

Reception Stay and Read

We invite parents and carers to join us for **Stay and Read** on **Monday 16th October at 2.45pm**. In this session, we will share how we start our reading process with the children in Early Years and there will be some great tips on how to support your child to develop a love of reading at home.



EYFS

Amber and Ruby

In Early Years, we have been creating spiders using various materials and singing Incy Wincy spider.



KS1

Opal

In science this week, we have been looking at what makes us unique by discussing what is the same and what is different about our facial features, our shoe size and our height.



Jade

In our dance sessions, we have been learning a new routine from Mary Poppins. We have loved dancing along, using our listening and super dancing skills.

Pearl

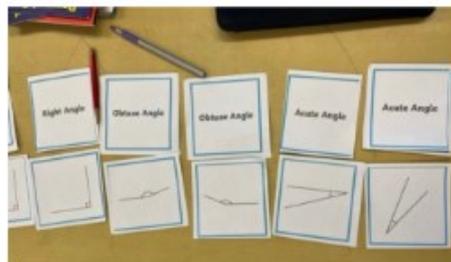
This week in PHSE we have been practicing sharing. We have thought about what we need, asking to borrow, giving things back and thanking others for their actions and kindness.



Lower KS 2

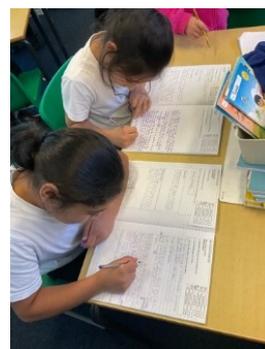
Topaz

The children in Topaz class have been learning about different kinds of angles. We discovered that a right angle was 90 degrees. Then, we moved on and discovered that acute angles were 'cute' and smaller than 90 degrees and obtuse angles were bigger than 90 degrees but less than 180. Ask us to show you some right angles at home.



Citrine

We have been working to demonstrate our knowledge and art skills to create a vibrant learning environment. The children were completing some pieces of artwork featuring British landmarks and UK icons, such as double-decker buses, postboxes and telephone booths. They used watercolours and straws to add colour in a unique way and the results will be proudly displayed on our classroom walls.



Emerald

This week in English we have been writing a letter to the RSPCA to show our concern for Mr Twit's animals. We practiced using emotive language and organising our letter into paragraphs. We asked our friends to help edit our work and see what improvements we could make. You wouldn't believe all the cruel things he has been up to. Ask us to tell you about our nasty neighbour Mr Twit.

Upper KS2

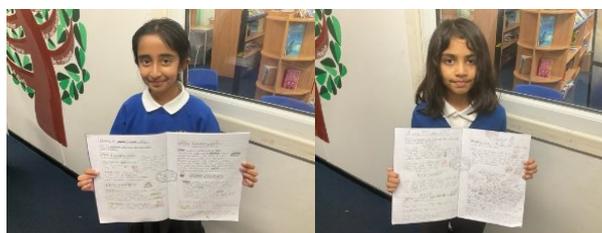
Amethyst

This week in Amethyst class, we have been using drama in literacy to help write journalistic reports about the tragic demise of Romeo and Juliet. I think Shakespeare would have been very impressed with our acting skills! In science, we have been exploring air resistance by making our own spinners and recording how long they took to fall to the floor. We also analysed which factors might affect the time they took to fall.



Tanzanite

This week in Tanzanite class we have looked at the lives of both the rich and the poor within Tudor England. Using our iPads we then researched and produced a double page spread detailing everything we had found out so far.



Sapphire

In Sapphire class, we have been looking at the features of a newspaper report. We have been thinking about which characters in Romeo and Juliet we should interview for our reports. We did some drama work where we took on the roles of Friar Lawrence, Balthazar and a reporter. To prepare for writing, we formulated questions and answered in role. There were some excellent outcomes – well done, team!



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Amber | Hoor | For Being more independent in her learning. |
| Ruby | Meba | For joining in with our singing, trying new things and some really super spider art-work! |
| Opal | Remie | For super work in phonics especially her blending. |
| Jade | Noor | Showing an increasing confidence in herself and her learning with Miss Voak. |
| Pearl | Romaisa | For a demonstrating an improved and determined attitude to his learning. |
| Topaz | Reyhana | Being an exceptional role model to Topaz class all week. |
| Citrine | Harees | Harees has been working so hard in our English lessons. He is making incredible progress in writing and it is great to see his ideas come to life on the page. |
| Emerald | Halima | For working really hard to be more independent in maths and making amazing progress. |
| Amethyst | Gabriel | Improved attitude to his learning and being a super role model. |
| | Saif | Huge improvement in his attitude to learning. Super, sensible Year 6 superstar! |
| Tanzanite | Aaron | For a demonstrating an improved and determined attitude to his learning. |
| Sapphire | Fariah | Fariah has a kind caring nature and always looks out for others. |

Principal's Award:

Leia (Jade class) for being a good role model and sharing kind words with others.

Avah (Jade) for trying really hard to improve her behaviour this week.

Hassan (Topaz) for a fantastic year so far and a particularly impressive week.

Kiara- working hard to improve her behaviour & attitude to learning.

