



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your incredible support. Your presence at school events has truly made this season feel festive and family-oriented, despite the challenges we've faced with limited space due to the ongoing roofing works.

A special thank you goes to our wonderful PTA for organising such a lovely outdoor Christmas Fair. This event was only possible because of the generous donations and enthusiastic participation from our families—your contributions made it a real highlight of the term.

We also appreciate your support in enabling our classes to enjoy trips during this busy period, including the much-loved visit to the pantomime. These experiences mean so much to the children and wouldn't be possible without your help.

Thank you as well for taking the time to complete our parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable, and we'll share in the new year how we plan to act on your suggestions. One point we'd like to acknowledge immediately is the mixed response to online parents' evenings. Many families found the online format convenient, while others prefer face-to-face meetings. This term, building work left us no choice but to hold sessions online, but moving forward, we aim to offer both options—one online and one in person—so you can choose what works best for your family.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and for helping us make this term so special. Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a happy new year!

Warm regards,

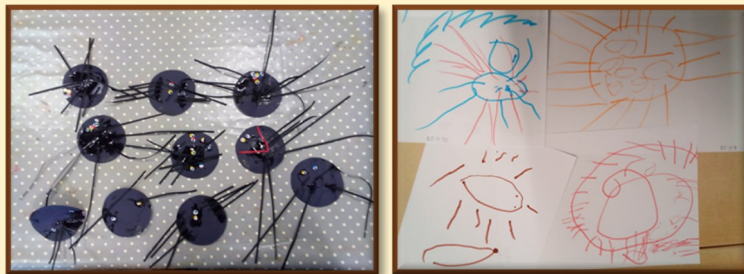
Laura Kerr

Headteacher

Nursery News

This term we have had a woodland and autumn theme in Nursery. We began with two brilliant spider stories: **Aaaarrgh, Spider!** about a spider who really wanted to be a family's pet, and **Whoosh! Walter's Wonderful Web**, about a spider who spins webs of different shapes as he tries to spin a perfect web. The children joined in brilliantly with the repeated refrains in the stories. We had fun making and drawing spiders of our own as we practised our mark making skills by drawing lots of lines and circles. We also learnt the rhyme '**Incy Wincy Spider**' and found out more about the shapes Walter used for his webs. We then moved deeper into the woods with a focus on the story of **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. We followed Daddy Bear's recipe to make porridge of our own, which lots of children found tasty with a sprinkle of brown sugar. We found out about woodland animals that the bears may have spotted on their walk. We planted daffodil bulbs ready for the spring and thought about how they will grow. We used our counting skills to count how many items the bears had in their house and learnt the song '**When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears**'. Next we focused on the story of **The Gingerbread Man**. It was great fun making gingerbread men of our own and acting out the story with props. Recently we have been busy practising our singing and instrument playing for our Winter Singalong, which we are excited to be performing for our families.

We hope all our families have a relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.



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*. We then moved onto **Zog** by Julia Donaldson. We used colourful semantics to build the story using sentences and acted it out with roars, flying wings and swash buckling swords. We also talked about how *Princess Pearl* helped the Zog when he was hurt. We finished our term with **Stickman**, another tale by Julia Donaldson and mapped out Stickman's journey to get back to his family home.



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 been learning to hear and write the initial sounds in words and some are using '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 not 4 sides and exploring the concept of zero, the absence of an amount.

In the wider curriculum, we have really enjoyed our PSHE (learning strategies to share) RE (Giving and Receiving, saying Thank You and the festival of Christmas, Drama (using our core books to express ourselves through movement and sound) and PE (Dance) For *Understanding of the World*, we also really enjoyed talking about places that are nearby and places that are far away and had lots of experiences to share with their friends. Alongside all of this planned learning, the children have daily free choosing opportunities where they can choose what to do, where to play and who to play with. These free play sessions are essential for a young child's development, and it is wonderful to see them being actively engaged, motivated and creative when they are following their own learning. We would like to wish you a restful Winter break and we look forward to hearing all the holiday news in January.

