

# ASPS NEWS



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Spring Term. We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting things the children have experienced this term. We hope you have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 19 February.

Yours sincerely

Robert Howell  
Headteacher

## School News

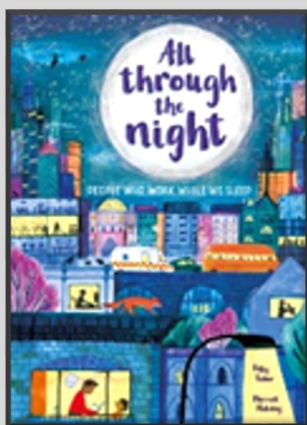
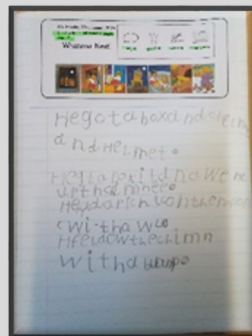
### Nursery News

We enjoyed welcoming more new friends into our Nursery in 2024. We sang lots of familiar Nursery Rhymes such as *Humpty Dumpty* and *The Wheels on the Bus* to help our new friends settle in. We now have two very busy classes in Toadstool and Fern. This term our Topic "Oh the Places You'll Go!" took us to *The Zoo*, *On a Bear Hunt*, to *Where the Wild Things Are* and for a *Walk through the Jungle*. We have been practising recognising and using numbers up to 5 and have been exploring shapes by creating shape monsters. In RE we have been learning about how different people around the world celebrate their New Year and enjoyed making dragon puppets and moving like dragons for Chinese New Year! We listened to the story *The Colour Monster* and learned about how different emotions can be different colours and talked about how they can make us feel... (yellow=happy, blue=sad, red=angry, green=calm, black=fear, pink=love) Then we painted our own colour emotion monsters. We've enjoyed playing in the cold weather outside (good for helping us become more independent with our coats and hats), exploring the ice and making our winter tree sparkle with ice, frost and snow. We've enjoyed our Library trips, PE with Mr Woodward and Music with Mrs Jalland too!



## Reception News

Our topic this term has been 'Night-time tales and my community'. One of our focus books has been, 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. The children were inspired by the story to consider what it might be like to zoom up into space in a rocket. They worked collaboratively to create a night sky by using different shapes and tools. Our topic display board looks out of this world! The children also retold the story, ordered story pictures and labelled them. Some children even wrote sentences to accompany the story pictures.



Our other focus book, 'All Through the Night' by Polly Faber and Harriet Hobday introduced us to night time professions. The children enjoyed talking about what they want to be one day. We have some aspiring nurses, ballerinas, footballers and teachers!

In Design and Technology, the children had the opportunity to learn how to weave. First, they used paper to create a place mat and then they used a needle and wool to sew around a planet shape. The children enjoyed weaving outdoors and used pieces of material to weave through the fencing panels in the garden.



In addition to all our busy classroom activities, Reception joined the Nursery children for some delightful singalong sessions. Mrs Musset played her guitar and various teachers led action songs for the children to sign and sing. The Reception children were assigned houses and participated in their first KS1 house event. Each child made a handprint of the colour of their house. All the handprints will be used to create a large house banner.

## Year 1 News

Year 1 have had another fantastic term.

Our topic this term is 'Dinosaurs'. The children have enjoyed learning about Mary Anning and her discoveries. As part of our dinosaur topic, the children had a go at digging in sand for 'dinosaur bones'. They then had to work in teams to create a dinosaur skeleton using the bones that they had found. They had so much fun!

