Halifax Herald

November 2025

Aspiration Nurture **Helping each other to aim high** Collaboration Curiosity

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Halifax Herrald which this month sees a focus on mathematics!

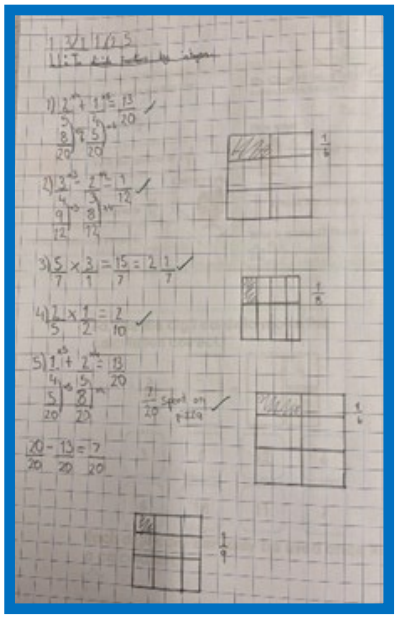
As we know, maths and being confident with numbers is a key life skill and at Halifax we believe that every member of our community can be successful in the subject. By using concrete resources (objects) alongside pictures, we can ensure that our children develop a deep understanding of the variety of concepts we teach. As you will see in this edition, number fluency (counting) and fractions are two concepts that have been explored recently. Although fractions in particular can be viewed as challenging, you will see that by showing these in different ways, we can ensure our children 'see the maths' and feel confident...even without the use of pizza...

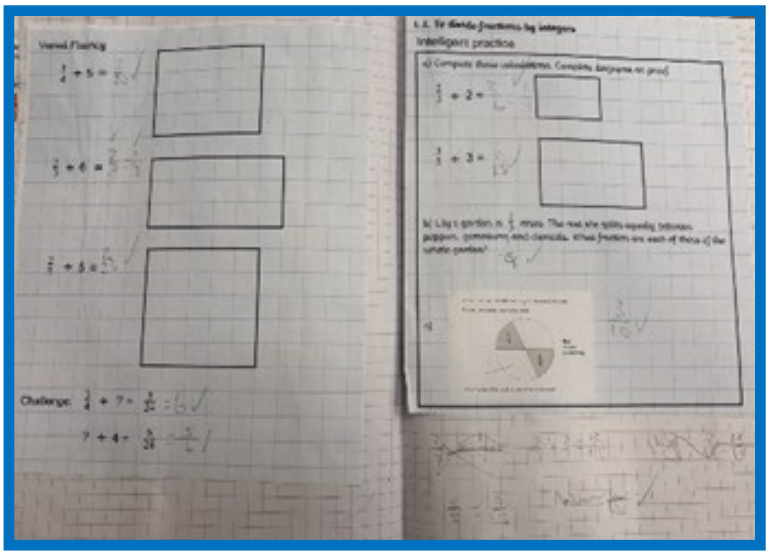
Best wishes,

Mrs Landers

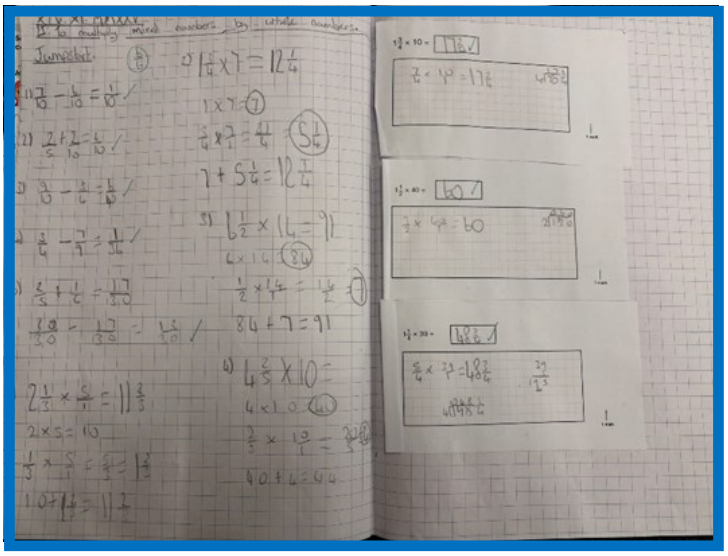
Year 6 - Actions with fractions… and not a pizza in sight...

