



Alsager Highfields Primary School

Mighty oaks from small acorns grow

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Newsletter Friday 11th October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

It feels like we've skipped autumn and gone straight into winter at the moment. As the weather is so unpredictable, please can you ensure that your child does have a coat in school daily. We also have a vast amount of un-named jumpers, hoodies and cardigans in school. If your child has lost an item of uniform, please let your child's class teacher know and if we cannot find your original item, we can at last replace it with an unnamed one.

Huge congratulations to Mrs Harry who secured the 'School Games Gold Award' for the second year running. We have definitely seen an increase in activity since the introduction of the mini gym and the daily mile track and playtimes are being less dominated by football, which is a positive for all. We are going to introduce 'Opal Play' hopefully this year, which is a scheme that gives children the resources to be creative at breaks and schools who have introduced this initiative have said it's 'revolutionised' play times.

Finally, over the past two weeks I have shown many prospective parents around the school and the behaviour of your children has been exemplary. Without exception, every visitor has commented on the calm and happy environment and how polite and well behaved the pupils are. You should be very proud—I am!

Rachel Woollam

Healthy Snacks

We have noticed an increase in the number of pupils bringing in sweets and fizzy drinks to school. Neither item is allowed to be brought in and staff will dispose of such items if seen. Fruit is readily available in school, for which there is no charge. Please help us to deliver our statement 'healthy body, healthy mind.' Thank you for your anticipated support.

Homework Clubs

We are aware that for many pupils access to a laptop in order to complete homework is tricky. To help ease the stress of online homework we have a lunch time homework club every day except Fridays and all pupils are welcome to go and complete work set with any teacher. The clubs are as follows and will take place in the teacher's classroom:

Monday—Mrs Wynne

Tuesday—Mrs Harrison

Wednesday—Mrs Matthew

Thursday—Miss Baggaley



Donkey Visit

We were lucky enough to be visited by 'Missy' and her owner yesterday, who came to highlight the role animals played in both the first and second world wars.



Missy was resplendent in purple poppies and was so patient whilst her owner, Mrs Sarah Booth, told the children how pigeons, horses, donkeys and dogs were used to carry goods, take messages as well as detect bombs and mines.

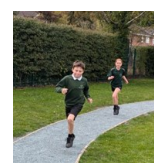
The children are now going to produce both art and written pieces of work on the subject, which will be displayed in Cheshire Military Museum in Chester from 7th November. If any family would like to make a purple poppy to be added to our work, please send it in before the end of half term (25th October).

Daily Mile

Last Friday we were visited by Mr Ian Donaldson, CEO of the Staffordshire based Atlanta Group, who came to see our 'Daily Mile' track in action. It was only through the generosity of Mr Donaldson that this track was able to be completed so quickly and we will be eternally grateful for this gesture.

Mr Donaldson spoke to our year 6 Sports Ambassadors, who articulated how the daily mile track had helped them to concentrate better in the afternoons due to having a 'brain break.' It is also helping our pupils get fitter as they are increasing the amount of steps being completed daily.

The daily mile is part of our daily curriculum offer and therefore the track is in use for a large percentage of time every day.



One World Festival

Our wonderful choir were on good form on Saturday, along with a group of year 5 drummers at the One World Festival. Several of our pupils joined Mrs Dyde and Mrs Matthew on stage at the Civic Centre, where they performed a medley of songs and rhythmic pieces to a packed hall. Mrs Lindblad and several other members of staff cheered loudly from the side-lines and I was extremely proud of our school and our pupils. They all looked so smart, but more importantly all took part with a smile on their face.



Students

As a good school, we are able to support trainee teachers with school placements and this year we have committed to providing placements for four professionals entering the profession. Miss Cooper will complete a placement in year 1, Mr Keenan has been placed in year 6 and Miss Smith will soon be joining year 2.

All trainees will work under the direct supervision of the class teachers and already the benefit from having additional support in classes is being felt across the school.

Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass, which is a national scheme that operates between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting when a child has experienced domestic abuse. This report is sent to schools before the start of the next school day so that staff can support the children in our care.



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Mrs Lindblad has clearly been working her class exceptionally hard as we have 4 pupils who have already earned their bronze certificate!

Congratulations to:

Ava R, Arthur H, Claudia O and Bella-Rose T for being superstars.



We also have our first word millionaire. At 5 weeks into term, I think that's pretty

impressive.

Well done Noah L, in year 6 for achieving this milestone in record time.

Most words read in:

Y2— Oscar N

Y3— Benjamin B

Y4— George S

Y5— Grace B

Y6— Noah L, Tom G

Well done to Year 6 who have collectively read the most words so far at 4,179,328

Also top of the teacher leader board is Mrs Dyde who has read over 500,000 words. I have some catching up to do!

PINS Project

Last year, our school was invited to join a project run jointly by the NHS and education. The project is aimed at improving education for neuro diverse pupils who attend mainstream settings. As a school that prides itself on being inclusive, it is important that we do all we can to support neuro diverse pupils and their parents.

The first parent carer forum will be held at Highfields on Tuesday 22nd October 9am—10.30 and each attendee will be entered into a free raffle.



Find out more about Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum (CEPCF) and the Partnership for Inclusion in Schools (PINS) Project. Come and join one of our CEPCF reps and find out more about who we are and what we do across Cheshire East.

We will also be discussing the PINS project at your school and how you can be involved.

► The Partnership for Inclusion in Schools (PINS) project is a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing the educational experience of neurodiverse children within mainstream primary schools.

