

# Reynalds Cross School newsletter

Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7ER

Satellite Centre, Green Lane, Shirley, Solihull B90 1AE

February 2024 edition



Term



dates



## **TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES**

**2023/24**

### **SPRING TERM 2024**

Term starts: Monday 8th January  
2024

Half term: Monday 12th February  
- Friday 16th February 2024

Term ends: Friday 22nd March  
2024

### **SUMMER TERM 2024**

Term starts: Monday 8th April  
2024

Half term: Monday 27th May–  
Friday 31st May 2024

Term ends: Monday 22nd July  
2024

### **TRAINING DAYS (pupils not in school)**

Friday 22nd March 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024



# Message from Mrs Brettell



B

Wow what a term and where did it go! I can't believe following the Christmas newsletter I'm writing this so quickly.

Short terms are always so busy as we continue to try to fit 7 weeks into 5. As you will see from the updates we have still had lots of fun and creativity.

The valentines disco is yet another sell out event and thank you to all that attended and organised the event.



Our school garden is slowly coming alive with the help of eco club and other classes that regularly visit. I am sure it will blossom into something wonderful as the weather improves.

## Attendance

Our attendance is currently well above national average for special schools which shows how much our pupils love coming to school. Well done and please keep up the hard work.

## Goodbyes and Welcomes

We are saying goodbye to Mr Coombes who will be joining a special school in Worcestershire. Mr Coombes has taught in several classes and we wish all the best for his future.



We would like to introduce Paul our new site manager and Tom our new site assistant. Who are very valuable new members to our team. Paul has a real passion for developing student's skills after working in a college for adults with additional needs so we are hoping we may start seeing some of our students learning more about practical skills in the future.



## Shooting stars



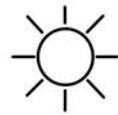
As part of the whole school topic of 'People', the children have been exploring the roles of different professions. These have included hair dressers, doctors, and dentists. They have had lots of fun role playing with related items, on dolls, as well as class adults on occasions!

In other activities, we are always keen to include opportunities for children to develop their fine and gross motor skills. This has taken place through exploration of play dough tools.

Then in music sessions, we have followed an African music theme, including the use of a large piece of decorative fabric for movement around and under.







Sunshines



class



Sunshines



have been



learning

about



people



from



different



countries



in



Geography



this half



term.

Along with



this



pupils



have been



exploring

using



their



senses;



tasting,



smelling



and



touching



foods



from



the



different



countries



and



listening to



their



National



Anthems.

The



countries



have been;



Australia,



New Zealand,



England,



France



and



Mexico.



Next



half



term



we



will

be



learning

about



many



more!





# Planets



## Geography

This half term Planets have travelled around the world in Geography! We have used our senses to explore the countries of some of the famous artists we have been learning about.



Exploring



photos



and



flags



Exploring



the globe!



Tasting



croissants



in



France!



Making crowns



for the



Royal



Family



in



England.





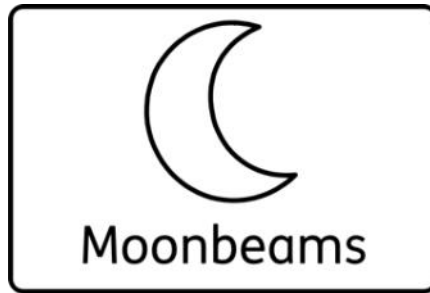


# Rainbows



Rainbows class have had a good half term to start off 2024. We have looked at different seasons in science, learning about animals who hibernate in winter when it is icy. Pupils have learnt about comic books as a collecting hobby, practicing fine motor skills using scissors, and completing sensory circuits in PE!





This term moonbeams have been learning about winter. We have engaged in different activities linked to what people experience in winter including the weather and how to keep warm. We have also explored different winter themed sensory choices.







# Rockets



Our new topic is all about people.

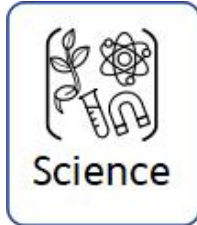
We have been learning about famous artists. Our most recent creation are 'waterlilies' by Monet.







# Comets



This half term, Comets Class have worked hard in Science, learning about teeth and eating. Comets have learnt about why is it important to keep our teeth clean. Pupils have practiced holding toothbrushes and using them to clean pictures and models of teeth.





