



# Daleslink Autumn 2020

Ho! Ho! Ho! And a very Merry Christmas to you all!

I hope you are all looking forward to some wonderful family times over Christmas and New Year.

As always this term has been extremely busy, and in these COVID-19 times we've continued to face many challenges and find a way to work through them, keeping your children and young people at the very heart of all of our decisions. The feeling around school is one of strength, collaboration and togetherness, and I hope that you have felt this in your contacts with school.

I know that we are all aware of the resilience of your children and young people, and this term has been no exception in how they have excelled themselves, coping with change, adapting to new routines, establishing new friendships and working together. Nothing fills the heart with pride more than witnessing our pupils making progress in their physical mobility, their social skills, their thinking skills and their independence, and progress has certainly continued this term, in spite of all of the extra challenges we have all been facing.

A few weeks ago Hayley, in the office, left us for a new job. We wished her well, although we were sad to see her go. I know that you will join me in wishing farewell and good luck to Charlotte, who is leaving us to take on an exciting new opportunity with the Educational Psychology Service. Charlotte will be hugely missed by staff and pupils, and we wish her every success in her new role.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued partnership. At the risk of repeating myself about COVID-19 and the impact this has had on everybody, I want to thank you for your understanding of the limitations this has placed upon school life. Please remain assured that we continue to ensure that this has no impact upon the outcomes for your children and young people, and I want to thank you for your support and partnership in all aspects of school life. It remains one of my favourite times of the school day to see everyone arriving for school each morning, and knowing that each day begins with a buzz of anticipation and togetherness.

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas, hoping you are able to spend it with the people who matter the most to you, in whatever form that may take. Stay safe, and have a wonderful New Year.

*Ann-Marie*

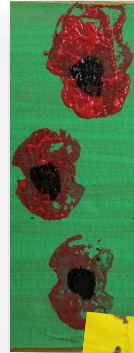
\*If you would like a paper copy of this Daleslink, please request this via pupil planners, thank you.



# Class 1

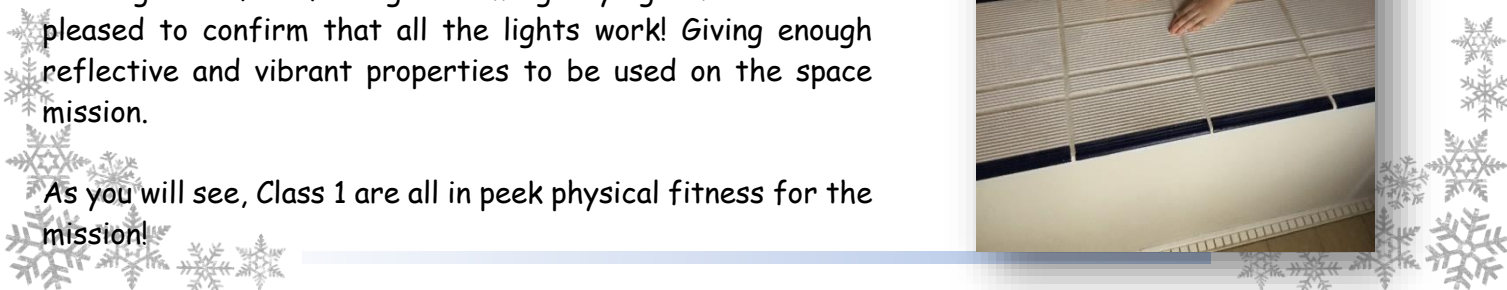
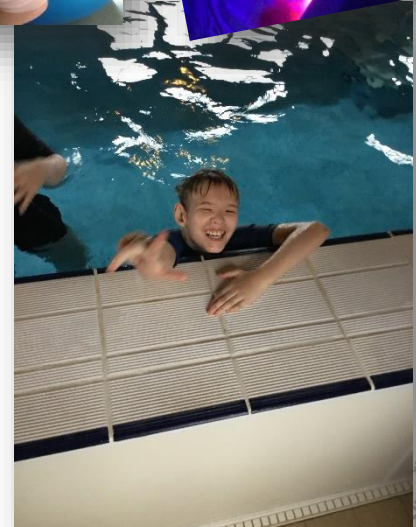
Class 1 are proud to have connections to the Military and joined with thousands of the community in remembering those who fought in previous wars and continue to keep our nation safe for us. We created our own Remembrance gardens using apples, paint and card, finishing our day with a Service of Remembrance. This was a little different this year as it was virtual. Class 1 loved looking at their art work being shown and would like to thank our Service Children's Champions for all their work and dedication to joining our community together.

