

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic few months it has been. It has been my first term as Headteacher here, and I could not be prouder to lead such a wonderful school community.

The children have worked incredibly hard, and the staff have gone above and beyond to make this term a success. I am truly grateful for your continued support. It makes such a difference and helps us achieve the very best for your children.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas or not, I wish you a joyful and peaceful time with family and friends over the next few weeks.

School reopens for children on Tuesday 6th January at the usual time (gates open at 08:25).

Thank you again for everything, and I look forward to an exciting new term ahead!

Attendance

We are excited to introduce a new way of celebrating excellent attendance. Each week, any child who achieves 100% attendance for that week will have their name entered into a draw. This resets at the end of each week, so children have multiple opportunities to achieve this. At the end of each half term, we will pull one name from each year group, and those lucky winners will receive a special reward.

This time, the prize was a delicious hot chocolate treat - a perfect way to celebrate great attendance! This half term's winners were:

- EYFS: Carle - Shanice Chitimbe
- 1: Grey - Aria Ali
- 2: Blake - Muhammad Aaliyan
- 3: Rowling - Maham Tufail
- 4: Morpurgo - Sara Rehman
- 5: Walliams - Nicole Wielgusiak
- 6: Ibbotson - Miya Shortland



Headteacher Awards

This week, we held our termly Headteacher's Award Assembly. This was a special occasion to celebrate children who consistently demonstrate our core values of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe.

Two children from each class, who have shown outstanding effort and commitment to these values, were chosen. It is always a joy to recognise pupils who work hard every day and contribute so positively to our school community. Well done to all our award winners - you should be very proud of yourselves!



St Botolph's Church Christmas Windows

St Botolph's Church in Longthorpe asked schools and community groups in the local area to create artwork to place in their church windows for the Christmas period. Thorpe were given the theme of 'sheep and shepherds', so the children got hard at work in Art Club to create them using cardboard, stuffing, crepe paper, felt and crayons. You can see it in position at the church, modelled very well by Ms Catley (who runs Art Club). Art Club is made up of children from Years 1 to 6 and runs on a Wednesdays after school from 15.20 to 16.00.



Nativities

Last week, our Reception and Year 2 children put on the most wonderful nativity performances. It was truly lovely to see their confidence shine and the joy they brought to the stage. A huge thank you to all of you who came along to support them.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by the children, and I'd also like to thank our amazing staff for all the hard work that went into making these performances so special.



Art Club

As well as making artwork for the local church, our Art Club has been busy getting creative. Here are some pictures of the children's firework-inspired artwork, made using vibrant chalk on black paper. The results are full of colour and energy. Great job everyone!



Rock Steady Music Concert

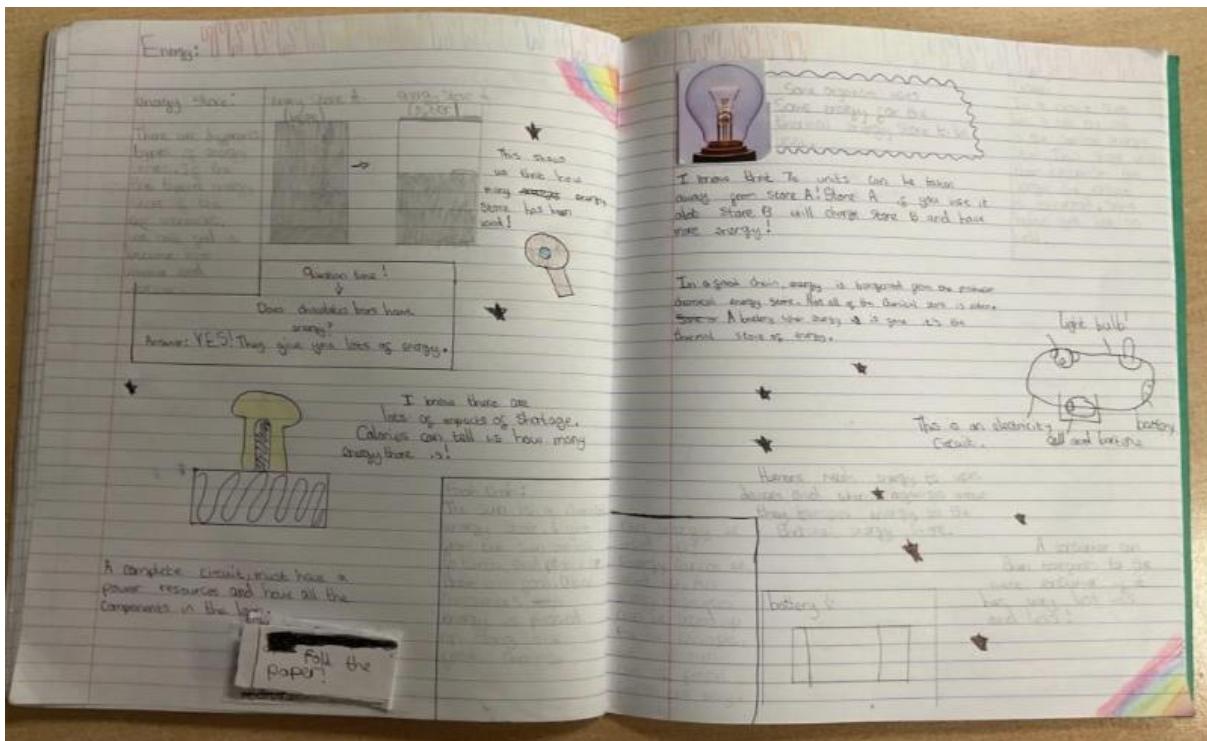
Our talented young musicians performed for parents and children at the Rock Steady Music Concert. They showcased a range of musical talents and great confidence. Well done everyone.



