



# PLUMCROFT



*Times*

Thank you and well done to all the staff, children and parents for another brilliant half term. Everyone has worked extremely hard this term and now deserve a well earned rest. We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting trips, lessons and activities the children have been up to this term.



## Frosty Friday

Frost Friday was a magical, festive day for the children and staff, full of fun, laughter and tinsel! Everyone put in lots of effort and all looked great in their Christmas jumpers and wintery outfits.



There were a variety of activities throughout the day such as a scavenger hunt, art and crafts, and a frosty disco. Nursery to Year 2 were extremely lucky and excited when Father Christmas came to visit their classes and gave each child a present.



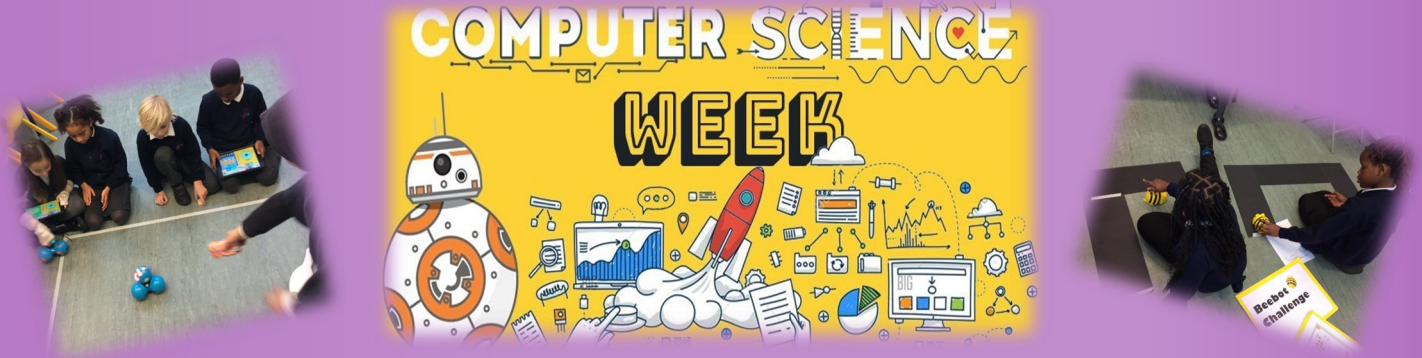
The children and staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings, while listening to festive music and pulling crackers.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day very special for everyone - it really is the most wonderful day of the year at Plumcroft'.



## Mistletoe market

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out and/or organised the Mistletoe Market, at Vincent Road and Plum Lane. Both were very successful and we have raised over £1000 for the PCA's funds.



This term, Plumcroft Primary School joined thousands of schools around the world by participating in one of the largest learning events: The Hour of Code, Computer Science Education Week. We celebrated Computer Science week by participating in some fun, hands-on Robotics workshops and exploring a range of Hour of Code activities including: Minecraft, Lightbot and DanceParty. As part of our enrichment aims and computing objectives, the pupils have learned about algorithms and used a range of programs and robots such as the Sphero Bolt, BeeBot and Wonder Dash to improve their coding and computational thinking skills.

The pupils worked really hard during this week and earned certificates as a result. Special thanks goes out to our very own Plumcroft Digital Leaders who helped plan, prepare, support and facilitate the Robotics sessions.

*Kenny Jack (Computing Lead)*



**Feedback from Y5 children;**

*"The workshops were cool, insane and epic."*

*"We learned how to code different robots, harder concepts of coding and using an algorithm"*

*"Creative, Modern and Amazing. I learnt how to code the Wonder Dash and the Spheros. It has definitely inspired me to do more coding at home! I'm going to try to convince my parents to get a Sphero!"*

There are a range of activities on the Hour of Code website for you to continue to develop your coding skills. The goal is to get as many pupils, parents and staff to complete at least one hour of coding so what are you waiting for?



