

We have had a great first half to the Spring term and are incredibly excited to see what Spring 2 brings. Thank you to all our parents and carers for bringing their children to school on time every single day and for supporting their learning at home – this really does make a great big difference!



EYFS

Amber

We have been exploring a variety of writing this week including silly sentences and short sentences too. We really enjoyed writing our sentences independently and reading them out loud to share with our friends.



Ruby

We have been learning about Lunar New Year. We found out that 2024 is the year of the dragon. We made lanterns and dragon masks then performed our own parade with music and dancing.

KS1

Opal

This week in art, we have been using forks and lids to create African animal prints. We then created animals that matched the print and they camouflaged into the background.

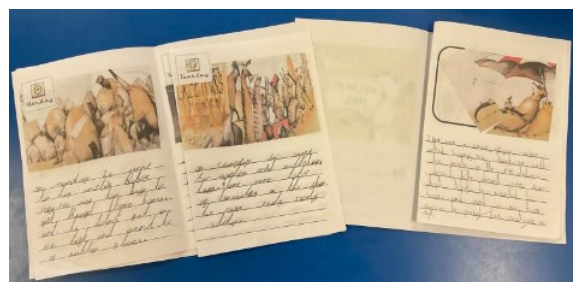


Jade

In our English lessons, we have been learning about our new story, Meerkat Mail. We have explored this through our drama skills, acting it out and sequencing it too.

Pearl

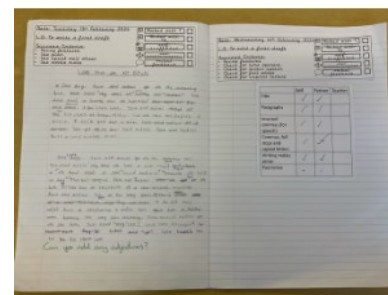
For our big writes, we have been writing a retell of the story Meerkat Mail. We made them into books.



Lower KS 2

Topaz

This week, we have attempted our first ever 'writing conference' in English. We self-assessed our own work, and then swapped with our partners and assessed theirs too. We complimented one another and were amazingly constructive, respectful and mature. Well done Topaz class!

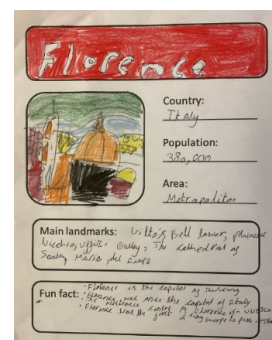


Citrine

This week in our music lessons, we have been practising some new chords, playing along to some rock 'n' roll classics.

Emerald

In our geography lesson, we have created a class book to finish our Europe topic. We each created a page to go in the book and included any interesting facts we have learned about the European city.



Mr Whalen's Group

We have been focusing on rounding to the nearest 10 and 100 in maths this week and planning an alternative ending in English.

Upper KS2

Amethyst

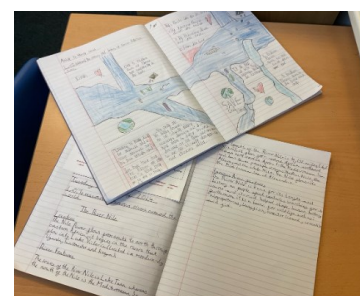
This week, the children in Amethyst class have mastered some of the musical notes in our Samba drumming lessons.



Working at the Expected Standard	✓	✗
Expanded handwriting all the way through.	✓	
New paragraph for a change of time, place or topic.	✓	
Main words spell correctly.	✓	
Capital letters used at start of all sentences and for proper nouns.	✓	
Sentences and correctly using I, it, we, you, they, he, she, it, one, some, any, all, none, each, every, both, neither, either, or, nor, so, because, if, when, where, how, why, as, although, even, though, unless, while, since, as long as, as soon as, as far as, as well as, as much as, as many as, as few as, as little as, as long as, as far as, as well as, as much as, as many as, as few as, as little as.	✓	
All sentences make sense when you read them aloud.	✓	
Punctuation (,) - ✓	✓	
Relative clauses, who, which, where, that.	✓	
Used some figurative language.	✓	
Similes.	✓	
Personification.	✓	
Onomatopoeia.	✓	
Verb phrases used correctly.	✓	
Punctuated dialogue correctly.	✓	
New time, new date.	✓	
Used expanded noun phrases or high quality adjectives.	✓	

Tanzanite

We have been writing our own alternative chapter for the story of The Wind in the Willows following the devious antics of Mr Toad.