News from Daffodil Class

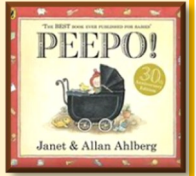
Wow, what a busy term we have had!

Literacy

In phonics this term, our core sounds have been n, p, g, o, c, k, u

Our core text this term has been **Peepo!**. We have been working hard learning the text and describing the images in the story. The children have begun to learn the difference between old and new, playing with toys from different time periods. We have also been using the text to develop observational awareness of our own surroundings, playing I-spy and describing what we can see and hear within school and in a range of images.

We have also revisited some traditional tales such as: **Gingerbread Man, The three little pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. The children have been exploring objects related to the stories, drawing from their own understanding to play with the resources and retell the stories using words and visuals.



Maths

In maths this term, our core numbers have been: 7, 8, 9, 10, 1, 2, 3

We have also focussed on numeral recognition, 1:1 correspondence and matching. We have continued to do lots of organising and sorting numerals to further build foundational maths skills.

We have also continued to learn positional language for 'on' 'in' and 'under' to help support our communication skills. Building upon this, we have also introduced 'next to' and 'in-between'.

Music and PE

In Music and PE this term we have continued to focus on turn taking with adult support. The children have been using symbols for 'my turn' and 'wait' to help develop independent turn taking skills whilst playing instruments or completing PE activities. We have also continued to practise our 'stop' and 'go' skills with visual support. This term, we introduced the children to following musical patterns and physical movement.



Wider Curriculum

As the weather has changed from sunny to cold and wet, we have continued to discuss the seasonal changes. The children enjoyed witnessing the first glimpses of snow and ice in our outside environment relating to the season of winter. We have also discussed and designed seasonal clothing. As part of understanding beliefs and celebrations, the children have had lots of fun decorating seasonal and Christmas items for our classroom environment. We have also explored how we all partake in different celebrations and that we are all different- linking to our school's foundation this term of Diversity.

Interventions

Our core words this term have been: more/ again, finished, stop, go, wait, my turn

As always, the children have been enjoying several different 1:1 and small group interventions to cater to their developing needs. We have been enjoying the Attention Autism Bucket Game (focus and attention), Colourful semantics (Communication and Language), Blank Levels of Questioning (Developing Understanding), Core Word Programme (Developing word use) and Fine Motor practise.

We have also seen great success in using Widgit symbols as a way of alternative communication for our limited communication and non-verbal children.

A big thank you!

This term, we have seen the arrival and use of our brand-new sensory nook. This has been made possible due to parent contributions last year during school events, support from our amazing PTA and a generous grant from the Morrisons Foundation.

The Nook provides such important support to our learners with additional sensory needs. The children have been using the Nook daily to regulate their needs and emotions all whilst enjoying the different features that the Nook has to offer. Our children have been so excited to explore the different lights, sounds and textures within the Nook. The light up tube and infinity mirror have fast become children's favourites! The Nook is an amazing addition to our class and brings us all such joy!

Well done for a fantastic second term and a brilliant first third of the academic year!



Year 1 News

Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn 2

We have had another exciting half term in Year 1!

In Writing, we have been reading **'The Bear and the Piano'** by David Litchfield. The children thoroughly enjoyed this book and engaged well with our writing activities. We continued to develop our understanding of sentence structure and the children produced some fantastic narrative pieces. We were very impressed by how much progress the children are making!

In Science, we have explored the seasons, focussing on Autumn. We have looked at different weather changes in Autumn and have investigated different signs of Autumn in the playground. We then compared how Autumn is different to other seasons. The children were able to identify differences between the seasons.

