

Parent's Evening

Parents' evening took place on Wednesday this week. We would like to thank the parents that made the time to speak to teachers. It was super to see so many great conversations taking place and so many discussions around how we can achieve the best outcomes for your children.



EYFS

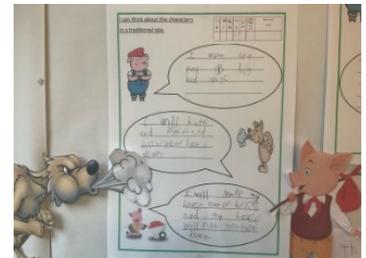
Amber

In Amber class we are so clever that we have been able to fill out our missing numbers to 20... that's right 20! Well done team Amber.



Ruby

We have been learning about traditional tales this week. We have been acting out, writing and creating artwork based on the characters and the setting.



KS1

Opal

This week in Maths we have been measuring weight using the scales and thinking about the words heavy and light.



Jade

We have enjoyed exploring our new topic of space in our provision areas. We have particularly enjoyed writing lists of things to pack on our space trips, exploring the sensory moon tray and making our own friendly aliens in the dough area.

Pearl

This week, the children in Pearl class have started their new topic all about space. To launch into the topic, the children read lots of books about space and then had a 'picnic on the moon'. They even tried some real space food too!



Lower KS 2

Topaz

This week in science, the children in Topaz class have been learning about states of matter. We acted like the particles in a solid, liquid or a gas. We had lots of fun. Ask us to show you the difference between the particles in a solid, liquid or gas at home.

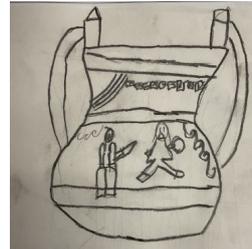


Citrine

We have begun a new topic about Ancient Greece in Citrine class this week. We have begun by studying some Greek myths in our English lessons. We have learned about some terrifying mythical beasts and will be writing mythical tales of our own.

Emerald

This week in art, we have started to explore Ancient Greek pottery. We have looked at some different examples and compared them to pottery we see today. We had a go at sketching them thinking about the different shapes.



Mr Whalen's Group

This week, we have been writing amazing character descriptions using super adjectives in English and we have been developing our multiplication skills in maths. There has been lots of exciting learning going on after a well-deserved break.

Upper KS2

Amethyst

This week, we have started our new topic: Viva Espana. The children have looked at the artwork of Antoni Gaudi and produced some of their own mosaics.



Tanzanite

This week we have launched the Children's Shakespeare Festival where we will ultimately be performing an excerpt from the play King Lear.



Sapphire

In Sapphire class, we have been predicting which solids (solute) are soluble and which are insoluble. We have learnt how and why some solids dissolve and others don't.

Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Medeea	For making a consistent effort to try new things and join in during carpet time!
Ruby	Frankie	Exceptional reading! Very proud of Frankie's super reading skills.
Opal	Cayden	An superb effort towards all his learning.
Jade	Poppy	For her curiosity when thinking of questions to ask about our new topic and for using her phonics to write the questions correctly.
Pearl	Harrison	Great work in phonics this week.
Topaz	Bernice	For some excellent work in maths this week.
Citrine	Sani	For doing a great job with her own learning and being a caring, supportive coach to others around her.
Emerald	Olly	For his courage in tackling difficult challenges in maths this week.
Amethyst	Lucas and Maria	A fantastic first week in Amethyst class!
Tanzanite	Gracie	For demonstrating an amazing attitude to her learning and being supportive to those around her.
Sapphire	Fatima	For showing amazing resilience in maths this week.
Mr Whalen's group	Abdullah	An improved attitude to his leaning and being a great role-model.



Principal's Reading Champions: Layla, Frankie, Haya, Abdullah, Fatima, Aaliyah, Mia-Rose, Isa, Bella, Burhaan, Ayaan,



Principal's Award: **Maya C** - for being a super dancer and a great performer.

Lyndon, Isla B, Zoya M, Genevieve - for being creative at home

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



5/3/2- Ancora, CAP Life Skills & Money Management groups
 12/3/24- HAF - OGHCSRC
 19/3/24- POINT
 26/3/24- Action Together

Word of the Week ...

tolerance

A character competency

Diversity

willing to accept or respect what is different in others, especially their beliefs and customs.

