

The Garden Classroom

Autumn 2 2020

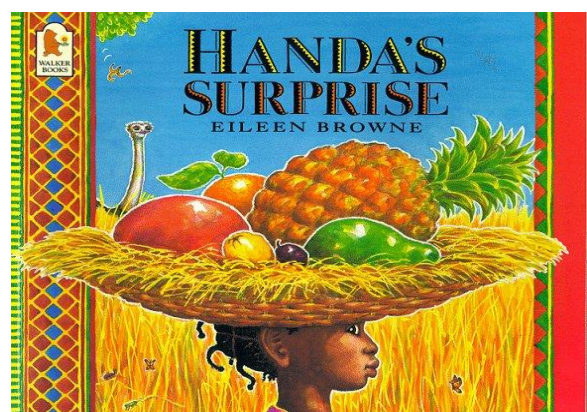


Geography

We learned about the continents and the oceans of the world. We also learned about seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold places in the world in relation to the equator. Following this learning, Africa would become a key focus for our learning.

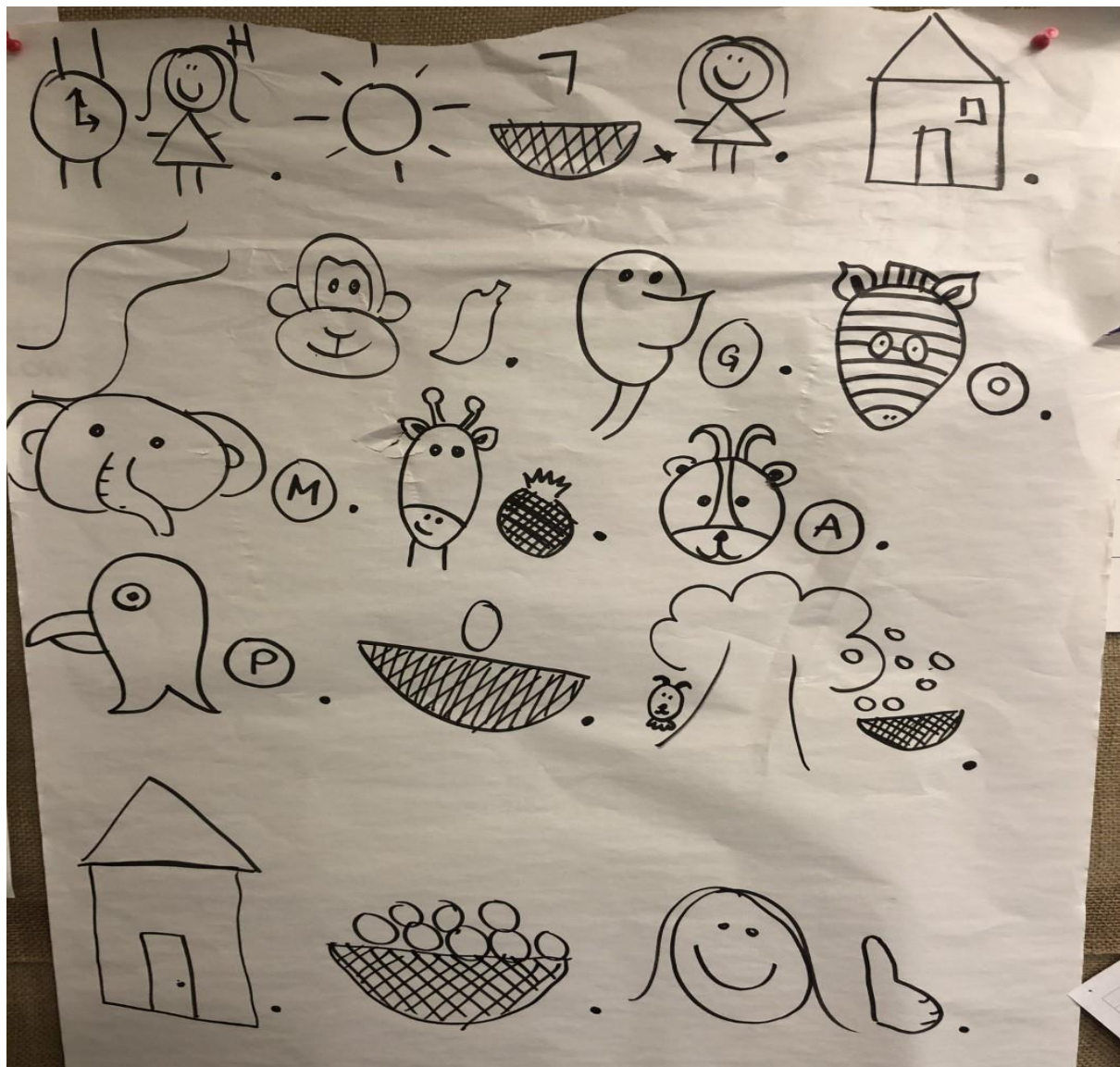
English

Our text this half term was Handa's Surprise.

