



**SwitchED2**

**Christmas  
Newsletter**

**2021**



# A message from Andy

However you look at it, SwitchED2 really is a school like no other!

As you read through the next 22 pages, you will understand and hopefully agree with my sentiment.

I couldn't be more proud of the engagement and amazing successes our young people have had since returning from the summer break.

Attendance has been at an all time high of 95.63% which to me simply says "I want to be at SwitchED2".

I hope you enjoy this the Christmas 2021 newsletter.





During English session this term, students have worked on improving their spelling techniques via the use of games such as word scramble, word grids and dictionary games.

Students have also developed their understanding of text layouts by identifying a range of features. Next term students will apply these features to their own writing.

In addition to this our Entry 3 learners have been busy working towards completing an Open Awards unit on Reading in the Workplace. They have studied a range of occupations and discussed the importance of reading in a variety of roles. In addition to this, students have also learnt a range of signs and symbols commonly found in a working environment. And if that's not enough, they have also worked on interpreting information from a range of tables, graphs and charts.

Whilst our Entry 3 learners have been busy with their units, our Level 1 and Level 2 learners have been preparing for their upcoming reading exams. They have spent lots of time identifying a range of language techniques including, persuasive techniques such as rhetorical questions, rule of three, special offers and alliteration. As well as this, they have worked on identifying and explaining the impact of figurative language, such as: personification, idioms, metaphors and similes in a range of texts. Wow! We worked well, don't you think? Busy as bees, whilst remaining as cool as a cucumber.

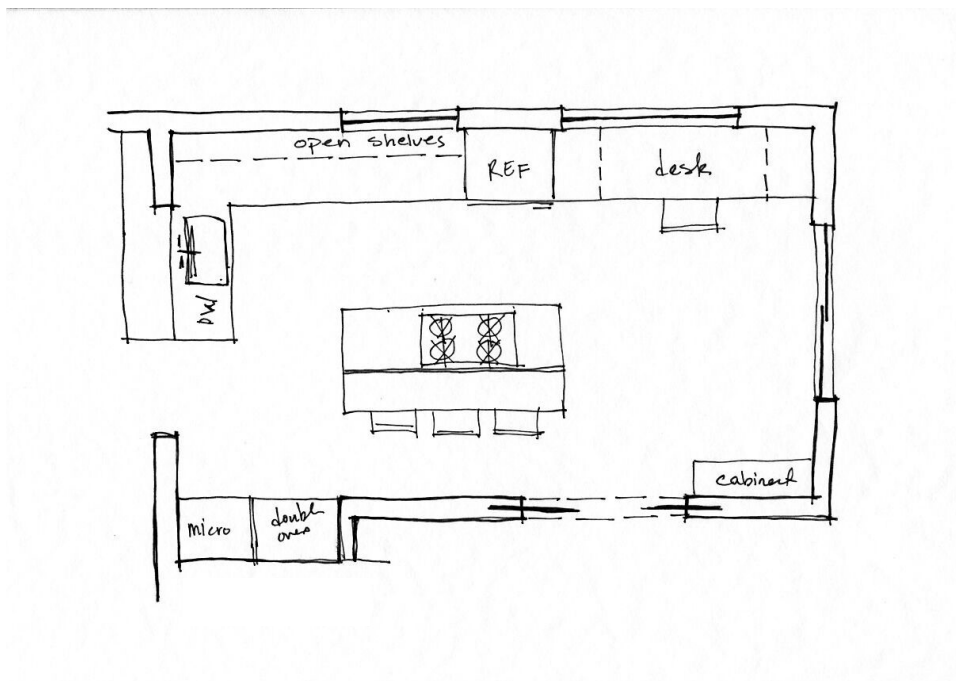




During the first half term, the lessons in maths were planned to work in tandem with the new DIY corner that has been created for vocational sessions on Thursday afternoons.

This new addition to the school has been provided to offer a real work environment for practical learning projects. During maths sessions, students have worked out the areas of paint coverage required and researched the subsequent costs.

In addition to that project, students have also designed and costed a kitchen area to include breakfast bar, sockets, lights and tiles.



