



ALFRED SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS 18 DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE 85

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final school Newsletter of 2023. The end of the year marks the end of a very busy term for our school. Once again, the children have been a credit to you, engaging enthusiastically in all aspects of school life.

We were pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection back in October and felt the Inspection team captured the vibrant and inclusive nature of our school accurately. We were pleased that they were able to see first-hand how children thrive at Alfred Sutton. Our partnership with Redlands Primary School continues to enable both schools to share best practice and curriculum innovation. We will keep you posted with any further partnership updates as and when they occur.

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Mr Neate, our Sports Coach who, due to a very lengthy commute, has decided to look for a role nearer home. We look forward to welcoming Mr George Coker to our team as our new Sports Coach from January Michael Woodward will also be delivering our club provision in the new year.

Following the recent publication of the Primary Performance Tables, we just wanted to take a moment to celebrate the success of last year's Year 6 in their end of year primary SAT tests.

We were placed third overall in Reading for the percentage of pupils achieving expected standard in Maths, Reading and Writing Combined. The children's hard work also meant we were placed 2nd in Reading for pupils achieving the expected standard in Maths and Writing and a very commendable 4th position in Reading. For more information on school performance please search primary school performance 2023.

Overall performance at end of key stage 2 in 2023 - all pupils

Showing 1 - 50 of 51 schools

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 2	% of pupils meeting expected standard	Progress score & description			% of pupils achieving at a higher standard	Average score in reading	Average score in maths
				Reading	Writing	Maths			
Caversham Primary School	Maintained school	57	82%	ABOVE AVERAGE 3.0	AVERAGE 0.3	ABOVE AVERAGE 1.8	19%	111	108
The Heights Primary School	Academy	49	82%	AVERAGE 0.9	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 3.0	AVERAGE 0.7	16%	109	108
Alfred Sutton Primary School	Maintained school	86	80%	ABOVE AVERAGE 1.6	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 3.1	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 4.2	21%	108	110

Thank you once again for your on-going support throughout 2023 and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout 2024.

On behalf of the Governing Body, staff and children, may I wish you a peaceful and happy holiday period.

Yours sincerely

Robert Howell
Headteacher

School News

Nursery News



The Nursery children are now well settled at school and have enjoyed learning about the festivals of Diwali, Bonfire Night and learning about why people wear poppies for Remembrance Day. We have also learned about the seasons of Autumn and Winter. Our topic Into the Woods saw us learning all about forests and woodland animals with stories such as *The Gruffalo*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *One Snowy Night*. We had great fun baking our own Gingerbread Men and spiky salt dough hedgehogs and using sticks to make our own Stickman puppets. We learned a lovely poem about a grey squirrel, swishing his bushy tail. We also started going on our Outdoor Welly Walks which are proving to be great fun and very educational though they are very chilly! We had hot chocolate to warm us up when we got back inside. Learning about the Christmas festival has been very exciting... we've helped decorate our classroom and home corners with baubles and snowflakes and made our seasonal tree look all wintry. We have enjoyed exploring ice outside in the tuff trays. Our last week before the holidays will be full of festive fun crafts, our Winter Sing a Long and our class Christmas parties.

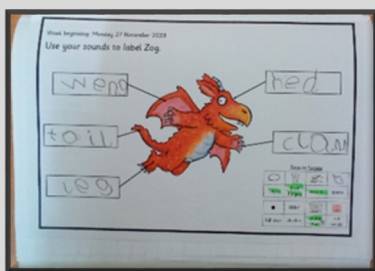


Reception News

As we come to the end of another fantastic term in Reception, we would like to celebrate how hard the children have been working and recognise how much they have grown since they started with us in September.

Our theme for this term has been 'Terrific Tales and Celebrations'. We started the term by reading *Supertato* by Sue Hendra. It was fun to pretend to be Supertato saving all the vegetables from Evil Pea. Many children turned into superheroes whilst in the garden, using pieces of material to make a cape. We then moved onto *Zog* by Julia Donaldson. It was amazing to see how quickly the children remembered the lessons that were taught at Dragon School and also how Princess Pearl, helped Zog when it was needed.

