

ASPS NEWS



ALFRED SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS 14 JULY 2021 ISSUE 71

Dear Parents/Carers

As the academic year draws to a close, it is incredibly difficult to summarise the huge debt of thanks we owe to all members of the Alfred Sutton Community.

Despite everything we have faced, our community has pulled together once again to enable our pupils to thrive. Thank you to all our pupils, parents and staff for everything you have done during this most challenging of years.

Thank you to all members of the staffing team leaving us this year for your exceptional service and dedication to our school. A special mention and thank you to Mrs Bilbe who has been such an integral part of the staffing team at the school for over thirty years. You will all be greatly missed.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to our Year 6 pupils who will be starting the next chapter of their educational journey in September. Thank you for all you have brought to the school during the time you have been with us.

On behalf of all at the school, I would like to wish you a very peaceful summer break and we look forward to welcoming everybody back on **Friday 3 September**.

Yours sincerely

Robert Howell
Headteacher

School News

Nursery News -

The Nursery children have had a very busy last term learning about the topic *Commotion in the Ocean*. We have learned about so many different sea creatures and we've played at being pirates alongside the story *The Night Pirates*. We've made boats out of craft materials, investigated floating and sinking and explored our feelings with the book *Barry the Fish with Fingers*. We've talked about the importance of sharing with the book *The Rainbow Fish* and learned about how rainbows are made. We even painted our own rainbows focusing on which order the colours come. Finally, we got behind the England football team because so many of us were talking about the football. We made England flags to support the team. Even if we don't win the big match we love to wave a flag!

We have also begun to think about saying goodbye to some of our friends who are going to new schools and meeting the new friends we will have in our classes in Reception. We enjoyed our visits to see the classrooms and are looking forward to story time with our new teachers. In our last week at school we are going to have some summer fun with the story *Toddle Waddle* and think about the things we are hoping to do in the holidays like having picnics at the park, going to beach and eating ice creams! Happy Summer Holidays to you all!

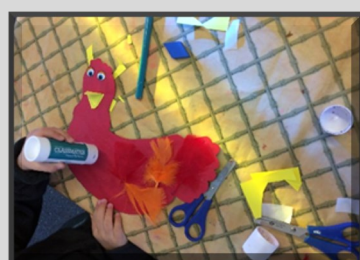
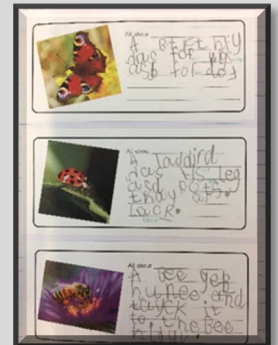
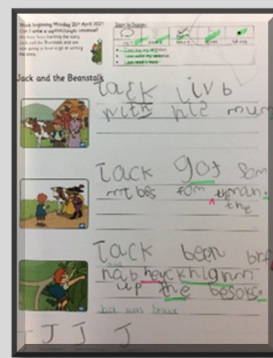
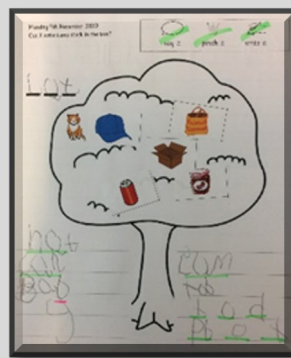
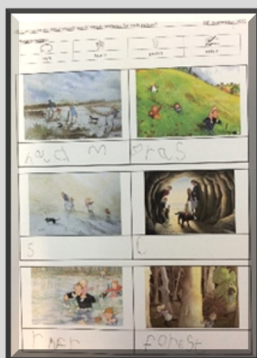


Reception News

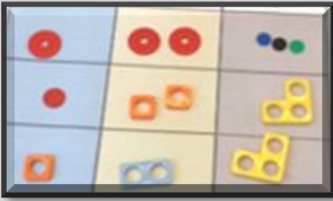
Literacy

Our daily phonics lessons have helped us become readers and writers and we have worked so hard over the year to learn how to use *Fred Talk* and *Fred Fingers*. We can now read words, sentences and books with confidence. At the start of the year we wrote simple labels and captions, now we can write sentences and stories. Here are some of the writing activities we have done over the year.

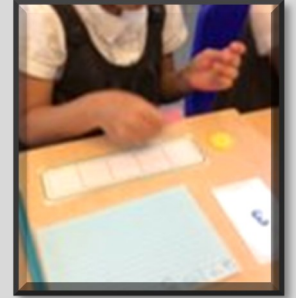
It has also been fun to learn and perform stories. We made puppets to help us remember *Little Red Hen* and became actors to perform different roles in *Jack and the Beanstalk*.