Space travel has been our key objective this half term. Class 1 had a mission to create their own spaceship from papier-mâché and decorate the ship. Some of Class 1 explored the integrity of the paper to check it was robust enough for the mission, it survived the stringent 'peek-a-boo' testing. Next the decorations were carefully considered, glitter was decided to be an essential addition to the paint so that the ship could easily be seen. Finally, Class 1 enrolled on a test mission to the moon to explore the properties of the sand on the moon. It was fantastic for making moon rocks-compressing the sand together to become firm and splatting the rocks from a great height.




Before departing, Class 1 needed to find and check the emergency lights. This particular mission had an extra element of challenge and surprise. All the lights were hidden, the environment was dark and there were different textures to navigate before finding the emergency lights. Class 1 are pleased to confirm that all the lights work! Giving enough reflective and vibrant properties to be used on the space mission.

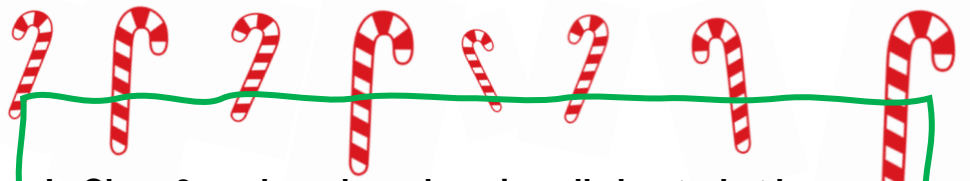
As you will see, Class 1 are all in peak physical fitness for the mission!







# Class 3

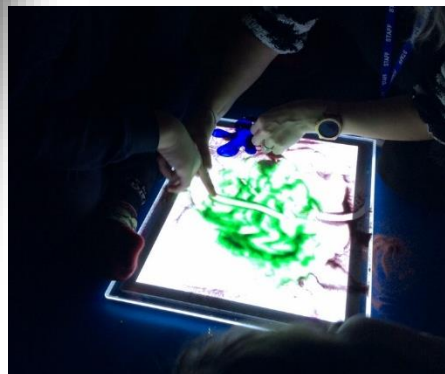


In Class 3, we have been learning all about what happens during day and night. Each Friday we have taken part in 'breakfast club', where we have tasted different foods and drinks from around the world. We have ventured each week to Poland, Fiji, Nepal and UK, all while developing our independence skills by setting the table for friends and washing up after! A firm favourite was definitely the English breakfast, where we tasted beans and sausages and even made our own cups of tea!



We have investigated light and dark, too! Working really hard making marks in lots of different media, class 3 particularly enjoyed using a light board and coloured sand to create some wonderful work. We have also looked at different celebrations including Bonfire Night and Tihar, a festival of light. We used party poppers and dance ribbons to create fireworks, held hand warmers to feel the warmth of the bonfire and listened to the different festival music.

During this half term we have developed strong friendships and have had lots of fun! We just cannot wait to see what the new year will bring.





Class 4 pupils have embraced the autumn term, they have strengthened friendships, brought learning and laughter to the classroom and all pupils are shining with their ever-increasing independence skills.

The pupils have engaged in cooking activities, working together to create hearty vegetable soup, warming apple crumble and festive gingerbread people to name a few. They have taken great pride in being allocated independence building activities like preparing their own snacks and helping to set up lessons daily. The pupils have put their problem-solving skills to the test as we have experimented to explore day and night, we have tested electric circuits, created glow jars to learn about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. We have explored capacity with an exploding cola experiment and created our own beautiful hedgehogs using real hammers, nails and wood when learning about hibernation. The pupils have thrived, and the team are blown away with the pupil's readiness to learn!

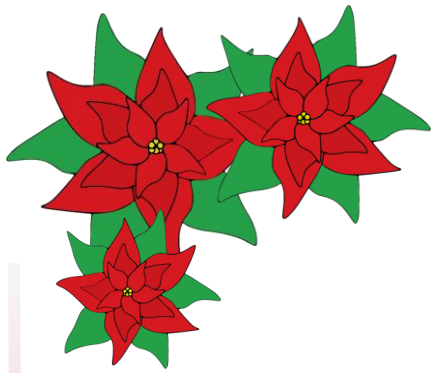
This half term Class 4 we have also had to opportunity to participate in a regional and virtual Panathlon competition. They participated in a different Panathlon activity each week during our PE sessions and have worked brilliantly as a team. Go team Dales!



