

We have had a super first half term of the 2023-2024 academic year and are excited to see what our children can achieve for the rest of the year. Every single child has been working incredibly hard to settle into their new classes and challenge themselves with all their new learning opportunities.



We hope all our children and their families have a lovely half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 30th October**.

EYFS - Amber and Ruby

We really enjoyed sharing our learning with our families this week when we had our Diversity Party!

Thank you to all who attended.



KS1

Opal

This week in topic, we have been looking at the school grounds and thinking about how we could improve them.



Jade

In our maths lessons, we have been exploring our number bonds to 10 in different ways. We have been writing addition statements, finding a part of a whole and breaking a whole.

Pearl

This week we have been creating a 3D model of our local area. We have included both physical and human geographical features.



Lower KS 2

Topaz

This week, we wrote our letters from Mr Twit inviting King Charles to our party. We tried to persuade him to attend by tempting him with promises of delicious bird pie and performing monkeys.

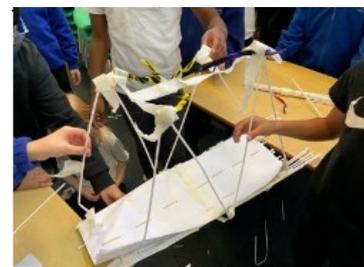


Citrine

This week we have been fighting hard to stay in the race to win the Harmony Trust Sumdog competition. After a flying start, we have remained in the top 10 all week and we remain hopeful of finishing even higher up the league table. Well done to everyone for your contribution!

Emerald

This week we have created our bridges using our designs. We worked in teams to follow criteria and thought about how we could make our bridge the strongest.



Upper KS2

Amethyst

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

This week in Amethyst class, we have been developing our journalistic skills by writing a newspaper article about the deaths of the tragic lovers, Romeo and Juliet. We have focused on reported and direct speech. Great job, Amethyst.



Tanzanite

We have finished off our writing about Romeo and Juliet by becoming newspaper reporters this week. We have channelled our journalistic skills as we have created headlines, lead paragraphs and quotes from our story to try and explain the curious deaths of Romeo and Juliet



Sapphire

In Sapphire class, we have been investigating upthrust and water resistance in science. We dropped different shapes into water to see which had less water resistance and which were more streamlined. We also made tin foil boats to see which were more buoyant.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Arfa	Coming in with a fantastic can do attitude every day!
Ruby	Zaynab	For excellent phonics and being focused in all her learning.
Opal	Aysha	For joining in more activities and being super smiley.
Jade	Zunairah	For always doing the right thing, wherever she is.
Pearl	Romaisa	Being really caring and helping peers this week.
Topaz	Joseph	Always displaying resilience and 'having a go'
Citrine	Goodness	For showing his best self all the time. Goodness shows others around him how to be kind, how to be responsible and how to be respectful every single day.
Emerald	Hooria	For working hard to be part of her team and creating a fantastic bridge .
Amethyst	Jamie	Outstanding effort all week.
Tanzanite	Ahad	For his fantastic application of key skills and showcasing his flair in his writing.
Sapphire	Olivia	An amazing year 6 role model. Always polite, helpful and hardworking.

Principal's Reading Champions:

Hanna ,Jacob, Madiha ,Kingsley , Tayana , Faad , Kai, Ayesha , Jack and Laila.



Alt Academy School Rules



Class: _____

Choices:

Please tick your 4 favourites...	✓ 4
Be kind	
Be respectful	
Be helpful	
Be honest	
Be hardworking	
Be responsible	
Be polite	
Listen	

School Rules

This week, our Head Girl, Scarlett, Deputy Head Girl, Minsa and Deputy Head Boy, Adam, have worked hard to consult all children in all classes about the most suitable choices for our Alt Academy School Rules. They also had the help of the Year 5 members of our Children's Leadership Team. They have done a great job and will be meeting with Mrs Grady to count up and select the most popular rules. Well done team!

Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24 Autumn 2

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!