Maths



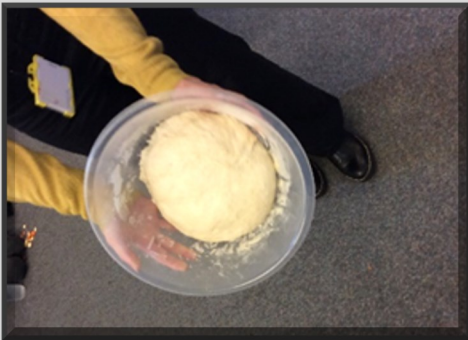
In maths this year we have been working hard to learn accurate counting of up to 20 objects and beyond. We have been developing our number sense through counting, recognising patterns and comparing amounts. We have also been beginning to explore number problems involving addition, subtraction and doubling. By practically using resources such as 5s and 10s frames, *numicon* and *multilink* we have been laying valuable foundations for our maths learning next year. We have also been learning everyday mathematical language for size, weight and capacity, and using this in our play as we explore the characteristics of different objects and shapes.



Curriculum

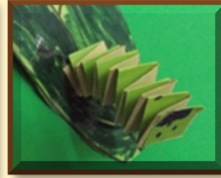
This year we came in contact with a big range of learning areas, such as physical, social and emotional development, as well as technology and design among others, through play and carpet time 3 (as we call it). Every Friday Mr Neate and the class teachers led a PE session and Mrs Jalland prepared two drama sessions per month for Reception. We also experienced lots of other physical activities, for instance bread making and Andy Goldworthy nature collages.

Furthermore, once a week we could practise our motor skills riding bikes and scooters on the playground.



Year 1 News

Year 1s had a wonderful time this term enjoying the many wider curriculum activities. Our topic this term was RIO and the children enjoyed learning all about this South American city. In Science, Year 1 explored the topic of Materials. They sorted materials according to their different properties and experimented with different materials to find out which material is waterproof. Miss Ahmed gave the Year 1s a fruit and vegetable buffet for Healthy Eating Week. The Year 1s all enjoyed sampling and tasting the delicious healthy food. In DT, the Year 1s learnt the skill of paper folding and paper weaving. They very competently created creepy crawly caterpillars for our rainforest display and made woven place mats. Look out for the Year 1's marvellous masks which they are making in Art's Week. Well done to all the children in Year 1 for their hard work and effort this year. We wish them all a happy summer holiday and great start to Year 2.



Year 2 News

In year 2, we have been reading *The Hodgehog* by Dick King-Smith. It's been brilliant to get stuck into a chapter book as a whole class and we've loved reading about Max's adventures and learning all about hedgehogs! To coincide with this, we made hedgehog puppets in DT using felt, cardboard and wooden lolly sticks. In Butterfly class, we used our puppets to make up and perform our own puppet shows!



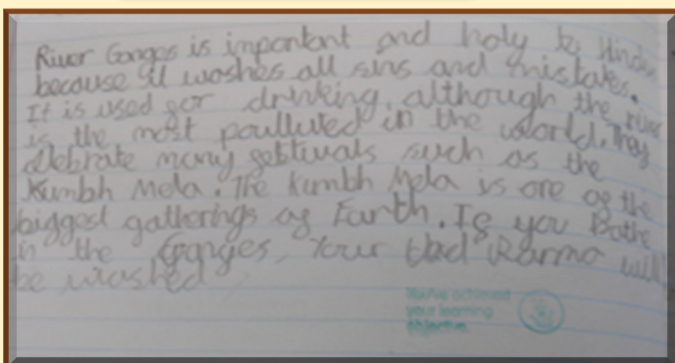
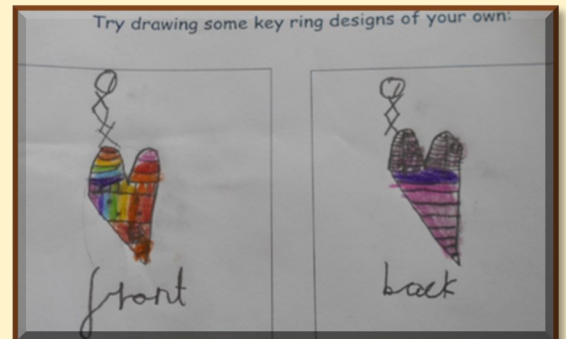
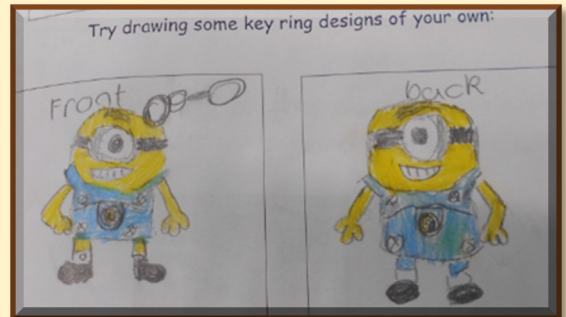
Year 3 News

As the academic year is coming to an end, Year 3 have been working extremely hard in all the subjects.