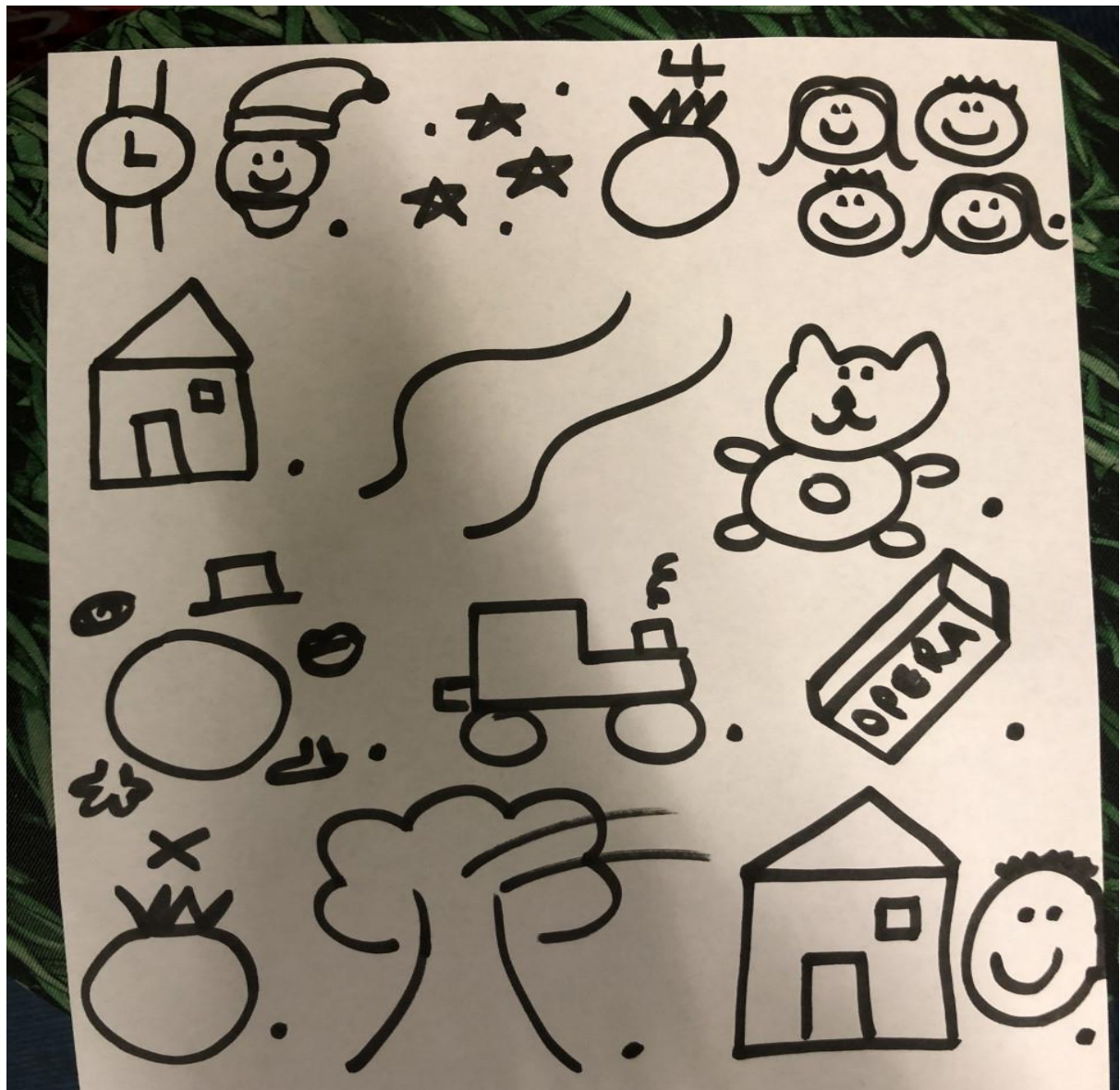


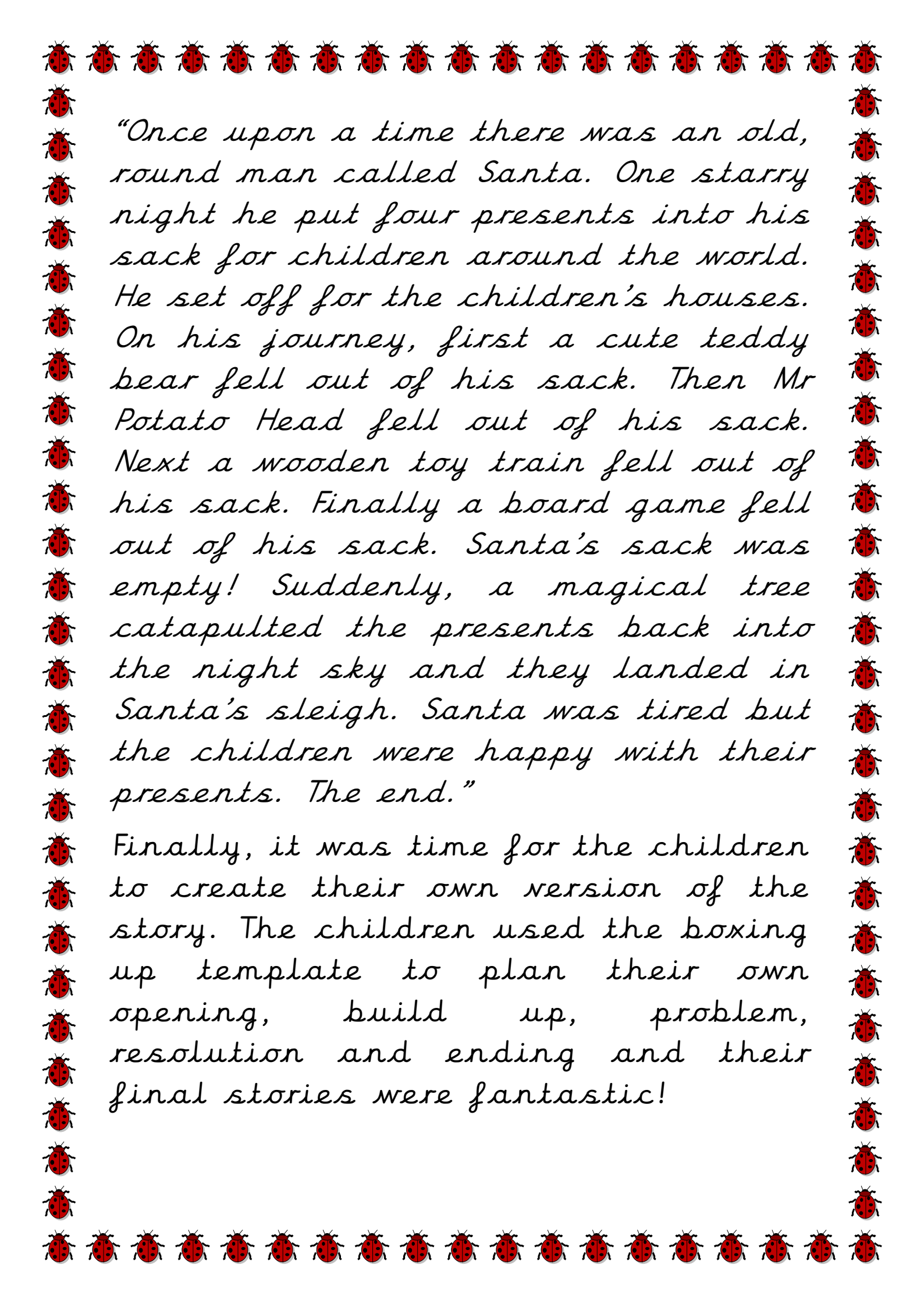
Handa's Surprise is a lovely story about a little girl in Africa who takes a gift to her friend in another village but she has some surprises along the way!

We worked together to create a story map and enjoyed learning and retelling the story orally, using actions to help us.



