Appleton Academy

Primary Newsletter Autumn 2 2025

Part of the Exceed Academies Trust

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our school community. The partnership between home and school is so important, and your encouragement, involvement, and trust make a real difference to the children's learning and wellbeing.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas performances. It was wonderful to see the hall filled with families, and the children were absolutely delighted to perform for such an appreciative audience. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and festive spirit truly captured the joy of the season, and we hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did.

As we look ahead to the Christmas holidays, I hope this break provides you with time to relax, celebrate, and enjoy family time.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Warmest wishes,

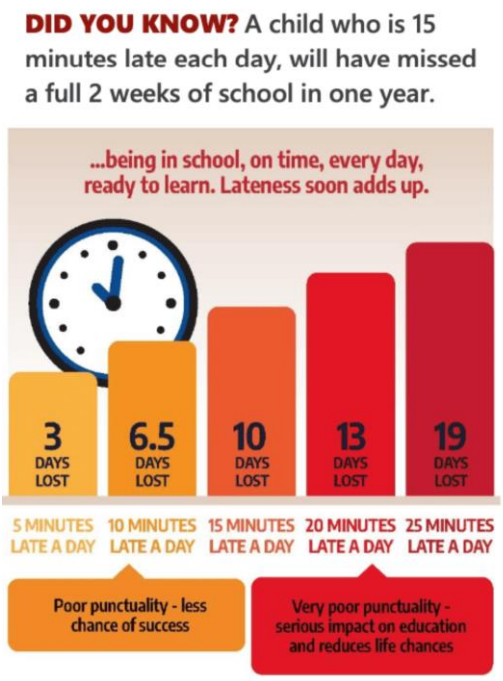
Miss Clayton

Attendance

As we reach the end of the term I would like to remind families of the importance of good school attendance, particularly following the Christmas holiday. Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing, as lessons move on quickly at this time of year.

If your child has been absent recently, please ensure they return to school promptly and attend every day unless they are genuinely unwell. Unnecessary absence can make it difficult for children to settle back into routines and can impact their confidence and achievement.

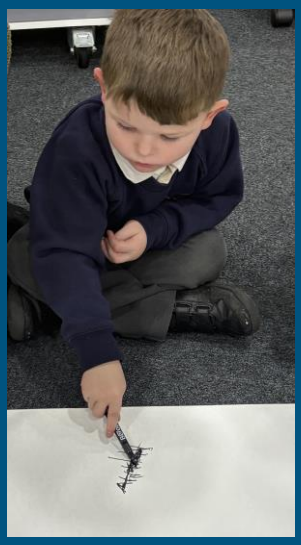
We appreciate your support in helping your child make the most of their education and in establishing positive attendance habits for the year ahead.



EYFS

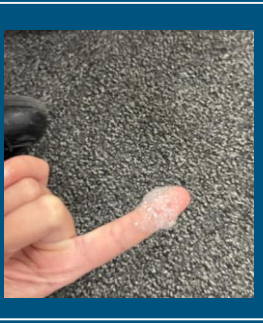
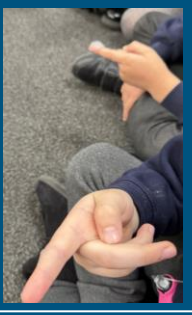
This half term our topic has been D is for Dark, and we have enjoyed exploring lots of different things related to the dark. We have all explored the story of Funny Bones and looked at lots of different light sources. We have learnt about animals that come out at night and created some chalk shadow art! Nursery enjoyed exploring space and pretending to be real astronauts on a mission! The children practised their cutting skills to create space scenes and painted the planets they saw on their journey .

This half term Reception have spent time in the library with Chris Mould our resident artist. He showed us how to create beautiful winter scenery and we worked together to create a giant winter landscape that stretched across the library!

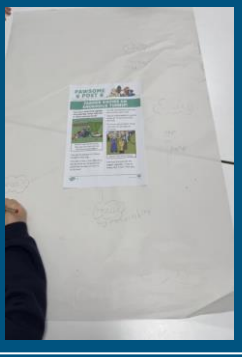
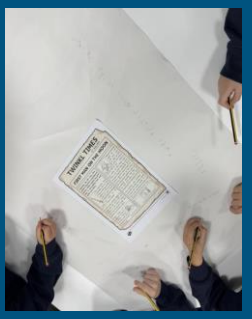


KS1

This half term we have been exploring materials in our science lessons. The children carried out an exciting investigation using bubbles, observing what happens to them over time. We explored whether bubbles became bigger, smaller, or stayed the same, and discussed what this can tell us about different materials.

