



Dear Parents and Carers,

Exciting Easter Projects at Alfred Sutton!

Thank you so much for your support again during the Spring Term. The children have once again enjoyed a very busy term and have been working exceptionally hard. While the children are enjoying a well-earned Easter break, there's a flurry of exciting activity taking place behind the scenes here at Alfred Sutton.

First up, our **roof replacement project** will be getting properly underway. When we return on **Monday 22 April**, please note that the **gate nearest the UTC will be closed** for the duration of the works. We appreciate this may cause some inconvenience, particularly for families with wheelchairs or buggies, but the closure is essential to ensure everyone's safety while the work is in progress.

At the same time, we'll also be starting work on the **car park barrier system**. If you are a **Blue Badge holder** and haven't yet provided your details, please email us at admin@alfredsutton.reading.sch.uk to ensure continued access after the break.

Perhaps most excitingly however, thanks to a sizeable donation from our incredible PTA, brand new **play equipment** will be installed on the back playground!

This is a fantastic addition we can't wait for the children to enjoy after Easter. Just a quick reminder: if your child uses the play equipment before or after school, it is your responsibility to ensure they are adequately supervised.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone back after the break and hope you'll love the changes as we do!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Howell'.

Robert Howell
Headteacher



Nursery News

What a busy term! This term we have been talking about 'People Who Help Us'. We started our topic by reading the traditional tale of *The Three Little Pigs* and introducing the job of the construction workers. We also used story maps to help us retell the story. Then we used the book *Dig, Dig, Digging* to learn how community vehicles help us, such as diggers, rescue helicopters and lorries. The week after we introduced the *Little Workmates* book series and focused on police officers and firefighters. The focus then was moved to doctors and nurses and all children enjoyed role playing those characters. We also had **World Book Day** and dressed up as our favourite characters from different stories. On **Red Nose Day** we learned that by dressing up in bright colours and donating money, we can help children who are less fortunate than us.

Children also created beautiful rose cards for Mother's Day and to thank them for all they do for us. We looked more at the season of Spring and painted beautiful daffodils. We also planted lettuce, radish, courgettes and beans in our garden and are looking forward to seeing them grow! We learned about the Christian festival of **Easter** and the Muslim festival of **Eid**. We read the story of *Webster J Duck*, about a little duckling who hatches out of his egg and then goes looking for his Mum. We had lots of fun making chocolate eggs nests and made repeating patterns using eggs and other shapes for maths.



WOW, what a busy term we have had in Daffodil class!

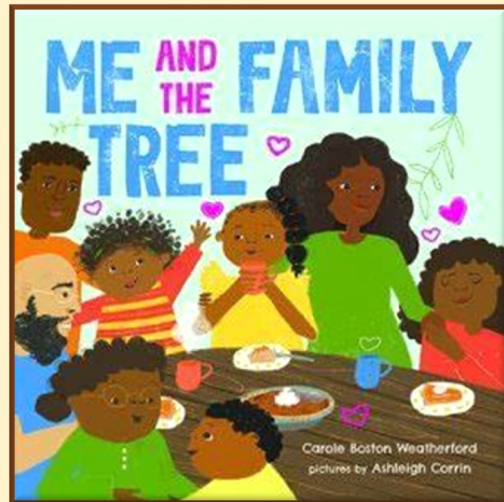
Our core text has been *We're going on a bear hunt* by Michael Rosen. We enjoyed learning the story through sensory experiences. Some children remember repeating phrases and actions from the story and joined in at each carpet time. We have also enjoyed reading *Me and the family tree* by Carole Boston Weatherford, encouraging children to talk about members of their own family and identify their different features.

In Maths this term we have continued to practise our rote counting, numeral recognition and understanding quantity. We have also been working on understanding length (keywords: long and short) and creating repeating patterns.

Each day the children have practised their fine motor skills to develop their grip and pencil control. We have also enjoyed our bucket times, experiencing lots of fun sensory activities like playing with slime, shaking flour and making shaving foam go splat!