In phonics, the children have been working very hard to improve their reading and writing skills. Many children are now able to 'Fred Talk and read' short words. For writing, we have been labelling lots of different pictures. The children have learnt to use 'Fred Fingers' for spelling, this is when they say the word they want to write and pinch the sounds onto their fingers.



In maths, we continue to investigate the composition of numbers. We have been using all sorts of apparatus to show the different parts of a number, for example 5 frames, Numicon or multilink. The children are getting very quick when asked what one more or one less of a number is. Over the last few days, we have been learning about shapes with 4 sides and made some beautiful pictures.

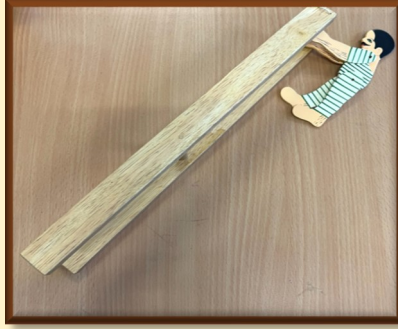


In the wider curriculum, we have really enjoyed our DT Unit on junk modelling. The children were very excited to make their own models and bring them home to you. Thank you to all parents and carers who sent in materials for us to use. We have also been using the tablets in class to design our own firework displays and snowflakes.



We would like to wish you a restful winter break and we look forward to hearing all the holiday news in January.

Year 1 News



Year 1 have had another fantastic term! The children have enjoyed learning about the 'Local Area' in Geography and 'The History of Toys' in History. The children have been looking at toys from the past and comparing them to the toys that they own. The children are currently completing some writing linked to a book called 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas.

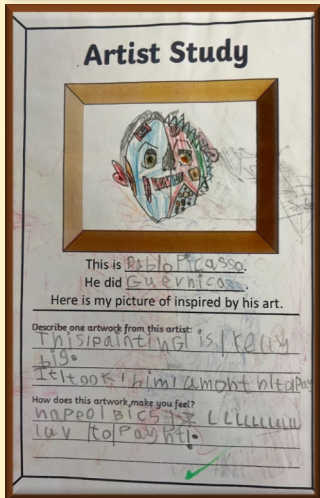
In Outdoor Learning, the children went on a walk around school to collect different types of leaves. They really enjoyed exploring the school and using crayons to produce leaf rubbings when we were back in the classroom.

In Computing, the children have been continuing to work on their mouse and keyboard skills. The children worked hard to apply their skills and create Digital Paintings in the style of Kandinsky.

In Art, the children have been learning about Pablo Picasso and cubism. They learnt about warm and cool colours and used this to create a piece of artwork. The children also used shapes and colour to create their own work in the style of Pablo Picasso.

In DT, the children have been creating moving pictures. They planned, made and evaluated their final pieces and had a great time learning and applying new skills.

The children should be incredibly proud of all they have achieved this term and we look forward to welcoming them back to school in January.



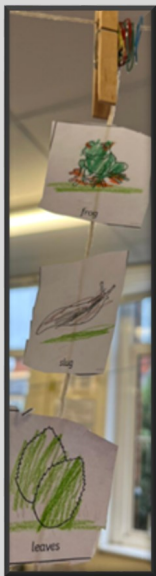
Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a great half term and are making excellent progress with their learning and personal development.

In Geography, we enjoyed learning about Oceans and Continents. The children can name and locate the seven continents and five oceans. We also studied the human and physical features of each continent. We summarised all our knowledge by making a poster for each continent.