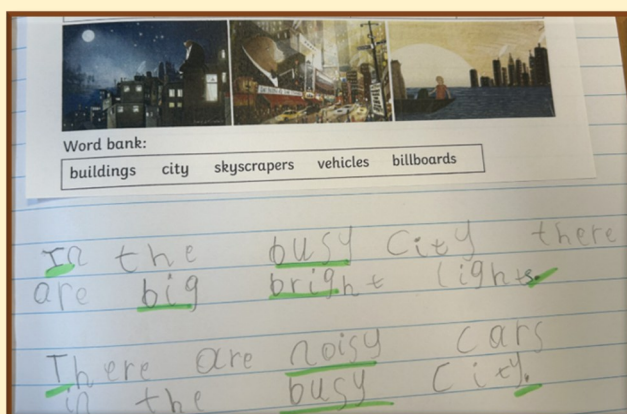
In Art, we have been looking at the work of Pablo Picasso. The children have learnt all about Picasso's abstract style and how he used various shapes in his art work. The children practised using shapes to create images before creating their own self portraits in the style of Picasso. We were so impressed with the beautiful artwork the children produced!

In Geography, we have been learning about maps. The children have explored different types of maps as well as various symbols we may find on a map. We then created our own maps of Alfred Sutton's playground.

The children have immersed themselves into school life in Year 1. They particularly enjoyed our pyjama day for Children in Need! The children were incredibly generous with their donations and spoke brilliantly about the importance of helping others. We have also been very impressed by how quickly the children have embodied our new core values of Inclusivity, Diversity and Aspiration.

The children have had another amazing term in Year 1. We have been so impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to their learning. We are very proud! We wish them a restful break and are looking forwards to welcoming them back in the Spring term.

Miss Wright, Mrs McKenna and Miss Clarke



Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a brilliant term and worked hard in all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have written our own versions of '**The Robot and The Bluebird**' by David Lucas, creating our own characters and settings. We then researched bluebirds and wrote non-chronological reports. We have also looked at lots of books in our reading sessions, including The Polar Express, The Snowman and The Emperor's Egg.

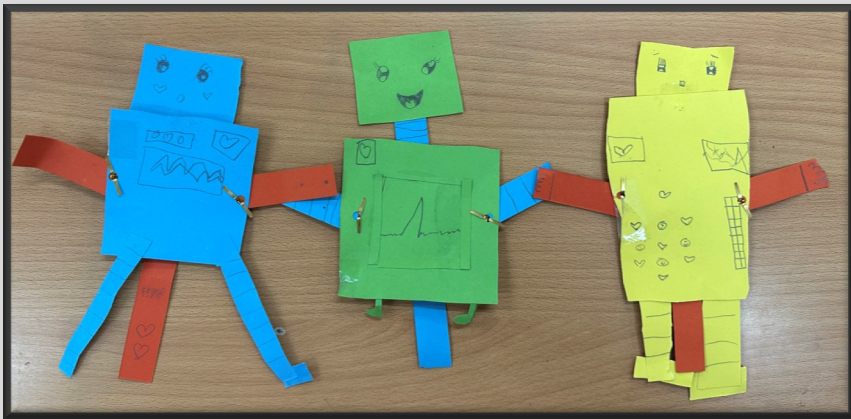
In Maths, we have continued our topic on place value and have been adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers. The children are beginning to master the column method with an exchange!

In Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We have looked at how animals adapt to different habitats. We have studied a woodland microhabitat and learnt about important life processes.

In History, we have been interested to learn about the *Three B's of Reading* - beer, bulbs and biscuits. The children acted out a timeline of the key events, used different sources to learn what life was like working in the factories and created adverts for Huntley and Palmers biscuits.

In DT, we made robots that have a lever, a pivot and a linkage. The children had great fun doing this and the robots look fantastic. In Art, we have learnt about David Hockney and painted our own pieces inspired by his work.

We wish you all a good break and look forward to seeing you in January.



Year 3 News

Year 3 – Celebrating a Fantastic Term!

What an amazing term we've had in Year 3! The children have truly shone, impressing every adult with their enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements!