This term we have learnt about so many different celebrations. The children enjoyed a yummy pancake snack for **Shrove Tuesday**. We read our favourite books on world book day. The children had a colour party and special gulab jamun snack to celebrate **Holi**. We created beautiful handprint cards for Mother's Day. Our children have made cards and lanterns for **Eid**. Finally, we had an egg hunt in our garden to celebrate **Easter**.

As days have become warmer our children have enjoyed playing in the garden more, exploring our sand and water trays as well as riding our bikes and cars. We have developed our gross motor skills by doing lots of climbing on our climbing frames and running around playing chase!



Reception News

What a busy term we have had! The children have been enjoying our topic- 'Come Outside!' Our core texts this term have been: *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. We have been using story maps and actions to remember our stories. The children have been doing some superb writing, including writing the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. They are getting good at using their 'Fred fingers' to pinch the words that they want to write.

We have also been learning about plants and how they grow. The children planted their own beans and have enjoyed watching the different stages of growth in the classroom. We have also been observing seasonal changes in our garden. The children have enjoyed seeing flowers sprouting and blooming. We have also been talking about how we can care for our planet by recycling. The children in Reception looked amazing on **World book day!** It was so lovely to see everybody dressed up as their favourite storybook characters. The Reception staff all read their favourite books to the children.

In Maths we have been revisiting concepts that we have already learnt. The children have been working hard. We have revisited length and height, using the vocabulary 'long, short and tall'. We have also been mastering our knowledge of numbers to 10, comparing the different numbers using the vocabulary 'fewer, more than and same'.

The children created some wonderful beanstalk collages inspired by the *Jack and the Beanstalk* story.

Have a lovely Half-Term break!

- The Reception Team



Year 1 News

Year 1 have had another exciting term of learning.

In Writing, the children have been reading *The Girl and the Dinosaur* by Hollie Hughes and Sarah Massini. The children have enjoyed engaging in activities around this book. They planned and wrote their own narratives inspired by the narrative structure. We have been really impressed with the enthusiasm the children have shown towards their writing. The children then designed front covers for their story.

In Science, the children have been learning about 'everyday materials'. They have learnt about the properties of materials and why different materials are used for different purposes. The children enjoyed carrying out an investigation to see what material would be best suited to make an umbrella for the class teddy.

In Geography, the children have been learning all about the countries in the United Kingdom. Your child has learnt about the capital cities of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and identified physical and human features of these locations.

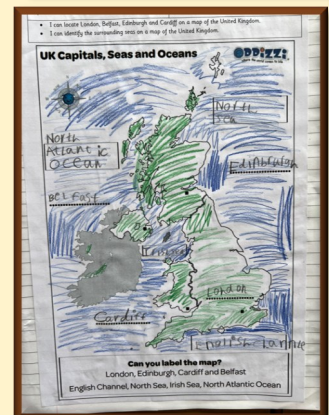
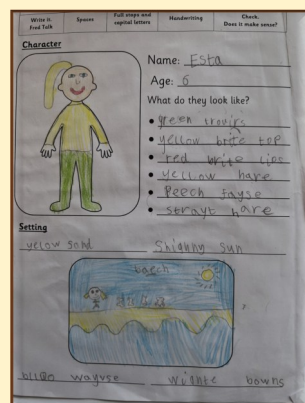
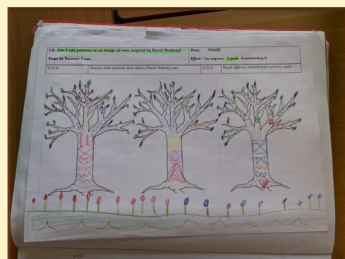
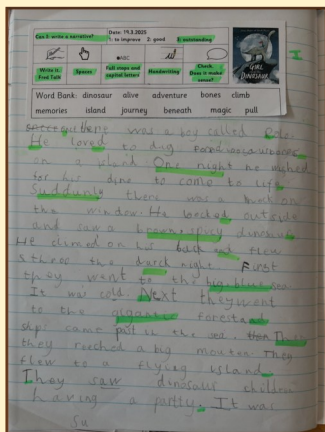
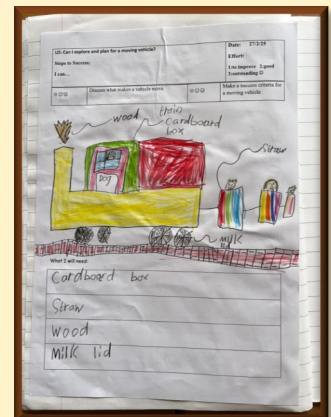
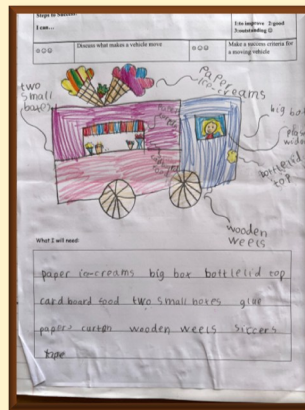
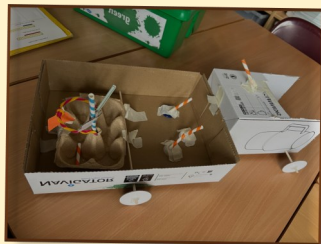
In History, the children have been learning about 'Dinosaurs and Fossils'. They have learnt about Mary Anning and the importance of her discoveries. They completed a timeline of the key events in Mary Anning's life. They also discussed the difference between fossil hunting in the past and present.