Our topic has been 'The Great Fire of London' and in English we have been creating reports on this event. We have learnt how journalists answer key questions: who, what, when, where, why and how. The children have enjoyed identifying these features in real reports and using them in their own writing.

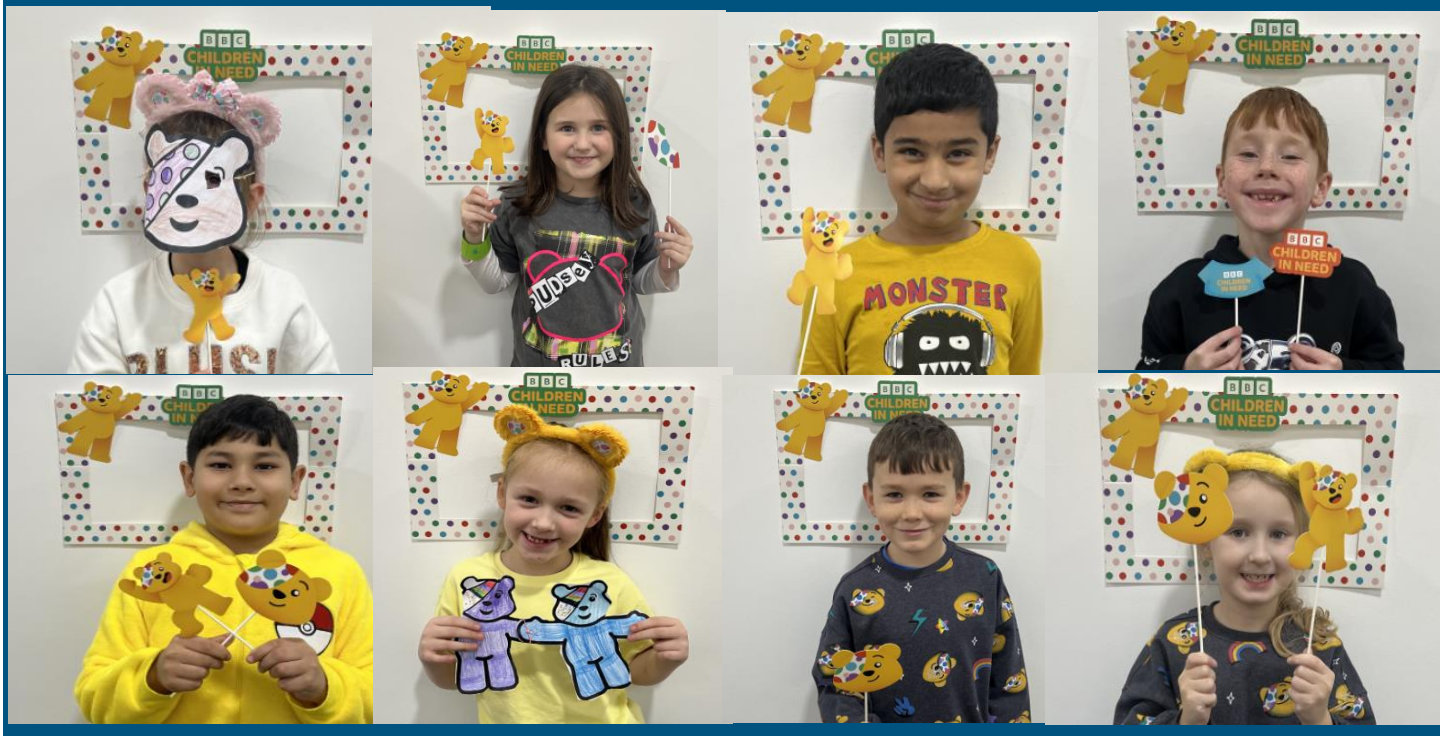



In art, we explored the Great Fire of London. The children worked together to create a dramatic scene with flames, the river, and houses, combining their pieces into one vibrant collaborative artwork.