After a long painful wait, Year 3 appreciated going on a school trip to Englefield. They explored many different areas for the production of crops. Looking at the combine harvester machine intrigued the children to find out more. This linked into our science topic about how plants grow. Children thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor activities and had a wonderful time! They look forward to going on other trips next year!



During art, children have been planning to make key rings out of felt. They have designed their key rings as one of their favourite characters and will be using their sewing skills to stitch it together. So watch this space!



This term Year 3 have also been learning about Hinduism, in particular The River Ganges. They have written some excellent explanations of why the river is important and about the nearby temples that they worship in. Children have a better understanding of the different festivals that Hindu people celebrate and have especially enjoyed learning about the Kumbh Mela.

Year 4 News

Dear Year 4 Parents, Carers and Children – what a year it has been! The Year 4 teachers would like to start our final newsletter by giving all the children hearty congratulations for the resilience that they have demonstrated throughout this challenging year. The children have had a lot to endure with lock-downs, home schooling, catch-up learning and missing their friends ... even their teachers! Well done all of you for the fantastic way you have all pulled together and supported each other and it was great to see how much the children enjoyed returning to school.

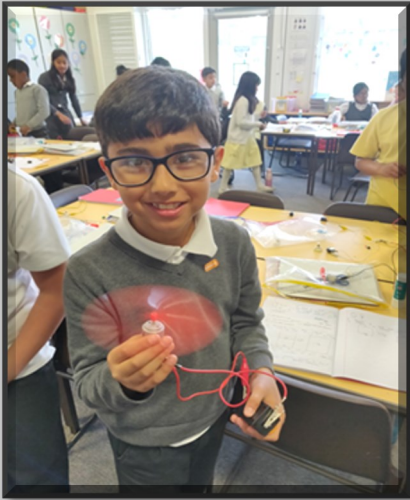
One thing that Year 4 have absolutely LOVED this year is books! We've enjoyed reading together as a class, sharing book recommendations with each other and devouring the books in the class book corners! We love reading so much that local author Kate Poels (who does amazing book reviews on Instagram and BBC Berkshire) was kind enough to bring and donate to us some books she had reviewed. Here we are enjoying our reading in the sun. Harnoor (Fox) said it was very rare for her to find a book she actually liked but one of the books Kate brought us in had her hooked straight away! Here are some of the children enjoying Kate's books.



Year 4 have also been growing flowers for the bees! We started off germinating the seeds back in March and taking care of the seedlings from then on. When the plants were strong enough, we transplanted them outside and the sunflowers, in particular, grew and grew! We can't wait for the big, tall sunflower to bloom. Here are some of the blooms.



Year 4 have had a fantastic time learning about electricity over the past few weeks in science. We have had lots of fun looking at circuits and testing different materials to see if they are conductors or insulators. We have even started reading '*Electrigril*' and we cannot wait to do some writing based on the text before the term ends!



It has been wonderful to have the clubs back up and running. The Year 4 children have been enjoying their time at Football club and Wellbeing club on Friday afternoons!



Finally, it leaves the Year 4 team to wish all the parents, carers and children a fond farewell and a restful and relaxing summer break. We wish you well in Year 5 and we are sure you are looking forward to a fresh start which is always exciting. We also hope that you will miss us as we shall miss you. You have been a great year group to teach. Au revoir Year 4!

Year 5 News

Dear all Parents and Carers of Year 5 children – we've made it! What a year it has been! I would like to begin this, our last newsletter together, by congratulating the children on the resilience they have shown throughout a very 'tricky' time. From starting the year after an extended period of home-schooling (in many cases), to class bubbles, to further lockdowns, to catch-up learning, you and the children have had an awful lot to endure, but have

done so with great fortitude and determination to succeed. Thank you to you and your children for the fantastic way you have pulled together and helped each other to cope with this ever-changing situation.



Looking back over the last ten months, there have been a number of standout moments. Being able to go on a trip during the summer term was a welcome return to 'normality'. The sun shone, the grounds of Englefield Estate looked magnificent and the children relished the chance to simply run around outside in the idyllic surroundings. Reuniting the children as a year group, rather than

class bubbles was also a great sight. The happiness on the children's faces as they were once again able to play with friends from different classes showed just how important an aspect of school-life socialisation can be.



As for work, well, we have covered so much. From the Indus Valley to Vikings, Eastern Europe to protecting the environment, space to human development – the topics have been as varied as they have been enjoyable. Added to which, an amazing number of children have accessed not only Year 5, but Year 6, and even Year 7, work in their maths and reading bubbles – the teaching staff cannot praise them enough for the incredible effort they have made to catch-up to, and move beyond, our start of the year expectations.

