

Welcome

It has been wonderful to welcome the children and families back to Alt Academy this week. The children have returned with fantastic attitudes to learning, have settled amazingly well in their new classes and behaviour has been out of this world! We really are so proud and can't wait for an exciting, action packed year of learning and memory making.

EYFS

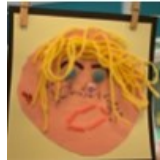
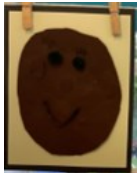
Amber

We have been creating line drawing portraits of ourselves using pencils and fine liners. It was lots of fun looking at ourselves in the mirror and finding all of the beautiful details we could see in our faces.



Ruby

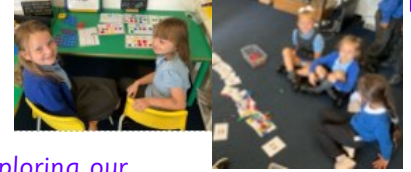
We have been using the materials in our art area to create our own faces. We looked at our reflection to examine our facial features and chose the materials we needed.



KS1

Opal

We have had loads of fun exploring our provision and getting competitive completing challenges!



Jade

We have been learning all about the farm and considering which animals live there.



Pearl

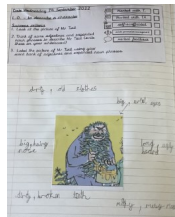
We have been creating our 'split face' self-portraits. We could see lots of detail in our faces and represent this beautifully in our artwork.



Lower KS 2

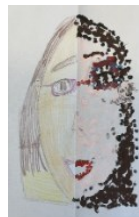
Topaz

We were all really excited to return to school on Monday and have had a fun filled first week. We have written character descriptions about Mr Twit (ask us how disgusting he is!), we have begun some learning on place value in maths and in the afternoons, we have enjoyed some fun team building activities.



Citrine

This week we have created self-portraits in the style of Roy Lichtenstein. These portraits will allow us to display and celebrate the diversity in our school community and our fantastic art skills.



Emerald

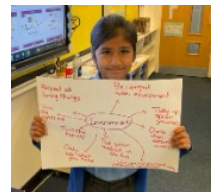
This week pupils have developed teamwork skills in all manner of situations. It has been wonderful to see pupils communicate respectfully and effectively. They are seeing the contribution teamwork makes to their success. The photographs show teams building homes for the 'Ecky Thumps' who live on the school field. Mr Whalen was most impressed!



Upper KS 2

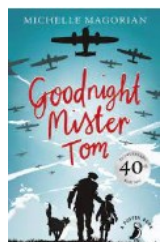
Amethyst

This week, Amethyst have looked at the word 'respect'. We discussed how we can show respect to ourselves, others, learning and environment. Minsa had some amazing contributions.



Tanzonite

This week we have started our new book 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. The children have enjoyed coming up with vocabulary to describe Mr Tom. We also use drama to act out the vocabulary.



Sapphire

This week we have created split face self-portraits. These beautiful pieces of artwork portray each of our 'inner' and 'outer' selves and have helped us to understand and celebrate the diversity within Sapphire class.





Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.



Amber	Ensley	For using beautiful manners and being a super role model.
Ruby	Imani	For being so polite and a super role model to others.
Opal	Zara	For being so mature and helpful as she settles into Year 1.
Jade	Eiliyah	Being a great friend and trying her best.
Pearl	Kyle	For a great start to the year and being a fantastic role model.
Topaz	Daud	For being a shining example to everyone in Topaz class.
Citrine	Hafsah	For a brilliant start to the year and being a fantastic role model for the class.
Emerald	Sani	For making a fantastic start to the year. Sani has been ready to learn, shown wonderful
Amethyst	Minsa	For being a respectful member of the class.
Tanzonite	Olivia	For settling into her new class and always having a huge smile on her face.
Sapphire	DJ	For settling into his new class so well and sharing lots of amazing facts about our new World War Two topic.