Excellence at Thorpe

This term, we have seen so many wonderful examples of excellence in learning across the school. From creative writing and problem-solving in maths to impressive artwork and scientific investigations, our children have shown determination, curiosity, and pride in their work.

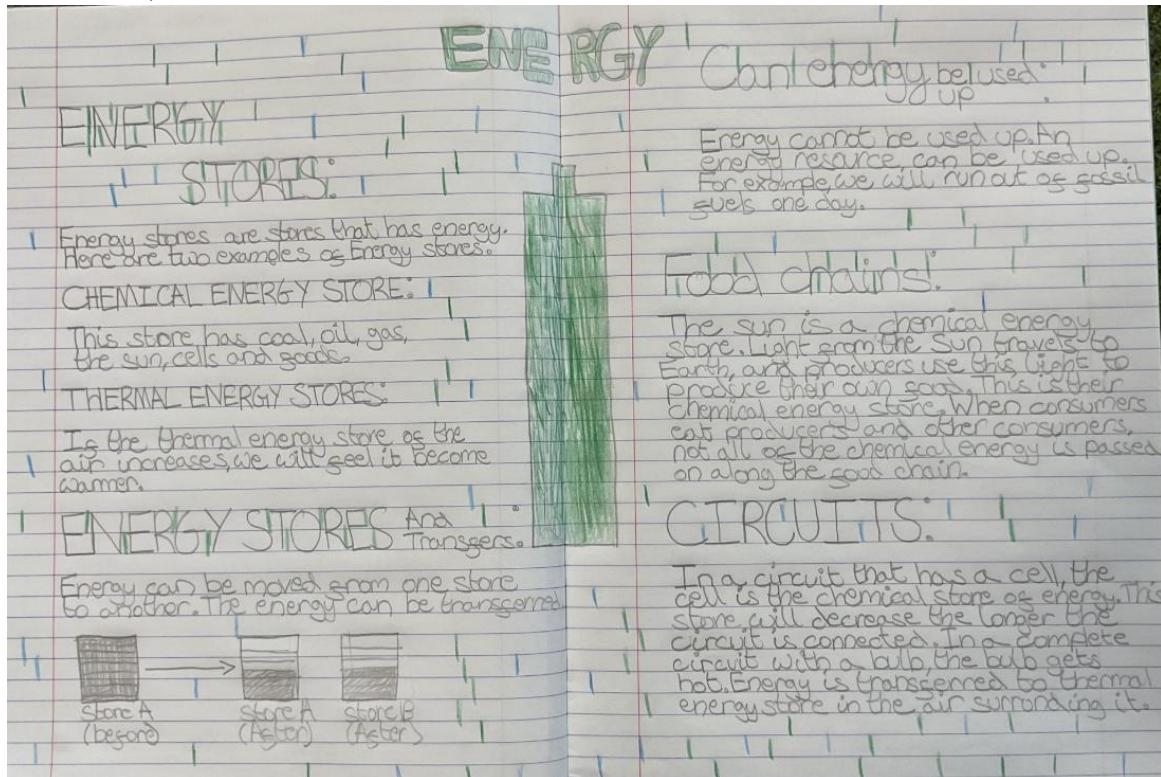
Here is Haya Farooq's (year 5) double page spread completed for the science unit on energy. Haya did an excellent job of bringing all her learning together in a presentable way, choosing the important parts and placing them strategically.