The second half the Autumn term has been dedicated to exam revision for some and undertaking initial assessments for our new students.



PSHE covers a wide variety of topics , offering opportunities for students to develop skills and strategies for getting the most out of life. All pupils have been writing their own Personal Action Plan and working on the mandatory unit of Developing Interpersonal Skills, they have managed to set themselves short and long term targets.

Health covers physical and mental well being and one topic this term has been Stress Management. Students have worked as a group identifying situations that can cause stress, what happens if it gets out of hand and how to reduce its impact. Then students do some individual written work and reflection on their own situation. One source of stress a couple of students noted was ‘nagging teachers’ ..... What they really mean is ‘constructive support’!

During Health and fitness pupils have managed to identify a wide range of activities that can help them to keep fit and given reasons as to why it is important for pupils to keep fit. Building on this we have been participating in a wide range of sports including badminton, football and circuit training.

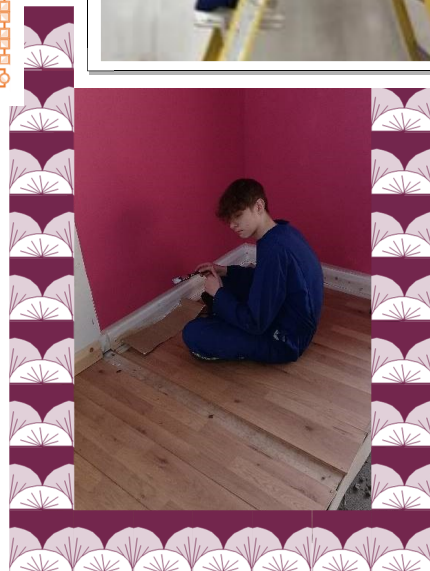
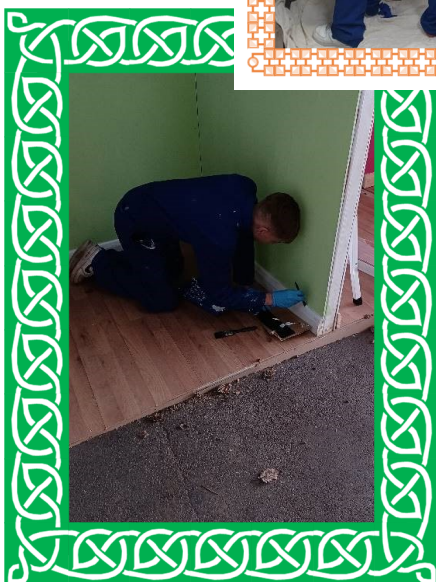
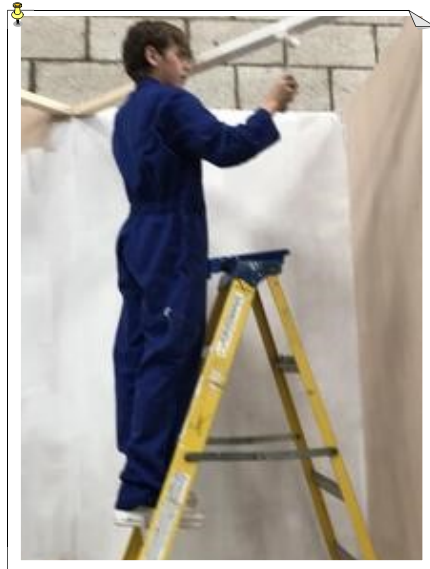
As part of the E-Safety unit and Hate Crime week we arranged a couple of guest speakers into school, local Police Community Support Officers Mark Walker and Gillian Jackson came into school and discussed issues around Hate Crime and how this can impact on individual and communities throughout Cumbria. More recently, we have had the Cyber Crime Prevent Officer, Nicholas Hawes from the North West Regional Crimes Unit in to discuss preventative strategies to hacking and using their computer skills in a positive way.



# Vocational Skills



Students have turned their hands to a spot of painting decorating and DIY this term during our vocational sessions. They have used a range of painting tools to undercoat, emulsion and gloss their booths, before laying a laminate flooring via careful use of saws and drills. This work has also linked into maths work where students measured and priced up materials in order to complete their projects. We have learnt about different paints for different purposes and the finishes various paints produce. Students have followed health and safety rules and wore appropriate PPE for the tasks they were completing. We are really impressed with their finished booths, what do you think? Next term students will be adding electrics, picture rails and window frames to their booths.





