



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term. A special warm welcome to all our new children and families who have joined us in Reception this year.

We are really pleased to report that the children have settled very calmly into their new year groups and are enjoying all aspects of the new school year. We hope you enjoy reading all about their learning experiences this term.

Interesting changes to the curriculum this year mean that we are really taking advantage of our improved local leisure facilities at Palmer Park with our Year 3 children now swimming weekly along with our Year 5 children to enable water confidence and safety earlier in their keystone 2 experience.

We were also excited to receive the Arts Mark Silver Award from the Arts Council England due to our real focus on Arts and Culture across the curriculum. We look forward to starting our journey towards Gold Accreditation.

As you will be aware, Ofsted visited the school during the last week of term. The inspection was a real opportunity for the school to showcase our community ethos and for them to see first hand the hard work and dedication of all our staff. As always the children were a credit to you and the school throughout the process.

In the next 3-4 weeks the inspection report will be published and we will be able to share the judgements with you.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support, especially those of you who completed the parent view survey and spoke to the inspectors during their time at the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'RHowell'.

Robert Howell
Headteacher

Nursery News



The Nursery children in Fern and Toadstool class have settled in well to Alfred Sutton Primary School. They have painted, play-doughed, counted, mark made, climbed, sang, scooted, cooked and roared their way through the first half term at school! They are enjoying making new friends, listening to some fantastic stories and singing lots of rhymes. We have talked a lot about our families and how they are special to us, and painted and drawn pictures of them. We read a story about the *Tiger Who Came to Tea* and learned about different patterns. We learned lots of new Nursery Rhymes and did artwork for our display. We explored vegetables for Harvest time and made a Harvest Basket using fruit and vegetable templates.



Reception News

What a busy term it's been! It has been so lovely, welcoming the children to Reception and seeing how quickly they have settled into school life. This term, the children have started to learn how to read and write in our phonics sessions. We have been focussing on pronouncing sounds, pencil grip and letter formation.

Our key texts have been *Pete the Cat (Rocking in my school shoes)* and *The Little Red Hen*. The children really enjoyed sequencing Pete's day at school and singing his song. They created their own *Pete the Cat* using a variety of tools and materials. We introduced *The Little Red Hen* by baking and tasting some bread (yummy!). The children learnt the story using a story map and have written parts of the story.

In Maths the children have been learning how to sort and compare. We have learnt that when things match, they are the same and how to put things into different groups. They have also been learning all about measurement (big, small, heavier, lighter, full and empty). The children have been learning the correct vocabulary when discussing the measurements of different objects. Finally, we have looked at repeating patterns and how to copy and create them.

In Art we have been busy creating some beautiful pictures! The children did some observational drawings of sunflowers and created colourful portraits using a range of different media. We have also been learning about Vincent Van Gogh and created fields of wheat paintings inspired by his work.

In Music the children have learnt about how to create sound. We have explored making different noises with our voice as well as clapping and stomping.

We hope you had a lovely half-term!

Just as a reminder, Green Set 1 sound phonics books no longer need to be sent into school and can be kept at home.

The Reception Team



Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the 23/24 academic year. We have been really impressed by how settled the children have been and how engaged they are with their learning!

The children really enjoyed our History topic 'All About Me!' where they discussed their own personal history (ie. Their journey through school) and learnt about the history of our school. They enjoyed writing about themselves inspired by the book 'What Makes Me a Me?' by David Tazzyman.

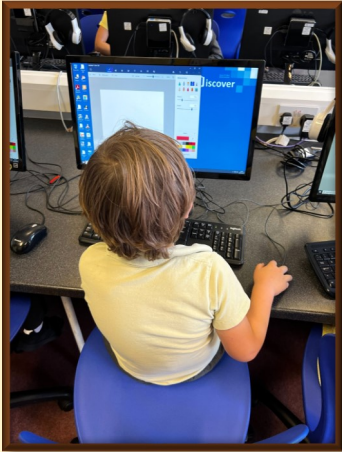
In Art, the children have been learning about Paul Klee. They have looked at and discussed his artwork and then had a go at creating their own pieces of artwork inspired by our school buildings in the style of Paul Klee. To do this, the children decorated A3 pieces of paper using different colours and patterns. Then they cut the paper into 2D shapes to construct their final piece.

In Computing, the children have enjoyed learning about different types of technology. They have been practising their computer skills, such as using a mouse and a keyboard. The children enjoyed drawing patterns using Paint 3D and using text to write their names onto their drawings.