In Art, the children have been looking at the work of David Hockney. The children have explored pattern and how Hockney uses this in his work to add detail and to create a more abstract effect. The children practised pattern and then used their skills to create their own art inspired by David Hockney.

In DT, the children enjoyed participating in this term's DT Day making moving vehicles. The children carefully planned their ideas and then spent the day using recycling to bring their ideas to life! The children thoroughly enjoyed DT Day and are already looking forward to next term's topic.

We are really proud of all that the children have achieved this term. We hope they have a lovely break and we are looking forward to welcoming them back in the Summer Term.

The Year 1 Team



Year 2 News

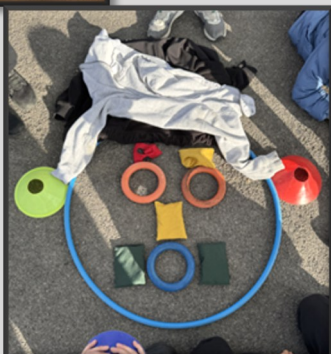
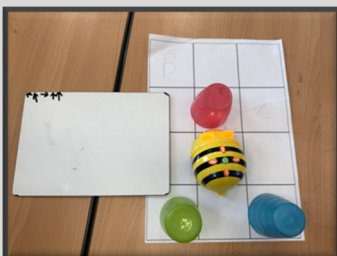
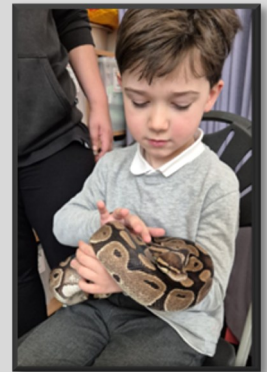
It's been a very busy term in Year 2! Miss Ahmed, Mr Chan and Mr Higgs have been very impressed with how hard all Year 2 children have worked in all their subjects. We have even had three school trips or visits to support our learning this term and the teachers would like to congratulate all the children on their excellent learning and behaviour.

January was off to a squirming start with our reptile visit, which supported our science topic of Animals Including Humans. Tom, the owner of Tom's Reptiles, brought in all sorts of reptiles for us to learn about and hold. We were also lucky enough to meet some insects, which were described by the children as having "Sticky feet!"

In maths, we have focused a lot this term on multiplication and division. In the past few weeks, we have moved on to measurement – length, mass and volume.