Year 6 have been working on mastering fraction calculations. These pieces of work below demonstrate the use of pictorial images to solve fractions when they are divided by integers (whole numbers!).



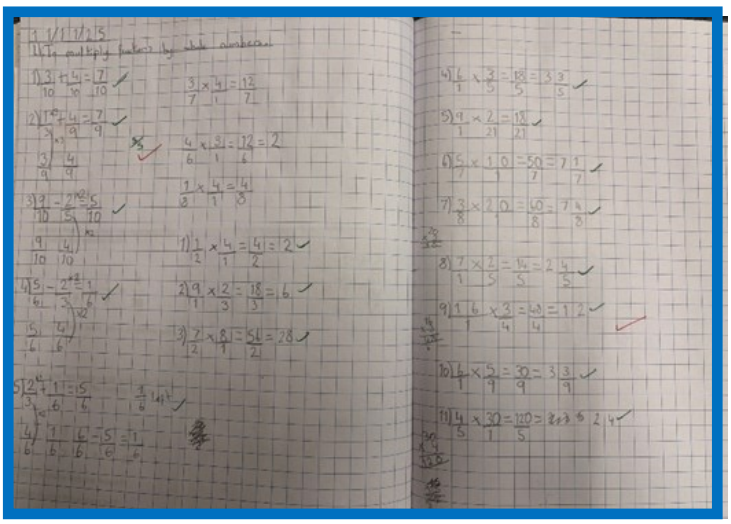


This piece of work demonstrates multiplying mixed numbers by whole numbers. We can see here fantastic presentation of the work!

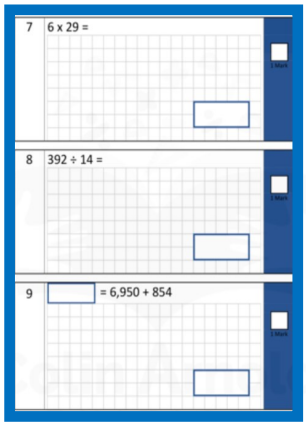


5 OUT OF 4 PEOPLE HAVE TROUBLE WITH FRACTIONS.

This piece of work demonstrates multiplying fractions by whole numbers.

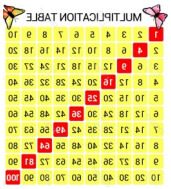


Year 6 have also been completing weekly arithmetic papers to practice their arithmetic skills—all core calculations, fractions, percentages and BIDMAS. The average scores in Year 6 have increased from 22 marks in September to 34 now!



Maths at Halifax

At Halifax we believe that all pupils can become confident in mathematics and be able to apply their skills to a variety of problem solving contexts. Mathematics truly is interwoven in all aspects of daily life. Below are some tips as to how you can support maths learning at home:



1. Multuplication facts! Knowing multiplication tables facts is a key building block in supporting children's ability in mathematics as these facts are used so often! Practise these at home - chant them, display a multiplication square like this and play Times Table Rock Stars!!

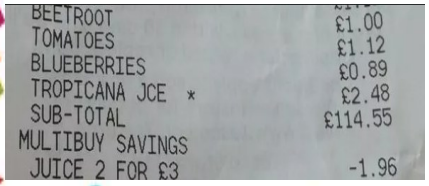
2. Play games Playing board games can help children practise their calculation skills, especially to develop automaticity. It has been proven that children who play board games have improved number sense and will learn facts quicker.

3. Make it practical—weights and measures

Measures are a key part of mathematics and children can be supported in their understanding of units of mass and capacity by helping in the kitchen and cooking a recipe. Alternatively, they could help with measuring lengths/areas for any DIY projects!

