

# ASPS NEWS



ALFRED SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS 26 MAY 2021 ISSUE 70

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for all your support since the school reopened in March. The children have greatly impressed us with their resilience and ability to cope with the many challenges the year has already provided.

I hope you enjoy reading about the range of activities the children have enjoyed over the last few weeks and will join me in thanking the staff team for their enthusiasm and dedication to our school community, of which we are very proud. The relationships we have built together, as well as the continual opportunities for children to learn and grow, means we have firmly established ourselves as the school of choice in the area. The demand for places within our school is exceptional and we have waiting lists for all year groups, with especially high demand for places in our Reception classes for September 2021. Thank you to all our families who recommend us to family and friends and to those who come and speak to us when problems arise enabling us to find solutions together.

As restrictions begin to ease I am looking forward to accompanying Year 5 on their forthcoming trip to the Englefield Estate. Hopefully this will be the first of many events for our children which will mark the return to some level of normality. Please continue to check the school website regularly to learn about what your child has been enjoying in their year groups.

I hope you enjoy a restful half-term.

Yours sincerely

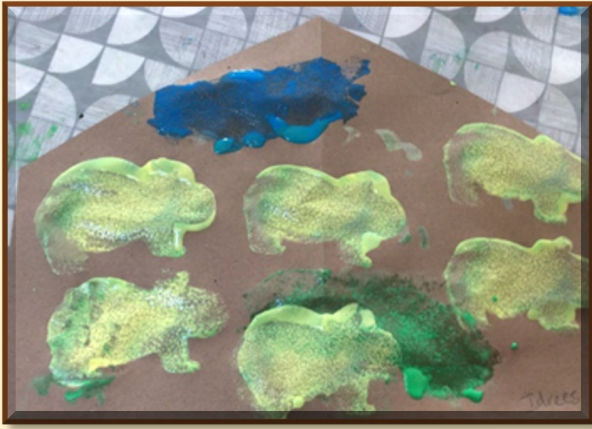
Robert Howell  
Headteacher

## School News

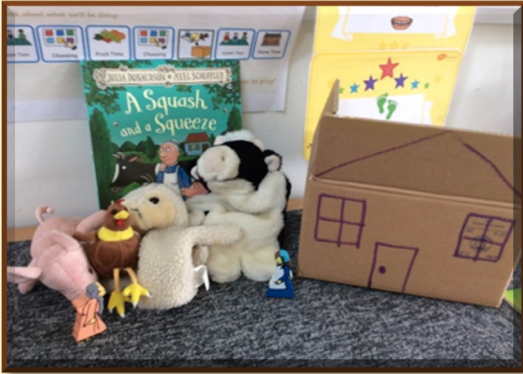
### Nursery News - Down on the Farm

This term we have enjoyed learning all about the signs of spring, farm animals and growing. We planted some seeds and had to be very patient, waiting for a long, long time for them to begin to grow - just like in our story *Jasper's Beanstalk*. Toadstool Class made *Very Hungry Caterpillars* that are going to grow very hairy when the grass seeds they planted begin to grow through! We learned about healthy eating and talked about which foods the caterpillar ate which were healthy and which foods were 'sometimes' foods (to be eaten occasionally as treats). We enjoyed learning the days of the week and counting all the fruits he ate on different days. We have had a lot of fun with our story, *A Squash and a Squeeze*, size ordering animals and seeing which size boxes they fit into. We have had fun learning rhyming words and playing a game called *Silly Soup*.





I wonder if there will be giants at the top of our beanstalks?



How many animals can I fit in my house?



We are waiting for our caterpillars to grow some grassy hair!