As we write this, the children are putting the finishing touches on their spectacular performance of *Jack Frost*. We can't wait to see you all there and share in the magic! These experiences have sparked imagination and teamwork in the most wonderful ways! The excitement doesn't stop there – our annual trip to the Hexagon for the Beauty and the Beast pantomime promises laughter, wonder, and unforgettable memories.



Squirrel class deserves a huge cheer for completing their swimming lessons at Palmer Park! Their polite manners and swimming skills wowed the staff – what a fantastic accomplishment!



Back in the classroom, the children have dived into the world of ***The Iron Man*** by Ted Hughes. Their descriptive writing has been incredible, and they've mastered tricky grammar features like contractions and subordinating conjunctions. Chris Mould's illustrations have been a big hit too!

In maths, the children have tackled number facts, mental addition and subtraction, and times tables with determination. They've conquered column addition and subtraction and even started exploring short multiplication! Science and Geography have been just as exciting – from investigating forces and magnets to designing magnet-based games, and discovering the explosive world of volcanoes!

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our families for your amazing support with reading and homework. Next term is set to be just as thrilling – we'll journey to Ancient Egypt in History, explore animals (including humans) in Science, and uncover the wonders of Antarctica in Geography. Wishing you all a joyful, restful Christmas break. We can't wait to welcome the children back for another incredible term!

Year 4 News

The children in year 4 have enjoyed learning all about the *Romans in Britain*.

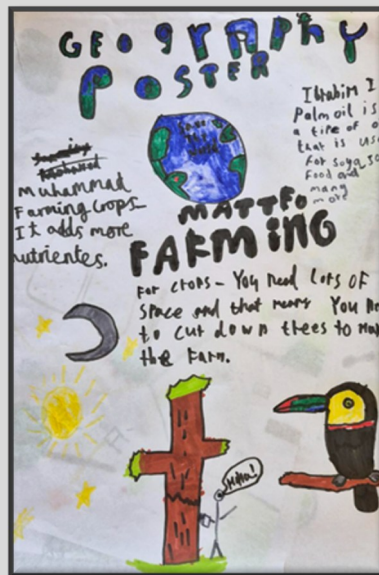
Our trip to Ufton Court gave them an opportunity to experience some military tactics as well learning how to construct a wall and weave some wool. They also learned about games and pastimes that the Romans engaged in and then had the opportunity to play them themselves. The children also became amateur archeologists. Working in groups, they were given Roman artifacts and tried to guess what they were used for.

Here are a couple of pictures of the day.



In science, the children have been learning all about the human digestive system. They particularly enjoyed the experiment where they followed the journey of the digestive tract, using a banana. They saw the different stages and how food changes from its solid form to mush, amongst the other processes.

We have linked our geography to writing and the children have written a formal letter to the head of Ferrero Groups, complaining about the use of palm oil in their products. They have also produced posters to highlight the impact of deforestation.



The children also had a very interactive and enjoyable session with R.E. Inspired who help to enrich our R.E. curriculum. As well as helping the children to know and understand the Christmas story we had some excellent acting and role play skills on show.

We wish the children a restful break and we look forward to plenty of learning in the new year. Well done Year 4!

Year 5 News

This half term, the children in year 5 have been exceptionally busy across a wide range of subjects as we build up to the festive season.

In Geography, the children have been learning about how mountains are formed and explored the differences between fold, volcanic and fault-block mountains. They examined how tectonic plate movement creates these land-forms and compared examples from around the world.

They then developed their map-reading skills by using atlases to locate the seven continents and identify major mountain ranges. Building on this, the children located the Alps in Europe and labelled the eight Alpine countries, learning key facts about the region.

