Icknield Infants' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 2026

• BRAVE ✦ CURIOUS ◆ TEAMWORK • FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

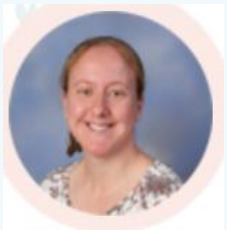
It has been a lovely week at Icknield! Over the past week, I have spent quite a bit of time looking at books with the children, celebrating what is going well and thinking about how we can continue to move learning forward. We also welcomed our School Effectiveness Adviser, Mrs Hardman, who joined me for a learning walk, met with some of our pupils and looked at their books. It was lovely to find that we were very much aligned in our thinking. There are lots of things to celebrate: classrooms are settled and purposeful, with children demonstrating excellent behaviour and engagement in their learning. Children are increasingly able to identify the skills they are developing, the pitch of learning is good and scaffolds are being used effectively to support success. We are also seeing greater consistency developing between classes and across the school. This term, we will be giving teachers dedicated time to work together to build on this further, with a particular focus on evidencing challenge in English and gradually removing scaffolds to develop children's independence. I am incredibly proud of our school. Our children are kind, our staff work so hard and I genuinely believe Icknield is a wonderful place to be.

Each week, I am meeting with our school council Curriculum Leaders on Friday afternoons. We started last week with a visit to classes to find out how teachers make learning fun and what we can do better. This week we have discussed actions and taken feedback to classes. Over the next few weeks, we will be doing a learning walk, giving feedback to classes and creating some video feedback for the school governors. Watch out for an update just before Easter!

Today, we have enjoyed celebrating **Children in Need** and **Crazy Hair Day**! Pudsey joined us at the school gate this morning, and I was so impressed by the effort families had gone to with their wonderfully creative hairstyles. Thank you for joining in and helping to make the day so special. If you would still like to make a donation, you can do so here. Finally, a huge well done to [CLASS] and [CLASS], who have achieved the highest attendance this week! Congratulations – Honey and Ginger will be spending some special time with you all next week!

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD

STAFF PROFILE



I am Mrs Peacock and I am the Early Years Practitioner in Caterpillar class. I have worked at Icknield since 2018! Outside of school, I love to play the piano and spend time with my family. I have 4 cats, plus a rabbit and a guinea pig. I enjoy watching my daughter play football and cricket at the weekends and supporting my son in his theatre productions. At school, I love to welcome the new children and watching them learn and grow during their time with us.

CELEBRATION CORNER



A huge well done to Brielle, who has been practicing on the hoop and silk rope at her Circus club. Last week she managed to do her first routine on the hoop on her own! She has also beat her own personal record of holding herself up on the silk rope. Brielle, we are so proud of you showing our school value of Never Giving Up – what a super showwoman you are! Thank you to Brielle's family for sharing.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We add new events and dates regularly as we book in trips, visitors, etc., so please check back regularly to make sure you have access to all the dates you need. These can also be found on the school website here. Please note, new additions or changes to times/dates are shown in **green font**.

November

Children in Need: Crazy Hair Day – **Friday 13th November**

Flu Vaccinations mop up – **Friday 20th November**

KS1 Cinema trip – **Friday 20th November **last-minute booking! ****

Open Evening for Prospective Parents – **Wednesday 25th November 3:30-6:00**

December

EYFS Nativity 1 (time TBC) – **Wednesday 2nd December**

EYFS Nativity 2 (time TBC) – **Thursday 3rd December**

Nursery Walk to the Letterbox – **Thursday 3rd December**

Decorations Day – **Friday 4th December**

PTA Non-uniform day – **Friday 4th December**

Fundraising Toy Sale – **Monday 7th December**

Nursery Singalong Stay & Play – **Wednesday 9th December**

Christmas Jumper Day – **Thursday 10th December**

Reception: Robots Search for Snow – **Thursday 10th December**

iRock concert (time TBC) – **Thursday 10th December**

PTA Christmas Market and Grotto – **Friday 11th December**

TBC PTA Grotto Day 2 – **Monday 14th December**

Christmas Shopping Day – **Tuesday 15th December ** change in date ****

Christmas Lunch – **Wednesday 16th December**

Christmas Singalong **– Thursday 17th December 3p.m. ** new ****

PTA PJs and movie time TBC – **Friday 18th December**

End of term 1:40p.m. – **Friday 18th December**

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January – Christmas Holidays, school closed to pupils