Luqmaan (year 6) has worked incredibly hard in DT, successfully designing his own unique hat. Luqmaan decided that he wanted to create a hat perfect for a wizard, so he created a pattern and design based on that and carefully stitched it together. Well done Luqmaan for creating a magical and imaginative wizard's hat!



Here is another example of the excellent work completed by Avi (year 5) this term. It is based on our science topic, 'Energy', and showcases his excellent understanding of how energy is stored, transferred, and used.



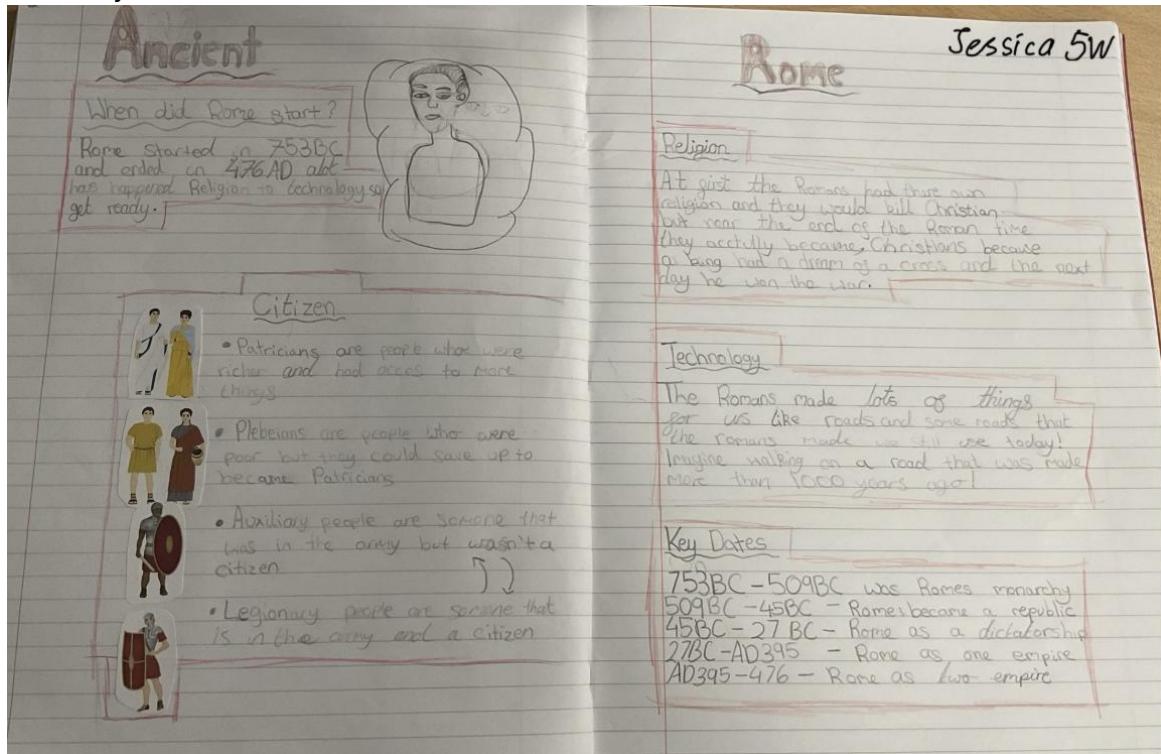
Here are some photos of D.T. from year 1. They made fruit kebabs and fruit jelly as part of our 'Eat a Rainbow' Unit, learning how to cut and prepare food. Good job everyone!



In year 3, children have been using mixed media to create cave paintings in the style of stone age cave painters.



This is Jessica's (year 5) double page spread on Ancient Rome. The children completed this to show off everything they have learnt this half term in our history topic. Jessica thought really carefully about the key facts she wanted to include and how to organise her information in a clear way.



In year 4, the children learned how to make soup – preparing the ingredients, cooking and tasting it.



Key Dates Coming Up:

Date	Event
Friday 19 th December	School closed to children
Monday 5 th January	School closed to children
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school

Reminders:

Parent Shout Outs

If your child's teacher or another member of staff has gone above and beyond, I would love to hear from you. Please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/6r5w1yxP8F>

Have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Mr J Parkhouse
Headteacher