In writing, we have recently focused on our history topic of the monarchy and geography topic of London. We used lovely books such as *The Queen's Hat* by Steve Antony and *Katie in London* by James Mayhew to not only learn about our topics but to do beautiful descriptive and narrative writing.

Our recent trip to Windsor Castle was a huge success! The children were excited to visit a real castle, and they hoped to say hello to King Charles III. While his standard was flying, we sadly weren't able to see him, but we had an exciting day. We toured the grounds, seeing guards on patrol, the church where Queen Elizabeth II is buried, the famous doll's house and the stunning rooms in the keep. While there, we also learnt about castles, why they were built, how they could defend against attackers and we even besieged one!



In the wider curriculum, Year 2 have learnt about algorithms in computing by programming their own Beebots to complete a set of tasks. In PE we have been developing teamwork and problem solving in outdoor adventurous activities. We got to visit the local church as part of our RE topic on Easter, and the children were described as "Eager, well-behaved and polite" by the volunteers there, so well-done Year 2 for representing Alfred Sutton so well! Excitingly, we get to finish off our D&T 'Nutritional Learning' topic in the final week of term by creating a yoghurt pot that the children designed themselves. A great end to a fantastic term. We would like to wish all of Year 2 a well-earned rest and we look forward to seeing you all next term!

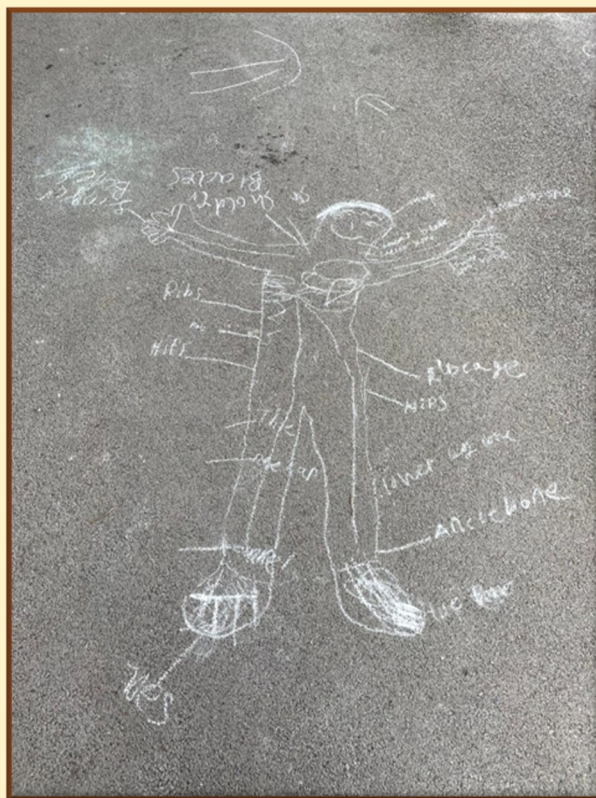
Well done Year 3 for all your hard work this term!

Thank you to the parents and carers for helping so many children make great progress in learning their times tables using 'Times Table Rock Stars' and also with encouraging their reading by reading daily at home.

In school, the children have been continuing to practise hard at their written methods for the four operations; essential skills for then going on to problem solving.

Our work in English has been inspired by *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman and has led to children producing some beautiful firework descriptions as well as some thoughtful writing in role as characters from the story. Well done for hard work in also practising handwriting skills.

In our science topic on ‘Animals including Humans’, the children have been learning about the different types of skeletons different animals have and how they support functions of the body.



Learning about the different parts of the skeleton



Outdoor learning making a hedgehog artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy

It has been Rabbit class's turn for swimming lessons and all children have done really well at improving their water confidence and skills.