Principal Award: Teddie - For an amazing start to the year. Teddie has blown us away with how quickly and confidently he has settled into Year 3.

Forest School

Every child from Reception to Y6 has taken part in a 'mini forest school' session this week.

This will continue weekly over the autumn term, providing children with a space to develop their collaboration skills, confidence, curiosity and creativity.



PE and Swimming

All children will receive **TWO** specialist PE sessions a week this year. Manchester City will be delivering one session, and Oldham Sports Development the second session. This is an amazing opportunity and we can't wait to see the children's skills and fitness progress.

Year 5 children will be swimming every Thursday afternoon during the Autumn term. In January, Year 4 children will begin swimming sessions. All children are required to take part in the swimming sessions and will need a costume or trunks, swimming cap and towel.

Becoming a confident swimmer is essential and achievable for all children – I am sure they will love the lessons. Lessons start on Thursday 15th September.

PE kits need to be brought to school on PE days (every Tuesday and Thursday).



Music



Oldham Music Service will be delivering specialist music lessons to all children from Nursery to Year 6 this year. Children in Early Years will enjoy 'Tune into Talking' sessions, whilst KS1 will take part in musical instrument and singing tuition with Mrs Preen. Years 3 & 4 will be learning to play the ukulele and Years 5 & 6 will be learning to play brass instruments. This is an amazing musical offer and we can't wait to see music skills progress over the year. All children will have a chance to perform to an audience over the year and we hope that we will have some budding musicians playing in our weekly celebration assemblies soon!

Oldham
Music Service



Morning Routines

The changes to the morning routines have been working well this week. Thank you for your support with this. Just to recap:

The gates open at 08:30am for early morning activities. Children will go to either Breakfast Club (KS2 hall) / Wake and Shake (KS1 hall) or Story Time (Pavilion). Classroom doors open at 08:45am. You are welcome to leave your child at one of the three activities, however they must remain at that activity until it finishes. Children can't wonder between activities. If your child isn't taking part in an activity, an adult does need to stay with them until the classroom door opens. Adults are very welcome to join in with activities – the more the merrier!



Uniform

School jumpers and cardigans are now supplied online at <https://ahyde.co.uk/search?q=alt+academy&options%5Bprefix%5D=last>

Children can also wear a royal blue jumper or cardigan without a school logo. These can be purchased, at a much cheaper price, from any supermarket or uniform shop.



Attendance

Improving attendance is one of our main priorities this year. The year has got off to a super start and compared to last year, we have seen some improvements already! We want every child to be successful at school – and this doesn't happen when children don't come in. The children that reach their full potential attend every day. We have a new attendance policy, which is available on the website. The link to view the policy is here: https://www.alt.theharmonytrust.org/serve_file/7678007



Holiday dates are on the website too, they can be found here: https://www.alt.theharmonytrust.org/serve_file/4750224 Please don't book a holiday during term time as it will not be authorised.

Children whose attendance is 97% or above at the end of the school year will be rewarded with a special 'Funday Celebration'. Last year, the ice-cream man visited and the children spent the afternoon playing exciting team games on the field. It was a very well deserved treat!

This Weeks Attendance



Overall attendance - 94.5%

Class Weekly winners – Well done to:-

EYFS & KS1 – Pearl 98.6%

KS2 – Citrine 100%

Our target is 96%



Behaviour



We have launched a very exciting behaviour reward system this week. Children now earn 'Didi-Dot' stickers or move to 'GOLD' on their class traffic light system for wonderful learning or super behaviour choices.



Children can also win 'Golden Tickets' for outstanding learning or behaviour. The children have thought of lots of ways to celebrate winning 'Golden Tickets', including extra playtimes, trips to the park, lunch on a special 'reward table' in the hall, time with the chickens or a Forest School session. These are all super ideas!

