

It was so lovely to see everyone back at school on Wednesday after the Christmas holidays, we hope everyone had a good, restful break! We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term as part of our project 'Long Ago' that we're sure the children will find memorable and thought provoking.

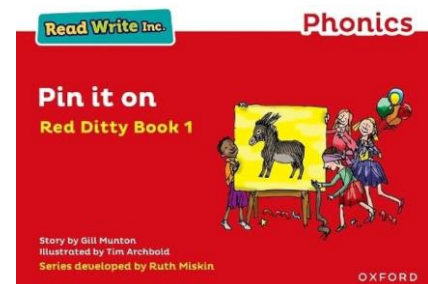
We launched straight into our project with the classroom museum on Wednesday and the children found looking at all the artefacts fascinating. We were so impressed with how gently they handled the things that could be handled and how respectful they were of those things that are too delicate to touch. We used magnifying glasses to get a closer look at old bears, roman coins, Victorian books, and antique buttons!

As part of the project, we will be looking at how we have



changed from birth until now and learning about how school life has changed throughout the generations. We also have the dinosaur museum set up in the classroom for the children to role-play as palaeontologists and curators. It's been an absolute hit so far!

In phonics we started learning common exceptions words and using them alongside our existing phonics knowledge to read Red Ditty books which you will find in your child's bookbag this weekend. Your child will be familiar with the stories within from our daily lessons and should be able to start reading these with some fluency – we will still send home sound blending books to practise our reading skills and a library book to enjoy too.



In Maths we have been practising counting to 10 and will use this to compare numbers within 10 and complete addition up to 10 this half term. We have also been practising our subitising (the ability to look at groups of objects up to 5 and say the number without counting) and this is something you can practise at home should you wish. Board games are also a brilliant way of boosting confidence counting forwards and backwards as well as recognition of amount using the dots on dice. Board games are quite popular in Acorns class!

We're hoping that this half term will be just as exciting and interesting as the last two for the children and, as always, we are very proud of their settled and enthusiastic start to the new year!

The Acorns Team.