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January – INSET days, school closed to pupils

SCHOOL STORIES

NO OUTSIDERS



This week, our No Outsiders assembly focused on inclusion, disability and challenging assumptions. We learnt about Corey Lee, a wheelchair user who was told at a job interview that he wouldn't be able to do the job because it involved travelling. Rather than letting this stop him, Corey set up his own accessible travel website and is now a travel writer who has visited an incredible 41 countries! We talked about what accessible travel means, the challenges wheelchair users might face and how we can make sure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the same experiences.

We also thought about how important it is not to make assumptions about what someone can or cannot do because of a disability. Our discussion linked beautifully to the message of No Outsiders: everyone belongs, everyone is different and everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Today, we followed this up in another assembly by reading **Amazing** by Steve Antony. We discussed the activities the little boy enjoys doing, and that rather than tell someone they cannot do something, our role is to find ways to include everybody. Children easily linked this to our school values of *Kindness*, *Respect* and *Never Giving Up*.

ROAD SAFETY

This week, Mr Dean has spoken to a number of drivers to offer friendly reminders about parking safely and responsibly, helping to ensure our children can get to and from school safely. We would like to thank the many parents and carers who responded so positively, took the advice on board and moved their vehicles to safer locations. Unfortunately, not all interactions were quite so positive, but we would like to remind everyone that these conversations are always about one thing: keeping our children safe.

I am particularly concerned about the dangers posed when vehicles park on the zigzag lines, as this can make it extremely difficult for our young children to see and cross the road safely. The police will continue to visit regularly, alongside local council parking enforcement, so please think carefully about where you choose to park. We would encourage families to consider using the roads either side of Archers Way as a safer alternative, rather than stopping in restricted or unsafe areas. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our Icknield children safe.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year, we will be serving Christmas Dinner on **Wednesday 16th December 2026**. Please see the menu sent as an attachment with the newsletter. All pupils who are in school during lunchtime are welcome to have a Christmas Dinner on this day, even if they do not usually have a school meal on a Wednesday.

To sign your child up for the Christmas Dinner, please follow this link and **complete the Google form before midday on Friday 4th December.** If your child already has a school dinner on Wednesdays, you do not need to complete the form.

MESSAGE FROM VANCOLS

Your school photograph is ready! Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card. If you have already scanned the QR code on the proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification. If you have not done it yet, don't panic! You can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If you have not received your Proof or it has been lost, you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. However, if you do not have an existing account with Vancols you will need to contact the school directly for the website photo code.m

The online cut-off date for orders to be placed is **20th November 2026.**

ICKNIELD CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY

Our much-loved Icknield Christmas Shop tradition is back! This special event gives children the opportunity to experience the magic of Christmas shopping and choose a gift for a special adult in their family.

To receive their Icknield Christmas Shop gift voucher, children should bring in £3 or an item suitable for re-gifting, such as gloves, socks, stationery or bubble bath. Please ensure that any donated items are unused, in their original packaging and, where applicable, have at least three months remaining before their expiry date.

Please send the £3 or donated item into school with your child on Monday 30th November 2026, to be handed to their class teacher.

Children can then exchange their gift voucher for a present of their choice at our Christmas Shop on Tuesday 15th December. With a little help from our friendly Christmas elves, their chosen gift will be beautifully wrapped, ready to take home and give to their special person.

This is always a magical experience for the children and a wonderful opportunity for them to think about others, show their appreciation and experience the joy of giving. We look forward to sharing this special Christmas tradition with them once again!