At the end of the year, we have 10 places on a special stadium and meet the players tour of Manchester City. This will be awarded to children who have demonstrated outstanding behaviour all year.

Parent Forum

We will soon be hosting an 'Academy Visit'. This will be an opportunity for the CEO of The Harmony Trust, Mr Hughes and the Director of Education, Mrs Hainsworth to spend the day at our amazing school, meet with parents and spend time with the children and staff. During the visit, we will be holding a Parent Forum. This is an opportunity for parents to share their views and shape the future of the school. If you would like to join the Parent Forum, please let Ms Jordon or Miss Wood know – everybody is very welcome.



Family Support

The food baskets were available everyday outside of school over the summer holidays. It was great that so many families and community members were able to access this and we thank Miss Wood for her commitment, in her own time, to provide this level of support. Miss Wood will continue to collect food every evening from the Co-op over the autumn term and stock the food trolley each morning. This is available from 08:30am on a first come, first served basis.



Our Family Support Team are here to support YOU. If you need any help or support, please let us know. Ms Smedley is 'meeting and greeting' on the gate every morning and Mrs Rafiq is with us two and a half days a week. You can also contact the team on 0161 260 0622. Ms Smedley and Mrs Rafiq can help with housing, benefits, employment, training, school applications etc. They can also support you with parenting challenges around routines, managing behaviour, toilet training, encouraging healthy eating etc. All work is confidential and very supportive.

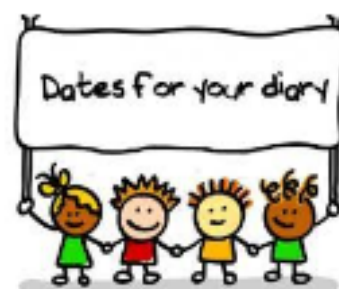
Diary Dates

23rd September – Parent Forum

17th – 20th October – Parent's Evening sessions

20th October – Last day of half term for children

31st October – First day of half term





THE HARMONY TRUST

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

Term dates 2022-2023

Autumn Term 1	Monday 5 th September 2022	Thursday 20 th October 2022
Teacher Training	CLOSED - Friday 21 st October 2022	
Autumn Term 2	Monday 31 st October 2022	Friday 16 th December 2022
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 03 rd January 2023	Thursday 09 th February 2023
Teacher Training	CLOSED – Friday 10 th February 2023	
Spring Term 2	Monday 20 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023
Summer Term 1	Monday 17 th April 2023	Thursday 25 th May 2023
Bank Holiday	CLOSED – Monday 1 st May 2023	
Teacher Training	CLOSED – Friday 26 th May 2023	
Summer Term 2	Monday 05 th June 2023	Friday 21 st July 2023
Academic Year 23 - 24 begins	TBC	

Teacher Training /Trust Days – School closed to pupils

Friday 2 nd September 2022
Friday 21 st October 2022
Friday 10 th February 2023
Friday 26 th May 2023

We Can Help Families

Oldham
Family

This is a tough year for families in Oldham, but we can help.

We've all faced difficulties, coming out of the Covid pandemic, and the rising cost of living. That's why Oldham partners are working together to offer families a little more help to get them through the tough times.

We've put together our top tips for families as part of our We Can Help campaign.

Simply visit: www.oldham.gov.uk/We-Can-Help-Families for links...



1. **Mental health** — Our mental health is equally as important as our physical health. We have resources such as [5 steps to mental wellbeing](#), or [Kooth](#) which is a service for 10-25 to talk confidentially with trained professionals and peers, and you can take your child to a [Take5](#) drop-in session run by MIND. You can also visit your GP, or if in immediate danger call **999** or go to A&E.



2. **Parenting** — We've pre-paid for every parent, grandparent and carer to access £100 of [parenting courses](#). You can claim yours today with the code "DAISY". Courses cover all ages from bump to 19. Get tips to manage challenging behaviour. Also see our Oldham [speech and language](#) resources and GM [10 Tips for Talking](#).