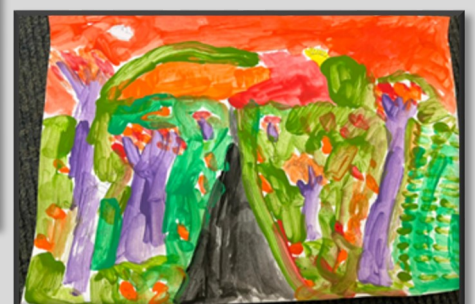
In Science, we have been learning about habitats. We explored different habitats and looked at which animals and plants live there and how they have had to adapt to survive. We also learnt about food chains.



In Computing, we have had lots of fun with our Photography unit. We have learnt about landscape and portrait, lighting and how to avoid taking a blurry picture. We have also started to edit our photos and add some special effects and illustrations to our photographs.

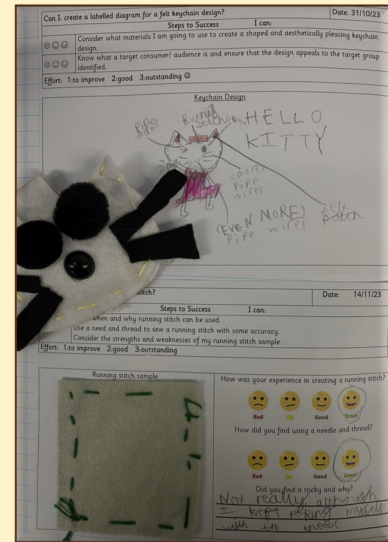
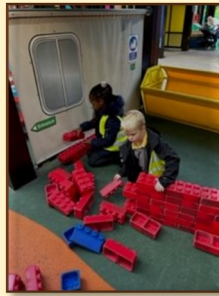


Our Art topic this term was 'Colour'. The artist we studied was David Hockney. We re-created some of his artwork and then designed our own Alfred Sutton based piece and painted it, inspired by his style of colour and pattern.

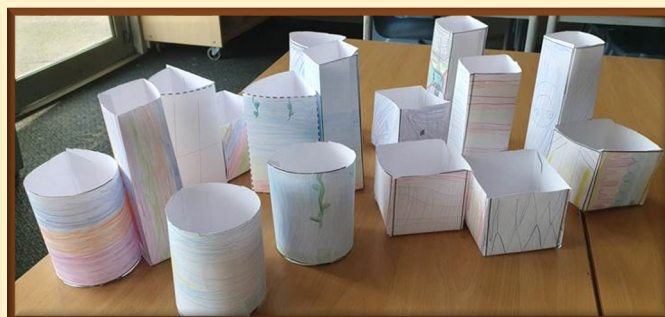


Year 3 News

In Year 3, we started our term with an exciting trip to the Lookout Discovery Centre. It was a wonderful day, full of science. Some highlights included a light and sound room, minibeast exhibition, construction area and the lookout tower. We then spent the next few days writing a recount of our experience.



Throughout Autumn term, Hedgehog class have been going swimming at Palmer Park. Each week, we have worked hard to develop our swimming techniques. We were taught water safety and had the opportunity to jump into the pool wearing our pyjamas! Squirrel class is extremely excited for their turn in the New Year! Whilst Hedgehog were swimming, Rabbit and Squirrel class were making keychains and pencil pots in DT. We meticulously planned our designs, created our products and evaluated our work. Have a look at some of our designs...



In computing, we have been developing our animation techniques - here are some screenshots of our work. During Spanish lessons, we have been working on our greetings, colours and numbers. Ask a Year 3 what their favourite colour is in Spanish...

As we count down to the end of Autumn term, we are busily practising for our Winter Celebration to parents and carers - a wonderful way to celebrate our fantastic year so far!

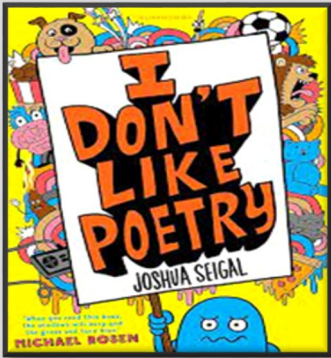
Year 4 Winter Newsletter



Wintry greetings to all parents and carers of Year 4 children. We hope this finds you warm, well and looking forward to the holidays. As the term draws to a close, we are once again reflecting on what a busy few weeks we have had, and how well the children have risen to all the challenges we have set them.