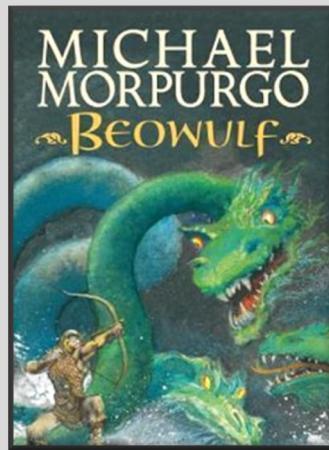
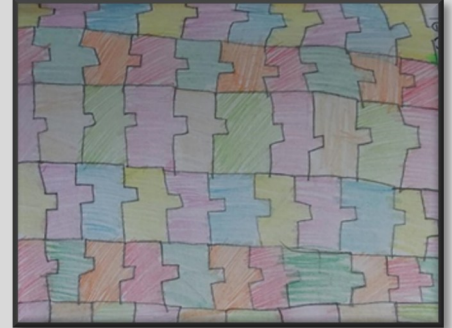
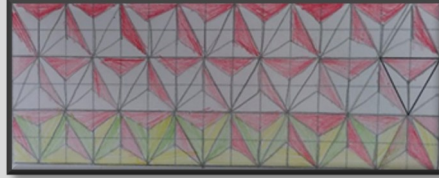
The children have also been learning about North America in geography and finding out about some of the countries, climate and features of this region. Some of the children's creative work this term has included learning how to make music using the computer program 'Scratch', which is freely available at home so they may be able to show you what they have done! The children have also been looking forward to making their models of modern houses at the end of this term in DT.

We hope all the children have a good break and look forward to seeing them back in the summer term, when we will also start our new history topic on Ancient Greece.

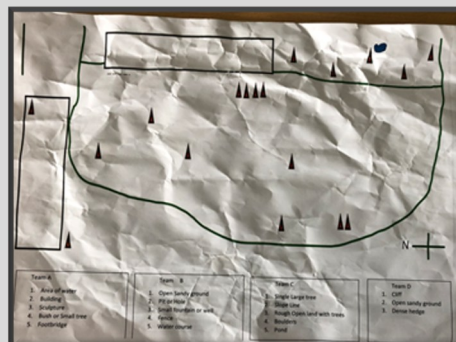
Best wishes from the Year 3 team

Year 4 News

This term has been as diverse as ever, with regards our learning. Topics studied have ranged from the Anglo-Saxons in History, to states of matter in Science, from Beowulf in English to the tessellation work of M. S. Escher in Art. Mixed in with that, we have also thoroughly enjoyed events like Red Nose and World Book Day – we teachers love any chance to dress up! Below are some of our amazing tessellations and interpretations of Grendel – the monster from the book Beowulf.



In PE as an introduction to orienteering, the children have been set challenges which have required collaborative, problem solving skills. Badger, Fox and Otter classes have all shown the ability to work as a team, listen to each other's ideas and support one another when things have not worked out. Equally important, we have been pleased to see children thinking about this term's core value of responsibility and recognising that blaming others when things do not work does not move them any closer to finding solutions to the problems set.



In our final week this term, we shall be making catapults in DT! At the time of writing, these have not yet been made but look forward to your child bringing their creations home!

Finally, the whole Year 4 team wish you all a relaxing break.

Year 5 News

So, we reach another term which seems to have sailed by and we have now passed the mid-point in the school year. The year 5 teachers have had the pleasure of meeting most of you at parents' evening and telling you how hard your children have been working this term. Hopefully, you were able to come to one of our open mornings and open afternoons to take a look at all the work your children have been doing in class. The children of Year 5 have shown themselves to be hard-working, respectful and aspirational. The effort they all put into their work reflects their 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? The children have enjoyed building upon their historical knowledge of the next phase of British history after the Romans left Britain and the Anglo-Saxons established themselves. They can now tell you about fresh invaders who, in turn, came to threaten the Anglo-Saxons power-base in the form of the Vikings. Just when we thought they might get on together the Battle of Hastings comes along and turns everything upside down again. What a cliff-hanger to end on. Perhaps some pupils will research what happened when the Normans took over!

Pupils really enjoyed World Book day and many took the opportunity to come dressed as their favourite characters and/or bring in their favourite books. As part of celebrating the love of reading, pupils in Year 5 had the opportunity to meet the author Jennifer Bell who, in a very interactive session, discussed her Magicalia series of fantasy stories.