INTO FILM – YEAR 1 and 2 PUPILS – FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

Year 1 and Year 2 will be visiting **Broadway Cinema** on **Friday 20th November** to watch the film Flow! This is a last-minute booking at no cost to parents, and funded by the Heritage Foundation. We will be leaving school at **9:15am** and will return in time for lunch. Children should come into school in uniform as usual, and must bring a coat.

We are looking for parent volunteers to come along and help us make this trip a success. If you are available and would like to volunteer, please speak to your child's class teacher.

PTA & COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CHAIR

There are 28 days until our Christmas event, we are really excited to share this event with the Icknield community. It is set to be a really great evening with; face painting, Christmas games, a hot dog stand, crafts, gifts and much more!
If you would still like to buy a Grotto or Market ticket please let your class rep know and we will make further arrangements.
In the spirit of Christmas and giving, the PTA have decided to give something back to the community. Please see the attached poster for more details.

Finally - who are we?

The PTA consists of:

- Chair - Tamara (reception and year 1 parent)
- Co Chair - Erika (reception and year 2 parent)
- Secretary - Bryony (year 2 parent)
- Treasurer - Rosie (year 2 parent)
- Co Treasurer - Kirsty (reception parent)
- Teacher - Miss D'Souza (Butterfly teacher)

Class reps

- Butterfly - Lucy
- Ladybird - Phil
- Fox - Clare
- Squirrel - Chantal
- Dolphin - Katie
- Penguin - Dionne

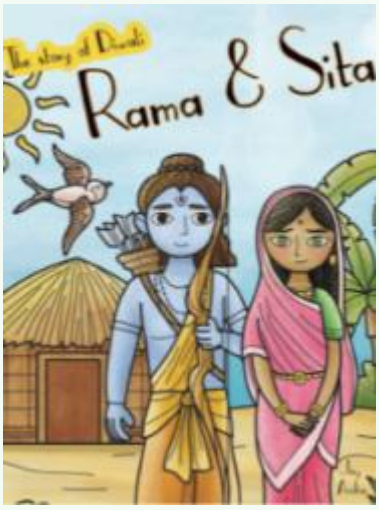
LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING!

NURSERY

Please see Tapestry for Mrs Maw's weekly update. If children have any interesting play moments, show school values or learning powers, or just want to share something from home with their teacher, please do upload it on Tapestry. Don't worry about lots of text – a simple photo and small caption is perfect!

