

# ASPS NEWS



ALFRED SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS 15 DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 73

Dear Parents/Carers

A huge thank you to all members of our school community. We have all pulled together once again to ensure our children have enjoyed another successful term. We are also extremely fortunate to have a hugely caring and resilient staff team at Alfred Sutton who have gone above and beyond again this term to support the children and put their well-being at the centre of all we do.

## **Outbreak Management Plan Spring 2022**

We will be sending out our Outbreak Management plan later this week. The plan will set out the steps we will take should we experience a sharp rise in cases on our return to school following the Christmas Holiday period. Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that there is likely to be significant disruption should cases of the new variant continue to rise during the next few weeks.

## **Charity Donations:**

A huge thank you to our local charity groups who have once again donated a range of gifts for our families to enjoy at Christmas. Particular thanks go to Reading Salvation Army, Reading Family Aid, Readifood and The Cowshed. More than ever their support is hugely appreciated. Thank you also to Mrs Mills for continuing to work so effectively with our generous charity groups.



On behalf of the staff, children and governing body at Alfred Sutton, may I wish all of our community a happy and peaceful holiday period; we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Yours sincerely

Robert Howell  
Headteacher

## Nursery News -

The Nursery children are now well settled at school and are enjoying learning about the seasons of Autumn and Winter. Our topic Into the Woods saw us learning all about forests and woodland animals with stories such as The Gruffalo, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and One Snowy Night. We had great fun baking our own Gingerbread Men and spiky salt dough hedgehogs and using sticks to make our own Stickman puppets. We also started going on our Outdoor Welly Walks every Thursday which are proving to be great fun and very educational. Every time we visit the woods on the field we find something different like mushrooms, dandelion clocks, catkins and daisies. We have noticed how the trees have lost most of their leaves now as they get ready for winter. We are also busy tuning into sounds outside and in, listening to the sounds of the wind and birds outside and learning our sound of the week inside. Getting ready for the Christmas festival has been very exciting... we've helped decorate our classroom and home corners with baubles and snowflakes and the reindeer visit was another highlight. Our last week before the holidays will be full of festive fun crafts, our Winter Singing Celebration (which you can view via Tapestry from Tuesday 14 Dec) and our class Christmas parties.



## Reception News

What a wonderful and busy term we have had! The Reception children have continued to work hard and have enjoyed a number of different activities. Our theme for this term has been 'Terrific Tales' and we have worked with the book Zog by Julia Donaldson and the traditional tale, Little Red Riding Hood. The children have been using their phonics skills to write simple sentences and became actors when performing the stories. In maths, the children have continued to explore numbers, including the composition of numbers to 5. They have used shapes to design their own castles and described the position of the class teddy. We also had an excellent time on our welly walk! The children had so much fun exploring the field noticing all the autumnal changes. Fortunately, it stayed dry for us.

The reception staff would like to wish you all a happy winter break :-)



## Year 1 News

Year One have had a fabulous term. We have learnt all about rural life. The highlight of this topic was our trip to the Museum of English Rural Life. We were so proud of the way the children walked to the museum and how they behaved while they were there. They did a fantastic job of representing the school. While we were at the museum, we saw some chickens in the garden, handled rare farming artifacts and saw reconditioned tractors.

Thank you to the year one children and their families for all the hard work this term. We wish everyone a wonderful, restful break and look forward to our new exciting topic of 'transport' in the new year.

Thank you and warm wishes,

The Year One Team

## Year 2 News

This has been another very busy half term in Year Two. We started with our journey through flight and space exploration, during which we made our winding mechanisms. We loved getting hands on with different materials!

Then we moved onto our geography topic: coasts and villages. This gave us an opportunity to explore what makes Reading a town and how the use of land has changed over time. Art has been focussed on use of colour and mixing. Attached are some of our Hockney-inspired pieces.