A group of enthusiastic Year 5 children represented our school at an interschool hockey tournament at Leighton Park. They showcased impressive skill, determination, and teamwork, growing in confidence with each game. Their resilience led them to the final, where they played an intense match that ended in a dramatic penalty shootout. Although they narrowly missed victory, their performance was outstanding. We are extremely proud of their commitment and sportsmanship and look forward to their future sporting achievements – well done,



The year 5 Hockey team

Also, a very large numbers of pupils took part in this term's Bikeability Scheme and it is great to see that they are keen to learn this important and fun skill and to exercise it safely.

After such a busy and full term, we hope you and your families have a relaxing holiday. Although we hope the children will still find the time to read regularly, learn their times tables and do the holiday homework that has been sent home.

Best wishes from the Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News (in the words of Year 6)

Introduction

This term, Year 6 have been aspiring to learn, working through past tests, (tricky but not overpowering) homework and lots of revision. This is not surprising, judging that we have only a few weeks until the SATs (holiday not included). This is just a small display of the ground-breaking hard work put in by our teachers, fellow classmates, and Year 6 as a whole.

The following pieces were written and edited together by various children in Year 6. Enjoy.

Maths

This term, Year 6 have mainly been resiliently revising for our upcoming SATs. In maths especially, the whole year has been displaying hard work and determination. We have proved that we are capable of producing only the top marks: recent assessments show this. Currently, we are ironing out the unnecessary mistakes as we master the reasoning and arithmetic questions that are thrown at us. Our attitude in maths goes hand in hand with one of our core values, as Year 6 pupils have stepped up, taking responsibility in their learning. Time is of the essence as SATs are only a couple of weeks away. However, our preparation has been impressive enough for us to confidently say, that there is lots of potential for high academic scores.

Our perseverance comes from the saying: 'Fail to prepare - Prepare to fail'

Reading

Reading is one of the subjects we will be tested on in our SATs. This term the children of Y6 have just been progressing to getting top marks in the assessments. Near the start of this term we had been working on 2 and 3 mark questions. However, we have now shifted our focus in mastering poems and word structure questions. In conclusion our raw understanding of the texts we have worked on is really what has been tested this successful term in reading.

P.E.

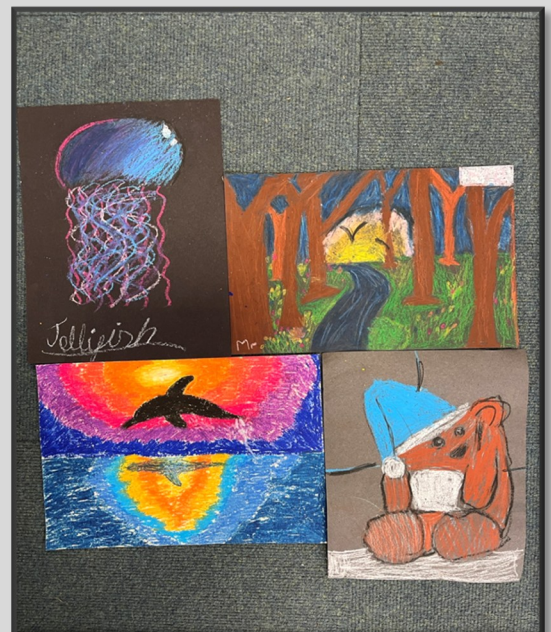
However, our exercise has not only been mental. We have been playing matches of Football and Dodgeball in PE. Learning to keep our heart beating and having fun is a great boost to our mental health. When we come back, we are incredibly exhilarated, tired, sweaty (and often quite odorous).

DT

However, we have not only written with our hands; We have also been working on Art and Craft this term. In DT, we have been studying architecture, focusing on drawbridges. We have built a medieval castle, with a working drawbridge you can actually operate with string. Children have also been allowed to add their own ideas, such as one group did, building a working cannon from just cardboard and string!