This term Galaxies class have been focusing on our topic

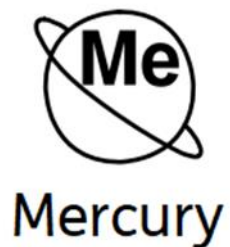
all about people. In art we are looking at famous artists

such as Claude Monet, Leonardo de Vinci, Piet Mondrian and creating

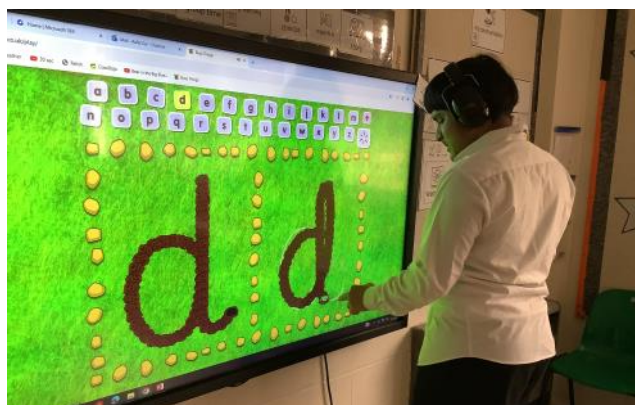
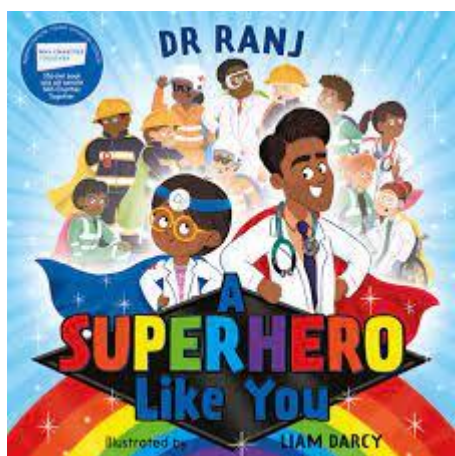
our very own masterpieces.







In the recent weeks we have been reading a story "A Superhero Like You" by Dr Ranj. We learned about important jobs which people like firefighters or doctors do. In all lessons, we completed tasks related to people and jobs.





# Venus





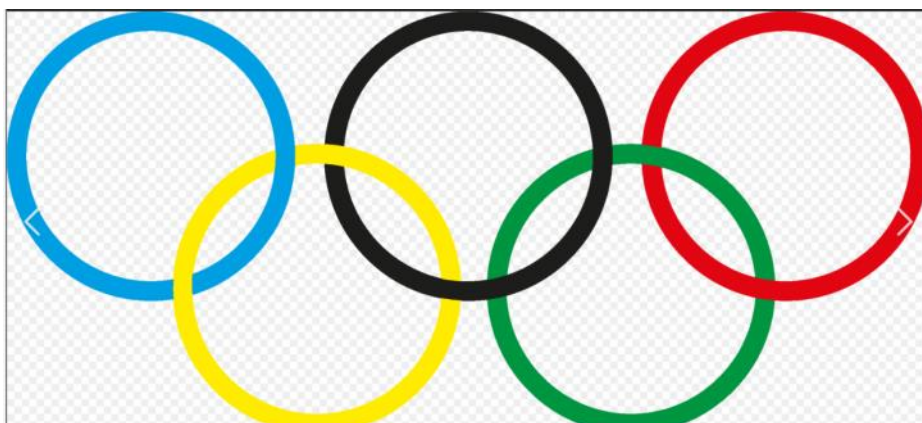


Mars



In Mars class we have been finding out about the Olympics. We have looked at different Olympians like Usain Bolt and Diana Taurassi and their sport.

We have then had our own competitions. Above was a competition to see how many hoops the pupils could get in 1 minute which the pupils seem to enjoy.





Jupiter



This half



term



Jupiter



class

have been



listening

to a



winter



sensory



story.



