

A Message from the Head Teacher

As you can see our students have been really busy this term and working hard on their targets. Our new pupils have settled so well and it already feels like they have been here forever! Our PTA is going from strength to strength and as ever, we have lots of exciting things planned for next year. Wishing all my staff, pupils and families a lovely Christmas (and good rest!) and looking forward to a successful and happy 2025 – thank you for the privilege of working with your lovely children.

Christmas Greeting From all at Dryden School – all the staff and students would like to wish all our families and friends of Dryden School every happiness over the Christmas season and a great New Year in 2025!

Liz Johnson xx



Class 1 have taken on a huge responsibility this half term – caring for our school Guinea pigs. Our jobs include spot cleaning them every morning and providing them with fresh food, vegetables, hay and water.

Everyone in class has been so caring and sensitive towards the guinea pigs and we think they are really getting used to being in school. We are so careful and gentle when handling them and they love to come in and out of their pen when we are working.



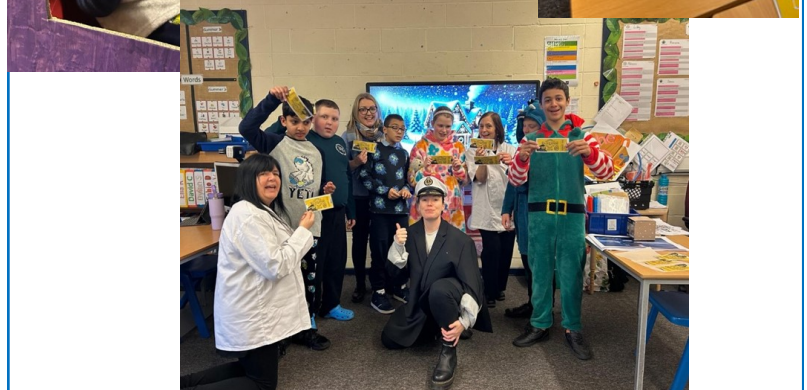
Class 3 have had a great time looking at The Polar Express. We particularly loved our sensory story where we all opened gifts from Santa, got covered in snow from the snow machine and sipped on hot chocolates in our pyjamas. We've all put in so much hard work for our Christmas enterprise as well. Making the reindeer dust and hot chocolate cones was especially fun.



In English Class 2 have been learning about 'The Polar Express'. They have been recalling key events and information from the story. We have used our role play skills to act out the train scene, as well as use colourful semantics to develop our understanding of sentence structure for who?, What doing? and Where?.

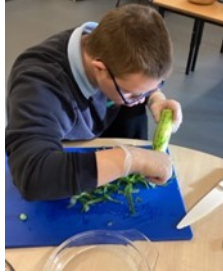


Understanding of sentence structure for who?, What doing? and Where?.



Class 4A

This half term class 4a have been very busy making staff lunches. Each week the students had different job roles and they all embraced each role with a very positive attitude. We have also explored the story of Oliver Twist. The students used different adjectives to describe the characters and used these to build compound sentences. The students have thoroughly enjoyed reading the story of Oliver Twist, however they were not impressed when the tasted gruel.



Class 4B

We have had an amazing Autumn term and the pupils have achieved so much. A highlight for us was starting our Sensory Circuits program and learning about the different ways we can self-regulate ourselves through bouncing, stepping and calming activities.



Then as part of our ASDAN units we got to use the woodwork tools and build the Guinea Pig Hutch for our new school pets—Pancake and Henry. The pupils enjoyed the experience of using the drill and the hammer and we hope to continue these skills next term.

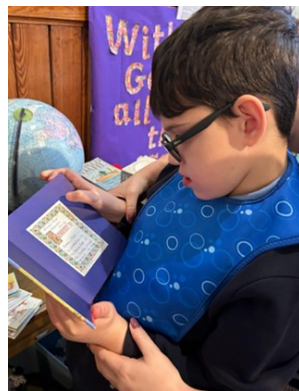
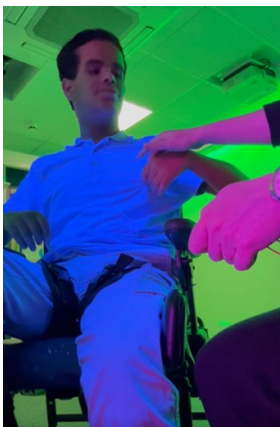


Merry Christmas Everyone, Love Class 4B

This term has been an exciting one in Post 16 with some of our Year 13 students attending their external work experience placements. Kai has been at Primark, Musa at Tesco, Megan at Age Concern Charity, Ali at Calander Court Residential Community, Lennon has been at Ikea, and Mackenzie has been working with Gateshead Council's Local Environment Services at Saltwell Park. The guys have done amazing and are really taking this fantastic opportunity in their strides. Well done to all of you!



Class 6b have had a busy Autumn term. We have welcomed a new student, Ameenah, and she is settling in so well. We went on our first trip of the year to Whitehall Road Methodist Church which was a great sensory experience. We listened to fabulous organ music and took in the pretty colours and imagery around the church. We continue to love our sensory therapeutic sessions of rebound and hydro each week and have enjoyed a Nativity sensory story to go alongside our whole school performance practice and the Theme in school.



This term Class 5 have been Kicking it in Karate with James, with enthusiasm and determination they've been learning discipline, focus and self-confidence in their weekly classes. Their hard work is paying off as they demonstrate respect for their instructor and their teammates.



This term Class 6A, enjoyed a trip to Redfox garden centre, where we enjoyed sensory filled exploration of the elves winter wonderland. We even got a visit from Santa, who helped us sing 'Rudolph the red nose reindeer' before he had to go back to his workshop.



Finally

School returns *Monday 6th January*. Thank you so much for your continued support this term. It means a lot to everyone to have the support of our families. We hope you all enjoy the holidays .

From Mrs Johnson and all the staff at Dryden.

Merry
Christmas