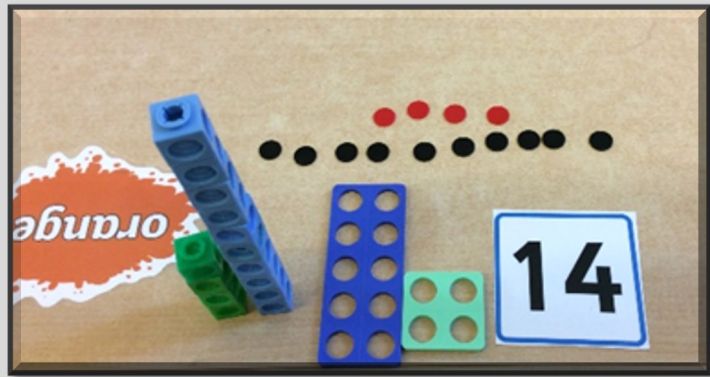
### Reception News

We introduced the spring topic, minibeasts, to the children through the book 'Flip Flap Minibeasts' by Axel Scheffler. We talked about the bugs in the book and then children drew and labelled their favourite minibeast. We also looked at the bug paintings of Sinclair Stratton and discussed the colours and the techniques she uses. In addition, we learned some fun facts about our favourite minibeasts and played the game 'What am I?', where the children described a bug to their friends and they had to guess what it was. Furthermore, we introduced the art work 'The Snail' by Matisse and we compared it to a snail. Then children tried to create their own version of 'The Snail'.



This term our maths has focused on developing a deep understanding of numbers to twenty. We have matched number bonds to ten, adding up to twenty and subtracting from twenty. Children have been getting the hang of counting on from certain numbers rather than beginning at one. They have also been identifying numbers more quickly by sight: five and three more being eight or ten and two more being twelve. This will help children be more confident counters and users of number .





Following on from the minibeast theme, we got out the Bee-Bots and had fun making them travel across the mat. Children had to think very carefully about the route they wanted the Bee-Bots to take to make sure they stayed on the mat. Sometimes it got quite complicated, especially when we had to use the turn left or right button. The remote-control cars also came out as well, and very quickly they were whizzing across the carpet.

In PE, Mr Neate has been teaching the children hockey skills. We practised in the playground, making sure we had two hands on the hockey stick and that the head of the hockey stick was kept safely on the ground. There were some very tired children by the end!



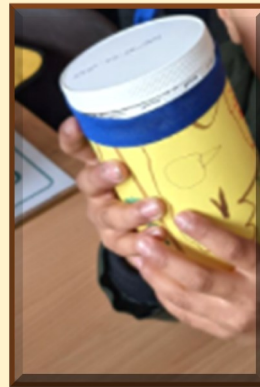
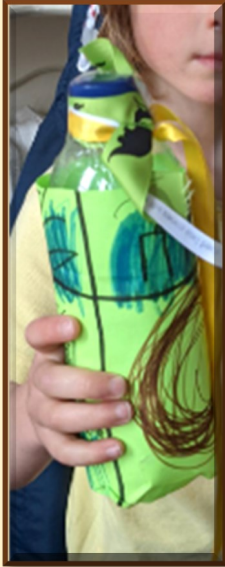
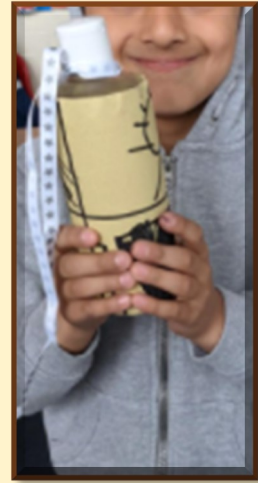
## Year 1 News



This term's topic has been Extreme Weather. In DT the children explored the sounds made by different percussion instruments. They experimented with making weather related sounds.

Next, they listened to Anna Meredith's 'Connect It' body percussion concert. Inspired by this wonderful musical ensemble, the children created their own sounds using various clicks, claps, stomps and their voices.

The final activity was to create a covering for a recycled bottle and fill it with something that would produce a sound. The children really enjoyed creating their shakers, making their own 'thunderly/rainy' sounds.



## Year 2 News

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed this term! Our topic has been Town and Country, which has provided the opportunity to learn about the differences between city and rural life. We have also learned about the changes that have occurred to how people lived in towns and the country a hundred years ago versus how they live now. We particularly enjoyed our virtual session with the Museum of English Rural Life as they were able to show us pictures of people who were farmers over a hundred years ago, as well as some of the tools they used.