Of course, there have been things we wish could have been different – it would have been great to get to know you, the parents and carers, better by inviting you into school for trips, sports-days and

such like. We would have liked to have taken the children off-site more and been able to offer swimming lessons, for example. But, all things considered, we feel it has been a truly memorable year, with so many amazing moments to celebrate and cherish. Once again, the whole team would like to extend our thanks to each and every one of you, for all that you do to support us, and your children in their learning. Without the home-school partnership the children would not be making the fabulous progress that they are.

We hope you have a wonderful summer and wish you and your families the very best for Year 6.



Year 6 News

As we approach the final week of school, Year 6 have been preparing their virtual performances and leaving assembly which we are looking forward to sharing with parents and carers soon. The children have worked extremely hard to showcase their talents and we are excited to be able to celebrate the end of term with these performances.

Whilst we say goodbye to our Year 6 children, the staff would like to share how immensely proud we are of their efforts and conduct this year. They have grown into Alfred Sutton role models and excellent ambassadors of the school. We know they are ready for the next step in their education and wish all our Year 6 children the best of luck with their exciting journey to secondary school.

In addition, Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the Wokingham Waterside Centre this month as part of their end of term celebrations. We took part in paddle boarding, raft building and kayaking. Some children also were brave enough to jump in the river at the end of the session too! It was fantastic to see children trying something new and developing confidence in different skills. Well done Year 6.

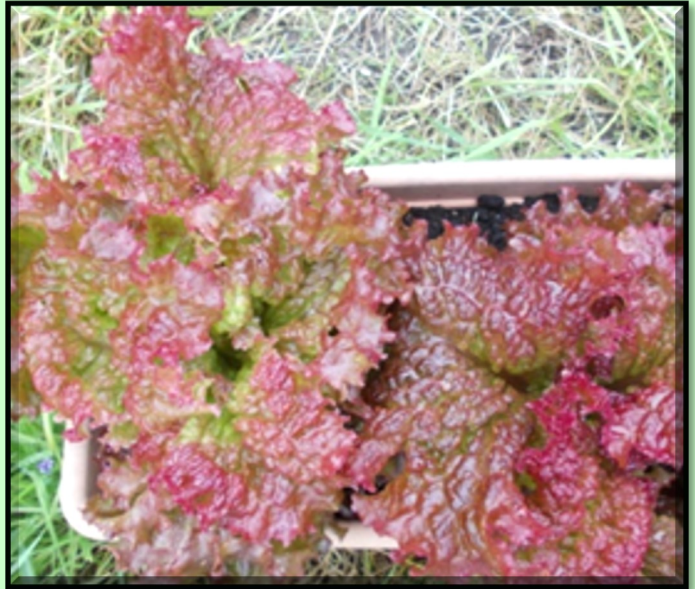
Finally, we'd like to say well done again to our Year 6 children for their continued efforts during their time at Alfred Sutton. We have thoroughly enjoyed teaching you and you all will always be part of our extended family.



School Garden News and Green Fingers Club

It has been lovely to see the Year 1 children, who joined the Green Fingers Club this term, enjoying the activities in the school garden. We really appreciate the time and interest that Mrs Doel has put into the club. The children have enjoyed planting the plants donated by both Mrs Doel and Ms Beatty Hallas. We hope everyone has a lovely Summer enjoying nature and being outdoors!

Can you name some of the plants growing in our garden?



Air quality survey

Good afternoon,

I would like to begin by introducing myself, my name is Marta O'Brien and I am a PhD student at Reading University, I am also a mother of two primary school children, which is why this project is so close to my heart.

The purpose of my project is to measure the air quality around some Reading schools, particularly focusing on the drop off and pick up periods, when there are many passing cars, or idling cars parked by the school gates. As far as I am aware, these hot spots are not being assessed by any of the existing air monitoring arrangements.

I would like to collect the data using outdoor and indoor air monitors, which I am hoping to purchase using the Reading University Community Fund. I am looking for schools that are interested in taking part in the project. Identifying localized air pollution will help to improve the air quality for our children and Reading communities.

My PhD is part time (because I also work for the Reading University) this will allow me plenty of time to monitor for an extended period and build a greater understanding of the situation, allowing data collection across a range of seasons and weather variations.

I also have an online parent/ carer survey. I am collecting information on the children guardian's perception of the air quality around schools as well as looking for volunteers to work with me whilst using the personal air quality monitors that can be attached to the backpack and trace the exposure between home and school.

Please share the link to the survey in your newsletter:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xDv6T_zswEiQgPXkP_kOX5cyjGNaf1xHpQalogT4YtRUOU9BWERQQkxMRlcyMTRVWEUwM1dEVjUwWC4u

You can also share it from my twitter account: https://twitter.com/_marta_obrien/status/1406896480795910149?s=20