Year 3

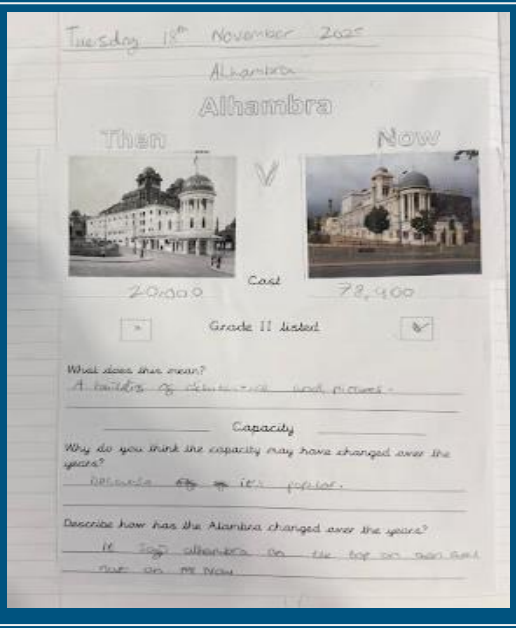
Over the past few weeks, the children have been exploring the Stone Age through a range of hands-on activities. They became archaeologists by excavating hidden artefacts, they also designed and built their own Stone Age style huts, imagining what life was like thousands of years ago. To deepen their scientific understanding, the children created cast and trace fossils using salt dough.

The children took part in a range of activities for Children In Need. They learnt why it is an important event and how it helps others. Through discussions, stories, and creative tasks, they developed empathy and an understanding of kindness.

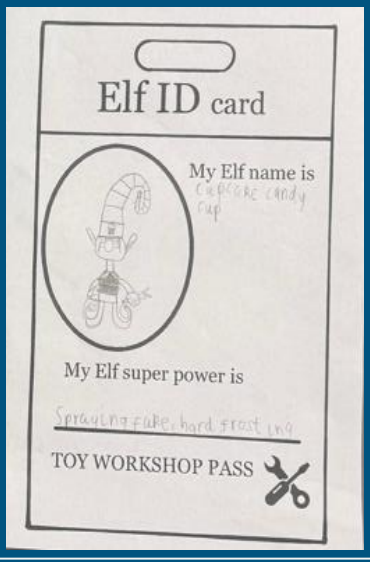


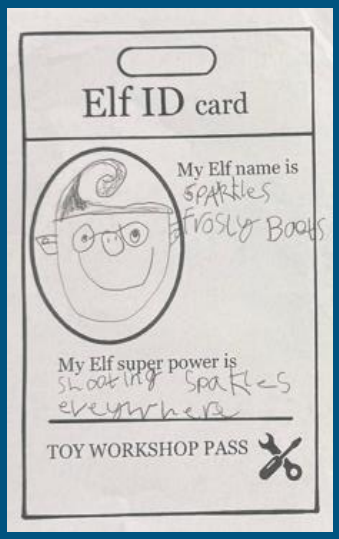
Year 4

Year 4 have had an exciting half term learning all about 'Brilliant Bradford'. They have learnt about different key events in Bradford such as the Bradford city fire and how the Alhambra has changed.



To develop teamwork and resilience, 4MA and 4IA completed sessions with 'Commando Joe' to work together and overcome the challenges set.

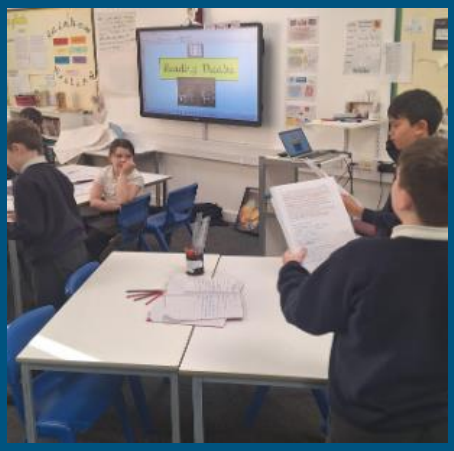




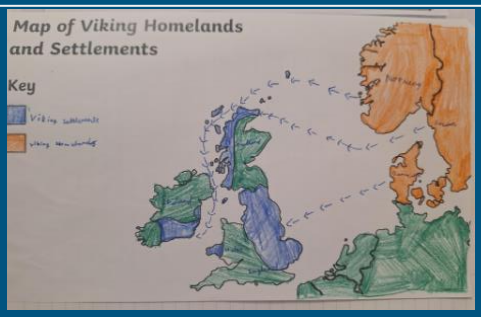
Year 4 have worked with Chris Mould as our author in residence to create Elf badges.