Happily, this term saw our first trip of the year. The children and accompanying adults all had a great time at Ufton Court learning how to be more Roman! We undertook military training (and now feel ready to repel any attacks from unruly Celts or Picts), learnt how to make fire, build walls for homes and create thread for clothes, and we were lucky enough to examine some genuine Roman artefacts. The children seemed to truly love the day and many were keen to return again in the near future – sorry parents!



Another first for the year was a live Zoom link-up with award winning poet, Joshua Seigal. Joshua not only shared several of his poems with us, but also helped the children to write their own poems, centred on a love of healthy food. Since this zoom, the Year 4 team have continued to read Joshua's poems to the children and unlike the title of his first book, no longer hear the words, 'I don't like poetry'. Should you be interested to learn more about this wonderful poet, his website can be found at:

<https://www.joshuaseigal.co.uk/>



This week we have been in the nutritional learning suite. After time spent planning the perfect sandwich, the opportunity to put ideas into practice finally arrived. Children were given the chance to work on knife skills and to think about which food combinations make for the most delicious eating. Many of you may have tasted the children's efforts but, as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and given that several of the sandwiches were devoured by the end of lunch, I am guessing that the children were pleased with their efforts.



For your awareness, after the holidays, topic work will focus on rainforests (in geography) and states of matter (science). In art we'll be looking at collage and the work of Megan Coyle and in DT the children will be designing and making dolls' houses. So, as you can tell, another hopefully stimulating term to come.

As a team we would like to wish you all the very best of holidays and thank you for all you

do to support the children's learning. We very much believe that this is a partnership and know that the children would not be half as successful as they are without your efforts.



The Year 4 team.

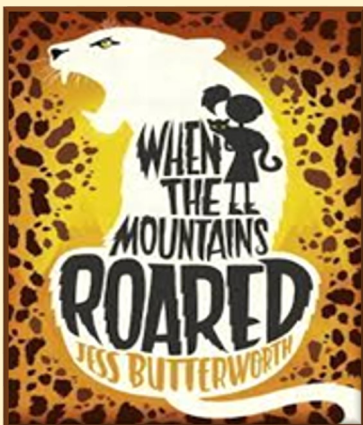
Year 5 News

This term seems to have flown by and we are fast approaching a well-earned Christmas break when we can recharge our batteries. As has been the case throughout our time together, the children of Year 5 have shown themselves to be hard-working, respectful and aspirational. The effort they all put into their work truly reflects an outstanding desire to learn and develop their understanding of a wide range of subjects and topic areas.



We are extremely happy to report that the children have enjoyed a diverse range of lessons and their work reflects the super levels of engagement they have shown. From learning about the Indus Valley and how much more advanced the civilisation was to their European counterparts, to writing a historical fiction narrative set in the Indus Valley Civilisation, to discovering the best thermal insulators with which to make the teachers a new coffee mug in science, and improving hockey, basketball and swimming skills in PE, to working on making and editing their own videos collaboratively about the school and what goes on there on a daily basis. Phew! No matter what the challenge, the children have risen to it.

Those pupils in Buzzard and Falcon who had not gone swimming this term have produced some stunning art work. Having studied Van Gogh's *The Starry Night* they painted their own interpretations. Here are a few examples of the pupils' masterpieces.



Another highlight has been the books we have been able to read and enjoy. Our Year 5 text for this term has been *When the Mountains Roared*, by Jess Butterworth. We have really enjoyed looking at this in detail in reading lessons, and apart from being a very engaging book in itself, it lent itself really well to learning the many skills necessary in practising comprehension.