In the run up to Christmas, we have lots of exciting visitors to welcome: reindeers, reptiles and maybe even Santa himself! We are looking forward to performing our winter celebration (virtually) and cannot wait to share this with our parents and carers.

We would like to wish a very Merry Christmas, to those celebrating, and a Happy New Year!

Enjoy a restful break!

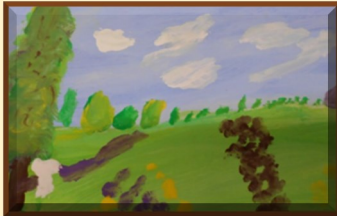
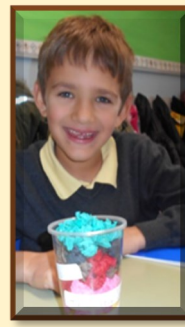
The Year Two Team



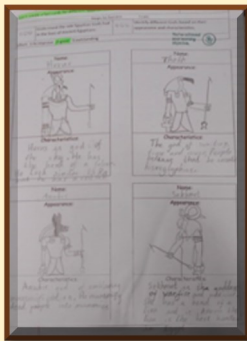
### Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the Autumn term 2 and have been learning different topics.

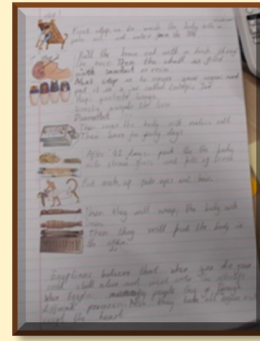
Children have enjoyed learning about rocks in Science and how the earth was formed. They particularly focused on the layers of the earth. Here are some models the children made using tissue paper.



During Art, Year 3 have been looking at some paintings of Claude Monet. The children then used their knowledge of mixing primary colours to make the different shades. Fantastic work Year 3!



Also this term children have been learning about Ancient Egypt. They researched about the different gods and their characteristics.



Additionally, Year 3 also found out about the mummification process, which they found fascinating! Great work!!

### Year 4 News

The children in Year 4 have enjoyed learning all about the Romans in Britain. In fact, they immersed themselves in Roman life on our enjoyable and educational visit to Ufton Court. The children learned about how the Roman army became one of the most formidable forces of the time. They donned shields to practise battle and defence formations which included the shield wall, the wedge, the tortoise and the orb when the pupils had to protect their teachers from attack. They also learned about games and pastimes the Romans engaged in and then had the opportunity to play them themselves. The children also became amateur archaeologists. Working in groups, they were given Roman artefacts and tried to guess what they were used for.

Here are some pictures of the day.



In science, the children have been learning all about the human digestive system. They particularly enjoyed the experiment where we replicated the digestive system using bananas, crackers, water, lemon juice, plastic bags and tights! Ask your children for details. It was, fun, yucky and informative!

## Year 5 News



A very warm (in spirit if not temperature) greeting to all Year 5 parents and carers.

As the holidays draw near, the time has come to reflect on a wonderful term for Year 5. Despite the ever-changing circumstances under which we are having to live, the children of Eagle, Falcon and Buzzard have continued to model all the Sutton Six Values on a daily basis. For example, they treat their peers and the wider school community with respect, show resilience in their learning and aspire to achieve great things both this year and beyond. As parents I think you would be extremely pleased to hear that the feedback I receive from other teaching staff who work with your children is overwhelmingly positive and lavish in its praise. So, let's begin with a huge well done to each and every child in Year 5.

This term we have continued to try and give the children as wide an educational experience as possible. In music, Year 5 have been writing their own school anthems, in art we have explored how to add texture to our paintings and in DT we have completed our woodwork topic and are now in the midst of producing mechanical toys using cams of various shapes and sizes.

History, in particular, captured the imagination of the children and they seemed to take a great deal from the Indus Valley topic. We linked this to some creative writing and there were some highly imaginative retellings of how Charles Masson discovered the lost city of Harappa. As a side note, last week we were able to participate in a live zoom with the award-winning children's author, Kate Poels, who, I have no doubt, would have been extremely impressed if she had had the chance to read some of our fantastic work.

