



AYSCOUGHFEE HALL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER: 21/11/25

Dear Parents,

Christmas has well and truly started in school now. The sound of carols being rehearsed has been travelling down the corridors and our infant children are working hard on their highly anticipated Christmas production – always a favourite for us all. I would like to thank everyone for their very generous donations to the Boxes of Hope appeal; a huge amount of toys are gathering in the hallway and it is heartwarming to see how keen the children are to sort through their toys and pass them onto another child.

As we continue to prepare for the festive season, do take a look at the school calendar below as there are lots of events coming up and we hope many of you will be able to join us for some or all of these.

KINDERGARTEN



What fantastic little gymnasts we had in Kindergarten this week! Miss Lawniczak was full of praise for the boys and girls after their latest PE lesson. Their listening skills are continuing to improve which means they can safely carry out all these exciting activities using various pieces of equipment. Just look at the amazing balancing, jumping, climbing and teamwork going on here! 🙌👏 Well done Kindergarten, we are so proud of you.



KINDERGARTEN TEDDY BEARS

Kindergarten children received their Ayscoughfee teddy bears this week and as you can see from their faces there were smiles all round!

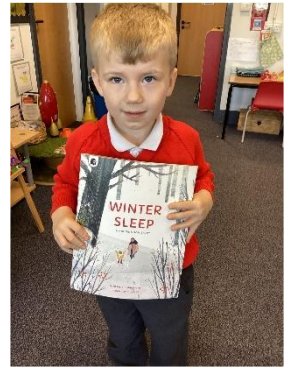


RECEPTION



This week in Reception we have been working incredibly hard as we prepare for our Christmas EYFS Play 'The Big Little Nativity'. The children have amazed us with how confidently they are learning their lines and songs, the excitement is definitely building!

In maths, we have been focusing on subitising numbers and talking about what we can see in pictures that show 4 objects. The children are beginning to group amounts, explain their thinking clearly and even make calculations from these images.



Our Drawing Club text has been *Winter Sleep* by Sean Taylor, which has sparked wonderful discussions about animals and hibernation. We've been learning what it means to hibernate and discovering the many different animals that settle down for a long winter sleep, including ladybirds and stag beetles would you believe!



YEAR 1



Year 1 have been exploring their topic of 'Inspiring Individuals'. In this week's history session, we looked at Sir David Attenborough and the work he has done for animals and the environment. The children then had to think of five different ways we could help protect the environment. This included doing things such as turning the lights off when we do not need to use them and recycling different materials. The children had lots of class discussions about Sir David's work and the impact he has had.



This also linked to our forest school session where the children had to make an animal out of clay that has yet to be discovered! The children used lots of materials they found in the area such as leaves and sticks to make the animal and its own habitat. The animals that were made all looked amazing and the children worked super hard to do this! Well done Year 1, you all showed great teamwork!



YEAR 2

It was a very exciting start to the week last week in Year 2! When the children arrived on Monday morning, they were extremely surprised to find lots of very strange footprints all around the classroom. Luckily, there was an identification sheet waiting for us, so we set to work matching the prints to different animals. However, one mysterious footprint didn't match any on the sheet! This led us on a fantastic investigation to work out what kind of creature might have visited our classroom. To help us spread the word we created brilliant wanted posters to try and find this strange visitor. While designing our posters, we revised and used the four different types of sentences: statements, questions, commands and exclamations. Luckily, it finally transpired that the creature was a dodo from the book 'A Journey Home' which is about four different animals who have to leave their homes because they are being destroyed. Following on from reading this book we have been planning and writing our own stories about different animals that go on a journey because they have had to leave their homes.

The children are thoroughly enjoying their PE sessions at the moment because the hall is full of apparatus when they go over on a Wednesday morning. Thank you to Miss Lawniczak for making the gym sessions so much fun for the children. In RE, we had a lovely, calm session beginning our new topic all about candles. The children really enjoyed sharing their experiences of using candles and describing how they made them feel. It has been a wonderful week full of curiosity, creativity and calm reflection in Year 2 (which is much needed as the craziness of practising for our Christmas play is in full swing!)