<https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn>





## Women of World War II Workshop

This half term, Year 6 were treated to a fantastic, interactive workshop about 'Women of World War 2'. This was a great enrichment opportunity to complement their History unit 'World War 2' and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. More than six million women took wartime jobs in factories, three million



volunteered with the Red Cross, many also joined the Women's Land Army and over 200,000 served in the military; women's auxiliary branches were created for every branch of the military. The children were also given the opportunity to look at and handle original documents and uniform items from the Second World War. Year 6 also learned about Nancy Drake, the Australian spy who worked with the French Resistance during the war and was highly decorated afterwards for her bravery. It was both a fun and informative morning's work.



## Reception

Reception have had a wonderful half term! The children have had a core focus on The Gingerbread Man text in Literacy. They have made Gingerbread people out of play dough - the children helped to make the play dough too which they thoroughly enjoyed, use the construction blocks to build him a new home, and created their very own story maps of the story!

Also the children had their first trip to the library and they were all impeccably behaved.

The children worked very hard on their Christmas Nativity. Their performances were wonderful and the teachers are all very proud of them.





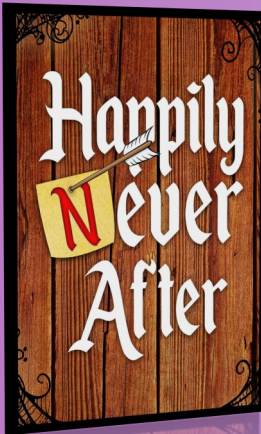
### A visit from the Pantomine for Year 1

Year 1 had a spectacular time watching the Snow White pantomime. Oh yes they did! They danced along to the well-known songs. They were outraged by the evil stepmother and entranced by Snow White's kind demeanor.

They helped direct Rider to find Snow White who eventually saved the day.

"It was the best ever" Victoria in 1K.

"I liked it because it was really, really funny" Eliza 1M



### Year 5

Running up to the holidays, Year 5 were very busy rehearsing for their pantomime – Happily Never After, where all of the villains gang up to wreak havoc across Pantoland!

All the performances went extremely well and all the adults are impressed with the hard work, determination and courage shown by everyone. It's not easy learning all the words, the songs and being brave enough to get up on the stage: so well done to everyone.

### Year 4

Year 4 have been looking at 'Polar Explorers' as part of their Literacy unit this half term. They have been learning particularly about Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica.

To help with their learning, Year 4 visited The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich where they took part in a 'Polar Explorers' workshop. They

learnt more about Shackleton and in addition learnt about Matthew Henson and the struggles he faced despite being a great explorer. They really enjoyed their day and had a great time exploring through maps and artefacts from various historical expeditions.

**Fun fact:** Arctic comes from the Greek word arktos which means bear. Anta is another word for anti, so Antarctica means anti bear. The Arctic has polar bears and Antarctica has no polar bears!



## Year 4 and the Digestive System

Year 4 have really enjoyed learning about the digestive system. We made our own digestive system t-shirts so we could show the insides of our bodies!

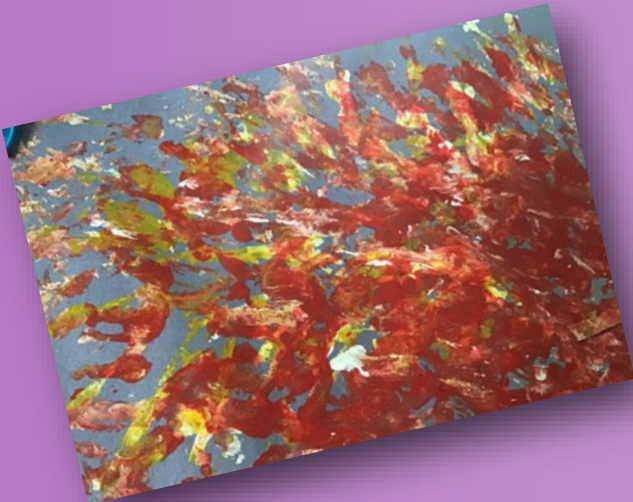
We also did an experiment where we made poo! We used breakfast foods and different equipment to represent each part of the digestive system process. It was disgustingly fun!