Pupils

have



enjoyed



exploring

the



different



objects,



made

marks in



flour

and



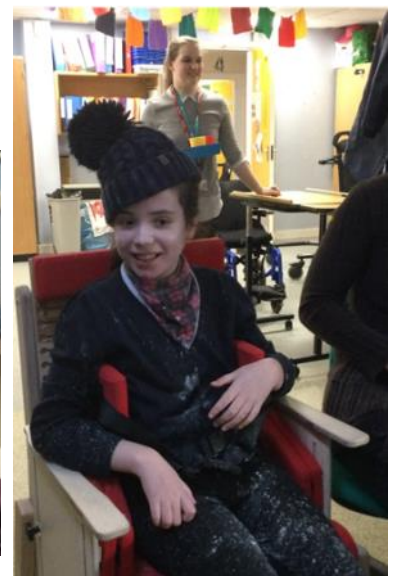
enjoyed



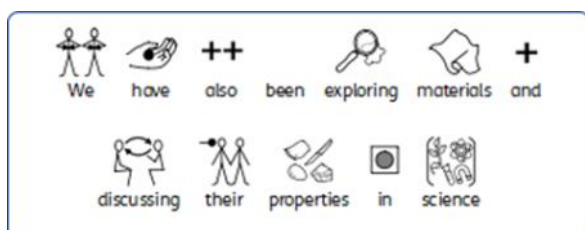
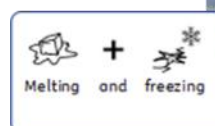
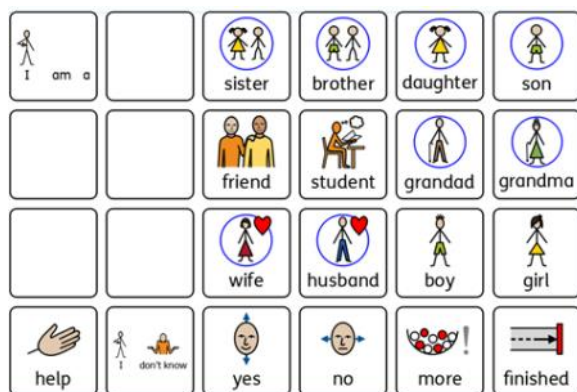
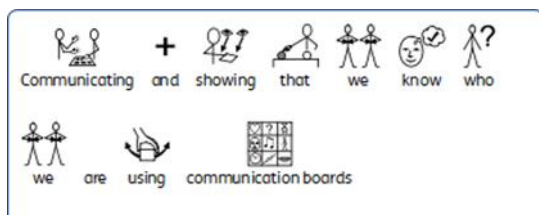
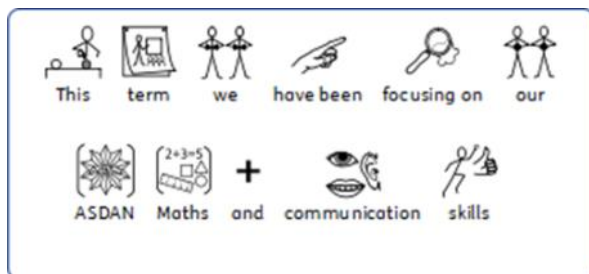
throwing



snowballs.









Saturn



### Saturn-My Community

In my community Saturn class have been visiting a local park. We have been picking up litter and getting familiar with the area. We are working on being safe on the bus and following instructions.







# Neptune



In



Maths



Neptune



class



have been



learning



about



measurement.



Pupils



have been



comparing



objects



by



size.



Sorting,



ordering



and



measuring



big



and



small



and



tall



and



short



objects

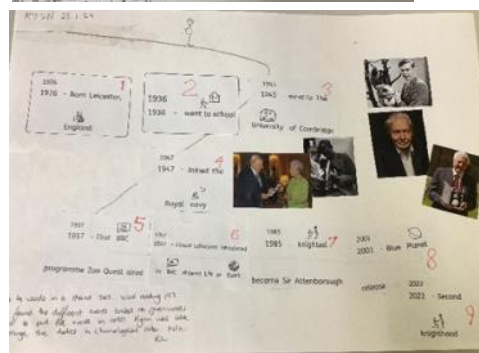
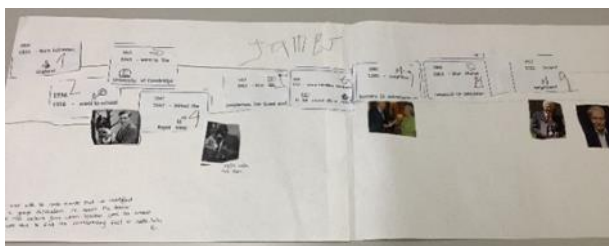
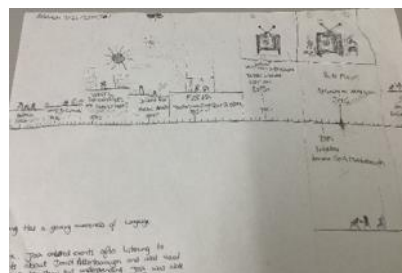
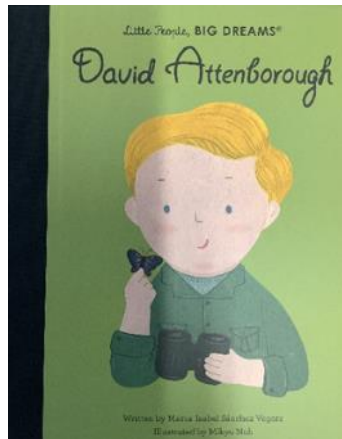




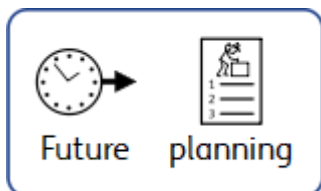
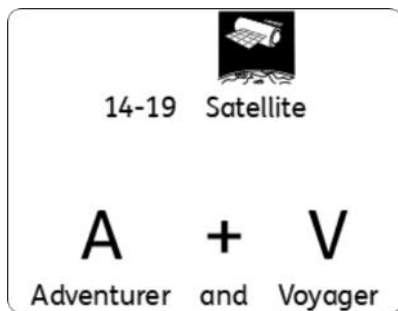
This term, pupils have been exploring David Attenborough as part of their My Communication explanation texts.

