

This week, Mr Hughes (our Harmony CEO) and Mrs Hainsworth (our Harmony Director of Education) came to visit Alt Academy. They met with Ms Jordon, Mrs Grady and Miss Wood and had a learning walk from EYFS all the way up to Year 6. They were so proud of all our children and how engaged they were in their learning. Well done to Team Alt!



EYFS

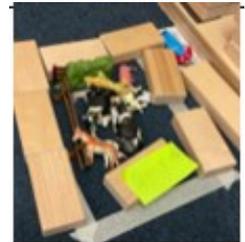
Amber

We have been learning about length and height in our maths lessons. We put the children in order from shortest to tallest!



Ruby

This week, we have been looking at maps and thinking about what we see on our way to and from school in our local area. We worked in teams to build the town including Alexandra Park, Alt Academy and the car wash! We wrote our own labels too.



KS1

Opal

In our maths lessons this week, we have been making pictograms. We asked our friends what our favourite fruit was and then made a 3D pictogram to represent this. Can you see what our favourite fruit was?



Jade

We have started a new book this week – Meerkat Mail, linked to our topic of Africa. We loved exploring Sunny's suitcase to predict what will happen in the story. We generated some exciting vocabulary and discussed words that we had not heard before like marshland, Madagascar, mongoose and Kalahari desert. Then we used drama to act out the story! Ask me what meerkats like to eat – and what likes to eat meerkats!



Pearl

We have been sharing all the different printing skills we have learnt in art this half term by creating a huge class African print.

Lower KS 2

Topaz

In English this week, the children in Topaz class played a new game called fan and pick. We had 4 members in our cooperative team. One person fanned the cards out, one picked a card, one read the card and acted out the emotion and the last person had to guess the emotion. We worked fantastically well together.



Citrine

Our English lessons have centred around a lovely book called Last Stop on Market Street. As we acted out the story, we were reminded to be grateful for everything and everyone we have, and to see the beauty in some unlikely places.



Emerald

This week in maths, we have been learning all about fractions. We have been using equivalent fractions which can be quite tricky. We found a way to help us and made equivalent fraction rainbows.



Mr Whalen's Group

This week, we have been using drama to help us improve our writing in literacy and continuing our amazing work on fractions in maths.

Upper KS2

Amethyst

In science this week, we have investigated whether different materials are electrical conductors or insulators.



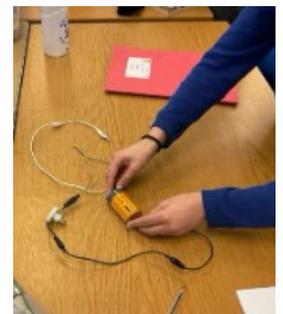
Tanzanite

This week in computing, we have been looking at designing and creating our own video games. We have used our iPads to code the platforming game with a variety of different levels, including one that links to our topic of rivers.



Sapphire

In science this week, we have been testing our predictions on whether a material is an electrical insulator or an electrical conductor. We have been learning about high and low resistance in different materials.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Saman	For consistently making the right choices, looking after others, and a genuine love for learning in the areas.
Ruby	Aahil	For his big improvement in following instructions and being a smiley, helpful member of Ruby class.
Opal	Emmanuel	Trying his best to join in all activities.
Jade	Aneta	For settling into our Jade class family and making lots of friends.
Pearl	Fabian	For being a good friend to everyone.
Topaz	Emily	For a great effort this week and some excellent results.
Citrine	Mustafa	For showing an improved effort to read, practise his times tables and listening well during lessons.
Emerald	Ini	For consistently trying her best and working hard in everything she does .
Amethyst	Bella	For being an excellent co-operative learning partner.
Tanzanite	Lilly-Jayne	For showing excellent resilience in her maths learning.
Sapphire	Saad	Amazing contributions in RE when considering how people of different faiths pray.
Mr Whalen's group	Hooria	Growing in confidence and always giving 100% on everything she does.

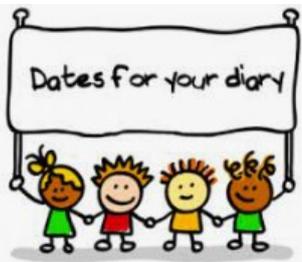
Principal's Reading Champions: Medeea, Frankie, Haya, Rahil, Harriet, Hassan, Amanah, Afsa, Janice, Ramadan, Alisha, Laila R



Principal's Award: Rebecca L in Amber class. For an incredible transformation in her confidence and being a super role model to her friends. Always doing the right thing for the right reasons. Miss Robinson is so proud.



