

### Spruce, Sycamore and Walnut

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### News and Reminders

We can't believe we are coming to the end of the Autumn Term. The children have worked incredibly hard this term and should be proud of their achievements. We hope you all have a happy, safe and healthy break over the festive period and look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Christmas Production:** Well done to all of the children for giving three amazing performances of 'Primary School Christmas Musical'. It was so wonderful to have a live audience and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Their lights really did shine and they were incredibly supportive of each other. Thank you to all parents and carers for helping with costumes and learning lines. If you have placed an order for photographs from the performance, they will be sent home next week.

**Christingle Service:** On Wednesday we will be having our Christingle Service in school. Please can you ensure that your child has an orange in school by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December so they can make their Christingles in preparation for Wednesday.

**Reading Millionaires:** It is incredible that by the end of the Autumn Term we already have seven reading millionaires in Year 5 and 6. Well done to: Harrison and Joseph (Sycamore Class) and Amelia B, Chloe Smi, Dexter, Grace and Sumaiyah (Walnut Class) who have already read over one million words this term! What an incredible achievement!

**House Reward:** On Tuesday afternoon the house who have earned the most dojos throughout the term will watch a Christmas film as their reward. Well done to all of the houses - this is the closest the total has been! A huge congratulations to Green House - enjoy the film on Tuesday!

**Spelling Test:** The children will have their half termly spelling test on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. They will be tested on twenty spellings from the current spelling step they are on (e.g twenty spellings from Step 6a - 6e). In order to move onto the next spelling step, they need to get at least 18 out of 20. All spelling ladders are available to view on Seesaw.

**Goodbye and good luck to Rev Dan:** As you may know, the parish vicar at St James' Church, Reverend Dan, is moving on after Christmas to join the parish in Chalfont St Giles. We would like to thank Rev Dan for all his work with the school over the last two years and wish him luck in his new role.

**Clubs:** Just a reminder that the deadline to complete club requests is Monday at 9am. You can complete this using the form on Parentmail. Many thanks.

**Online Safety: Watching Videos:** From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. However, the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate. To understand what type of content might not be suitable and advice on how to help your child watch safely, watch this [short video guide](#). The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults.

Find out [what to do if you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or [what to do if they already have](#).

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

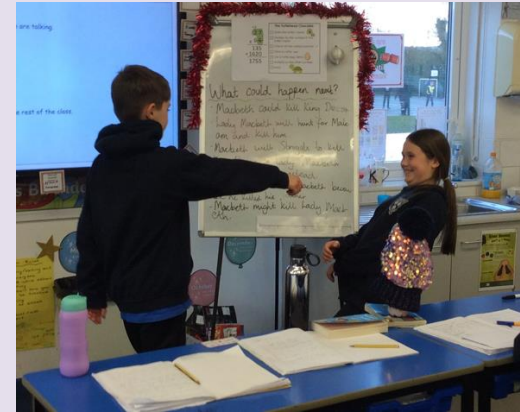
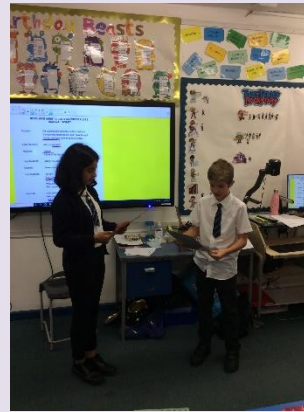
### Homework

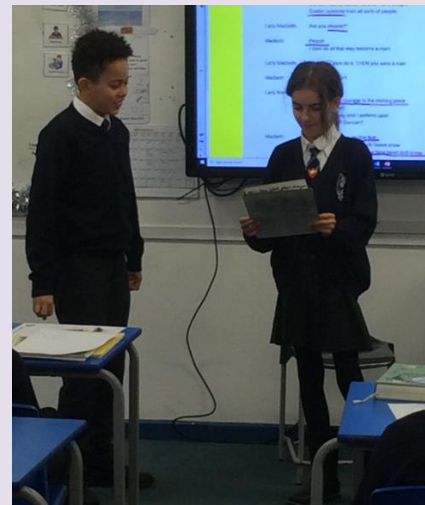
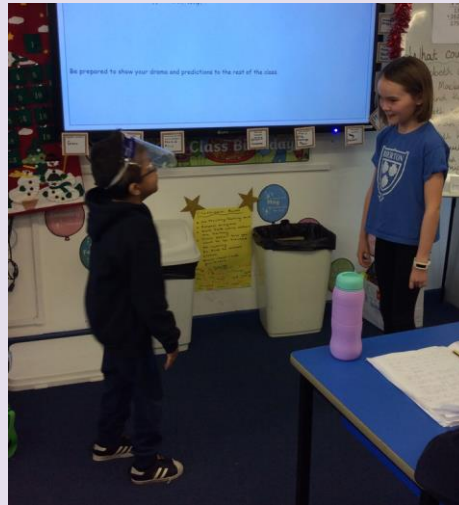
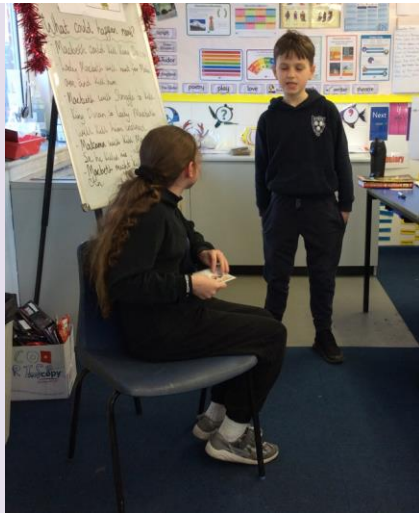
Over the Christmas break, there will not be any homework set on Seesaw. We would still appreciate you encouraging your child to read and quiz regularly and also practise their number facts on Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars.