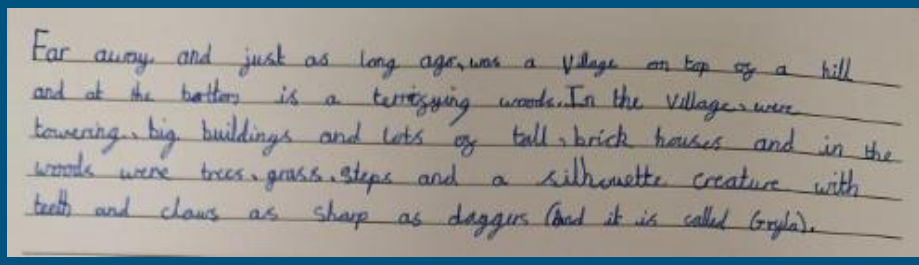
Year 5

In Year 5, with a busy run up to Christmas, we have enjoyed learning about Vikings, space and have enjoyed rehearsing for our school Christmas production, in which we were to take the lead.



All of Year 5 have enjoyed reading, this half term. We have studied and performed several pieces, including the epic poem Beowulf, which ties into our history topic .5DF have continued swimming on Fridays and everybody is proud to have made excellent progress.

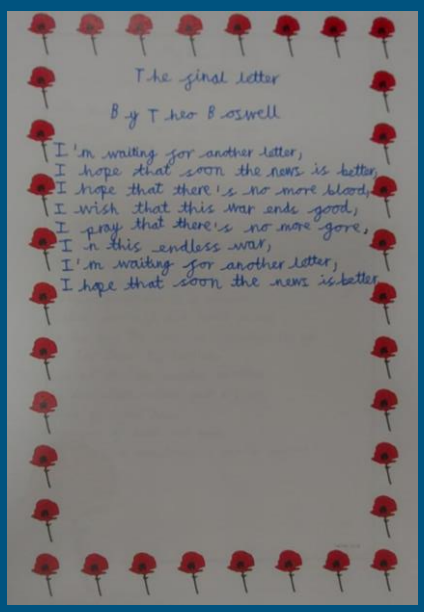



Far away and just as long ago, was a Village on top of a hill and at the bottom is a terrifying woods. In the Village were towering, big buildings and lots of tall, brick houses and in the woods were trees, grass, steps and a silhouette creature with teeth and claws as sharp as daggers (And it is called Gryla).

Both 5DF and 5AI have celebrated with our fantastic KS2 Christmas disco, (including fledgling DJ Mr Firth) and a Christmas jumper day. This culminated in our amazing end of year party! Merry Christmas.

Year 6

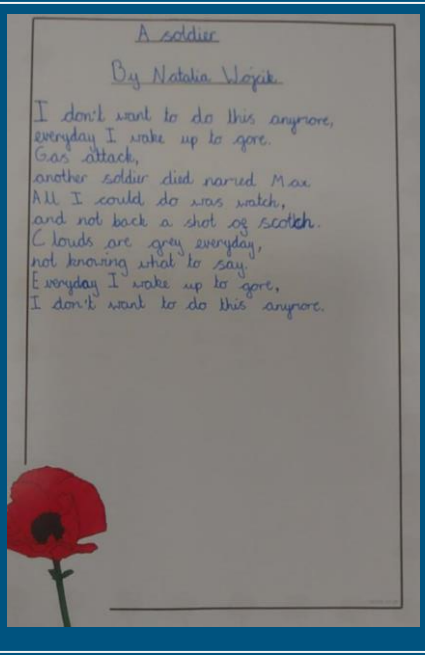
This half term in history we have been focussing on World War One and the impact this had on the world and our lives today. We wrote some amazing poetry.