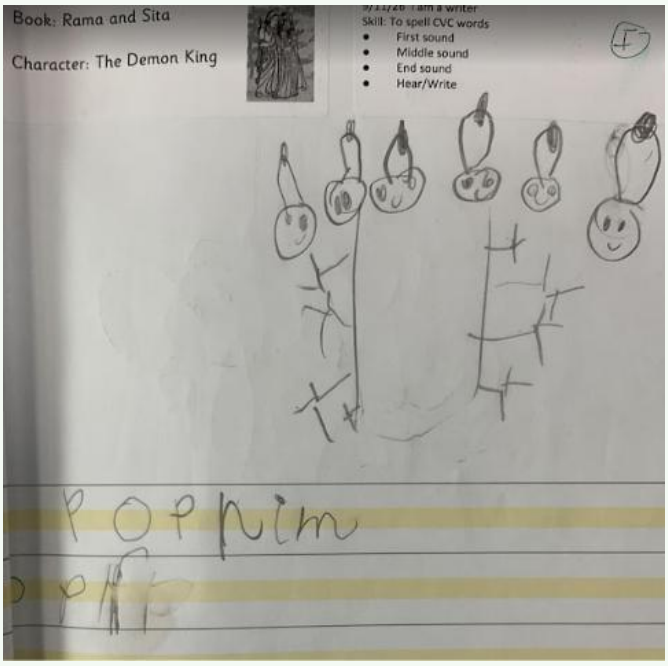
RECEPTION

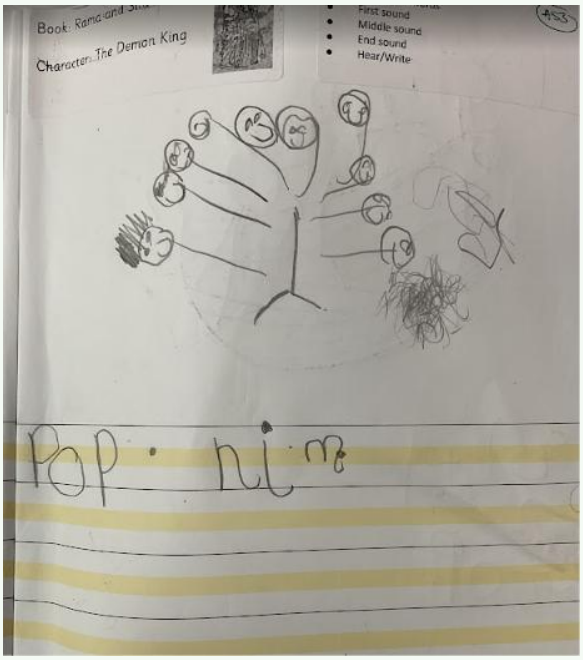
This week in **Drawing Club** we read the story of **Rama and Sita** to celebrate **Diwali.**



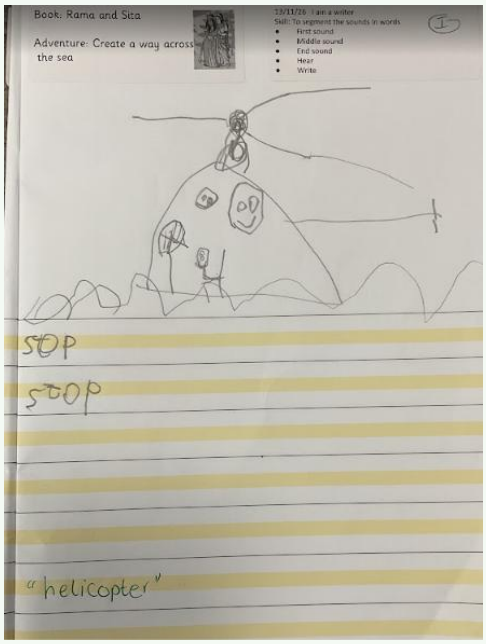
The new vocabulary we introduced this week was **brave, courageous, frightened, jealous, helpful and cruel.**

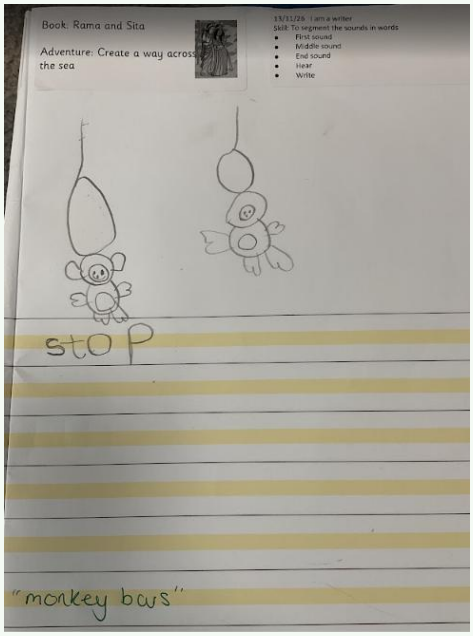
Our first session focused on the **character.** The children were asked to draw the **Demon King, Ravana** who had 10 heads and 20 arms. The children were introduced to a **special code** that would pop the demon king's head. The code they had to write was **pop him.**





On our last session the children had to think of ways for the monkeys to get across the ferocious sea to save Sita. We modelled the monkeys riding on a banana boat. The children came up with some fantastic ideas including using a submarine, a helicopter, a plane and even riding on the back of a turtle.