Equality

Accepting others for the way that they are

Fairness

I predict that the word of the week is ... because ...



WORLD
BOOK DAY
7 MARCH 2024

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March. Our theme for World Book Day is 'cosy up with a book'. We are inviting children to bring their favourite book to school and also wear cosy, comfy clothes. Every child will receive a book to take home.

WORLD
BOOK DAY
7 MARCH 2024

Indoor PE lessons

For gymnastics and dance lessons, children are required to have bare feet in order to gain the correct grip and balance, and this also helps with their agility too. If children have a verruca, this must be covered. Waterproof plasters are fine for this. There have been an increasing number of children wearing socks (with rubber on the soles) and this is hindering their progress within lessons. The advice is the same for the children who are going swimming in Year 3 and 4.



Further information on swimming and preventing the spread of verruca's can be found here: [Verrucas and Swimming | British Swimming](#) . Thank you for your support with this.

Swimming Lessons

After the Eater break, **Emerald class** will start their swimming lessons. Children will need a swimming costume or trunks, a towel and bag. Children with long hair will need to wear a swimming cap.



PE kit and Uniform

Children should wear their school uniform every day. PE kit can be worn on Tuesday and Thursday. PE kit consists of a black tracksuit and white t-shirt.



We have some supplies of pre-loved uniform – if you do need any support with providing uniform, please do let us know and we can check our stock.



Jumper and Cardigan Sales

We have a limited supply of cardigans and jumpers with logos, for sale at the office. We are selling these at a reduced price of £10 payable in cash.

The sizes are as follows:-

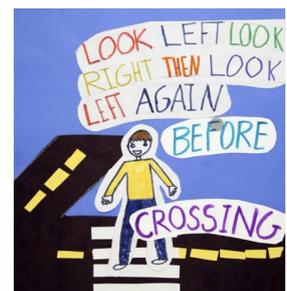
Jumpers 22" x 2, small x 5

Cardigans 32" x 1, 34" x 1, small x 5, medium x 4



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.



Trip payments

Author visit: All children in Year 1 have received a letter about a trip to Northmoor on Monday to meet the children's author and illustrator, Nick Sharratt. We are asking for a contribution of £3 towards a signed copy of his book 'Shark in the Park' which children will receive on the day. Thank you for your support with this.



Alexandra Park visit: Members of our Children's Leadership Team will be attending a trip to Alexandra Park next Friday. A letter was sent out about this earlier in the week. There is no cost for the trip and children will only attend in the afternoon. Please speak to Mr Whalen if you have any questions.

All trips have been added onto ParentPay and can be paid in instalments. Please advise the office if you have any issues paying.

Phonics workshops

Miss Robinson and Mrs Branwood are going to be running some phonics workshops for EYFS and KS1 on Tuesday afternoons. The first is Tuesday 5th March at 2.45pm for all nursery and reception parents. Watch out for future dates



Appropriate behaviour and interaction

Please be reminded that we welcome visitors to our school. We will act to ensure it remains a safe place for pupils, staff and all other members of our community. If you have concerns, we will always listen to them and seek to address them. Please be aware, however, that abusive, threatening or violent behaviour will not be tolerated in this school. Visitors behaving in this way are likely to be removed from the premises and prosecuted. Thank you for your ongoing support on this.



End of term date

We have received many questions about when the Easter holidays begin. The holiday list is on the school website for reference at any time. School **closes on Thursday 28th March for two weeks** after a shorter half term this time. School will **re-open on Monday 15th April 2024.**



Term Time Holidays

We strongly advise against taking holidays in term time as children miss key parts of the curriculum. If you do plan to take a term time holiday, please speak to Mrs Cooper at the school office. This will support us in monitoring attendance and safeguarding children as we will know where children are, and we won't need to keep contacting you.

Holidays In Term Time

Attendance

Overall attendance year to date – 93.4%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Amber – 98.7%

Topaz – 98.5%

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!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+
In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

...MSG ME...



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE



'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.



ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



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.



...HEY OSCAR...



Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/10770/8839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/36005998169245/?helpref=hc_fnav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.cana.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>