Pupils created timelines on David Attenborough's life.

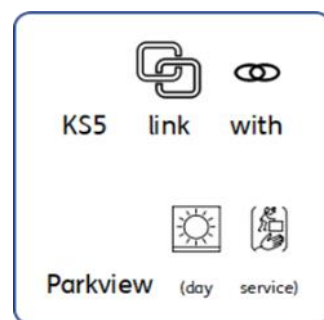
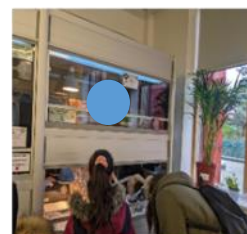
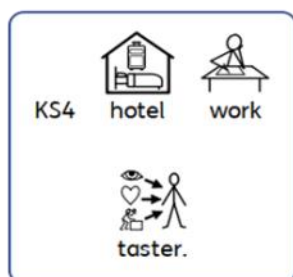
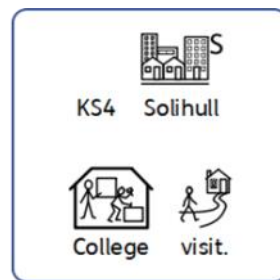
They also worked in groups using the internet to research facts on David Attenborough to make a fact file.







14-19 students at the Satellite Centre have had a busy start to the term with Future Planning activities. Future Planning visits give students a look into what they could access after school and is an important part of the 14-19 phase.





A belated Happy New Year to all of our parents, carers and families. Matt and I have been busy thinking about the year ahead and planning new things for 2024.

In our Christmas newsletter I mentioned about how we were going to “Buddy Up” our classes, to enable the pupils to have more of a community feel and share in different experiences and celebrations between themselves and another class. Matt has now done this, where the majority of our pupils in lower school are buddied with a class in upper school.

It is Children’s Mental Health Week, W/C 05th February. The theme is, “My Voice Matters.” Hopefully as you are reading this the pupils have taken part in various activities to celebrate this, including gratitude, feeling proud, crafts and colouring. There was even a playlist for them to bop along to and sing.

#### What’s New?

As you know we have an extensive list on our website about places to go that have been recommended by other parents/carers or sometimes visited by our own staff. We are always keen to add to the list so don’t forget to let us know if you visit somewhere new that you really like and we can add to our list.

We would like to do the same for holiday destinations. So if you have a lovely experience somewhere, do please let us know and we can compile a list on our website. Matt and I have two to start with

The Thomas Centre in Lincolnshire

Hartlands The Autism Holiday Centre on the Isle of Wight

Have a lovely half term

Katrina and Matt



# The House Garden

As many of you know, I look after the garden behind the Helen Keller and Reynolds Cross Houses.

The Garden is just waking up from a very wet and occasionally cold winter. So the bulbs are showing, except those the squirrels ate – and they ate most of the tulips I put in during the autumn!

Our friendly robin disappeared for months at a time last year but turned up before Christmas as if it had never been away, and is enjoying the new stock of robin food in the shed.

The big job in early spring is to install a greenhouse. This will hopefully provide an impenetrable barrier for squirrels, crows, slugs and snails etc. It will also be somewhere in the dry where we can plant seeds and bring on seedlings. It would be a very welcome addition to the garden. We have £500 available to buy one. Garden Centres are pricey, and it looks like B&Q will get the business.

However, if any of you know any reasonably priced alternative suppliers, or any second hand greenhouse in good condition, please let me know. It will need a base and someone rather more skilful than me to put it together.



Meantime the ECO Group are coming down on a regular basis and helping in the garden. They have helped sweep up and remove a vast amount of leaves which are now in the compost bins, they have planted bulbs and sown seeds, and generally tidied up. So well done them.

More from me in the spring

Peter Carbin

# Supernova classes

Congratulations to the classes below for achieving 100% attendance for the week.



Well done

## Week ending 12/01/24

- ♦ Planets
- ♦ Mercury

## Week ending 26/01/24

- ♦ Neptune

## Week ending 19/01/24

- ♦ Sunshines
- ♦ Moonbeams
- ♦ Neptune
- ♦ Voyager

## Week ending 02/02/24

- ♦ Sunshines
- ♦ Planets
- ♦ Mercury
- ♦ Venus

## Week ending 09/02/24

- ♦ Sunshines
- ♦ Saturn