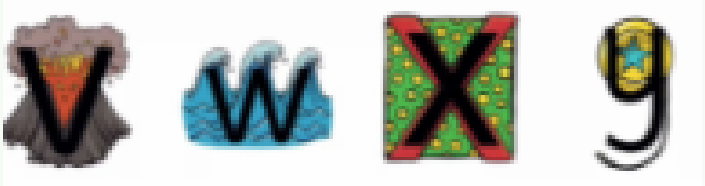
In Maths we introduced **5 frames** to the children and looked at the different subsets within the number 56. We focused on using the sentence stem **"I can see_____".** The children had to explain how many yellow and red counters they could see that made 5.





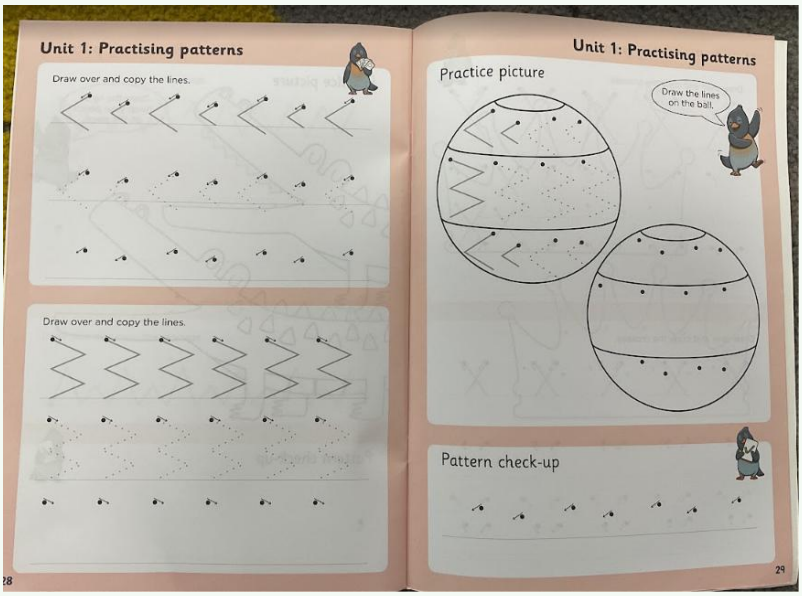
Phonics

In phonics this week we have learnt **v, w, x and y.** The children are still enjoying playing **what's in the box"** and often choose to play this independently in discovery time.



Handwriting

Below is our handwriting pattern from this week.



The children have loved spending time learning all about **Diwali** this week. In Ladybird Class the children have made playdough divas and decorated them and in Butterfly class they have loved using the toys in story suitcase to retell the **Diwali Story.**





Volunteers needed!

Thank you to the volunteers that have already contacted me. If there is anyone else that would like to volunteer please email Miss D'Souza

In December (Thursday 10th) we will **walking** to the Broadway Gallery to watch **Robot's Search for Snow.** We will need volunteers to support us with walking the children down. We will be leaving at 9am and returning about 11:30am.

Reminders:

- **Please label all clothing (including shoes, wellies, water bottles, coat and spare clothes)**
- **Spare clothes to be in a drawstring bag or plastic carrier bag (not a rucksack)**
- **Bookbag to be brought to school every day.**
- **Coat to be brought to school every day.**

YEAR ONE



In English we have been exploring non-fiction texts about space, learning to identify key features such as titles and headings. We have also been using the information we find in these texts to write our own interesting facts about space.

In Maths we are continuing to explore part-whole models, working with numbers within 20 and developing our understanding of how numbers can be made up of different parts.



In Science we have been learning about the weather and temperature during autumn, observing seasonal changes and discussing how the weather changes as we move through the season.

In computing this week we have been developing their computing skills as Data Explorers! We have been learning all about data and how information can be collected, grouped and sorted. The children explored different ways to group objects using criteria such as colour, size and type, and learned how computers can help us organise information. We also discovered how data can be presented using pictograms, looking at examples linked to weather, favourite ice cream flavours and different modes of transport. Along the way, we learned some new vocabulary, including data, group, sort, criteria, algorithm and pictogram. The children have enjoyed becoming data detectives and thinking about how information can help us answer questions about the world around us!