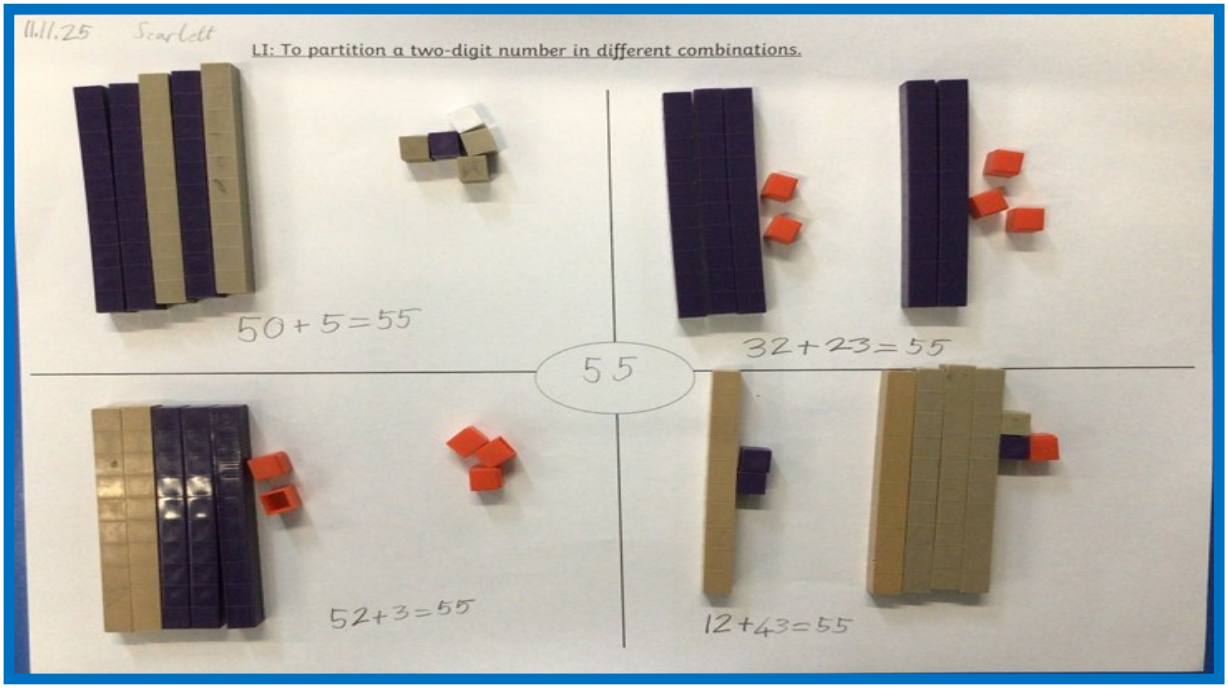
4. Noticing maths around you!

Can you look at the world around us and define some of the things you see—this is easy for geometry and 2D/3D shapes!



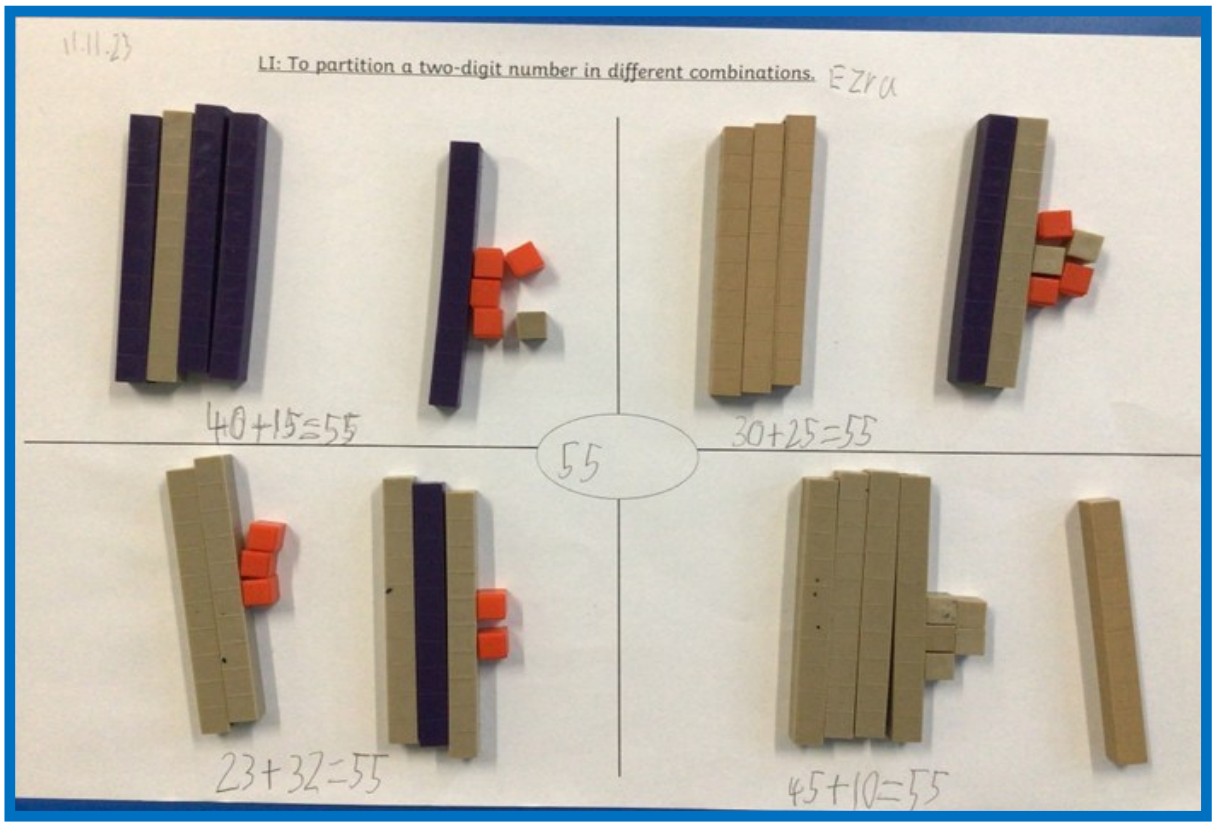
5. Talk about maths!