The final letter

By Theo Boswell

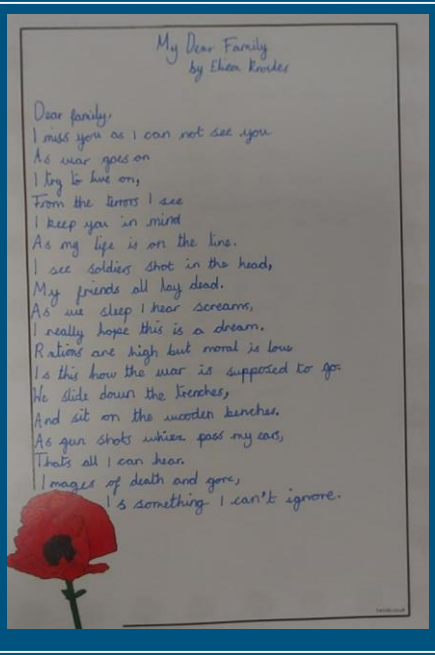
I'm waiting for another letter,
I hope that soon the news is better,
I hope that there's no more blood,
I wish that this war ends good,
I pray that there's no more gore,
In this endless war,
I'm waiting for another letter,
I hope that soon the news is better.



A soldier

By Natalia Wojak

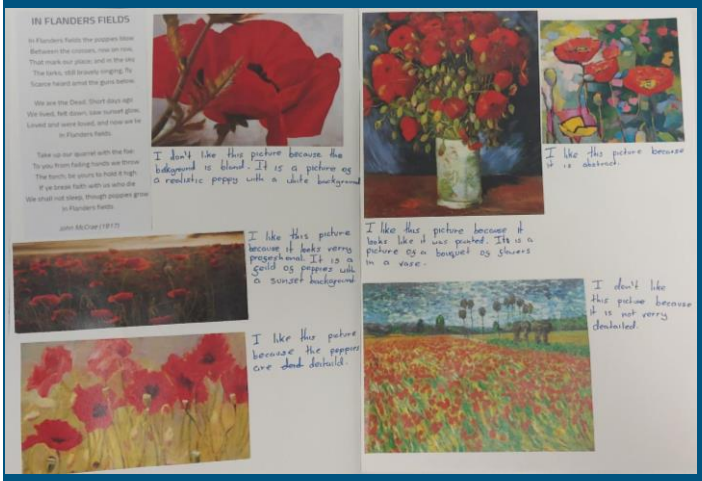
I don't want to do this anymore,
everyday I wake up to gore.
Gas attack,
another soldier died named Max
All I could do was watch,
and not back a shot of scotch.
Clouds are grey everyday,
not knowing what to say.
Everyday I wake up to gore,
I don't want to do this anymore.



My Dear Family
by Eleen Kinder

Dear family,
I miss you as I can not see you
As war goes on
I try to live on,
From the times I see
I keep you in mind
As my life is on the line.
I see soldiers shot in the head,
My friends all lay dead.
As we sleep I hear screams,
I really hope this is a dream.
Ratios are high but moral is low
Is this how the war is supposed to go
We slide down the trenches,
And sit on the wooden benches.
As gun shots whizz pass my ears,
Thats all I can hear.
Images of death and gore,
Is something I can't ignore.

In our art session we have created poppies using a range of different mediums.



Year 6

This half term we have also created Greek masks using modroc, wire, newspaper and masking tape. We then painted them.

We also had great fun at the Christmas disco.

Herd Farm - 6SB

An amazing time was had by all on our residential and a massive thank you to all the staff who supported on this.

Herd Farm - 6SB

From nature walks, sheep herding, archery, crate stacking, soaring on the zip wire and toasting marshmallows we sure were kept busy and had so much fun. The food was delicious too.

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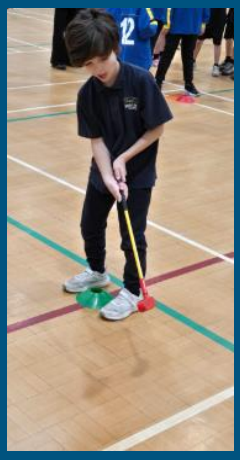
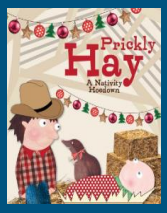
Golf Competition Y3

Year 3 attended a golf tournament against various school across Bradford. They took part in activities where they had to put and chip the golf ball.