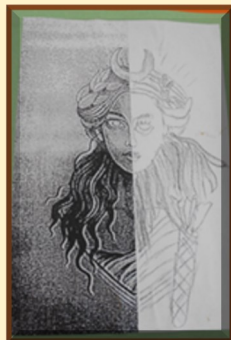
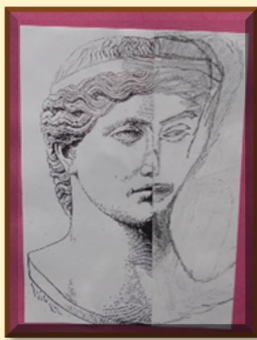
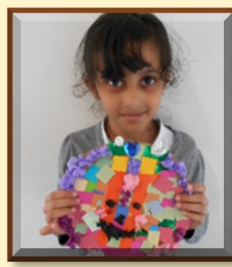
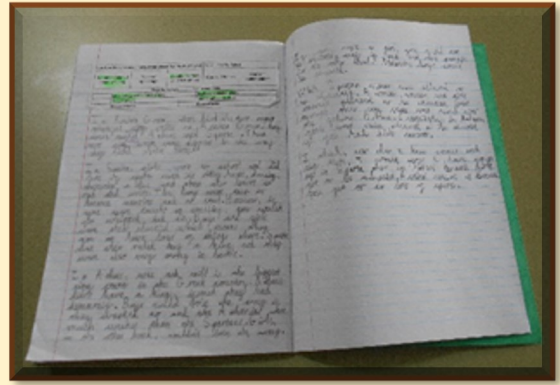
In Science we have been learning all about plants. We've learned about what they need to survive and how they reproduce and grow. We had a go at planting some dwarf sunflower seeds and hope to see some beautiful flowers by the end of the summer term! Some are beginning to shoot up already.



## Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the Summer term and have explored different areas of History and Science.

With enthusiasm, children have dived straight into learning about The Ancient Greeks. They have produced some amazing writing about the Greek Gods and their beliefs, along with the way the Greeks lived in the two main cities (Athens and Sparta). Looking specifically at Athens and Sparta, the children produced a balanced argument of what city they would have preferred to live in. Providing the pros and cons they were able explain why it was feasible to live in one of the cities.



Year 3 have also have been designing their own Greek shields which they used at war with many other countries. Linking this to our history topic, they made their own shields using different materials. They have also used their sketching skills and produced fantastic drawings of one of the Greek Gods (Hera, Athene and Zeus)!



During Science, Year 3 have been doing lots of experiments on plants. With great effort, they have worked remarkably well with one particular investigation on How a plant can grow in three different environments (cold, sunlight or the dark). The children worked in groups and were able to write their results and conclusion keeping in mind their original prediction question. Well done Year 3

Last week of term our DT lessons we have been designing our own pencil pots and making 3D shapes. These are some of the designs that the children will use to make their DT projects.



## Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a full and varied start to the summer term.

Happily, music was back on the agenda with Berkshire Maestros coming in to do weekly ukulele sessions with the children. The children are really enjoying these sessions, having a ukulele each to practise on and learning the basics of notes and musical notation.

Learning the ukulele couldn't have come at a better time since we started learning about sound in our science lessons. Using other instruments available the children could investigate how different instruments produce their unique sounds and how pitch and amplitude could be varied.



This learning was linked to a writing topic and the children wrote, composed, rehearsed and performed a poem inspired by 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough.

The children are currently honing in their geography skills and learning all about essential facts, skills and terminology such as about northern and southern hemispheres; the equator, lines of longitude and latitude and how being in different parts of the world effect the climate we experience.

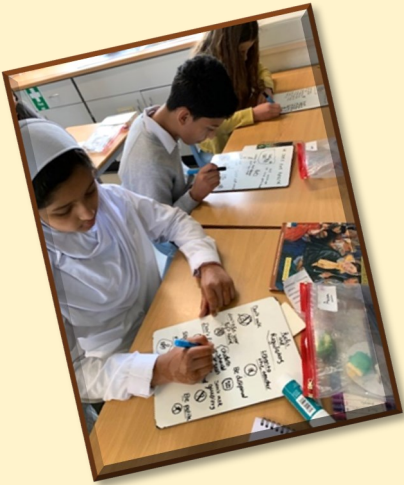
Year 4 have been tending to their plants for the past few weeks and the plants have been thriving! It's so wonderful to see the plants flourishing and seeing the children showing such care towards the plants, especially as our core value for this term has been caring.



## Celebrating Success

Finally, we would like to share a personal success story from Year 4. We already knew that Gracie was a talented violinist (and a mean drummer to boot) and she has already treated Otter Class to a few show-and-tell violin solos. However, Gracie recently took part in this year's Young Musician String competition organized by Berkshire Maestros and Windsor International festival. Over 150 students entered the competition in four age categories. After two successful rounds, Gracie won the final on Sunday 9 March in the 'age 9 and under category'. Very well done Gracie, we are all proud of you and the tremendous effort you have put in to secure this wonderful achievement.

