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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As we now at the end of our first term I want to say a big thank you to those who have supported the changes we had made at school in light of COVID and the way in which we have endeavoured to keep all children, staff and families safe. The changes will still be in place in January so I would very much appreciate it if parents and carers can continue to wear masks and use the designated drop off and collection points for each class.

The children have shown resilience, determination and happiness whilst being in school and all children have made progress. We are particularly encouraged by their continued progress in phonics and reading.

As you know Miss Tindle will be leaving us this week as will Mrs Parker from the office. We wish them both well in their new adventures and are privileged that they have worked at The Willows.

We therefore will be welcoming Miss Begum and Miss Parveen to The Willows staff team after the Christmas break.

Those parents who are entitled to Pupil premium will be receiving an email later this week or next week from Eden Red as the school voucher system is in place over the Christmas holidays and each child will receive £30. More information will be emailed when we have received it.

Please stay safe over the Christmas holidays, enjoy spending time together and we will see you in 2021.

Take care

Mrs Jo Orbell





## Overview of Nursery's Term

Nursery enjoyed continuing our theme of nursery rhymes before we all self isolated. Since our return, we have enjoyed learning about the Arctic Circle, where Santa lives, as part of Global Week. We enjoyed painting large pictures of the Northern lights, decorating reindeer biscuits and trying to free the Arctic animals from the ice.



## Overview of Badgers Term

Badgers have had such a great half term. We enjoyed learning about dinosaurs. We read 'Dinosaur Roar' and learnt lots of words to describe different dinosaurs. We also started talking about the language of size. We talked about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. We celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of light with songs and music. Our new vocabulary focus has been around our houses, learning the names and functions of household objects. We have been singing lots of songs to help us learn our body parts too. For Global week we travelled to Brazil. We learnt about the animals who live in the rainforest, in particular the Sloth. We enjoyed using



bright colours and dancing to Brazilian Music. We have ended the term learning about and celebrating Christmas.

In Maths we are exploring numbers to 10 to give us a secure base to begin addition and subtraction after Christmas. We have learnt more phonics sounds and words after

Christmas we will start word building simple words with two letters like ie, it etc.

Thank you as always for the invaluable support you give your children at home, especially reading their reading books - it really does make a difference.

The Badgers' team are so proud of how independent, polite and hard working your children are and the brilliant progress they are making. We look forward to learning about Winter after Christmas and learning to write lots of new letters and reading new sounds.



## Overview of Hedgehogs Term



This half term we have carried on looking at traditional tales, where we have focused on Little Red Riding Hood. We have started to learn about nouns and adjectives using Little Red Riding Hood. In Maths we have focused on learning what subtraction and addition is.

We have also looked at a range of festivals. Diwali, fire-works, Remembrance day and Christmas. We have looked at why and how people celebrate the different festivals. We have been learning about ball games and parachute games in PE. Next term we will shall pick up Global Week and learn about Ghana which was missed because of self-isolation.



## Overview of Squirrels Term

The Squirrels class have been learning about the plague, following on from learning about the Great Fire of London. The children looked at why it happened and how it affected the people. We explored buboes (skin sores) and created our own in a science experiment.

The children then went on to Global Week and learnt about the country Romania. We explored where in the world the country is, famous people, Dracula, famous landmarks, capital city, traditional dress. special celebrations. traditional foods.





## Overview of Rabbits Term

Rabbits class have been very busy this half term learning about Guy Fawkes and his failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament with his friends. After learning about the Great Fire of London we moved onto The Plague. Ask your children about Buboes. They loved making their own out of doughnuts! We



increased our historical knowledge over the past term.



For Global Week we learnt about England. The children said they would rather visit the seaside than Fishermead as they could go for a swim in the sea. We made our own Victoria Sponge cakes and then ate them. They were very yummy! We all decided we were lucky to live in England because there are so many different people to learn from, foods to eat, places to visit and things to do.

Recently we have been busy with Christmas - learning songs, discussing what we enjoy doing with our friends and making gifts to take home. Our writing, reading and maths are also improving and the children enjoy working with different adults throughout the day. We now all wonder what excitement will happen after the Christmas holidays.

## Overview of Owls Term

Owls class have been learning about the country Turkey during Global Community Week. We used our geography skills to find out where in the world it is and we found out that Turkey is on two continents. We also used Google Earth for a virtual walk around Istanbul and Olu Deniz to compare the beach and the city.

Onur taught us how to count to 10 in Turkish and we tried to learn some greetings but Miss Kemp was not very good at remembering the words! We looked at the traditional Turkish waistcoat and designed our own and made it out of paper. We also watched traditional Turkish dances and had a try at learning one ourselves.



We also read the story of Helen of Troy and the Wooden Horse of Troy as the ancient city of Troy was in Turkey. We made our own cartoon of the story by working together to draw a scene each from the story.

We had a fun week learning about this beautiful country.

## Diary dates

Friday 18th December - Monday 4th October - Christmas Holiday		
Tuesday 5th January	8:45am	Children return to school
Friday 29th January	3.00pm - 4.45pm	January Film Club – letters to be sent home in the new year.

## Attendance

Half Termly Attendance Autumn 2 2020			
Year	Class Name	% Attendance Week Commencing 7th December	% Half termly Attendance
Rec.	Badgers	100%	96%
Rec.	Hedgehogs	98.3%	96.4%
KS1	Squirrels	95.4%	97.7%
KS1	Rabbits	99.6%	97.8%
KS1	Owls	100%	97.0%
<b>Total attendance</b>		<b>98.4%</b>	<b>97.1%</b>

Well done Rabbits with an attendance of 97.8% for half the term

Well done **Owls and Badgers** with an attendance of **100%** for the week beginning **7th December**

Did you Know: Lateness also affects your child's attendance %



# Miss Finch's Marvellous Menu



## Mince Pies



### Ingredients

1 large jar mincemeat (about 600g)  
2 satsumas, segmented  
1 apple finely chopped  
zest 1 lemon  
little icing sugar for dusting

### For the pastry

375g plain flour  
260g unsated  
125g caster sugar extra for sprinkling  
1 large egg plus 1 beaten egg for glazing

1. Place 375g plain flour and 260g softened unsalted butter in a bowl and rub together to a crumb consistency.
2. Add 125g caster sugar and 1 large beaten egg, and mix together.
3. Tip out onto a lightly floured surface and fold until the pastry comes together, be careful not to over mix.
4. Wrap the pastry in cling film and chill for 10mins.
5. Scoop the large jar of mincemeat into a bowl and add 2 segmented satsumas, finely chopped apple and zest of 1 lemon.
6. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7.
7. Roll out the pastry to 3mm thick.
8. Using a round cutter (about 10cm), cut out 16 bases and place them into muffin trays. Put 1½ tbsp mincemeat mixture into each. Brush the edge of each pie with a little beaten egg.
9. Re-roll out the pastry to cut 7cm lids and press them on top to seal. Glaze with the beaten egg, sprinkle with the extra cater sugar, then make a small cut in the tops.
10. Bake the mince pies for 15-20 mins until golden brown. Leave to cool before releasing them from the muffin trays and dusting with a little more icing sugar before serving.