Principal's Reading Champions:

Daniel, Jessica, Runo, Zachary, Kaitlin, Samrina, Hafsa, Talha, Janice, Leo, Musa.



Word of the Week ...



Curious

Wanting to learn or know more about something or someone.



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 last coffee morning for this half term..... please come and join us!

17th October – Parenting course – starting soon in Alt Academy – come along to find out more!



Corey-Lee in Amethyst class has been dancing outside of school. He has entered lots of competitions and has won some super awards and trophies. We are so proud of your talent Corey!

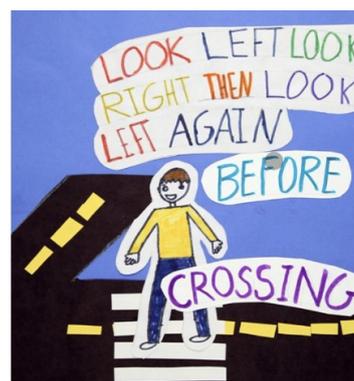


Individual School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on 15th November to take individual and in-school siblings. If you have children who do not attend our school, they won't be able to be included on the photographs.

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. In assembly on Monday, we are going to recap the 'look left, look right' approach so that children know to watch the road very carefully. 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.



The Harmony Trust Sumdog Competition starts on

Friday 13th October.

We need all children to enter our Harmony Trust Sumdog contest, which starts on 13th October!

All children can enter regardless of their level or year group, and rewards children with excitement, fun and prizes for the winners.

All children have their login information to enter. Support your child by making sure they are logging in and taking part at home.

THE HARMONY TRUST
REVISE • ACQUIRE • SUCCEED

Calling all Key Stage 2 children...
**Take part in the third
Harmony Trust Sumdog
contest!**

Friday 13th October to
Thursday 19th October

- The winning class will have the highest average score and receive a real-life Sumdog trophy.
- Each student can answer 1,000 questions during the contest to contribute to their class score.
- All students who take part and answer at least 100 questions will receive a gift for their Sumdog house!

Who will be the Harmony Sumdog Champions?!

Health & Safety Reminder

Please be reminded that children are not to play on the climbing frames or with the play equipment either before or after school. Bikes and scooters are to be pushed once on school grounds and either stored in the bike shed or taken home with parents.



Parking in the area

Please can all parents and carers who come to school to drop off or collect children be courteous to the neighbours and people who live in the local community. **Please do not part block people's driveways and don't stop on the yellow zig zags lines in front of the school gates.** We must show respect to our neighbours and keep our children safe. Thank you for your continued support with this.



Backpacks

Backpacks can now be purchased for £15 from our uniform supplier Andrew Hyde. Click on the link if you would like to purchase one. <https://ahyde.co.uk/collections/alt-academy/products/alt-academy-backpack-royal-blue>

Parent iPad meeting – Year 3 parents

Monday 16th October at 3pm will be the final opportunity to join one of our sessions and take your child's iPad home. If you have not attended a previous session and are not able to attend on Monday, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Our recent book event with Sir Lenny Henry is featured in the Oldham Chronicle. Click on the QR code to view the article.



Attendance

Appointments need to be made outside of school times where possible. We appreciate that emergency appointments may need to take place within the school day. The school office needs to be informed of appointments in advance and appointment evidence needs to be provided for it to be authorised. Thank you for your support in this.



Overall attendance year to date – 93.5%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

EYFS and KS1 – Pearl 96.2%

KS2 – Tanzanite 94.2%

Our target is 96%



The children are now in the Challenge phases of their current topics across school. The children are now applying their knowledge and understanding and are preparing for their Topic Shares next week in the last week of this half term.

We would like **parents to come into school to join us** so we can share our knowledge and understanding. We want to share and celebrate what we know.



| Year groups | Date and Time | Location | What we will be sharing... |
|-----------------------|--|------------|---|
| Nursery and Reception | Wednesday 18 th October 2.30pm | EYFS | Diversity Party (Wear traditional clothing and come and play!) |
| Year 1 and 2 | Friday 20 th October at 2:30pm | KS1 hall | A share of the topic and a reading workshop. |
| Year 3 and 4 | Friday 20 th October at 2:30pm | Classrooms | Using the iPads and sharing our learning about science (teeth and digestion) and DT (bridges) topics. |
| Year 5 and 6 | No topic share for parents this time, but we would love to celebrate our learning with our parents soon. Watch this space! | | |

Our Homework Rubrics

At the start of the year, all children brought home a homework rubrics which detailed the homework tasks all children had to complete before the end of this half term. Please work with your child to ensure that as many of these as possible have been completed.

After the holidays, the children will be given their new tasks to complete.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning.



Outcomes for children

Our priority in school is making sure all children reach their full potential and acquire all the knowledge and skills they need to ensure they are confident and independent learners who are ready for their next stage in education. To do this well, we must ensure parents and carers are aware of the importance of being in school every single day on time. We must also ensure that parents and carers are aware of learning opportunities being provided in school and the homework tasks linked to these.

Reading is the key to the whole curriculum! Please make sure you read with your child (at least) three times per week and write in their reading journal.

Together, we will make sure that your child is exactly where they need to be in their own personal learning and development journey.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylized they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

David Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site ODRcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iDn and TechRadar.