Sapphire

In geography, we have been researching about the famous rivers of the world. We have also been researching about plastic pollution in our rivers and seas.

Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Medeea	For increased effort towards joining in during carpet time.
Ruby	Amayah	For having more confidence in her reading and writing.
Opal	Runo	Superb writing in our wider curriculum learning.
Jade	Ibrahim	Super independent writing.
Pearl	Hadia	For a superb big write.
Topaz	Faad	For a fantastic and resilient effort in his big write.
Citrine	Hafsah	Superb effort in all lessons this week, and responding to feedback fantastically.
Emerald	Laila	For having a can-do attitude in everything she does.
Amethyst	Jenson	For working super hard in our Wind in the Willows writing cycle.
Tanzanite	Isabelle	For the fantastic ideas and creativity she has demonstrated in her English lessons this week .
Sapphire	Mustafa	For excellent teamwork and sharing ideas ready for the big write.
Mr Whalen's group	Iysla-Mai	Always trying her best and challenging herself.

Principal's Reading Champions: Zaviyan, Renesmee, Kayon, Ali, Tayana, Yusroh, Mia-Rose, Olly, Halima, Mikael, Saif

Principal's Award: Laila R – for being a mature, kind and helpful member of our school community.



Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!



Spring 2

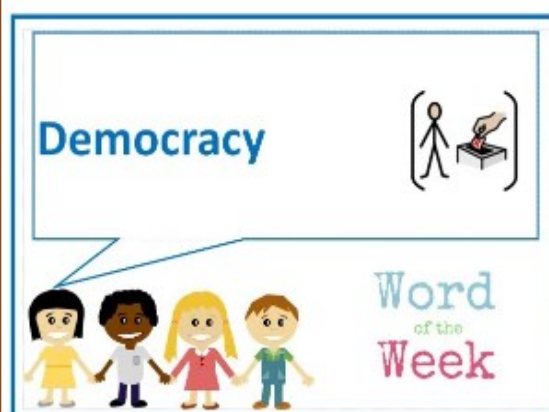
27/2/24- Home start

5/3/24- Ancora, CAP Life Skills & Money Management groups

12/3/24- HAF - OGHCSRC

19/3/24- POINT

26/3/24- Action Together



School Meals

We are going to have a change to the menus we currently offer at school. These will be live from the first week back after half term. The meal choices have been carefully selected, reviewed and revised to offer a variety of foods for children to experience. [Alt Academy: School Meals](#)



Madeline Lindley and World Book Day

Due to The Harmony Trust's [Read, Achieve, Succeed](#) initiative, every single child got the opportunity to explore a book fair in the school hall on Wednesday and were able to choose their very own book to keep. The team for Madeleine Lindley book shop came to visit school and brought the most incredible selection of books along with them! Please talk to your child about the book they chose and spend some time exploring it together. Reading is the key to the whole curriculum – if children can read well, they will be able to thoroughly access the whole curriculum. Practice really does ensure progress so the more opportunities your child has to read both in school and at home, the more fluent they will become and the more they will enjoy it too!



On **World Book Day, Thursday 7th March 2024**, we will be inviting all



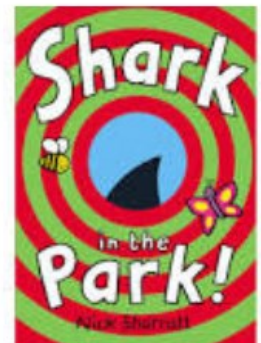
children to cosy up with a book. Please send your child to school wearing their most comfortable clothes and their favourite book (this may be the one they chose at the book fair). There will be opportunities for children across the whole school to read together during our class swaps session.



Y1 Author Visit

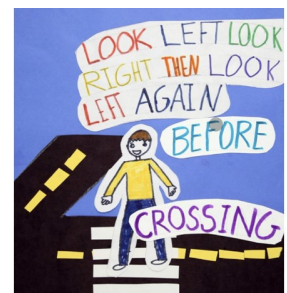
On Monday 4th March, our Year 1 children will be visiting Northmoor Academy to meet the fabulous author Nick Sharratt. Nick Sharratt has illustrated close to 300 books and has written 40 of his own! You can read more about him by clicking this link: [Biography | Nick Sharratt](#)

The children will receive a signed copy of Nick's book *Shark in the Park!* to take home. The cost of the visit, including a copy of the book is £3 per child. You can make this contribution on ParentPay.