In Science, the children have been learning about their body parts (head, arms, legs etc) and features of the face. They enjoyed carrying out investigations into their 5 senses, especially taste and touch. They have also engaged with seasonal changes activities and the way things change between Summer and Autumn. Some of the children have produced some incredible pieces of Autumn artwork as part of a homework project.

In DT, the children have been learning about the basics of Design and Technology. They have practised key skills and the process of designing, making and evaluating. Here are some pictures of the party hats the children in Year 1 have made. They are fantastic!

Well done to all the Year 1 children, they have worked really hard this term and we are all looking forward to Term 2.



Year 2 News (with photos of our highlights)



Year 2 had a very exciting and busy first term!

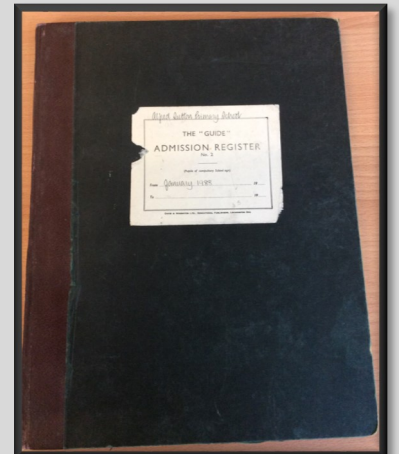
Our first history topic was 'The 3 B's'. We learned all about how Reading became a successful town because of 3 main companies: Huntley and Palmer Biscuits, Sutton Seeds and Simmonds Brewery!

We focused on learning about Huntley and Palmer Biscuits when we went to MERL, where we learned about how the biscuits were made and even had a go at making some ourselves! (we couldn't eat them as they were made of clay though!)

We also had a visit from Mrs. Renshaw's dad, whose family worked for Huntley and Palmer biscuits. He was able to tell us all about what the workers did and how they lived.



We also learned about Sutton Seeds and how our school is named after the son, Alfred Sutton! We were able to learn about how Alfred Sutton School has changed by looking at historical artefacts, such as an old uniform and register. We discussed what they told us about how school might have changed since our parents and grandparents were in school.



This term, we also had a visit at a local church to learn about the Samaritan story. This was exciting as the church was interesting to look at and we were able to participate in role play to tell the story!



Year 3 News



It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year for Year 3. Moving into KS2, we now enjoy weekly Spanish lessons with Mrs Lopez and we have been practising our greetings.

Climate was our first topic for Y3. We learned about weather, differences in climate and climate change. Reading Greta Thunberg's biography gave us a fantastic insight into the life of a young activist. Ask a Year 3 child what Greta Thunberg has done to help save the world...

In art, we have been developing our self-portrait drawing skills. We started with drawing individual features, considering proportion, before using guidelines and then progressing to drawing our own self-portraits. Here are some of our faces!

Hedgehog class are enjoying swimming lessons at Palmer Park. Each week we are improving our strokes and water safety. In Rabbit and Squirrel class, we have been developing our computing and DT skills. Making pencil pots was the DT target for this term - here is some of our work...

Stone Age is our current topic and we have enjoyed discovering this prehistoric time. Exploring Stone Age homes and diet has been insightful. Cave paintings have been a particular area of interest for us.



Year 4 News



Welcome all Parents and Carers of Year 4 children to this, the first newsletter of the new school year – and what a start it has been. The children have been working extremely hard to show us all that they are capable of, and we have seen some fantastic work across all areas of the curriculum. What's more, they have started the year modelling excellent behaviour and a real desire to act as role models for other members of the Alfred Sutton community (both younger and older than themselves).

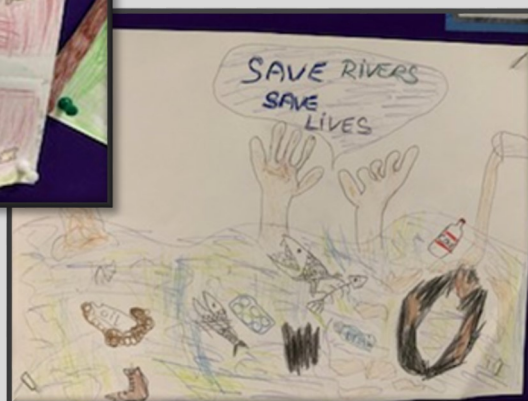
The pictures around this newsletter come from our first geography unit of the year – rivers. We looked at a wide

range of topics within this but the one the children really grasped best was the need to protect our river water from pollutants of all kinds. I'm glad to say the children of Otter, Fox and Badger all worked incredibly hard to complete the homework asking them to design a poster to promote the need to keep rivers clean.