Layla-Grace - For having the confidence to sing a beautiful solo in assembly.

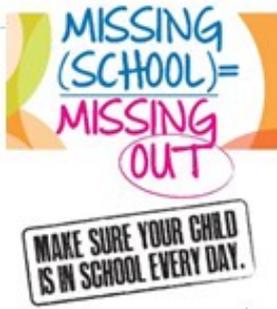


Next week, we break up on Thursday 15th February for half term. The teachers will all be in school on Friday 16th February for a teacher training day, but the children can enjoy a restful day at home. We will look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 26th February.

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 28th February. Appointments will be available between 15:30 and 18:30. Letters will be sent out on Monday - please return the slip to school promptly to secure your preferred appointment time.



Attendance



Overall attendance year to date – 93.49%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Amber – 94.54%

Amethyst – 95.5%

Our target is 96%



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!



13th Feb – Action Together – voluntary opportunities to promote self esteem, confidence & wellbeing

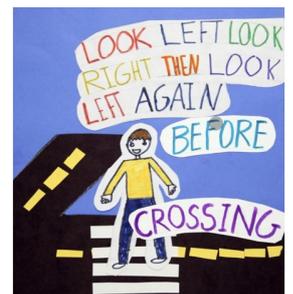
Word of the Week ...

stages

A point, period, or step in a process or development.

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.





THE HARMONY TRUST

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

Thursday, 08 February 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to alert you to a recent increase in measles across the country. The Harmony Trust has been asked by Public Health professionals to alert parents to this and to encourage those who have not yet had the MMR vaccine to seek this from their GP.

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious illness. People in certain at-risk groups including babies and young children, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system, are at increased risk of complications from measles.

Early symptoms of measles include a cold-like symptoms such as coughing, sneezing and feeling hot. Then a rash develops; the rash starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. The rash looks brown or red and can feel bumpy.

It is very important that people with suspected measles do not go to school, the GP or A&E as they are likely to infect others. If you are worried that you or your child has measles, stay at home, and ask for an urgent GP appointment. Do not attend the GP surgery until you have called ahead.

If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/> Children and adults can catch up on any missed vaccines. If you are not sure if you and your children have had the MMR vaccine, please check your online GP records, NHS app or red book. If you or your children have not had the MMR vaccine, please contact your GP to arrange this.

Your sincerely

Wendy May
Assistant Director – Safeguarding, Estates and Compliance

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes
The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
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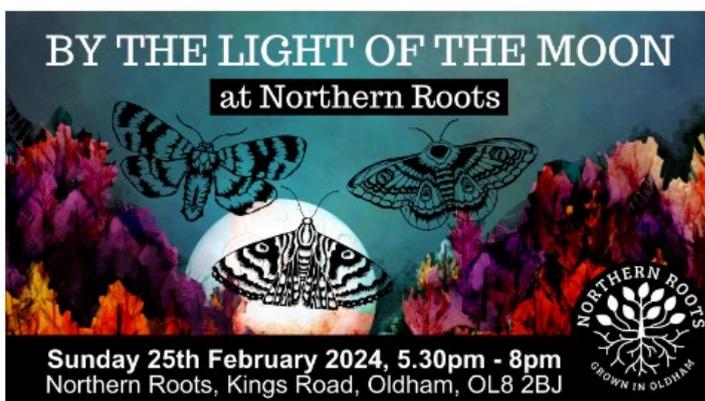
Northern Roots invites you to '**By the Light of the Moon**', a **FREE**, family-friendly, light-night event celebrating the **magical world of moths** - nature's hard working night-time pollinators!

www.northern-roots.uk/illuminate-oldham-by-the-light-of-the-moon/

Created for children and their families, By the Light of the Moon will feature an **interactive illuminated woodland trail, fire performers, stilt walkers, puppet theatre, interactive installations and marshmallow toasting**, and is part of ILLUMINATE, Oldham's annual festival of light.

Get creative, make your very own moth puppet (see template attached) and bring it with you. Let the moon guide you through our woodland trail, use your moth to pollinate illuminated flowers, and dance the night away at the Moonlight Moth Ball.

Sunday 25th February, from 5:30-8pm at **Northern Roots, OL8 2BJ**, just south of Alexandra Park. We'd love to welcome you to Northern Roots!



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ofcom, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



Meet Our Expert

Daniel Ipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipolapp/about/privacy.html>

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.