Accelerated Reader website: <http://ukhosted93.renlearn.co.uk/6703196>

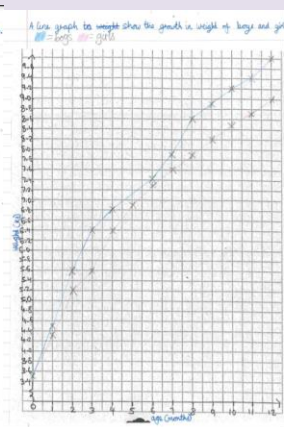
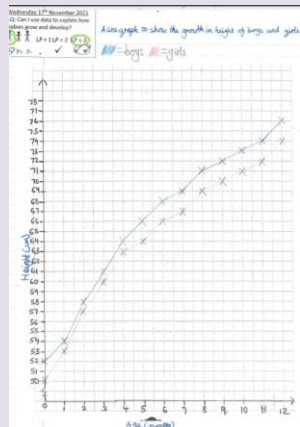
## Our Learning

**Literacy:** This half term our Literacy topic has been Shakespeare and we have been studying the play 'Macbeth'. We have been incredibly impressed with how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been about the text. We have heard lots of children talking about how much they are enjoying the topic and how it has inspired them to read other Shakespeare stories. The lessons have included lots of drama activities and we have also spent time analysing language from the original script.





**Science:** In Science, we have learnt about growth and development in animals and humans. The children have explored the changes that occur during the different stages of human development. We were impressed with the maturity of the children during this topic, including the discussions they have had and the questions they have asked about the topic.



On average, girls are usually 2cm shorter when they are born. (50cm compared to 52cm).

Between 0 and 12 months, boys are usually taller than girls.

On the first couple of months, a growth of weight, they grow more than to the last couple of months in the first year.

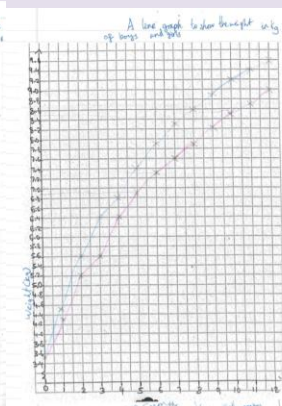
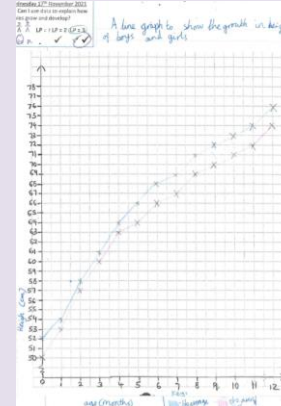
Normally, generalized glands are 15% after birth.

As a result, on average, boys are 2cm taller than girls but the same weight of birth.

At 3 months, boys are 4.5cm high and at 6 months, girls are 5.5cm. In the last couple of months that girls were one month later than boys it is the same with their weight.

Compared to height and weight, girls are faster at growth in height as they are slightly taller than boys height and weight.

Although it may seem it is a while it is a bigger gap in weight than before.

[illegible]



### Spirituality

Last month the children spent time learning all about the brilliant causes that Children in Need support. We reflected on why a charity like this is needed and planned events that we could take part in to raise money.

We have also been collecting crisp packets for some time as these will be turned into sleeping bags for the homeless. We discussed why this was important and how some people are not as fortunate as us so we should be thankful for what we have. Our Eco-Warriors were recently interviewed and spoke about this with Bucks Radio.





### **Topics for next Half Term:**

**Literacy:** Our Literacy lessons will be based upon 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. We would like to encourage the children to purchase a copy of the book as this will also be our class story for the Spring Term. In weekly reading sessions, we will study 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterley.

**Science and Topic:** Throughout the Spring Term, we will be learning about Space in Science and Topic. As part of this, we have organised a visit to the National Space Centre (in Leicester) in March. A letter containing further information will be sent out via ParentMail. We will also be organising a space themed art and DT day.

**R.E:** Our key question will be 'Does the community of the Gurdwara help Sikhs lead better lives?'. The children will explore how the Gurdwara influences the life and belief of Sikhs.



### **Superstar Learners**

**Christian Values Certificates:** Well done to those children who have been awarded a Christian Value certificate.

**Reading:** Here is the leader board for class word count and number of quizzes passed over the past month:

### **Diary Dates**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** All children need an orange in school ready for Christingle

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Half termly spelling test

Word Count (November)	Percentage of Quizzes Passed (November)
1 <sup>st</sup> : Walnut	1 <sup>st</sup> : and Spruce (87.6%)
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sycamore	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sycamore (84%)
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Spruce	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Walnut (82%)

#### **Numbots and Times Table Rock**

**Stars:** Well done to the following children who have earned the highest amount of coins during November.

	Spruce	Sycamore	Walnut
Numbots	Micah Ethan S Sara	Harrison Joseph Finch	Amelia B Jacob A-D Noorhanfa
TTRS	Zachary Micah Olivia	Emma Pahal Kyle	Amelia B Prisha Jacob A-D

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Termly reward for winning house

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Christingle service in school

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 2 Disco (4:45pm - 6pm)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Hot Christmas lunch (wear a Christmas jumper for the day)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Class parties (am).

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** School closes at 1pm

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** INSET Day (school closed for children)

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January:** School opens for Spring Term.