As always in this term, so much more than the usual lessons has taken place. We have had open mornings and afternoons for parents to celebrate their children's work; parents evening; and who can forget the Christmas Fair!

Wishing you the best of holidays, Mr. Kiedyszko, Mrs. Ruqiyya and Mrs. Keskar.

Year 6 News

In the words of Y6 pupils:

Autumn Term 2 Year 6 Newsletter

Throughout the autumn term in Year 6, we have enjoyed learning new things. Our teachers have given us a warm welcome since our first day. With the help of our wonderful teachers we have found the challenging work, that we thought we could never accomplish, simple and fun. This is the start of our amazing adventure in Year 6. During our time here so far, we have achieved many accomplishments that we are extremely proud of and want to share.

What is the Sutton Six and how do we show the importance of them?

Our teachers always remind us about the Sutton Six.

We show them every-day all around the school to show how important they are to the younger children.

Respect:

Being respectful helps build pupils' confidence and helps them fit in. Respect means to accept people for who they are; treat people the way you want to be treated.

Resilience:

Resilience is crucial to our learning as it teaches us to never give up, even if we find something difficult. Resilience is shown when you practice something to get better at it.

Aspiration:

Aspiring to be the best you can possibly be is important to keep you going: it is a strong desire to accomplish your dreams.

Caring:

Caring is significant to peoples' self-esteem. If someone is caring that means they are supportive, affectionate and sympathetic to others.

Responsibility:

Responsibility means to understand how your actions can affect you or someone else. We are responsible when we admit our mistakes.

Compassion:

Being compassionate is thinking about other people and imagining how they might be feeling.

What challenges have we faced and how have we overcome them?

We have all faced challenges in Year 6, but we were capable of overcoming them with the wonderful support of our hard-working teachers; they always motivate us to keep going and to never give up.

Sometimes we find our work difficult, and at other times we struggle with keeping up. Either way, our teachers are always there to support us and help us to understand the work. When we have an issue or argument, they are there to comfort us and help sort out the situation.

What have we achieved in Year 6?

In Year 6, we have come across multiple topics that we had not known about before. Alfred Sutton Primary School has helped us achieve most of our goals from the start of Year 6. All the staff at our school are helping us to achieve our potential in our work by explaining the work clearly and making it more engaging and fun. We have also increased our speed and accuracy when doing our work.

Our teachers have agreed roles with us that link to our core values- this term being resilience. Some of these jobs - like Wellbeing Ambassadors - help to make sure that the school is a happy and safe environment. Other jobs, like litter-pickers, clean up the school to keep it environmentally-friendly and hygienic.

Even those of us without a specific job, have a role to play in setting a good example to the rest of the school.

What do we learn?

In Year 6, we have a very broad curriculum. All of the subjects that we cover are the same as the ones other year groups do. However, the topics that we learn about are very different. We do reading, maths and writing. There are many other subjects that we have done this term; the others that we have managed to cover are PSHE, RE (religious education) and computing, just to name a few.

Every term, we have a main focus for topic. At the beginning of Year 6, we studied history. Everyone loved the topic about World War 2 and really enjoyed learning about a significant event in the past. After half term, we began studying the human body in science.

How does it feel to be a pupil in Year 6?

Since starting Year 6, we have had to set an example for the whole school, as we have now become the highest year group in the school. We are role models to the younger children. Being a Year 6 comes with many higher-level responsibilities which can help us develop skills that we can use later in life. As we are Year 6 pupils, the younger kids look up to us.

How have the Year 6 children grown over the Autumn Term?

Over autumn term, we have widely improved in lessons, working harder every day, aiming to do our best. We are passionate about the lessons and are constantly contributing to the class effort. Since the start of the year, every pupil has developed a deeper understanding of the school curriculum.

Year 6 has been an amazing journey so far. The students value every bit of help the teachers can give, and the adults appreciate all of the effort pupils put into their work.

This newsletter has come to an end and so has another wonderful term in Alfred Sutton Primary School.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

