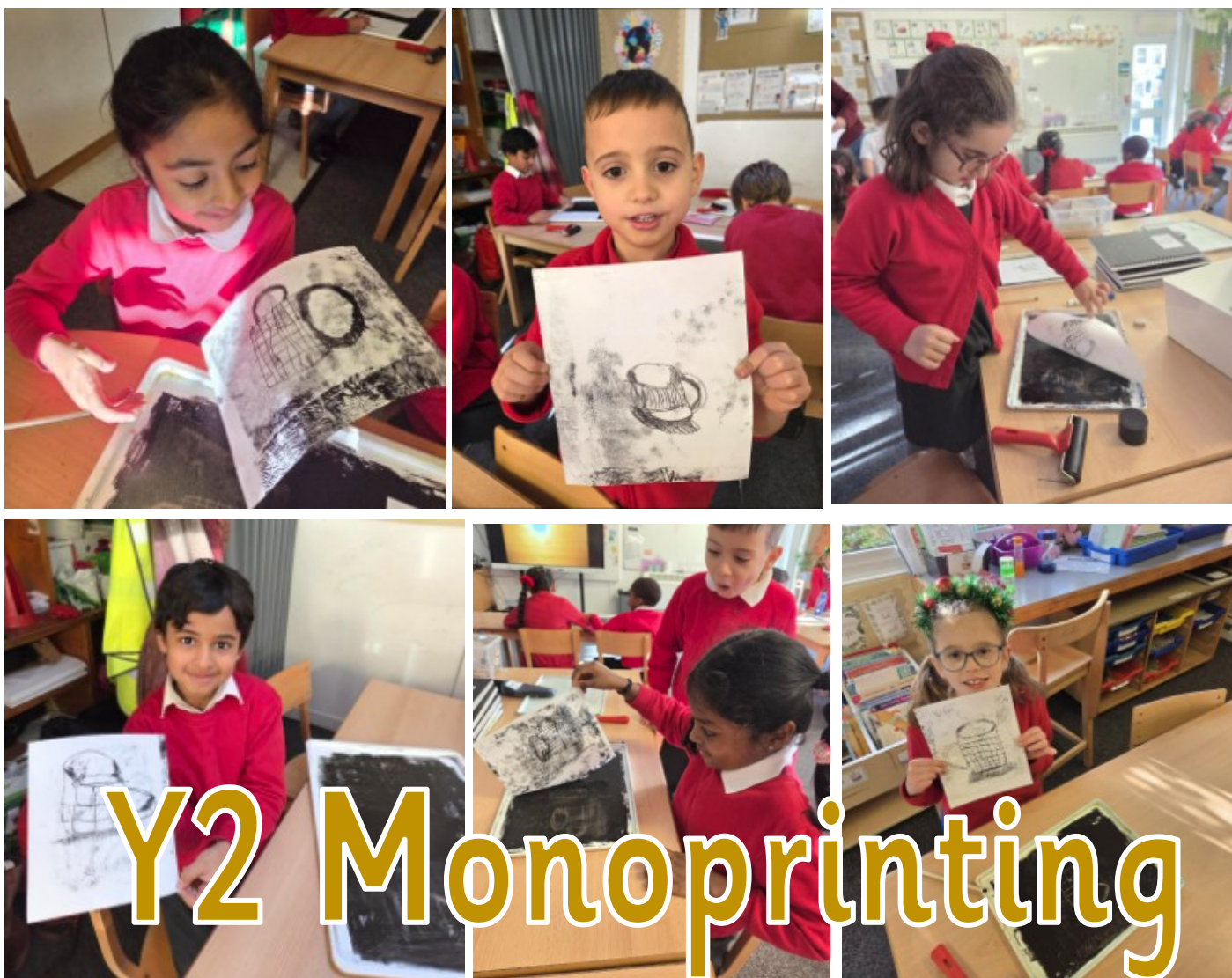
This adaptation occurs through a process in which the holly's DNA is chemically modified, affecting how the DNA is expressed rather than changing the DNA itself. These changes determine the physical appearance of the leaves. This reversible chemical modification of DNA is known as epigenetics.

The pupils were fascinated to observe real-life evidence of how plants adapt to survive in their environment.



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Inspired by the work of artist Xgaoc'o X'are, our Year 2 students have been exploring monoprinting as a way to experiment and take creative risks. This hands-on printmaking process helps children understand that artworks don't need to be "perfect" — each monoprint is one of a kind and cannot be exactly repeated.

Through layering, pressing, and altering their images, students discovered how ideas can change and develop during the making process. Along the way, they built confidence, resilience, and foundational printmaking skills, while enjoying the freedom to explore and learn through experimentation.

Xgaoc'o X'are is a contemporary Aboriginal Australian artist known for bold, expressive mark-making and a strong sense of movement in their work. Their art often features energetic lines, layered forms, and repeated symbols, created through intuitive and experimental processes rather than careful planning. Xgaoc'o X'are's practice celebrates individuality, spontaneity, and the idea that making art is about exploration and expression, not perfection. This approach makes their work a valuable inspiration for children learning to take creative risks and develop confidence in their own ideas.



Y2 Monoprinting





Pupils enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch on Tuesday, complete with turkey and all the trimmings. The children had great fun pulling crackers together and sharing some wonderfully terrible jokes! A big thank you to Claire and the rest of the kitchen team for preparing such a delicious, festive meal.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 6: Life, Survival and Development

On Wednesday, the whole school took part in a festive Santa Dash to raise money for WaterAid.

WaterAid is an international charity that helps people around the world gain access to clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene. Millions of people still do not have clean water nearby, which can lead to illness and make everyday life very difficult. WaterAid works with local communities to build wells, toilets and handwashing facilities, as well as teaching people about hygiene, so that these life-changing improvements last for the future.


Thank you to everyone who made a donation!



Charity Santa Dash

Festive Outfits

Here are some of the wonderful Christmas outfits we saw in school on MUFTI Day. We loved seeing elves, reindeer, and both Mother and Father Christmas spreading festive cheer around the school.




Festive Outfits



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 13: Freedom of Expression

Festive Outfits



It was party-time across the school this week. As you can see, pupils had great fun!



Christmas Parties



Diary Dates

Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January, school closed for Christmas holiday.

Pupils return to school on Monday 5th January

Monday 12th January	St Mary's Church leading whole school assembly.
Wednesday 14th January	YR visit to Oxford Story Museum.
Thursday 15th January	Y6 theatre trip—"BFG" at Royal Shakespeare Theatre.
Friday 30th January	Y5 trip to Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
Monday 2nd February	Loud Mouth Theatre in school.
Thursday 5th February	Performance by The Ethel String Quartet.
Monday 9th February	Dragon Dance workshop for YR/1/2
Wednesday 11th February	Parent's Evening, 3.30—7.00pm
Thursday 12th February	Parent's Evening, 3.30—5.30pm.
Friday 13th February	MUFTI (non-Uniform) Day—please bring a donation if your child wears their own choice of clothes to school.

School closed Monday 16th—Friday 20th February.

Children return to school on Monday 23rd February

Diary Dates



Sydenham Superstars



YR and Key Stage One

Happy Christmas! See
you all in 2026.

From Miss Glenly



Key Stage Two