# Food Technology

Attention this term has been given to the wonderful world of sponges and pastries. Not everyone is adept in these fields but our students have made some amazing dishes, frangipane tarts, profiteroles and Swiss roll being just three of them. The results would have been worthy of a place on Bake Off!

Techniques used have included:

- \* Whisking
- \* Rubbing in
- \* Melting
- \* Folding
- \* Piping



If you fancy having a go at the swiss roll yourself, here's the recipe, or you could substitute 10g of flour with cocoa powder and 1/2 tsp of baking powder to make your own version of a chocolate log. Fill and decorate with chocolate butter icing instead of jam.



50g self raising flour

50g caster sugar

2 eggs

100g strawberry jam

Heat the oven to 180c

Line a swiss roll tin with baking parchment

Beat eggs and sugar together until thick then gently fold in flour, pour into the lined tins

Bake for 10 mins. Whilst baking, warm the jam in the microwave

Lay a sheet of baking parchment on the work top and sprinkle with sugar. Turn the cake onto it. Spread with the warm jam and roll.





“Creativity is contagious, pass it on” - Albert Einstein

Creativity has certainly been sweeping through the KS3/4 cabin this term with students adding big splashes of colour to their lives. Working towards entry level 3 and Level 1 in art, students started the term exploring colour – creating colour wheels, understanding how different shades and tones are created and how they make us feel. They have looked at different artists and the different techniques used to create different sorts of pictures such as Banksey’s graffiti, Jackson Pollock’s splatters or Dali’s surrealism and what message or emotion the art works convey. Students have developed their own creative skills producing pictures with acrylics, pastels and water colours. They have explored how the choice of medium, painting technique, range of colour can create a different mood in a picture with some fabulous results.

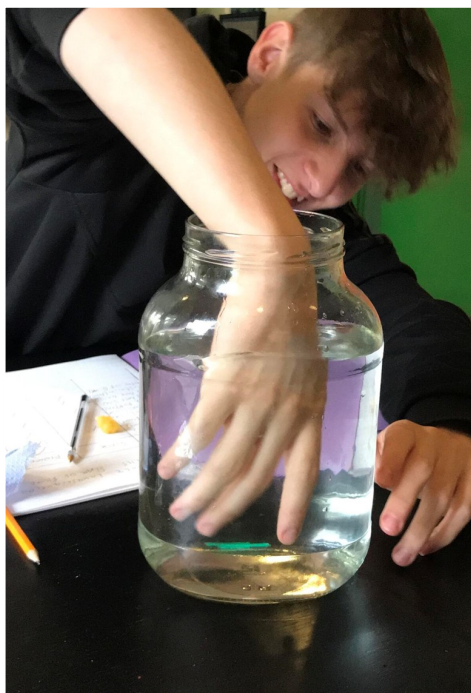






This term we have covered a range of subjects and given the interest in the global climate emergency, we even included sessions on fuels and pollutions. The group enjoyed the sessions on density and had to guess whether certain objects will sink or float.

We have also looked at inventors and seen how mobile phones have developed over the years. Some pupils have also been working a human physiology unit, identifying body parts and how these work, pupils have also identified a range of issues that can be caused by not caring for your body.





Not all our students join us down on the farm, instead some have 1:1 sessions at a range of different locations that suit their educational requirements. Each student will follow a bespoke curriculum focusing on their interests but with a strong emphasis on developing numeracy and literacy skills.

One student is transferring their well developed computer gaming skills into an ICT qualification as well as helping staff out with any phone or computer queries. As a break from computer screens he transfers those gaming skills to Monopoly and can demonstrate some great strategic thinking that makes him a winner.

Bake Off here we come.....



Profiteroles, Stromboli (a roll poly pizza) and fiendishly difficult Macarons are some of the baking challenges one student has taken on – certainly worth a Paul Hollywood Handshake!