## Year 5 News



Another short term is nearly at an end and, as I sit and think back over the last few weeks, I cannot help but be mightily impressed with the effort made by each and every child to move their learning forward. The Year 5's have shown amazing resilience and determination to make up for time lost to lockdowns and, as a result, have made fantastic progress in all curriculum areas.



Although we have focussed on the core areas of maths and reading during

the mornings, our afternoons have seen us explore a wide range of subjects and topics. Science has focused on living-things, reproduction and the development animals and plants go through as they age. Our history topic was the Victorians, Industrial Revolution and the changes the latter brought to Reading. In particular the children were shocked by the growth of the railroads around Reading and the huge impact this had on the local area. Perhaps even more startling for them was learning about Victorian schooling – suffice it to say, they now have a greater awareness of how lucky they are to go to school in the twenty-first century!

In RE children have learnt about the struggles faced by members of the Sikh community in showing commitment to their God. It came as a surprise to the Year 5's to discover that Sikh men were sent to prison in countries around the world for refusing to remove their turbans in order to wear motorcycle crash-helmets. We also thought about how, for children in particular, it can be difficult to look 'different' to their peers. Eagle, Buzzard and Falcon classes wrote some truly informative play scripts, taking the struggles of a young Sikh child as their start-point.

If you put all this together with the PSHE, PE, Spanish and Art the children have completed over the last six weeks, you can really see how hard they have worked. Their books are filled with work of the highest order and they should take enormous pride in this. We hope that one day you have the opportunity to see all that your children have produced.

The end of the school year is now drawing close. One final push from the whole Year 5 community and our time together will be at an end. As ever, we are very much aware that the children would not be achieving all that they are

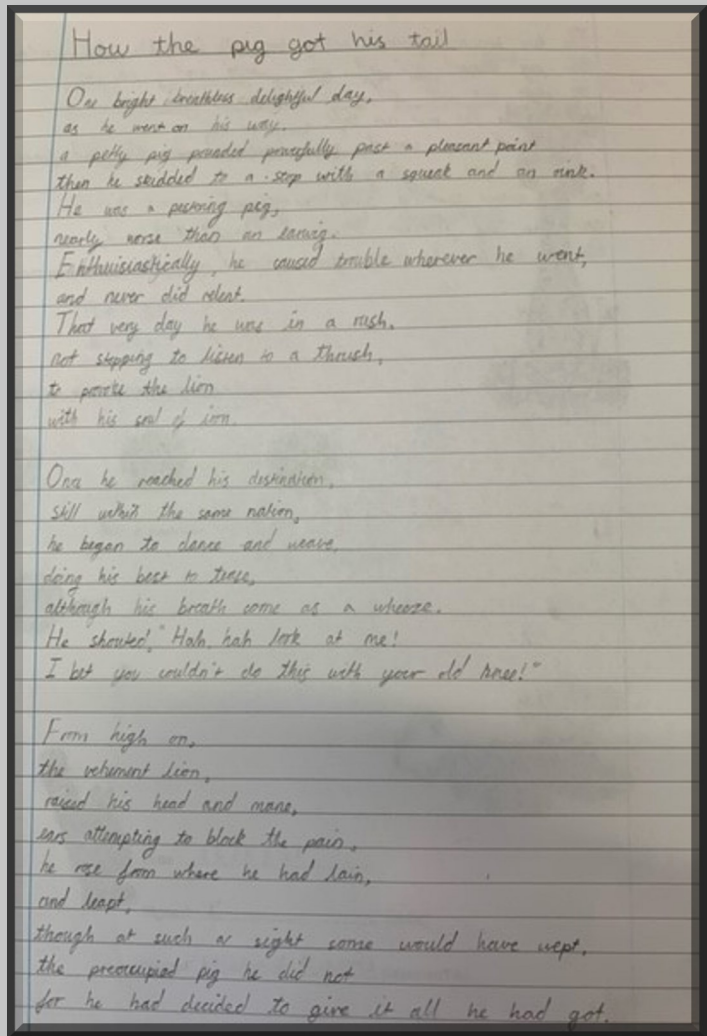


without your support and encouragement. The team cannot thank you, parents and carers, enough for all that you do to motivate your children and keep them engaged with their work. A very big thank you from us all.