Help estimate or add up your shopping visits, round to nearest £10, £100 or calculate the change!



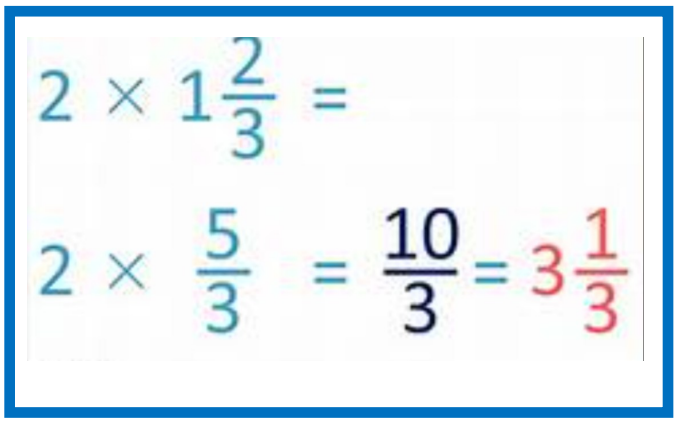
Year 2 - Partitioning to see the picture…

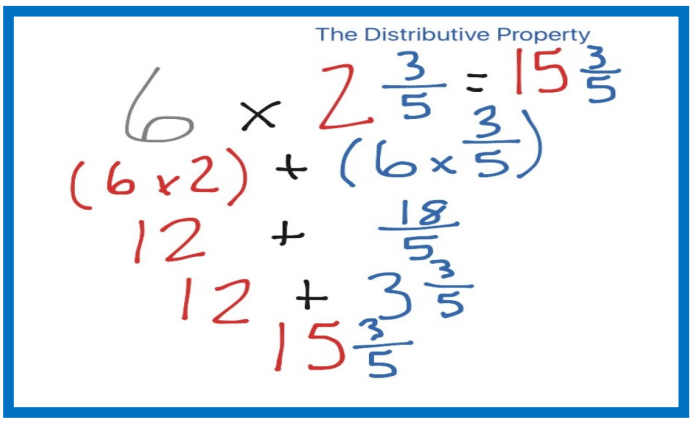
Year 2 have been working hard to understand the structure of numbers by partitioning them using Dienes blocks. These blocks, which represent ones and tens, help us see how numbers are built up and make it easier to spot patterns and relationships between them. By breaking numbers into different combinations, we're learning how to manipulate numbers more easily, which will be really helpful as we move on to more complex maths in the future. Not only are we becoming more confident with addition and subtraction, but we're also starting to make connections between place value, patterns, and number operations. This hands-on approach is helping us to see the "bigger picture" in maths and will support us in tackling more challenging problems as we grow.



Year 5 - More fraction action… still no pizza!

In maths, Year 5 have been working on fractions for the last few weeks. This is the steps of teaching we have followed; recognising equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, adding/subtracting fractions with the same denominator to then finding the equivalence to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. We then moved on to, converting mixed numbers into an improper and vice versa. This week we have been looking at multiplying proper fractions by a whole number and have just moved onto multiplying a mixed number by a whole.