# OUTREACH



For Barrow based students we have a room in Victoria Hall to use as a base. It needed to be fully kitted out as a satellite classroom so students were put to work measuring, researching, ordering and shopping for equipment. Lots of Maths and English skills were used and developed in this project which have contributed to their Functional Skills Units. As equipment arrived the students have become Flat Pack Heroes, assembling and installing desks, chairs, TV, and a computer – skills for life!







# Land Based

This term, in Landbased Studies we have been working towards units such as Using and Maintaining Garden Tools, Getting to know Woodlands and Introduction to Ground Preparation.

Weather permitting, we have been preparing the raised in the school garden and sifting through the weeds that are surrounding our root vegetables. Some pupils have been replanting garlic bulbs whilst other have been picking the apples in order to make a variety of dishes including apples sauce, apple crumble and apple tart.

Hopefully in 2022 we will be able to continue planting lots more vegetables and produce plenty for the summer.





# Outdoor Education

Over the last term we have been taking part in a range of outdoor education activities at Coniston Waterpark and Keppleway. We have enjoyed kayaking on Lake Coniston, where we played kayak rugby, after this we paddled to the island to make a shelter to protect us from the rain before enjoying our packed lunch and hot chocolate. On our way back from the island we paddled to the pier, where we all took turns in jumping into the water. There was a great deal of gymnastic skills on display with some of us, somersaulting and back flipping into the water. More recently, we have worked alongside staff from Keppleway Outdoor Centre. During our time here we have taken part in activities such as archery, fencing, abseiling, rock climbing and axe throwing. “Stand back Robin Hood you’ve got some stiff competition.” Look at how much fun we’ve all had together!

*Report by  
Caleb—yr 9*





# ENRICHMENT

This term, we have focused on working as a team and this has linked to the Teamwork and Health Fitness units. This term we have covered lots of different activities such as Curling at the Flower Bowl in Garstang, XHeight (Clip & Climb) at Salt Ayre in Lancaster and Ten pin Bowling at Soul Bowl in Morecambe.

Much of this term has been taken up with football matches against Cedar House School, the team has got off to a great start and captain Jude Coates has led the team to several victories, however we have also suffered a couple of losses too. We are hoping to continue this next term and are looking into entering tournaments and competitions with other schools.