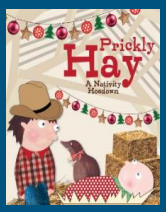


EYFS Christmas Performance

Early Years worked incredibly hard to put on our production of Our First Nativity. We all have tried our best to learn all of the songs and actions, and our fabulous narrators did incredibly well to learn all those difficult lines! Our grown ups at school are so proud of us and we hope everyone who came to watch enjoyed themselves just as much as we did!

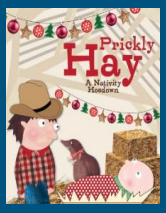


KS1 Christmas Performance

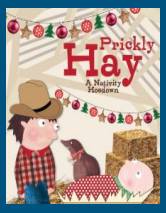


The KS1 Christmas production of 'Prickly Hay' was a joyful and lively performance. The children learned songs and explored expression, movement and staging as they bought the story to life.

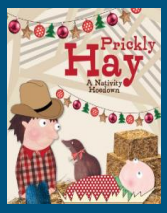
They sang confidently, spoke clearly, and acted with great enthusiasm. Colourful costumes, cheerful music and playful humour made the production entertaining for everyone and a wonderful celebration of teamwork, confidence and the true spirit of Christmas.



KS1 Christmas Performance



The KS1 Christmas production of Prickly Hay was a joyful and lively performance. The children learned 8 songs and explored expression, movement and staging as they bought the story to life. They sang confidently, spoke clearly, and acted with great enthusiasm. Colourful costumes, cheerful music and playful humour made the production entertaining for everyone and a wonderful celebration of teamwork, confidence and the true spirit of Christmas.



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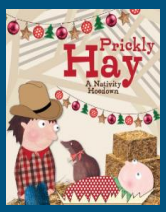

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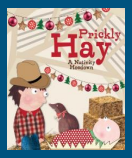
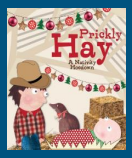
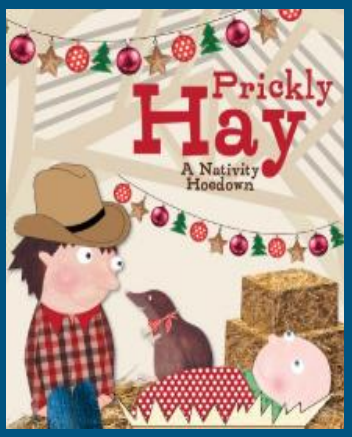


KS1 Christmas Performance





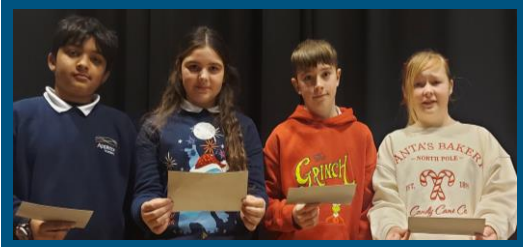
KS2 Christmas Performance

The children in KS2 truly dazzled audiences this term with their vibrant and festive performance of *Hosanna Rock*! They learned 12 songs and explored expression, movement, staging and direction, with the final performance being absolutely wonderful. The children sang with confidence and enthusiasm. Their commitment, teamwork and hard work shone through in every performance, making it a joyful experience for everyone who watched. Well done to all the children on such a fantastic achievement.

KS2 Christmas Performance

Y6 Christmas Assembly

Our Year 6 showcased their English work on the Christmas Truce from WW1 and wowed us with their es at Herd Farm. They put on a truly magical show.



Santa comes to Appleton...

EYFS

The Space Hub

KS1

Santa comes to Appleton....

Y3

Y4

Santa comes to Appleton....

Y5

Y6

Commando Joe's provides the thrilling opportunity to enable every pupil to become their best self – through character education. Commando Joe's is an award-winning UK-wide provider of character education programmes for EYFS, primary and secondary schools. With over a decade of experience and a research-backed RESPECT Framework, they equip young people with the confidence, empathy, and resilience they need to succeed in life, both in and out of the classroom.

This half term, year 3 have enjoyed partaking in commando Joe's where they have had the opportunity to work alongside Adam to create their own huts imagining what life was like in The Stone Age.