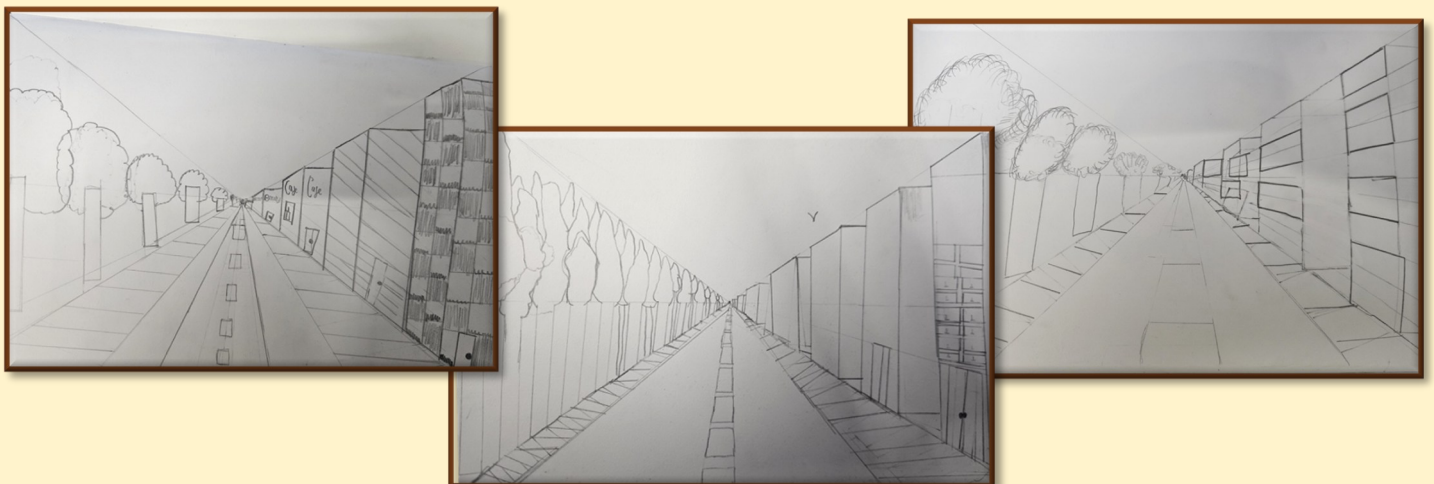
The children also enjoyed using Google Earth to enhance their digital mapping skills. They explored the Alpine landscape in detail, identifying physical features such as peaks, glaciers and valleys, as well as human features including ski resorts and mountain villages. This allowed them to gain a clearer picture of what life is like in this snowy, mountainous region.

In English this term, the children have taken inspiration from the book *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell during their reading lessons. They enjoyed exploring the adventures of Hiccup and his tribe, analysing the author's descriptive language, character development and use of humour. To fuel their imaginations further, the children studied a variety of fantastical dragons in ***Tell Me a Dragon*** by Jackie Morris, discussing how each illustration evoked different personalities. Building on this, the children designed their own unique dragons, thinking carefully about features such as habitat, behaviour, diet and special powers. They used these ideas to plan and write detailed non-chronological reports, drawing on key organisational features such as subheadings, well-structured paragraphs and carefully chose technical vocabulary. Throughout the unit, we have been particularly impressed by the ambition shown in their word choices, the creativity of their descriptions and the increasing accuracy in their grammar and punctuation.

In Art, Falcon and Buzzard classes have been inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh, particularly his expressive use of colour in landscape paintings. We explored how different colours can convey mood and looked closely at the effects of warm and cool colour palettes. The children then created their own colour wheels, mixed secondary colours, and investigated the impact of complementary colours found opposite each other on the wheel.

Using this knowledge, the children have now completed their one-point perspective landscapes, carefully using the vanishing point and horizon line to create a realistic 3D effect. They will soon be bringing these scenes to life with paint, applying techniques such as finger painting and sponge painting to add depth and texture.

It has also been an active and energetic term in PE. The children have been learning to play handball and have thoroughly enjoyed developing their dribbling, throwing and catching skills. As the term progressed, they became increasingly confident with the rules of the game and learned how to apply different tactics during small-sided matches. They practiced moving into space, marking opponents and working as a team to build successful attacks and strong defences. Their enthusiasm and determination have made their handball lessons a real highlight of the term.