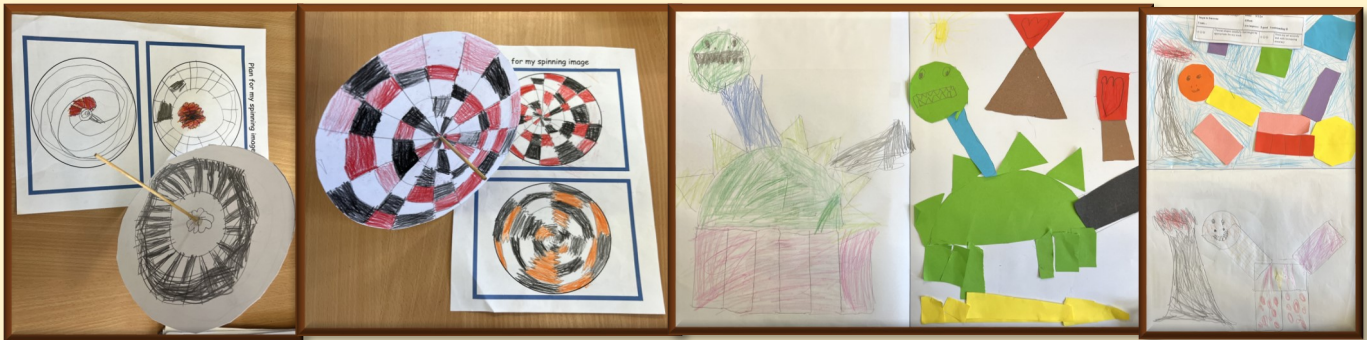
We have enjoyed reading our class text '*The Girl and the Dinosaur*', by Hollie Hughes and Sarah Massini, and writing our own narratives inspired by the book. The children designed front covers for their narratives and each class will be making a book that will be kept in the infant library for all of the KS1 children to enjoy. The children engaged with drama sessions based on the narrative



In Science, the children have been learning about Animals. They have explored the different animal groups, the features of different animals and used vocabulary such as carnivore, herbivore and omnivore to discuss animal diets.

In Geography, we have been learning about the United Kingdom. The children have looked at maps of the United Kingdom and identified the countries within the UK and capital cities of each of the countries.

In Art, the children have been learning about collage. The children designed their own dinosaur collages and then



made them using coloured paper. The children really enjoyed these activities and the results were fantastic!

## Year 2 News

It has been a busy term for Year 2 and we have been impressed with the children's aspiration (our term's value) in their learning.

Our topics have included Journeys in History and we have started studying Zambia in Geography.

For Journeys, we looked at famous journeys including sea voyages, flights and the Moon landings. We also read the books *Journey* by Aaron Becker and *Astro Girl* by Ken Wilson-Max, which helped inspire our writing. A highlight was the Year 2 children visiting some of their old classrooms and teachers in Reception to read their stories to the younger children.

In maths, we have been practising using money and are now investigating multiplication and division.

Other projects have included programming the Bee-Bot robots in Computing, creating animal collages inspired by the work of contemporary artist Victoria Carter, and making some fantastic foam puppets in DT. The Year 2 team have also loved seeing some of the amazing puppets, drawings and other work that the children have produced at home. Well done Year 2 and we hope you have a good half term break.



## Year 3 News

This has been a brief yet busy half term in Year 3. Our topic for most of the term has been North America. We looked at the physical geography of North American countries and explored the differences between selected states in the USA. We then wrote a wonderful narrative inspired by a Native American myth - *The Crow's Tale*.

Anderson Baptist Church welcomed us for an engaging session about miracles. RE Inspired, a local charity, spoke to us about miracles, shared some stories and we completed fun craft activities. All the adults in Year 3 were incredibly impressed with the way that the children conducted themselves on the walk there and then whilst in the church. It was a great afternoon out!

During nutritional learning we designed and made pizza faces. In the kitchen, we used our knowledge of cooking preparation and kitchen safety to make our pizzas. Back in the classroom, we then designed and made our pizza box. We tried to include a catchy name, the ingredients we used and a food label.



Giant ball runs, was the focus of outdoor learning this term. We spent time working as a team, to use given resources to create a giant ball run. This activity really helped our problem-solving skills, and our ability to use trial and error and evaluation to complete a practical challenge. We used lots of different resources such as tubes and crates to build our life-size ball run.