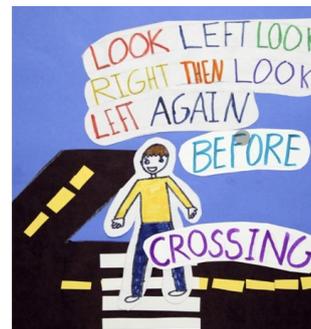
There are some opportunities this half term to discuss your children's learning. You will see below opportunities to discuss homework and reading. Please join us to enhance your child's learning experience.



Week Number	Date of Coffee Morning	Agenda
Week 1	Tuesday 31 st October	Early Help support for families
Week 2	Tuesday 7 th November	Mahdlo
Week 3	Tuesday 14 th November	Coffee chatter and natter! Homework Rubrics
Week 4	Tuesday 21 st November	Action Together - voluntary work & support to improve health & wellbeing
Week 5	Tuesday 28 th November	Coffee, chatter and natter! Reading
Week 6	Tuesday 5 th December	Kooth & Qwell - online counselling and emotional well-being service
Week 7	Tuesday 12 th December	Coffee chatter and natter!
Week 8	Tuesday 19 th December	Review & festive party

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.



PARENT FORUM



Please come and join our CEO Mr Hughes and Ms Hainsworth on **Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 2:30pm** for a positive discussion around how we can further develop the Academy. It would be great to have as many parents/carers as possible join us. As always, we welcome your feedback and value your thoughts and ideas.

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>

Year 6 Robinwood meeting for parents/carers

There will be a **Robinwood information meeting** for parents/carers on **Friday 3rd November at 3pm**. Please come along to listen to more detailed information and to have the opportunity to ask questions at the end if you have any queries.

As detailed in our letter this week, if you would like your child to attend, please pay a deposit of £10 on ParentPay.



Ordsall Hall

All children in Years 5 & 6 have been given the chance to spend a day at Ordsall Hall in Stockport.

Sapphire class: **Tuesday 7th November 2023**

Amethyst class: **Wednesday 8th November 2023**

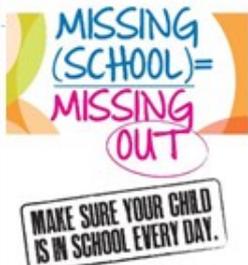
Tanzanite class: **Thursday 9th November 2023**

As detailed in our letter this week, a contribution of £15 is payable on ParentPay.



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 – 93.2%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

EYFS and KS1 – Amber 96.6%

KS2 – Emerald 97.9%

Our target is 96%



Free school meal **VOUCHERS**

Important Notice

Free school meal **VOUCHERS**

Holiday food vouchers are provided by the local authority to children eligible for Free School Meals through the Household Support Scheme. We have been asked by Oldham Council to share the news that they will not be issuing food voucher support over the October and February school holidays. They have advised that they will be looking to provide a more generous offer over the Christmas and Easter holidays. We have not received further information on what this will be at present.

If you are experiencing difficulties with this change you can contact the Oldham Helpline for emergency support on 0161 770 7007 open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. A text service is also available on 07860 022876. Alternatively, there is guidance on a range of services such as cost of bills and food, available via the Oldham Council website <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp>



Congratulations!!

This week children from year 5 and 6 represented Alt at a Harmony Trust Football competition. The children performed amazingly and won the whole tournament winning all of their games apart from one draw. We can't wait to see how we do in our upcoming matches as we hope to keep our success going.



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.



This event is sponsored by

OLDHAM HALLOWEEN FUN RUN

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER,
FROM 9.45AM
AGES 12 AND UNDER,
FREE

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you - EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template - meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online - but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time - so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself - so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play - or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers; voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 - including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviour-gaming-disorder> | <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-council-is-calling-for-better-regulation-of-foot-boxes-following-new-report>



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OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB

Dates: Monday 23rd October –
Thursday 26th October

Times: 8:30am – 3pm

Price: £15 per day

Must Bring a Packed Lunch

Hosted and coached by



OLDHAM ATHLETIC
**COMMUNITY
TRUST**

FOR BOYS & GIRLS
YEAR 1 - YEAR 6

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OLDHAM ATHLETIC
TICKETS

MEET
CHADDY THE OWL

Email

info@oasislimeside.org
to book your place!