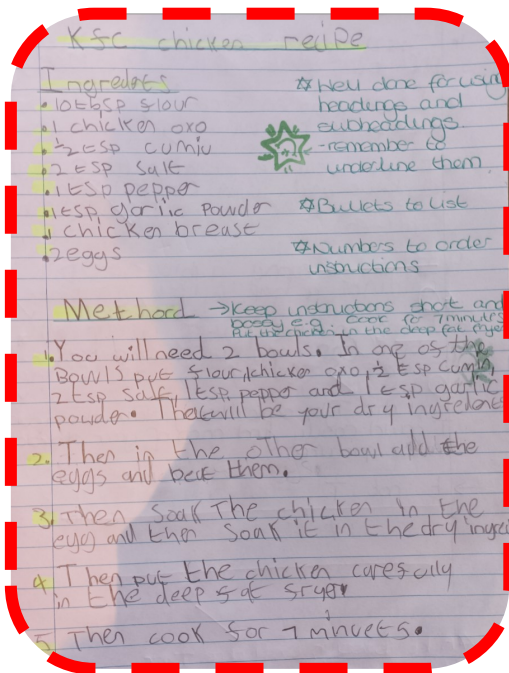


# News from the Nurture Cabin





# English

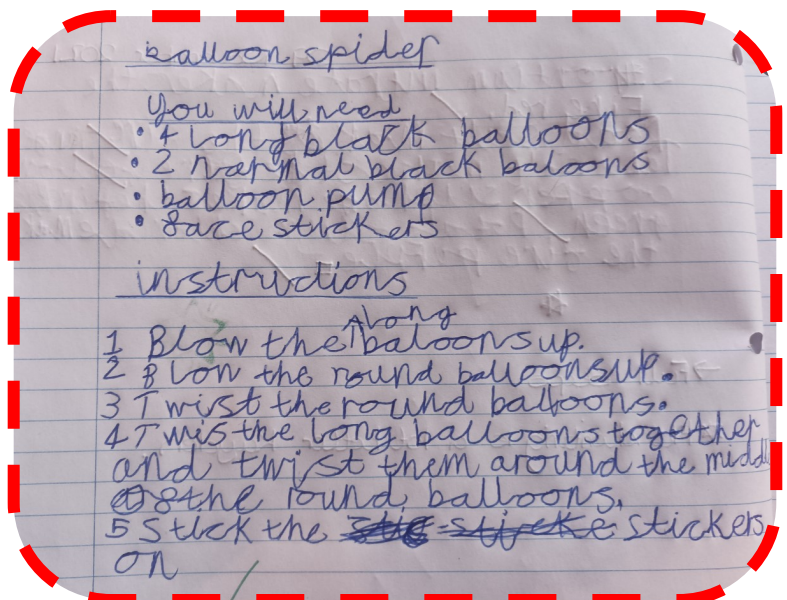
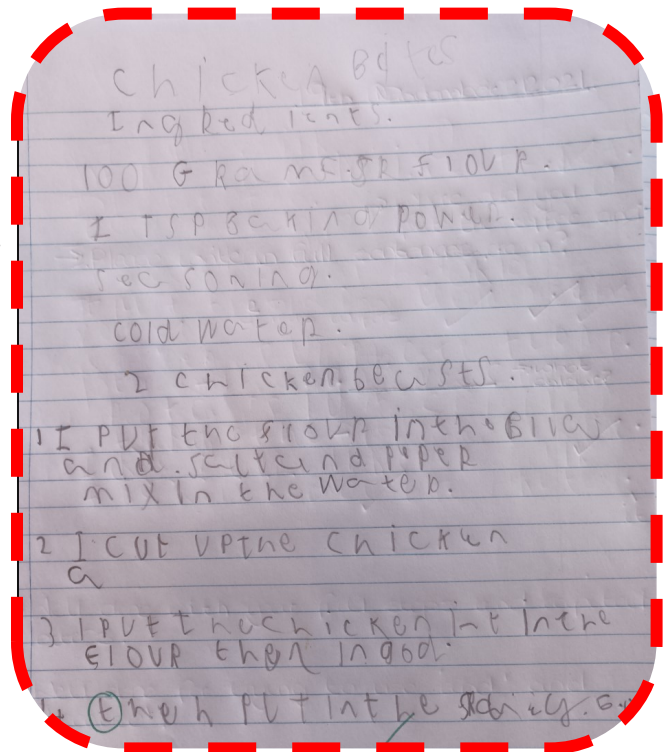


Throughout this term we have focused on our spelling, punctuation and grammar. We have enjoyed playing games such as Boggle and Hangman to support our spelling and learnt a variety of board and card games, as well as quizzes, to develop our understanding of suffixes and prefixes, colons, commas, subordinating clauses and adverbs to show frequency.

In addition to these sessions we have also introduced genius hour to give our writing a purpose. We love genius hour! Genius hour is an allocated hour of classroom time each week for pupil-led projects. The beauty of this time is that it is not only a time that the pupil's look forward to, it is also a chance for us to identify

hidden skills or develop their skills further! The pupils decide what they will learn for 1 hour each week. Within that session they are expected to do some research, for example, investigate how to build something or find a recipe. They then complete the activity and present what they done.

Some of the activities undertaken include: pumpkin carving, balloon modelling, trip to Costa, repurposing a table and cooking. Which have resulted in some lovely review writing and instructions.



# Computing

We started the year by creating a piece of inspiring text-based art using Microsoft Word.

The pupils needed to select a piece of inspiring text which they copied into a word document. They adjusted the line spacing, margins and alignment so that it fit within a frame with a border. We then picked out key words and made them stand out using different fonts, sizes and colours. Finally we added an image.

In the second half term we decided to embed our computer skills in a hands on practical learning project throughout the second half term. Pupils were given the opportunity to run their own market stall in Westmorland Shopping Centre, after being presented with the date all pupils eagerly began using the internet to research potential product ideas. Once they had generated their ideas they used Microsoft Word to create a market research questionnaire in order to identify the best product to produce. The data was then analysed before each pupil made a final decision on their final product. Next they began using Microsoft Excel to establish costings and a final selling price.