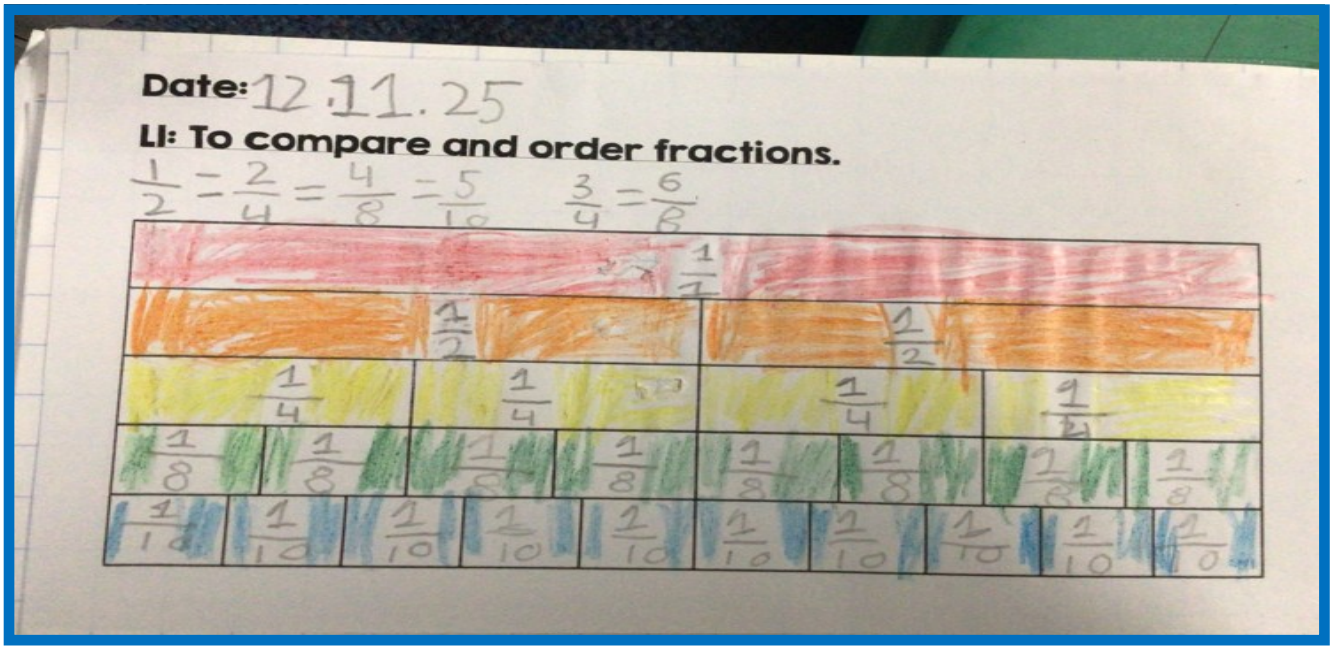


Have a look at these two approaches to calculating and consider the question we ask our children...

What's DIFFERENT?

Year 3 - Fraction equivalents using a wall… you guessed it, no pizza :(

In maths, Year 3 have been looking at finding equivalent fractions, adding/subtracting fractions with the same denominator and finding fractions of an amount. The children are doing very well at remembering the job of the numerator and denominator.



Reception - Counting with confidence...

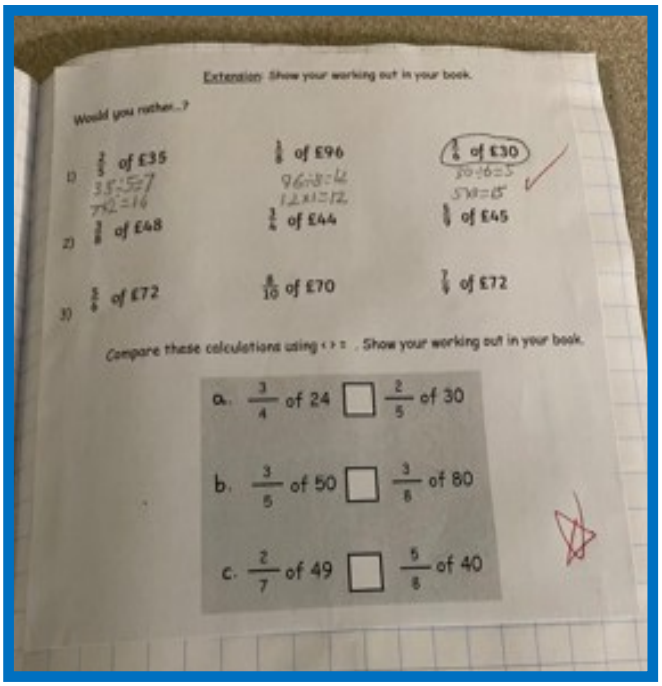
Bluebirds and Robins have been recognising numbers and practising accurate counting up to 10. They have also learnt how to find one more and one less using different resources such as cubes, their fingers or counting dogs.