We then worked as a class to innovate our story by changing the setting, characters and main events. As we were approaching Christmas, we decided on a Christmas themed story where Santa was delivering presents to children around the world. Our story was called Santa's Surprise!



A decorative border of red ladybugs with black spots and antennae, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

"Once upon a time there was an old, round man called Santa. One starry night he put four presents into his sack for children around the world. He set off for the children's houses. On his journey, first a cute teddy bear fell out of his sack. Then Mr Potato Head fell out of his sack. Next a wooden toy train fell out of his sack. Finally a board game fell out of his sack. Santa's sack was empty! Suddenly, a magical tree catapulted the presents back into the night sky and they landed in Santa's sleigh. Santa was tired but the children were happy with their presents. The end."

Finally, it was time for the children to create their own version of the story. The children used the boxing up template to plan their own opening, build up, problem, resolution and ending and their final stories were fantastic!

History

Continuing
our
learning
around
Africa, we
learned



about Nelson Mandela and why he is a significant individual. We learned about how life was different for black and white people in South Africa in the past. We also sequenced the main events in the life of Nelson Mandela on a timeline. The children found this learning very interesting and linked it to their prior knowledge of Rose Parkes who we learned about for Black History Month.

Art and Design

In our Art and Design lessons, we built on our knowledge of colour, shape and pattern and looked at some traditional African art, such

as African patterns, kente cloths and Ndebele Art.

We learned how, when designing patterns, African artists and craft makers use their environment as their inspiration.

We used paper weaving to create our own kente cloth. The children selected their colours carefully, considering the meaning behind the colours, to make their cloth.



The children designed their own Ndebele houses. They then recreated their design on a cardboard box before re-joining the edges to create their house.



PE

In PE, we also learned some simple African dance moves to African music. The children enjoyed copying the moves, combining steps with arm movements, and listening to the music.

PSHE

To link with our learning about Africa, our PSHE lessons explored difference and diversity, both in our local area and the wider world. We learned about how we are unique and what makes us similar or different to others. We talked about the importance of respecting differences between people. "We are all different but we are all friends!"



This half term also saw Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week. We engaged in



classroom activities to revisit these important areas of learning.



RE

On November 11th at 11:00, we held a two minute silence to pay our respects to those who fought, and those who continue to fight, for our

country. The Garden Class and Meadow Class joined together to create some Remembrance Day inspired artwork,




which is now proudly displayed in our Community Room.

We also looked at special times and what they mean to us. We looked at special celebrations celebrated by different religions, including Diwali, Advent and Hanukkah. We explored the importance of light in these religious festivals and made simple comparisons between them.





































It's Christmas!



As we know, this term has been very different. The Garden Class missed performing their annual Nativity in Church for our family and friends. However, we still had a lovely time celebrating Christmas in school. The Garden Class and Meadow Class joined together to make Christmas cards, decorations and the very popular chocolate logs (thank you Mrs Haslam and Mrs Pointon!). We had our delicious Christmas dinner cooked by our wonderful Mrs Charlesworth and danced the afternoon away at our Christmas party. We also held a Christingle Service in school, led by Mrs Bosley and Mrs Haslam.



We even had a very special delivery from Santa! As we know, Santa couldn't come into school this year by he left us a very special letter.



It said...



"To everybody at Marston Montgomery Primary School,

I heard that today was your Christmas Party and I wanted to leave these here for you. Your teachers have told me how hard you have worked since returning in September and they are all very proud. I have been watching on the Santa Cams and I must say I have loved watching the Garden Class make there Ndebele houses and the Meadow Class doing their sewing. It was also lovely to see you practising Jingle Bells using Sign Language. We use this at the North Pole to help some of the elves communicate, too.

I'm sorry I couldn't come inside to visit you today but, due to social distancing and the bubble system, it is important that we keep ourselves safe. I will be back next year!

Keep up the hard work and continue being so kind.

With love from

Santa, Mrs Claus and all of the elves and reindeer at the North Pole x"

As you can see, we were very excited...



Miss Tunnicliffe and Mr Higgins

Over the half term, we have been very lucky to have two wonderful trainee teachers join us at Marston Montgomery. Miss Tunnicliffe and Mr Higgins worked hard to plan and deliver exciting lessons in both classrooms and it has been a pleasure having them with us. We wish them the best of luck as they continue their teacher training in the New Year!