Naturally, geography has not been our only focus this term. We have studied classification of animals in science, Judaism in RE, the importance of protein in nutritional learning and gender stereotyping in RHE. In their writing, children have produced some wonderful newspaper articles about (imagined) floods in Reading and are currently putting their minds to non-chronological reports on vertebrates (high-level stuff indeed).

As you can tell, it has been a term filled with diverse learning and the children seem to have thoroughly enjoyed it. As I write this, we are all recovering from our first DT lessons of the term. Children (and certain adults – namely yours truly) have been learning how to blanket stitch in order to make beanbags. I believe I am being truthful when I say every child in the year can now thread and knot a needle and use a variety of sewing stitches to join fabric together. It was touch and go there for a minute, but experts they have all become!

If that wasn't creative enough for you, we have even enjoyed several art lessons showing the children how to produce proportionally accurate portraits using charcoal. The classrooms might never look quite as clean again, but the work was terrific. I will hopefully add some images of it to the next newsletter.



Richard Watson and the Year 4 team

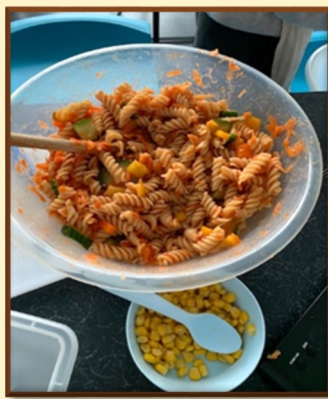
Year 5 News

A big hello to all parents and carers of Year 5 children and welcome to our first newsletter together. As I am sure you know, the first short term was a busy one with so much going on. The children have really settled into our routines and have coped well with the rigors of a demanding timetable.

I'm 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 an Egyptian topic in music, to discovering the best thermal insulators with which to make the teachers a new coffee mug in science, to improving netball and swimming skills in PE, to name but a few - no matter what the challenge, the children have risen to it.



Perhaps the highlight of the term has been the chance for the children to, once again, get into the cooking suite and show off their culinary skills. I am sure many of you out there sampled their wonderful pasta salads and I hope you enjoyed eating the food as much as the children enjoyed preparing it. We certainly have a few budding MasterChef competitors in Eagle, Falcon and Buzzard classes.



Another highlight for me, and I hope the children too, has been the books we have been able to read and enjoy. In particular, our Year 5 text for this term was *Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay*, by A Stewart and J Todd-Stanton. The book fitted perfectly with our geography topic which was all about mountains with a particular focus on the Himalayas.

October was Black History Month and, of course, we made this a significant part of our curriculum. During the penultimate week of term, we looked at the history of the Windrush Generation. Our reading text was the poem, *Windrush Child*, which gave us lots of scope for discussion and debate.

Michael Kiedyszko and the whole of the Year 5 team.

Starting Year 6

Starting year 6 has been a fun adventure: learning different subjects in depth, and gaining lots of invaluable knowledge. We have enjoyed it greatly and want to share it with you.

Tremendous Teachers

At first, our expectations were to have strict teachers. In the end, they ended up being not scary at all. We are proud to have lovely teachers here in Alfred Sutton Primary School. They always push us to do the best we can do.

Reading

In reading, we have listened to war stories, understanding how the evacuees must have felt about living with strangers and leaving their beloved families. We have also read books that depict World War 2 from the enemies' side like: 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas'.

Writing

In writing we have been taught how to vary punctuation, sentence openers and use higher level vocabulary. We demonstrated this by writing a rich variety of texts such as: a warning story, a piece of journalistic writing and a narrative story. We have learnt a great amount and have definitely improved our SPAG.

In conclusion, since starting YR 6 we have had a wonderful time and are eagerly looking forward to learning more. We may find the work challenging but with the help of our resourceful teachers, we are encouraged every step of the way.

History

Our topic, which is related to our reading, is WW2. We have discussed propaganda - that turned into a gripping and engaging subject to learn about. It boosted people's morale to help in the war, particularly women. Did you know that women had to take over men's jobs?



Maths

During maths, we have revisited fractions, decimals and percentages and touched upon word problems. The lessons are detailed and thorough. Although this may sound dull, our teachers always find a way to spice it up.

PE

We can all agree that PE is one of our favourite subjects that we learn. It is very engaging and gives us an opportunity to stretch our body and have some fun. This term, we enhanced our skills on tag rugby.