Crossing Patrol

We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.



Attendance

Overall attendance year to date – 93.31%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Opal – 92.5%

Amethyst – 97%

Our target is 96%

100% Attendance challenge

Coming soon



Any child who attends school every day and on time will be in with a chance of winning a prize!

You've got to be in to win!



100% Attendance Challenge



All children who are in and on time each day from

4th March - 8th March will be put in a draw.

One entry for each day you are in and on time.

A winner will be picked out of a hat from EYFS, Key stage 1, lower Key stage 2 and upper Key stage 2 and will choose a prize from the wonderful selection of prizes.

You've got to be in to win!

Easy fundraising

Please help The Harmony Trust, please download the Easy Fundraising app. It will not cost you to do so! Easy Fundraising is an App that generates money for **Read, Achieve, Succeed** by gathering donations from the companies that you shop with on your device (with no cost to yourself).

To get started follow the simple steps below:


- Open the Easy Fundraising App
- Select choose a cause and create an account
- Search 'The Harmony Trust'
- Select the Trust logo
- Register using your name and email address



You can also add a toggle to your web browser, so that donations are automatic when doing your online shopping. Instructions will appear in your app once you have registered.

I know it sounds too good to be true, but it's easy and simple and does not cost anything at all but will support many children with their learning in reading through our **Read, Achieve, Succeed** initiative.

A poster for Community MMR Immunisation Clinics. The background is a light grey brick wall. In the center, there is a photograph of three children dressed as superheroes (Batman, Spider-Man, and Iron Man) standing with their arms raised. The text is overlaid on this image.

 **Community MMR
Immunisation Clinics** 
Providing NHS services

- **Primary School Children who have never had an MMR or only had one dose**
- **Primary School staff born after 1970, who have not had a complete course of MMR**
- **Nursery Children who missed their first MMR Vaccine**

Wednesday 21st February
Positive Steps - Union St OL1 1DJ - 9AM-1PM

Call IntraHealth on 0333 3583 397 option book an appointment.
www.intrahealth.co.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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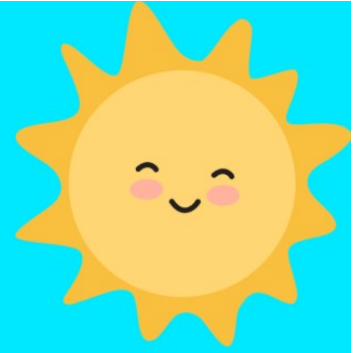
/NationalOnlineSafety



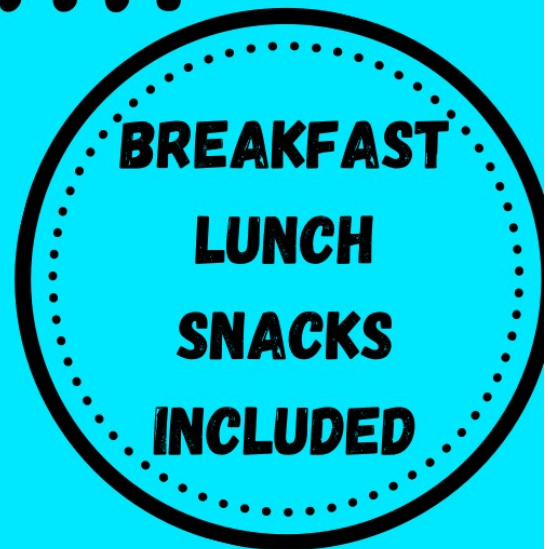
@nationalonlinesafety

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM



**MONDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY**



**GAMES &
PRIZES**

**GARDENING &
PLANTING**

**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

**SPORTS &
COMPETITIONS**

**COOKING &
CAKE MAKING**

**HAVE YOUR
OWN SAY !**

**LEGO,
BRACELET MAKING
& MORE**



**ALL AGES
UNDER 10 NEED SUPERVISION**

10AM - 2PM

ALT COMMUNITY CENTRE