We are looking for parent helpers on the 20th of November to come along to the cinema with us for the morning. If you think you can help, please email or speak to your class teacher.

squirrelclass@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk foxclass@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk

A Few Reminders

PE days:

- 🦊 **Fox Class:** Monday
- 🐿️ **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday

Please ensure **PE kits are kept on your child's peg in school**. Please also bring in a **named pair of wellies** for your child to leave in school. These will be useful for outdoor learning and play.

YEAR TWO

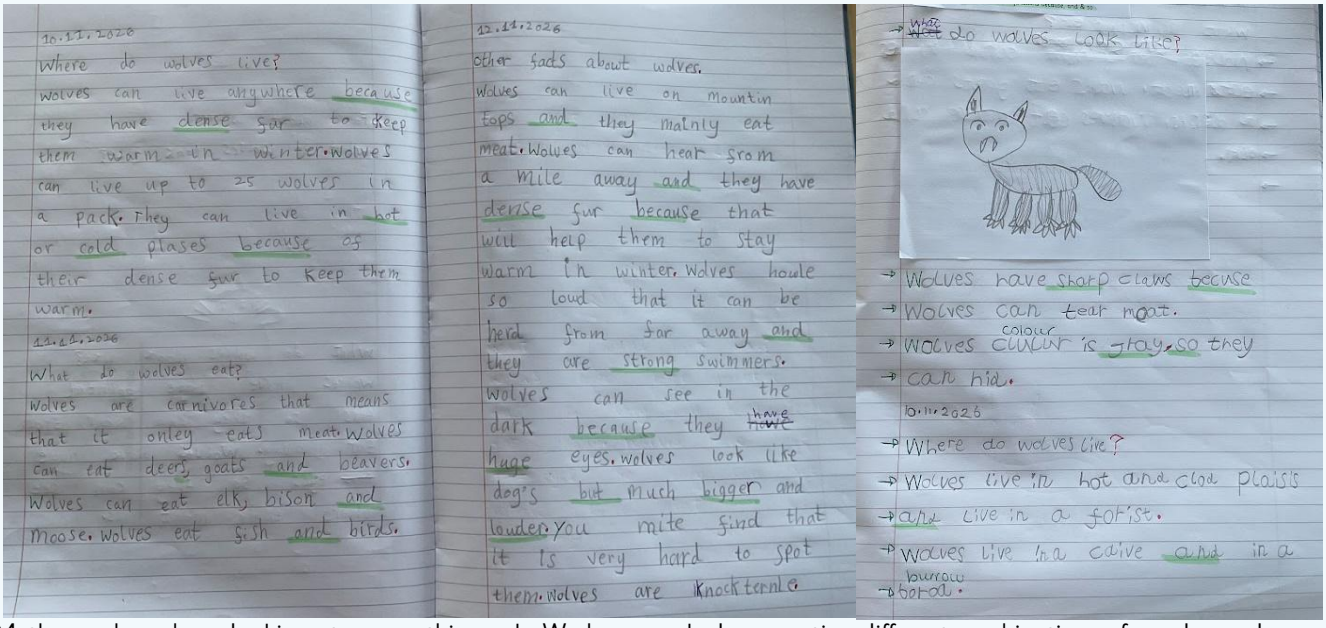
This week in Year 2, we have become inventors! In History our topic is "Wonderful inventions" and we have looked at the invention of the computer, Victorian toys, Barbie and the telephone! Using all of our learning, we have started to design and make our very own inventions. We have thought about who our invention will be for, what it will do and what resources we will need to use. Thank you for everyone so far that has donated some recycling materials!

We also made our very own Thaumatropes! We designed our own or followed a design, then joined it together!