Mr Watson and the Year 5 Team

Year 6 have been enjoying writing 'Just So' stories this week. We've been using our writing skills to explore how animals developed their distinct characteristics and features. Here are a few favourites from our year group.



**The Lion and the Mouse**

A cool breeze set into the little Mouse's home: waking him from his deep slumber. Within seconds, he sprang into action and peeped his head up from his underground residence, scanning the sprawling savannah. That day was an unusually hot day so he would have to be hasty with his morning journey; he scampered out of his modest hole and into the barren, scorched landscape that lay bare before him.

Few trees flourished here in the mineral-lacking soil; the sun beat down on his exposed body, the sweltering heat draining all energy in his reserves. However, he was determined to escape the scorched landscape that surrounded him. After what felt like hours (though it was more like minutes), he reached his destination where his beloved fruit, he craved so much, lay bare right before his eyes. After feasting on their sweet taste, he found a spot to relax and prepare for the long journey home. Completely oblivious to the dangerous, monstrous feline behind him...

In a fit of rage at this insignificant but blatantly reckless and rude mouse for waking him from his deep sleep, the Lion snatched the plump mouse from his position; bringing him up to eye level to confront him about his grave mistake. The Mouse pleaded "Pl-please don't eat me! I still have everything to live for! I can help you with something in the future, anything!" the mouse offered.

A deadly silence broke out in the already quiet cave, no one knew who was going to make a move; eventually after

pondering the offer for a while, with a booming voice the Lion announced: "I have no use for you, your bones are too brittle to chew and your flesh, much too little of it to satisfy even the slightest of appetite that I may hold." With that said, the mouse - after what seemed was going to be his end - was set free.

It had been a few days since the Mouse's near-death experience: he was paying another visit to his favourite spot in the savannah, with shade, fruit and water. Alarmingly, a scream of agony was heard throughout the land that day - a scream that no resident of the Lion's domain could ignore. Investigating the anomaly, he scampered deep into the savannah, deeper than he had ever been before; it was way out of his bounds though there was no stopping him. Twisted and tangled with wounds from the tight net exposed to the heat, the mighty feline stood bare before him; reduced to little more than prey.

Without hesitation the Mouse pounced at the opportunity to prove himself. Efficiently and effectively the mouse gnawed at the huntsmen's net and soon set the mighty king of the lands free.

"See? I wasn't as useless as you perceived me to be!" The Mouse said in absolute triumph. The mighty Lion simply let out a purr of relief.

The end

Moral: no matter how small someone may look don't underestimate their abilities.



# SCHOOL GARDEN May 2021

It is great to be back in the school garden!

The weather has not been great, but lots of plants have self seeded and are starting to come up. If you peep over the fence you will see the ground covered with green cosmos seedlings which will grow into tall pink flowers like those to the right.

Mrs Doel donated some potatoes that were starting to make shoots. We planted them and look forward to digging up more potatoes later in the year. Try not to step on them as they are covered with soil until they start growing .



Thank you to Pippa and Frank for helping to plant some freesias. Leeks, sunflowers and marigolds. Mrs Newton built a tepee of sticks for a runner bean to hold onto as it grows upwards.



The Year one Green Fingers club will enjoy looking after the garden after half term. Look out for more chance to get involved in the future

Please take care when visiting the garden yourself. Children are very welcome to look around but must be supervised. The garden is closed to children after school.

Thank you to Hannah Howard and Beatty Hallas for their time and commitment to the school garden. It is very much appreciated.

## Walk to School Week



We have walking superpowers at ASPs! Well done to all the pupils who have been walking to school this week. Year 1 children who weren't able to walk to school spent some time at lunch walking 'in school'. Every child received a sticker each day of the week and filled in some fun activities in their own 'Walking to School' booklet. The week led to some lovely discussions around the benefits of walking.



A Year 1 Walking to School Class display

## School lunch reminder

School lunches must be ordered by 8.00am through ParentPay. Please note you can order 2 weeks in advance. If you do not have your log in, please contact the school office who will be able to send you your login details. We are unable to guarantee your child a lunch if they are not ordered before the deadline, therefore please provide a packed lunch.