Mini Police Update

This academic year, Alfred Sutton and Redlands have joined forces to create a combined Mini Police team, supported by our local Thames Valley Policing Team and PCSO. The Mini Police programme is a fantastic initiative that helps children learn about responsibility, community values, and safety while building positive relationships with the police.

Through a series of fun, age-appropriate activities, our pupils have the chance to give back to the school and wider community. Recently, the team carried out a litter pick around our site—thank you to everyone involved for helping keep our environment clean and welcoming!

The Mini Police scheme is designed for children in Years 5 and 6 and covers important topics such as online safety, anti-bullying, road safety, and understanding the role of the police. It encourages civic engagement, teaches essential life skills, and helps children develop confidence and resilience. For the community, it builds trust and promotes safer, more responsible neighbourhoods.

We are proud to be part of this programme and look forward to sharing more updates as our Mini Police team continues to make a positive impact



Roofing Project Update

Thank you to the entire Alfred Sutton family for your patience and support during our ongoing roofing works. While the project has caused some disruption to school life, it is giving a much-needed lease of life to an essential building. For years, we have dreaded bad weather and prepared contingency plans for leaks into classrooms—this work will finally put those worries behind us.

This is a **£1 million project funded by the local authority**, ensuring our roof will be secure and weatherproof for many years to come. Despite the challenges of working with materials that complement our Victorian building and the severe weather we experienced in October, the project is only a week behind schedule and remains on track for completion by the summer.

We would like to extend our thanks to **Dom and his team**, the **local authority**, and our **Year 6 team**, who have worked tirelessly in the building despite the impact of the works. Your perseverance and cooperation have been invaluable.

The PTA raises money to give our children at Alfred Sutton experiences that they wouldn't normally get!



Thank you for your Co-op Votes!

Last year we were selected as one of the Coops good causes. Thank you to everyone who voted for us, our year has now ended and we have been awarded an amazing **£1,519.67** – we couldn't have done this without you! The money will go towards improvements for the outdoor learning area

Outdoor Learning Area

This year our major funding effort is to support the school's aspiration to build an outdoor learning area to support the whole school's development.

Here is a link to a BBC article explain the benefits of spending time outdoors and show why the school is pushing for this - <https://dub.sh/OdlaReasons>

And to the right is an image showing the area (bounded in red) that is planned to be used for this space – just behind where the old Yr6 block



PTA this Term...

We were super excited to welcome some new parents to the PTA this year, it is always great to have new people and fresh ideas.

This term we have been in full planning mode for the annual Winter Fair which is one of our favourite events of the year. A huge thank you to everyone who donated tombola prizes or bric a brac – we had an amazing response this year and are so grateful. Thank you also to everyone who came along to the Winter Fair, and a special thank you to the wonderful teachers who manned the stalls!

As we look forward to next term, we know that our wonderful treasurer will be stepping down. We urgently need a new one so please get in touch if you are able to help!

Brand new Sensory Nook for Daffodil Class...



Last year we were pleased to tell you that we had managed to raise £10,000 towards a sensory nook for Daffodil class. We are super pleased that this was installed in October half-term and the children

and really enjoying the spending time in the safe and calming space it provides.

The funding didn't come from our normal fundraising streams but from a grant from The Morrisons Foundation with a top-up from ROCC to match fund what Daffodil Class had already fundraised!

Look out for the Winter Raffle

Our raffles raised over £1,500 last year and we are just about to launch this year winter raffle – don't wait to play as it won't be around for long!

AGM in January

Everyone is very welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting, details will be published via Weduc

Get in touch!

Join our announcement WhatsApp group: <https://dub.sh/ASPAPTA> or use the QR Code

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlfredSuttonPrimarySchoolPTA

Or email us at: pta@alfredsutton.reading.sch.uk