With production underway there was only one thing left to do... advertise, advertise, advertise! Eye catching posters were produced in Published and distributed via the power of social media.

In the aftermath of Storm Arwen the pupils did a fabulous job selling their products and managed a final profit of over £30!



| Item              | Cost        |  |  |               |
|-------------------|-------------|--|--|---------------|
| Plastic Bauble    | 23.98       |  |  |               |
| Dog Biscuits      | 2.9         |  |  |               |
| Hero Chocolate    | 8           |  |  |               |
|                   |             |  |  |               |
|                   |             |  |  |               |
| <b>Total Cost</b> | =SUM(B2:B5) |  |  |               |
|                   | =SUM(B8/40) |  |  | =SUM(0.38*40) |
|                   | 0.2         |  |  |               |
|                   | =B9*(1+B10) |  |  |               |
|                   | 1.25        |  |  |               |



# Science



It has been a fun term of investigations and exploration. The focus this half term has been the wonderful world of microbes and we have explored useful and harmful microbes, and the types and shapes by designing our own microorganisms using playdough. We explored useful microbes needed in food production and digestion through "Yeast races", where pupils observed how yeast makes dough rise through the process of fermentation. As well as yeast, "Yummy yogurt" enabled us to observe changes to milk after yogurt culture is incubated. However, not all microbes are useful and this encouraged a discussion as a group to how some microbes can be harmful and what each individual can do to prevent themselves from getting ill.

Whilst thinking about preventing illness we had fun experimenting with cinnamon and oil to observe how microbes can spread from person to person by shaking hands and devised an investigation to determine which handwashing method is best at removing microorganisms. Our "Super sneeze" experiment proved just how far germs in a sneeze can spread and how to stop the germs from a sneeze spreading. Finally pupils had fun preparing a pretend chicken sandwich that allows them to see how far they have spread dangerous microbes.



Throughout this term some pupils have also begun working towards their Level 1 Award and have devised their own investigation from scratch. They have developed a question, hypotheses and ensured safety aspects are taken into consideration when planning the method. They finally carried out the investigation before concluding and evaluating.



## The Flame Test

Red, orange, and yellow flames are pretty common but what about green or purple flames? When you're used to the everyday colours of flames, colourful changes like these can be pretty cool or at least we thought so when we tested a variety of household chemicals. Placing each chemical in a flame enabled us to witness colourful changes and allowed us to identify which chemical was which from its distinctive colour.



# Maths

The new year got off to a flying start with a selection of engaging, mathematically sound and, dare I say, even fun activities. The pupils have enjoyed using dice and hunts to identify the value of each digit in any given number and engaged in a place value war, using Uno cards, to compare and order. We have used dominoes and playing cards to perfect our column addition and subtraction and enjoyed QR hunts and chalk to practice long multiplication and bus stop division.

As we moved into the second half term we explored fraction related skills and concepts. We have used peggotty boards to simplify fractions, played Fraction Fury to embed the skills required to add and subtract fractions and escaped the evil mathematicians room in time for break by cracking his code which involved multiplying and dividing fractions.

We finished this half term looking at position and carefully plotted coordinates in all four quadrants before being challenge to mazes and riddles to explain the translation of points on a grid.

On top of all of this the pupils have also enjoyed games of higher and lower, salute, squares, odds and evens and fizz buzz to develop their mental maths.



## Christmas Challenge

How Old is Granny?

Tom asked his Granny how old she was. Rather than giving him a straight answer, she replied: "I have 6 children, and there are 4 years between each one and the next. I had my first child (your Uncle Peter) when I was 19. Now the youngest one (your Auntie Jane) is 19 herself. That's all I'm telling you!"

How old is Tom's Granny?



# History

The pupils learnt about the first Olympics held in Olympia 2700 years ago. They enjoyed competing at our own Ancient Olympics sports day and trying out the long jump, javelin, discus and running races. They found out about the Greek mythical creatures Medusa and Perseus and created masks. They participated in a game to match and name the 12 most powerful gods who lived on Mount Olympus. After listening to the story of the Trojan Horse they built their own Lego model with Greek soldiers hiding inside.