**Class 4**







# Class 2 & 5

Classes 2 and 5 have had a busy and exciting start to the year! For the first half of the Autumn term, we joined Wallace and Gromit as they travelled to the moon in search of cheese. During our sensory story sessions, we prepared cheese and crackers, drank Yorkshire tea, and made papier-mâché moons and a huge model robot. In our Care and Independence food sessions, we baked delicious cheese straws. We explored the tastes and textures of different types of pickles – most of us agreed that you can't beat Branston Pickle on your slice of cheese!

Our Forest School sessions have provided us with opportunities to create wonderful pieces of sensory art with a range of natural materials, including crushed berries, tomatoes and foaming pumpkins. We've made bird feeders and Christingle oranges, launched rockets, catapulted apples and explored natural musical instruments.



'Surprise Bucket' sessions have featured lots of excited anticipation and laughter, with the switch-activated bubble machine, stretchy snakes and the bumpy ball proving to be popular with everyone. Within cognition sessions, we have explored colours, searched for hidden toys, and counted ducks, firemen and speckled frogs in our number songs. Our sensory umbrellas provide opportunities to track the movements of a range of interesting resources as we visually explore the objects hanging down.







As we approach Christmas, Classes 2 and 5 are beginning to enjoy lots of sparkly, festive activities, including our sensory activities day, Christmas party with disco, Christmas 'Sing and Sign' and 'Popcorn at the movies' – with a switch activated popcorn machine! We hope all of our families have a lovely Christmas. Keep us updated with what you are doing via Tapestry – we'd love to see your photos and videos. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



This half term, Class 2 have zoomed to the moon with Baby Bear in Jill Murphy's *'Whatever Next?'* We've helped him to get dressed for his journey into space – we didn't forget his colander space helmet and space boots! We have also considered what Baby Bear needs for his bath time; we put our dolls and dinosaurs into the bath for a good wash too, with lots of bubbles and warm water. Class 5 have also explored the elements of our daily routines within their sensory story, *'My Busy Day.'* We have followed Billy and Sarah as they get themselves ready for the adventures of the day ahead, including some delicious breakfast options – hot, buttered crumpets, mmm! Working as a joint class has allowed us to build new relationships and friendships whilst focussing on individual strengths and needs.

## Class 2 & 5





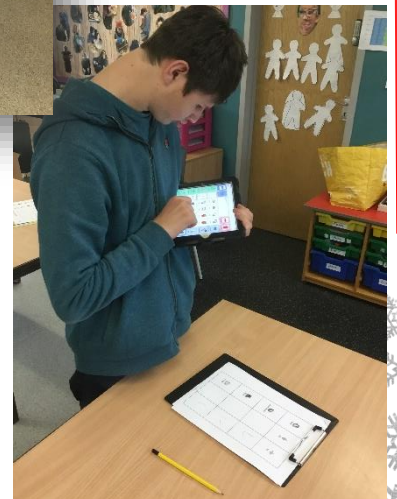
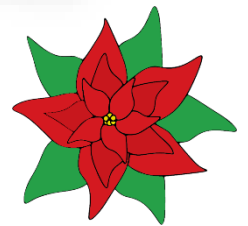
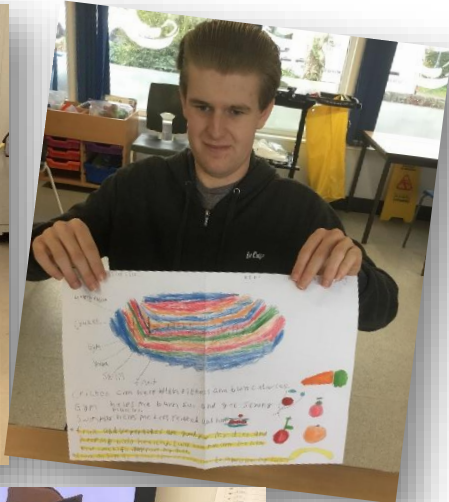


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It has been a pleasure to welcome all our students back into school this term; and what a busy term we have had!

Since September both classes have been working closely together, with students and staff working in mixed groups for a variety of lessons including; literacy, numeracy, physical education and cooking.

The students have all worked really hard and developed new skills across the curriculum. Independence in life skills has been a particular area of focus for us this term and students have enjoyed cooking lunches for themselves and each other each week. This process starts with students choosing the meal they want to cook, researching recipes and prices of ingredients online and then making their chosen lunch and pudding. The dishes we have sampled this term have included; curry, lasagne, shepherd's pie and a favourite, Spaghetti Bolognese!