Ignite Immersive Education is a creative education company, who work with pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 in Appleton. Their sessions uniquely blend core subjects and in class learning, with the creative arts. Each week pupils work with Shine and Jenny, as they sing, dance and act their way through the curriculum. This half term they have been supporting the children with their Christmas performances.

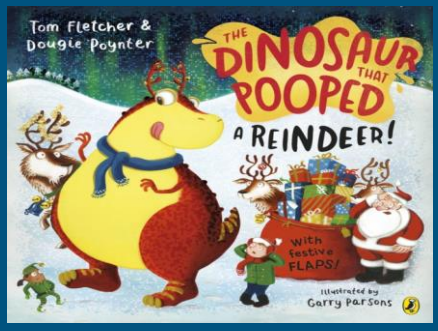
Young Poet Laureate

Created by the National Poetry Centre in partnership with National Literacy Trust, and supported by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, the Young Poet Laureate Programme provides children and young people with new opportunities to explore and discover poetry in their schools and communities. We launched the project with a visit from Bradford poet, Sharena Lee Satti. We will be submitting some of our poetry to the national competition in January next year.

Library Events

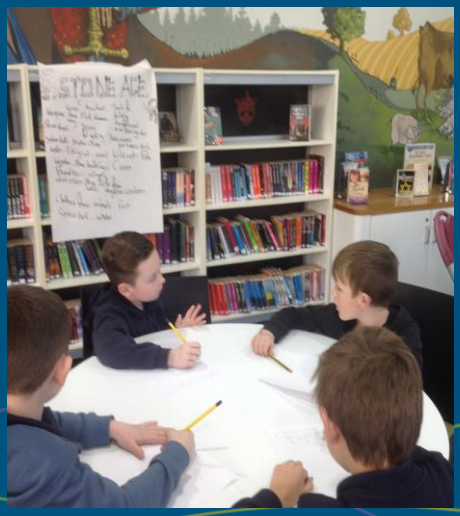
Children have enjoyed playing during our games club sessions.

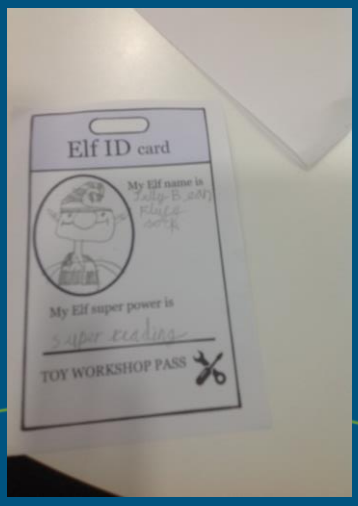
During our Chatterbooks club we have been reading Christmas books. We loved reading The Dinosaur That Pooped A Reindeer by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter!



Our residencies

Our artist Chris Mould and our writer Nik Perring have been working with students across Primary. Year 3 have explored the Stone Age, Year 4 have created their own versions of 'A Boy called Christmas' and Early Years have created Christmas images.





Community Events

My name is Emily Chesterman and I am the Parental Involvement Officer at Appleton Academy.

Emily.chesterman@appletonacademy.co.uk

Events over Christmas

Turner Prize 2025- Cartwright Hall, Lister Park BD94NS Tuesday-Sunday
The world's most exciting visual arts prize is coming to Bradford for the first time. The shortlisted artists will have their art featured in the gallery and the winner announced on 9/12/25.
To book tickers please visit bradford2025.co.uk/event/turner-prize/

The BID Wheel – Centenary Square until 21/12/25 12-7pm weekdays and 11-6pm weekends.
Take a seat on the 22 metre high BID wheel £3 per person.

Festive storytelling with Mrs Claus – East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley BD205EL 20-22nd December 10-3pm
Join Mrs Claus for storytelling in the Great Hall and listen to festive tales. Visit the letter writing station and write down your Christmas wishes and join in with crafts and meeting Mrs Claus herself. Please visit the East Riddlesden website to book tickets

Kids Club Christmas screenings- Pictureville Cinema, Bradford BD1 1NQ
Bringing festive fun for the whole family with heartwarming animations, holiday classics and magical adventures. This includes Arthur Christmas, The Polar Express, Stick Man, Grinch, Home Alone, The Snowman and Elf. Please book direct through the website
Scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-pictureville