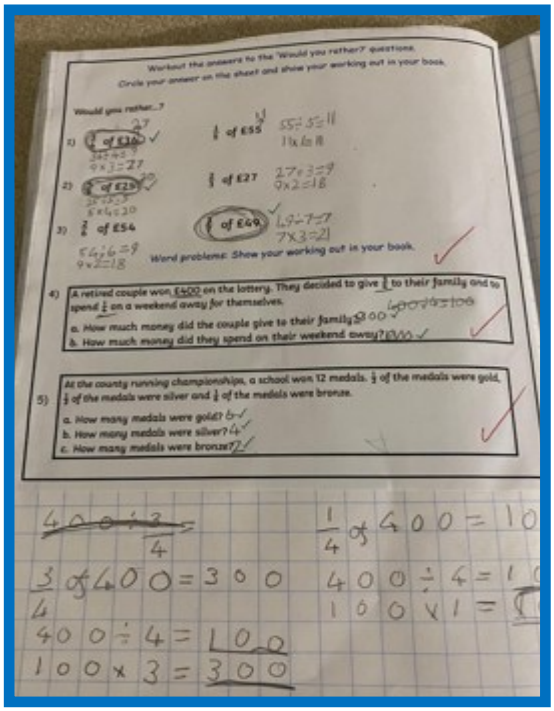
> Not all things worth counting are countable and not all things that count are worth counting.
>
> — Albert Einstein —

Year 4 - Fraction equivalents using a wall… you guessed it, no pizza!

In Year 4 we have been looking at fractions, knowing what they are and identifying equivalent fractions with increasing confidence. We have also been practising how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator, remembering to keep the denominator the same and add or subtract the numerators only. The children have been applying their skills to real-life contexts too, calculating fractions of amounts and even beginning to convert fractions into decimals.

Alongside our work on fractions, Year 4 have been showing fantastic commitment to learning and revising their times table facts, ready for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer!