3. **Community support** — Oldham has lots of amazing voluntary, community and faith groups which provide help and run activities. See the Action Together [Community Activities Directory](#) for more information.



4. **Activities** — [Holiday Activities and Food](#) will be available over the Summer for children aged 5-16 who are receiving free school meals. For younger children, download the [50 things to do before you're five](#) app, and young people can check out local [youth groups](#). Oldham's [family information service](#) includes support and activities for all children including additional needs.



5. **Food** — We don't want any Oldham child to go hungry. There is direct help such as [free school meals](#), and you can also find your local [foodbank](#). If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be able to access vouchers from the NHS [Healthy Start](#) food and milk scheme.



6. **Financial help** — If you've lost your job or are struggling with [rent](#), [heating](#), [debt](#) or [benefits](#) we can help. There are people to talk to so you're not alone.



7. **Domestic abuse** — If you or your family are affected by domestic violence or abuse you can get advice through the Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline on **0800 254 0909** or [End the Fear](#) website. You can [ask for ANI](#) to get help confidentially in any pharmacy. In an emergency, call **999** to contact the Police. If it isn't safe to speak and you have called from a mobile, press **55** when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police.



8. **Problems with drugs or alcohol** — [Turning Point](#) offer advice and support if you want help about drugs or alcohol. You can call them on **0300 555 0234**. The national charity [Smart Recovery](#) also provides help and support in recovering from addictive behaviour.



9. **Safeguarding** — If you have a concern about the safety or welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please contact the Oldham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on **0161 770 7777**. If you believe they are at immediate risk of harm, contact Greater Manchester Police on **999**.

We Can Help Families

Speech, Language & Communication



How your child communicates is really important for their life, including school, jobs and friendships

We've put together our top tips for speech, language and communication as part of our We Can Help campaign. Simply visit: www.oldham.gov.uk/talk for links...



- 1. Babies and pre-school** – Parents and carers play the most important part in helping their child's communication and talking in everyday life. Children learn through daily life, play and reading together. Please try to reduce the time you spend looking at your phone or tablet whilst with a baby or young child. How you look at, read with, speak and react to the world with your child helps them to develop.

Check out the Greater Manchester [Top Ten Tips for Talking](#), [50 Things To Do Before You're Five](#), and Oldham's [Language Skills Guide](#). Or for tips and videos about language and bonding see the excellent [BBC Tiny Happy People](#).

ICAN also have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development and a poster to [check progress](#). And for information about stammering, take a look at [Stamma](#).

If your child attends an [early years setting](#), have a chat with their key worker about your concerns. They are there to help and support your child and work together in partnership with families to develop an action plan using the [WellComm Toolkit](#).

If your child does not attend a setting, or you have any concerns about your child's speech, language and communication development, you can also speak to [Oldham's Right Start Team](#).



- 2. Primary school** – As your child begins their journey through primary school they will continue to develop their understanding of longer instructions and questions. They will use more complex vocabulary, longer sentences and stories, develop more speech sounds and extend their conversation skills. Take the opportunity to read together.

ICAN has great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in primary school and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, visit [Stamma](#).

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, please speak to their class teacher or the SENCo. You can work together to decide the best next steps for your child. For confidential advice you can also text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on 07507 330499.

The [Oldham Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) work with families, schools and teachers. This service is for children who need a higher level of support.



- 3. Secondary school** – Language development in secondary years is more gradual. Your young person will use language to solve more complex problems and develop a wider vocabulary. They will explain more complex ideas and use language socially in a more sophisticated way. Your young person's form tutor or the school's SENCo will be able to discuss any concerns you have.

ICAN have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in 11-17 year olds and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, go to [Stamma](#). And for confidential advice you can text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on 07507 330499.

The [Oldham Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) work with families, schools and teachers. This service is for young people who need a higher level of support.

Pin to your fridge!