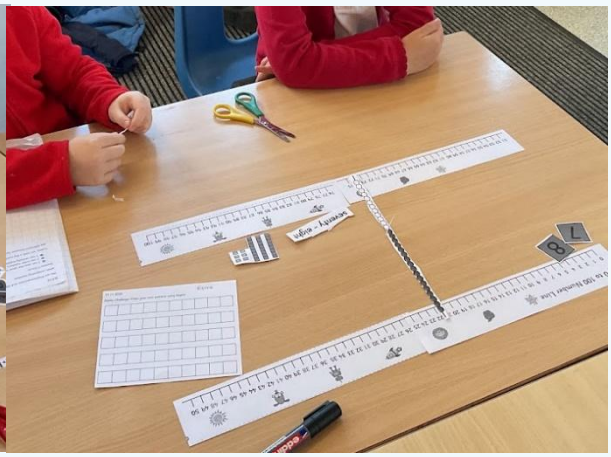




In English, we wrote our non-fiction pieces of writing all about wolves! We used all the knowledge we had learnt over the last few weeks to write a piece of writing to tell our readers what wolves look like, where they live, what they eat and any fun fact that we had learnt! We have focused really hard on our handwriting and presentation!



In Maths, we have been looking at money this week. We have worked on creating different combinations of a value and adding values of money together. As a challenge, we worked out change from £1 and £2! Then, we worked together to place number representations on a number line and discussed the difference between values.

In RE this half term, we are learning about Christianity and the Christmas Story. This week in discovery time, we have created our own Nativity Scene using tissue paper and black card for silhouettes. We created a silhouette of the manger and as a challenge we created the crib and Mary and Joseph, which was tricky but we didn't give up!




Year 2 Challenge – Toy Shop!

Use the picture below to add values together to work out how much you would need to spend when you buy some of the toys! Write the number sentences down and include the answer, then show your teacher to receive your smelly sticker!



Reminders:

- We still need more recycling for our inventions, so if you would like to donate any please give them to your class teacher!
- Please ensure your child has a labelled pair of welly boots – we have two labelled racks outside the classrooms to place welly boots on. As the weather is changing, welly boots will come in very handy if your child would like to use the mud kitchen and when it rains! We do have spare welly boots that will be available on the first week back if you would like to name a pair for your child to use at school. **Please check in with the class teacher before naming them.**
- We will be outside in all weather, so it may be useful to have a spare pair of socks/tights and items of clothing in a named bag for your children to change into if necessary.
- Reading books to be in **every Wednesday** ready to change and reading records to be in school **every day.**
- **We are looking for parent helpers on the 20th of November to come along to the cinema with us for the morning. If you think you can help, please email or speak to your class teacher.**

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOUR CHILD THIS WEEK 🚶 🚲 🚗

This week, in recognition of Children in Need, why not spend a little time talking together about kindness, helping others and how we can make a difference? We have been thinking about how everyone is different, how important it is that everyone feels included and how even small acts of kindness can make someone's day.

💛 What does it mean to be kind to someone?

🤗 How can we help someone who might be feeling sad, lonely or left out?

🌈 Why is it important to remember that everyone is different and that's something to celebrate?

👀 How might we know if someone needs a little help or kindness?

💛 Why is it important to include everyone when we play?

🐻 Why do you think Children in Need raises money to help children and families?

💬 If you could do one kind thing for someone this weekend, what would it be?

🏆 Can you think of a time when someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?

TRY THIS AT HOME 💛

The Kindness Challenge! 🌟

This week, can you become a kindness detective? Look for little ways to make someone smile, help someone or make them feel included.

🔢 Maths: How many kind things can you do in one day? Can you keep a tally? Can you beat your score the next day?

🖍️ Writing: Write a short thank-you note to someone who has been kind to you. What did they do and how did it make you feel?

🎨 Extra challenge: Can you think of five different ways to show kindness without spending any money?

💬 Talk about it: Can one small act of kindness make a big difference?

STAR CELEBRATIONS ★ ☆ ☆⋆

STARS OF THE WEEK

Very well done to our stars of the week! These children will enjoy a tea party (squash and biscuits) with Mrs Squires at some point next week. They will also choose a story sack to enjoy at home next weekend (to be returned by **Wednesday** please).

Caterpillar: Rosie

Ladybird: Ava

Butterfly: Isla-Me

Squirrel: Teo

Fox: Bobby

Dolphin: Remy

Penguin: Willow