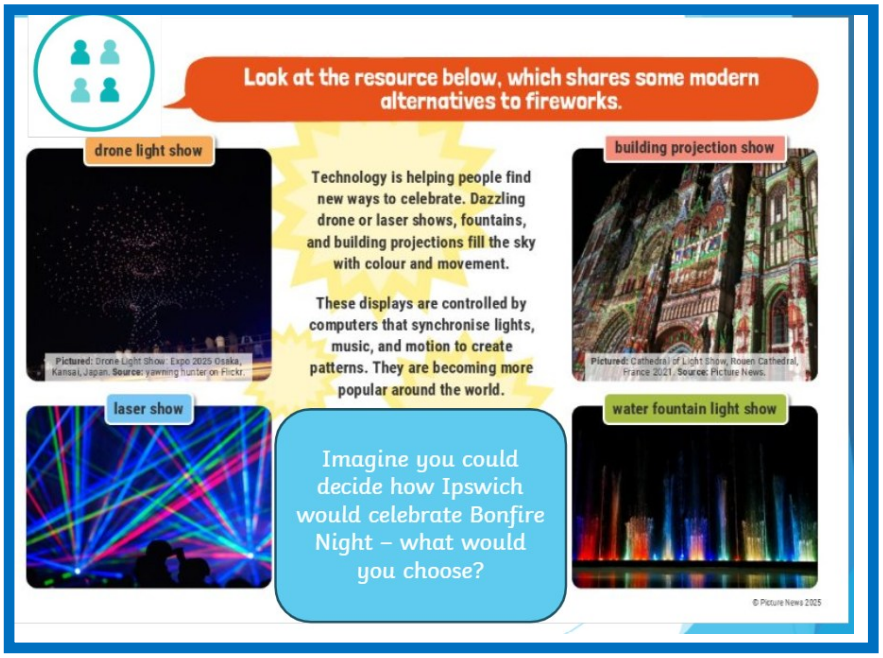


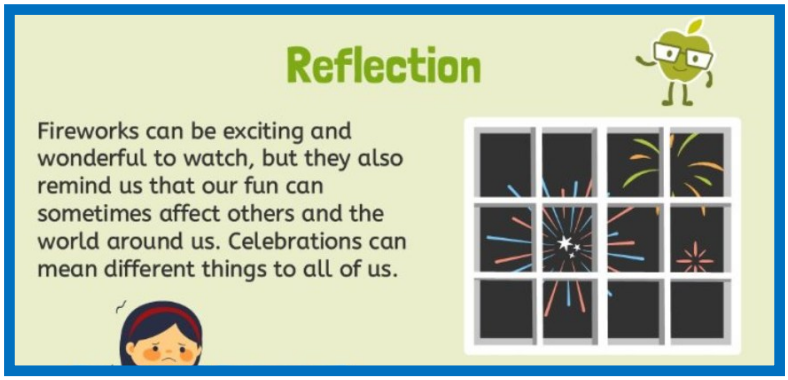


Oracy—talking points…

As a way to develop our oracy skills we often have a talking point within our assemblies. This is a statement that the children can discuss and share their points of view. We provide the children with sentence stems to help them articulate their ideas.

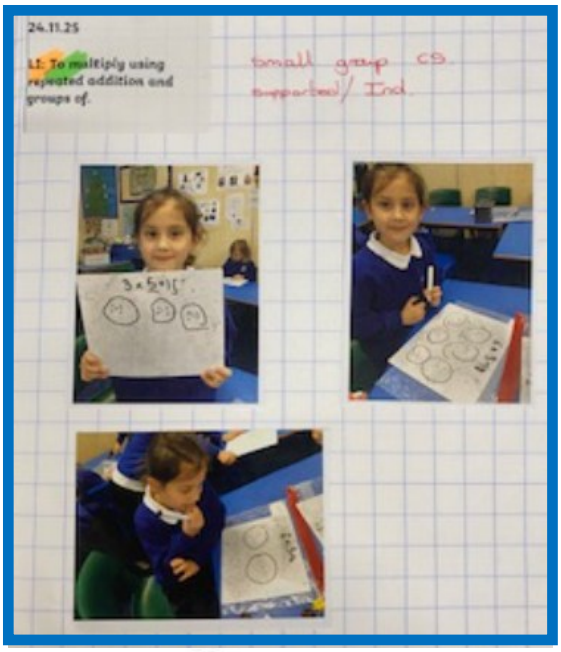
In November we celebrated Guy Fawkes Night and we discussed in assembly the following question: Should fireworks be changed so we protect people and animals at the same time.

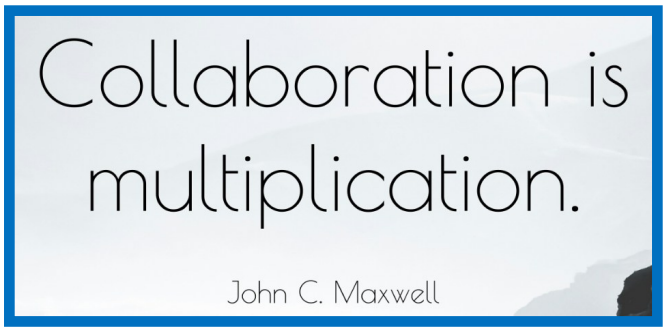




Year 1– Multiplication marvels...

In Year 1 we have started learning about multiplication. We have been solving calculations using repeated addition and how this relates to times using the 'x' symbol.





Year 3 PSHE Afternoon

Monday 8th December, 1:30pm

Effort and Attainment Reports to Parents and Carers (Years 1-6)

Thursday 11th December

Year 2 Nativity

Monday 15th December,1:45pm

Tuesday 16th December, 9am

Year 1 Christmas Experience

Tuesday 16th December, 1.45pm

Wednesday 17th December, 9:00am

EYFS Christmas Experience

Wednesday 17th December, 2.30pm

Thursday 18th December, 9am

Christmas Dnner and Parties

Thursday 18th December

Effort & Attainment Reports Feedback from Parents and Carers

by Friday 19th December.

End of term

Friday 19th December

School Returns

Tuesday 6th January 2026