## Nursery - Vincent Road

In Nursery at Vincent Road, the children have had lots of fun exploring and learning about different events and celebrations. They have been learning all about Diwali, Fireworks night, Halloween, Children in need and Remembrance Day.

Below are a selection of photographs of some of our favourite activities this half term.



## Nursery - Plum Lane

In Nursery at Plum Lane, the children have enjoyed learning about the famous artist, Henri Matissee. They created their own art work by using their scissor skills. Whilst the children created, they talked about shapes and colours. The children loved colour mixing to decorate their own snail pictures too.



## Macbeth

Year 5 pupils have been reading, discussing and analysing the themes of Shakespeare's Macbeth in Literacy. They have used role play and drama, to re-enact key scenes; have written split narratives, to show different perspectives; and written poems, to create imagery.



For computing, they are collaborating in order to make their own 'Macbeth' movie trailers and creating Macbeth posters in Art.



## Year 2 visit the Tower of London

This term, Year 2 visited the Tower of London. The children saw the Crown Jewels and visited the White Tower. The children had a wonderful time and felt very lucky to see the Crown Jewels and the Ravens. A big thank you to our parent volunteers.



## Year 2

This term, Year 2 had an alien visitor! His name was Zig and the children learned an interesting story about him, off by heart - ask a Year 2 child to retell it to you! The children innovated the story and wrote the story, plot point by plot point. They changed the main character from 'Zig the friendly alien' to 'Tick the mischievous elf' and created their own version of the story.



## Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful visit to the Natural History Museum. The children were keen to view the many real dinosaur skeletons and replicas up close, even if some were a little bit scary! Having learned about Mary Anning earlier on in the year, it was particularly exciting to be able to see an enormous fossilised skeleton of the Plesiosaurus that she discovered. Another highlight was being able to stand next to the most intact Stegasaurus fossil ever found! Also, there was time to explore the mineralogy section, where lots of sparkling rocks, gems and minerals could be seen. Everyone had a lovely time and they cannot wait for the next school trip!



## Ms Ahmed's Art Club

Ho ho ho ho ... Ms Ahmed's art club has yet again blown socks off with a magical spark!

Children have been busy creating spectacular art work from paper lanterns, festive baubles to wooden bird feeders.

The children have worked incredibly hard and should be proud of themselves.

# Book Recommendations

| Year Group | Book  |  |   |
|------------|---|--|---|
| Nursery    |    |    |    |
| Reception  |    |    |    |
| Year 1     |    |    |    |
| Year 2     |  |   |   |
| Year 3     |  |  |  |
| Year 4     |  |  |  |
| Year 5     |  |  |  |
| Year 6     |  |  |  |



## Getting to know the staff



### Ms Clifford

**How long have you worked at Plumcroft?**

13 years

**What is your job role?**

Assistant Headteacher for EYFS and KS1

**What does your job involve?**

- Support Heads of school in the day to day running of the school
- Make sure children are safe, happy and learning. I oversee the curriculum, planning, assessment and enrichment teaching.
- Supporting teachers in different ways to continue to learn and deliver fantastic lessons

**Why did you choose to work at Plumcroft?**

- The children are amazing, so polite, well behaved and keen to learn
- Staff team are very supportive
- The school is like one big family– children, staff and parents.
- Plumcroft does lots of exciting things.

### Mr Harris



**How long have you worked at Plumcroft?**

5 years

**What is your job role?**

KS1 Phase Leader/Year 2 Class Teacher

**What does your job involve?**

I teach my own Year 2 class and lead the Key Stage 1 team at Vincent Road Campus.

**Why did you choose to work at Plumcroft?**

My sister (Miss Harris) is also a teacher at Plumcroft. She always spoke very highly of the school and how lovely the staff and children were. A teaching role came up in Nursery and I took the opportunity to apply, here I am now 5 years on and part of the KS1 leadership team.

## Spring Term 2024

### Spring Term 1

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

INSET: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Half Term - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

### Spring Term 2

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March (Students finish at 1.30pm)

**We hope you all have a wonderful winter break and we look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024****