---

# Geography

The pupils built their own model of the earth using coloured playdough to show different layers of the earth. They enjoyed experimenting with cream cheese and crackers to find out how tectonic plates rub together, move apart or collide to cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. They have learnt about the key features of volcanoes and the countries in which extinct and active volcanoes can be found. They have experimented with dried spaghetti and marshmallows to build an earthquake-proof building and testing it by using a base of jelly to simulate an earthquake.



# Art



The pupils enjoyed a Graffiti art project, creating their own graffiti tag and experimenting with spray paints to create a bright and bold mural inspired by the famous artist Keith Haring. They also used spray paints to create colourful characters on old car tyres. They had a lot of fun using acrylic paints to create pulled string art which resulted in some amazing pieces of art-work. They spent a long time creating their names in 3D using watercolours to create a rainbow affect.



---

# Catering

Once again, the pupils have continued to produce a selection of tasty dishes which you have told us you have enjoyed at home. The savoury dishes include sausage rolls, meatball pasta, dough balls and I believe the favourite was the creamy chicken and tarragon potato bake. The pineapple upside down pudding with homemade custard was a great success but the most impressive pudding was by far the delicious profiterole tower which would make a great centre piece on anyone's table this Christmas.



# Horse Riding



Some of the pupils have had the opportunity to attend horse riding sessions at Witherslack Hall Equestrian Centre. They have been working towards and completing units in horse care, grooming and mucking out, as well as calculating the costs involved in caring for a horse. Having mastered the skills needed to trot they are working on cantering, a much faster pace, which requires good balance and control. When the weather has allowed, we have enjoyed a ride through the countryside to practise skills riding in the open.

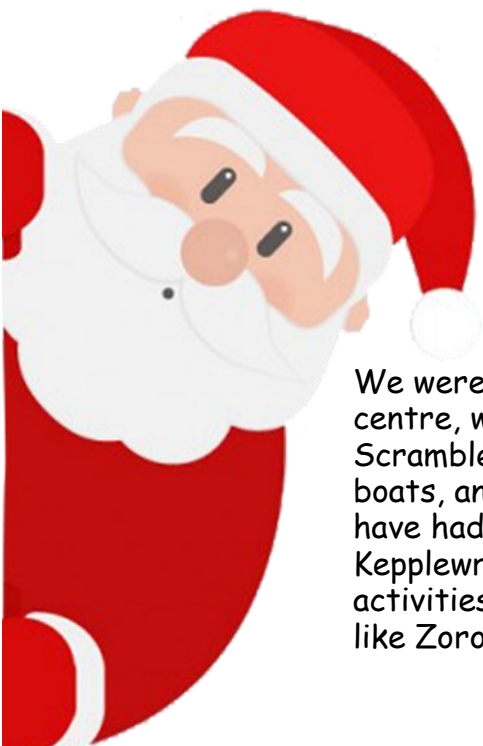


# Forest School


We have braved the wind, rain and frost to continue our sessions in the forest. We spent half a term learning about different types and ways to communicate. We played games using non-verbal communication, made flags and practised semaphore, and made lots of noise learning about Morse code with whistles and torches. This half term we have been doing some forest based RS, exploring the Hindu festival of Diwali. We have enjoyed making some Diwali inspired camp fire food and creating our own version on rangoli art. Christmas was soon around the corner and we have finished the year creating some fantastic woodland Christmas decorations and toasting pigs in blankets over a campfire.



# Outdoor Education



We were lucky enough to be welcomed back to the Water Park Adventure centre, where the fantastic staff helped us to reach new heights! We ghyll Scrambled up Church Beck to a secret plunge pool, sailed catamaran style boats, and conquered our fears on the 40ft abseil tree. This half term we have had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing the activities that The Keppleway Center offer. We have been challenged with some new activities. We have channelled our inner Robin Hood with archery, fenced like Zoro, and appeared fearless whilst bridge jumping in heroic style.



On behalf of the staff at SwitchED2, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year

We look forward to seeing our fabulous students back on Wednesday 05 January 2022

*Andy*