Art

Art is a subject that has always been enjoyed by our year throughout our time in Alfred Sutton Art is a subject that has always been enjoyed by our year throughout our time in Alfred Sutton Primary School. However, it has only increased in enjoyment. Currently we have been studying mixed media art. Our most recent piece of work was creating a beautiful background to go with our final forest piece. Already most of the pupils have produced gorgeous pictures using paint, string, cardboard and more. Additionally, we are on our final piece of this amazing project as all we have left is sticking on the trees and adding our final vital pieces. However, some of us have also joined an art club, as part of our extra-curricular activities. Led by Miss Tait, we have made several stunning artworks, inspired by each child's creative vision. Here are some of the artworks:



History

It can be said that Year 6 have been fascinated by our topic in history. Near to the beginning of the term, we were learning about the tragic events of the Holocaust. This was the unfortunate persecution of millions of Jews as well as gay people, Roman gypsies, Polish people and political opposition. All of this suffering was due to the orders carried out by the ruthless leader of the Nazis, Adolf Hitler. Many children of Y6 were shocked, but we knew we could not forget the lives of the innocent that had lost their lives in this genocide.

Kindertransport

Shortly after we shifted our focus to Kindertransport, which was when thousands of children were separated from their parents. At times this was a cruel experience. However, it was for the greater good. It was declared by the British Government to protect the precious future of their nation. It was not all in Britain as trains full of children who were in danger from the Nazis would be rescued and brought to countries where it was much safer.

A Word About The SATs

When Y6 began there was a rush of excitement as we were the top of the school and role models for the rest of Alfred Sutton. However, one thing was on our minds... The SATs. These were the exams we would be doing at the end of the year, the same ones the government had ordered all the schools across the countries to use. 3 elements would make up these exams, those being Maths, Reading and Grammar.

Ever since the start of this year of success, children were nervous or excited wanting to be over with these special assessments. Clearly, we were not ready, leading to us working through all the topics of the subjects as we were working on up until this point. Many other tests have come our way, which we have only got better at. One thing the entire year has shown is determination. Every child had that competitiveness inside them as they only wanted to get better. Due to this positive progression, Y6 have adapted that confidence to ace the upcoming exams. After we arrive back from our (much needed) holidays only 3 weeks remain. In those weeks, we will learn from every single mistake as we will not let anything hinder our scores or our precious potential.

Our Teachers, From The View of A Student

None of this would be possible, however, if not for our teachers. Miss Hussain, Dakovic and Miles, along with Miss Lawson, Tait, Lopez, Batty, Nair, Alami and Lone (Sorry if we missed anyone, you included), thank you so much for helping our minds grow, and our inspiration. Thank you for organising events for us to enjoy, so selflessly. Thank you for helping us with our SATs. Thank you for teaching us in our final year at Alfred Sutton.

Conclusion

Thank you for reading! I hope you have enjoyed all the hard work poured into these last few newsletters, for I believe it has certainly resulted in something fantastic. Thank you and Goodbye!

International Fair – May 10th (12–2 PM)

We're excited for our upcoming International Fair on Friday, May 10th, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM! We would love to see you there!

To make this event as diverse and vibrant as possible, we need more countries to participate. If you'd like to represent a country, follow the link as soon as possible to get involved: <https://forms.office.com/e/YkJJgnfHkV>

Get in touch: pta@alfredsutton.reading.sch.uk

Urgent: PTA Treasurer Needed!

We are in desperate need of a new PTA Treasurer. The role includes:

- ◆ Presenting financial updates at meetings
- ◆ Maintaining accurate records
- ◆ Enforcing financial procedures (e.g., cheque signatories)
- ◆ Overseeing purchasing & cash management

We will provide a shadowing period with the current treasurer and ongoing support. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please reach out!

New Playground Coming Soon!

Thanks to the incredible support of parents across the school the PTA have been able to hand over a cheque for £12,500 for brand-new play equipment. This will be installed over the Easter break in the KS2 playground!



Thank you to everyone who has contributed — we can't wait to see the children enjoy their new play space!