## Year 4 Spring Newsletter

### Spring 1



Hello to all Parents and Carers of Year 4 children. We hope this finds you warm, well and looking forward to the school break. As always, as we come to the end of a term, myself and the Year 4 team have been reflecting on all the hard-work the children have done and the wide range of projects and tasks they have successfully completed, both in class and at home.



One of our most popular units of work this term has been studying rainforests for geography. Not only have the children produced some fabulous formal, persuasive letters to our local MP advocating for greater efforts to stop deforestation but, in their own time, they also made paintings, models and sculptures depicting a rainforest scene. These were so good that we were able to hold a little exhibition, with Mr Howell paying a visit to see all the incredible work. Moreover, Year 3 also popped in for a visit, to take inspiration from Year 4's efforts. We apologise for being unable to invite all of you but sadly room requirements meant the exhibition was only up for a few hours. Hopefully these pictures at least give you a taste of the work.



In fact, this term has really given the children the chance to express their creativity. In art we have been making collages of animals based on the work of Megan Coyle. Once again, we have tried to link these to our rainforest studies by focussing on endangered species. Hopefully, we'll be able to show a few of the completed works in next term's newsletter (they are still awaiting the finishing touches as I write!).



A further challenge to the children's design skills has come in the form of DT lessons on building dolls' houses. These are all planned, resources have arrived (many thanks for your help with this) and we are now all set to build. Showing real aspiration, however, Freya in Fox class has already completed her (first) house. It is so good that we thought it should be shared with everyone. Well done Freya.



Wishing you all a happy week and we look forward to welcoming all the children back very soon.

Richard Watson and the Year 4 team

## Year 5 News

This term seems to have flown by and we are fast approaching the mid-point in the school year. 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.

So, what have been the highlights of this term? Earth and Space has definitely been a favourite of the children and adults alike. To compliment our learning, we were lucky enough to visit Winchester Science Centre Planetarium. As well as taking part in interesting and hands on workshops, pupils also flew through the stars in the Planetarium itself and then had their own time to explore the interactive areas of the facility. Here are a few images of the day.



In geography, the children have been learning about Europe, and focusing on the Mediterranean. They used their knowledge to write an engaging diary of a holiday in Greece.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown your children and the team here at Alfred Sutton. We firmly believe that the children are a huge credit to you and that their successes are only achievable through our combined efforts.

Have a great holiday,

The Year 5 team

In the words of Year 6...

### Spring Term 1 Year 6

#### Introduction

This has been an exciting and rewarding term for all of us in Year 6. There have been many ups and occasional downs but we have, as a year group, shown aspiration and resilience in chasing our targets. We have been grateful for the guidance of our teachers as we have navigated the challenges this term has brought for us.

#### Growing up

The final year at primary school is a really important experience for all children. It presents us with our final chance to mature and prepare for the next stage of our education at secondary school. We feel we have grown up a great deal already this year and are well on our way to being ready for next year. We are constantly learning more about ourselves and we are increasingly able to deal with the emotional challenges that come with turning into young adults.

We have been supported by the school in furthering our understanding of the dangers and pitfalls of social media; hopefully, lessons are being learnt by those people that have made initial mistakes with this. All of us are clear on the need to report anything we see that concerns us to a responsible adult, such as a parent or teacher.

#### Trips and visits

The excursions that members of Year 6 have participated in this term have been varied and exciting.

This has included a large group of children getting the chance to perform at the O2 Arena in London in a national school choirs celebration. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone fortunate enough to go and was a fitting celebration of the hard work and hours of practice that all of the pupils had put in. It felt like being a pop-star for an evening!

At the Anderson Baptist Church, the entire year group learnt more about what Christians believe about death and dealing with grief. It was a fun, interactive learning experience and allowed us to be creative and inquisitive as we furthered our understanding of this most sensitive of life experiences.