The students have also been braving the great outdoors in all weathers! Autumn in the garden has meant lots of different tasks for the students to stay on top of including; raking the many leaves, preparing and planting for Spring and recycling Halloween pumpkins! Our sports sessions this term have focussed on team games, in particular hockey and cricket which we have been playing outside - some of us have been glad of the hockey goalie's kit on the colder days! Some of our learning has looked a little different this term as we have been based on site for all our learning activities. However, we have had some wonderful virtual lessons with Bev, our careers advisor, where students showed great engagement. Well done Class 7&8 for all your hard work 😊

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In September, it was wonderful for students and staff to be back in school, getting back into routines, enjoying learning, being with friends once again and making new friendships with our new peers. The focus for the first half term was transition – Let the Adventure Begin – We certainly did that! In the autumn sunshine and warmth, we focused on our outdoor learning environment; creating dream catchers, cairns and tidying up our flowerbeds and pots and planting heathers and bulbs, which we look forward to seeing pop up in the spring.

We also created a lovely sensory flower piece of art on the door of a new learning space, 'The Garden Room' which we have enjoyed using for small group work, physio and sensory activities and our new class computer and iPad which we are really enjoying using to access a variety of different learning activities and Apps to support our IT skills in everyday life.

Our Friday cooking our own lunches have been a real highlight this term and students have planned and chosen what they've wanted to make, taken part in preparing different foods and learned about basic safety rules for food preparation. Chicken Korma and Sticky Toffee pudding is definitely a firm favourite!

In our Cultural and Creative sessions, we have explored Hindu and Christian festivals through arts, crafts and music. Students have created some beautiful Diva lamps and Rangoli patterns and have enjoyed choosing their favourite sing and sign Christmas song – Mele Kalikimaka. We also enjoyed playing our Ukulele's as a class to the Rick Astley Children in Need song this year and taking part in creative activities to support Pudsey!

During Parliament week we created a winning entry into our whole school junk modelling competition to create a Guy Fawkes; exploring different sensory textures and working on our fine motor skills as we did so – we were very proud of our Guy!

We have focused on developing our skills in a variety of physical based activities too this term; really enjoying getting back into the Hydro pool and working on our Alpha Steps programmes; doing Rebound and also some new fun Panathlon challenges – practising and improving our scores weekly. A fabulous autumn term in Class 6!

## Class 6







# Internet Safety

As we fast approach the season for giving and the delivery of new technology to the home, we wanted to share our top websites to support your family in understanding how to be safe online. The following links can help you to better understand the new game your young person has or how to set security on a new device. These websites have great go to advice and top tips for all ages.

1. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>
2. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>
3. <https://www.internetmatters.org>

If you would like further information around keeping your young person safe online or with new technology please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.



## School Lunch Menu



### Week 1

04/01, 25/01, 22/02, 15/03,

#### Daily Menu

Oven Baked Jacket Potatoes/Sandwich Selection  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

#### MONDAY

Sausages in Onion Gravy with  
Creamy Mash Potato  
Apple Crumble & Custard

#### TUESDAY

Margarita Pizza with Wedges  
Strawberry Whip

#### WEDNESDAY

Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy  
Chocolate Sponge Cake

#### THURSDAY

Chicken & Tomato Pasta Bake  
Banana Muffin

#### FRIDAY

Battered Fish & Chips  
Fruit & Ice Cream

### Week 2

11/01, 01/02, 01/03, 22/03

#### Daily Menu

Oven Baked Jacket Potatoes/Sandwich Selection  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

#### MONDAY

Margarita Pizza with Wedges  
Marble Sponge Cake & Custard

#### TUESDAY

Beef Lasagne & Garlic Bread  
Homemade Carrot Cake

#### WEDNESDAY

Roast Pork, Creamy Mash Potato, Apple Sauce & Gravy  
Apple Flapjack

#### THURSDAY

Chicken Korma & Brown Rice  
Chocolate Crunh

#### FRIDAY

Salmon Fishcake or Battered Fish with Chips  
Homemade Biscuit

### Week 3

18/01, 08/02, 08/03,

#### Daily Menu

Oven Baked Jacket Potatoes/Sandwich Selection  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

#### MONDAY

Mexican Wraps with Vegetable Rice  
Chocolate Sponge & Custard

#### TUESDAY

Chicken & Vegetable Pie with Mash Potato  
Vanilla Muffin

#### WEDNESDAY

Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes & Gravy  
Rice Pudding & Fruit Compote

#### THURSDAY

Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Spaghetti Pasta  
Fruit Crumble & Custard

#### FRIDAY

Fish Fingers & Chips  
Lemon Drizzle Cake



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