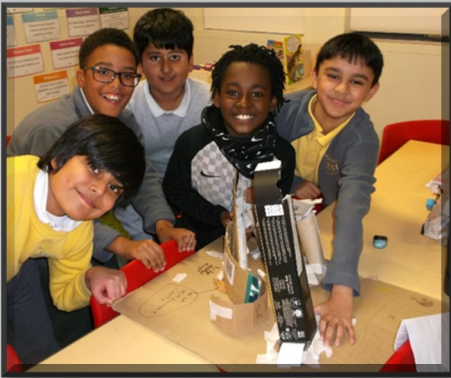
Of course, there was plenty more learning done. Maths and computing, PE and nutritional learning, RE and RHE filled our days and the children gave their all to every subject and lesson. I think the whole Year 5 team have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the individual character of each child shine out, with each choosing their own particular favourite subject. We can only be happy that the whole year group has each found something they enjoy and want to excel at. Long may it continue.

Have a great holiday and myself and the team look forward to seeing you in January.

Mr Watson



## Year 6 News



In the words of Year 6...

**As we near the finish line of this half term, we already feel that, as a year group, we have made smashing progress. Every lesson shows our enthusiastic attitude to learning that holds up our school motto: 'Happy Together, Achieving Together'. Throughout our curriculum, we always achieve to the best of our abilities.**

This term, I enjoyed going to the library. I love reading the book 'Amulet' which I found there. We have been reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' – it has been interesting to learn about Bruno's dad who is a World War 2 soldier.

In maths so far, we have studied many topics: from fractions to multiplication, everything we have covered in this subject is now secure. I felt extreme confidence throughout the measurement lessons: it was probably one of the most enjoyable subjects I've learnt so far.

In science, we have been studying various areas; we tested how quickly mould grows on bread in different conditions.

In DT, we concentrated on producing a functioning marble run. However, it would not prove to be easy... We accomplished this by firstly learning three different techniques of joining materials together in a bend. Eventually, once we'd mastered all three, we constructed many marvellous marble runs! It was phenomenal. I find that I can express my creativity with the marble run.

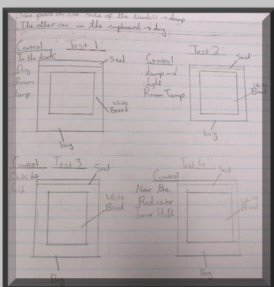
History has been a particularly enjoyable subject this term. World War Two was our focus and we've all learnt a wide range of interesting facts. I especially enjoyed learning about rationing in Britain, and I am very proud of what I have accomplished in the writing focused on it.

We visited Wycliffe Baptist Church to study Mary's significance in the Bible and in the nativity. I learnt so much at Wycliffe church.

In computing, we've been working on 'choose your own story' projects on Scratch 3.0. With projects ranging from people deciding what to with their day, to animals choosing what to eat, there is no doubt that Year 6 has made astronomical amounts of progress on all aspects of computing.

In PE, we have been learning a variety of sports, such as: dodgeball, handball, hockey and basketball. Each sport gives us a great opportunity to be active whilst having fun. It's one of our favourite things to do at school.

**Overall, this term, Year 6 have been very productive in every subject. Whether that is a creative topic or an academic subject, a great deal of progress has been made. I have enjoyed every moment of every subject this term, and I am sure my peers feel very much the same way.**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

**WHERE IS IT FOUND?**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

## GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

## STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

## ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content; usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.



## 18 Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/programs/bullying-prevention-inappropriate-content> <https://www.education.gov.au/education-training-professionals/profession-of-learning-program-teacher/inappropriate-content-fact-sheet> <https://www.wednesday.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/children-media-literacy-year-7.pdf>