#### Our achievements

Throughout the term, we have continued to work hard as we gear ourselves up for our end of key stage assessments (SATs) whilst also deepening our knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. We have learnt a great deal about the biology of animals and how this compares to ourselves, as well as how we can impact our own health through the dietary choices we make. More recently, we have begun to explore the fascinating continent of North America in geography. Did you know that there are 50 states in the USA and that every single one of them has a state flower and a state bird?!

#### House matters

Our school is split into four houses: Honour, Hope, Joy and Peace. At the end of each term, we come together to celebrate the house that has earned the most points. House points are earned through excellent effort and attainment in work and by demonstrating our thorough understanding of both the Sutton Six Values and British Values in the way that we behave around school.

This term saw the introduction of House Days, when we can get together with the children in the same house as us to work on house projects. It was really fun to work with different children and to share the pride we feel in representing our houses. We created banners for our houses and we are really excited about having further opportunities to do house-based activities throughout the year.

#### Sutton Six

Our school values remain at the heart of everything we do. This term has seen us celebrate the children who exemplified the value of Resilience last term whilst our focus has been on the value of the term this time around; Aspiration. We feel that Year 6 have shown an incredible amount of aspiration as a year group this term, aiming high and doing everything possible to be the best that we can be.

#### Jobs and clubs

As always, Year 6 pupils have taken a full and active part in school life, through their participation in clubs and their enthusiastic performing of many tasks and jobs in both formal and informal ways around the school.

The litter-pickers have continued to help to take care of the school by spotting rubbish with their eagle-eyes at lunchtime, greatly contributing to the clean and attractive environment we are so proud to enjoy.

Wellbeing Ambassadors help to look after the children in Key Stage 1, playing games and providing them with some guidance over good choices in the playground. They work on a rota but many of the ambassadors enjoy their responsibilities so much that they continue to turn up every day! Other members of Year 6 enthusiastically seek responsibility and are always happy to help whenever they are asked to; as a year group, we are proud of ourselves for being so caring and responsible.

### Looking ahead

There are still lots of exciting opportunities for us to explore and experience in Year 6, before we depart Alfred Sutton for our secondary schools in July!

Many of us are particularly excited about going on the residential trip at the end of June and beginning of July. For many children, it will be the first time they have spent any time away from home and there are going to be a great variety of fun but challenging activities to conquer! The children that are not going on the residential will be doing lots of interesting things in and around school so that should be a real highlight of the year for everyone! We are also all looking forward to all of us going to the cinema for our end of year trip.

Of course, we also still have SATs to come but while many people dread them, we generally are looking forward to having the chance to really show what we can do!

Finally, we will be working on our leaving assembly in the summer term. This will be our chance to put on a great performance for everyone at the school and to say goodbye...

But we are not there yet and we still have so much time to enjoy here! See you next term!





## Celebrating Success



Hello, my name is Vlad and I am writing in the newsletter this term about my success with Chess. I have been to 3 Chess tournaments in Berkshire where I earned a bronze and silver medal- and I have recently been selected to play for our county at a country wide match. I started playing Chess when I was 4 years old and I go to Miss House's Chess club which is an amazing club. Chess club lets you socialise with other children over a good game of Chess. We also play chess competitively with chess timers or we can play a friendly game with no pressure. I love it! If you would like to join, you can sign up for the Summer term.

## PTA News

### PTA News



The PTA held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1 Feb 2024 . The AGM was very well attended with over 20 members of the school community (staff and parents) represented. Thank you to all who came along.

At the meeting a new committee was successfully elected:

Chair: Neil Jones

Vice Chair: Lorna Collison

Secretary: Jenny Mussett

Treasurer: Jana Oslej

We also successfully recruited 5 new members to the PTA so a big welcome to all our new parent members.

A huge thank you to Gail Jones who handed over the role of Chair. Thank you for your time, commitment and leadership to the role.

We look forward to bringing you all some enriching and exciting events in 2024!

ASPS PTA



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