YEAR 3

What a fantastic week it has been in Year 3! The children have been buzzing with enthusiasm across all their lessons and we are so proud of their hard work and creativity.

In English this week, Year 3 ventured into the world of spooky settings! The children have been crafting wonderfully atmospheric scenes full of eerie details and suspenseful descriptions. They are especially excited as they will soon be sharing their spooky writing with the Year 4 children. They simply *cannot wait* to read their creations aloud!



In Maths, the children have been exploring the 3- and 4-times tables in fun and engaging ways. They enjoyed playing a variety of games to help build their confidence and speed. A highlight was learning a multiple of 4 rap, which had everyone tapping along! They also looked at times tables from some unusual angles, which really helped deepen their understanding.

Our Geography lessons were filled with practical learning. Year 3 have been discovering the difference between weather and climate and learning how weather is measured. They even made their very own rain gauges and wind vanes! These are now proudly placed around the school grounds, ready to help the children collect real weather data. The children are very excited to begin their brand-new Christmas-themed DT project. It's top secret for now... but we can reveal that it will eventually become a special present for their families! The anticipation is already building.

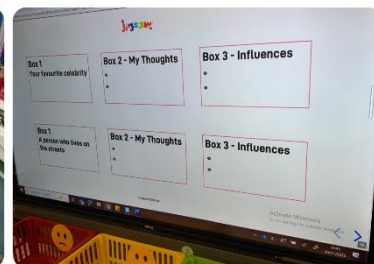
All in all, it has been a brilliant week in Year 3, full of creativity, curiosity and lots of smiles. We can't wait to see what next week brings.



YEAR 4

PSHE Celebrating Difference - Understanding Influences

In Jigsaw PSHE this week, Year 4 explored the idea of *influences* and thought about the different people and things that can affect the choices we make. We discussed how friends, family, adverts and even social media can sometimes encourage us to act or think in certain ways. The children shared examples of positive influences, such as people who inspire them to try their best and talked about how to recognise unhelpful influences too. We also learned the importance of making our *own* decisions and staying true to our values, even when we feel pressured. The class showed thoughtful ideas and mature discussion throughout the lesson.





English - Persuasion

In English this week, Year 4 explored a range of persuasive devices using the acronym *BEACH FOREST BEE* to help us prepare for writing our own persuasive letters. The children worked brilliantly in groups, discussing ideas, practising different techniques and supporting one another. They especially enjoyed spotting examples in model texts and trying them out in their own sentences. It was a lively, collaborative session and the class are feeling confident and excited to apply their new skills to their upcoming persuasive writing.

Maths – Multiplication and Division

This week, we explored patterns in times tables and used different strategies to make tricky calculations easier. The children practised grouping, sharing and using number facts they already know to help solve new problems. We also looked at how multiplication and division are linked, using arrays and bar models to build confidence and understanding. Year 4 have shown great enthusiasm and are becoming much more fluent in recalling their times tables.

YEAR 5



This week in maths, the children have been securing their understanding of prime, squared and cubed numbers. They have been using cubes and practical resources to help visualise these challenging concepts, before tackling a range of reasoning questions to deepen their thinking. Their times tables knowledge has been crucial, and many have been confidently using a multiplication grid to spot patterns and work out answers. It's been brilliant to see their resilience as they grapple with tricky ideas and apply their learning so independently.



In History, we have been exploring the decline of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII's decision to divorce her. The children have investigated a range of historical sources, forming their own opinions on whether Henry was right to seek a divorce. They took part in a lively 'conscience corridor' debate, where they had to persuade Henry to either stay with Catherine or leave her. To finish, they created mood graphs to show how Catherine's life changed over time – with lots of thoughtful discussion.



YEAR 6

What a busy week it has been for Year 6! The pupils have been challenging themselves with their investigations into different circuits as part of our Electricity topic. They've been experimenting with a mix of components and have demonstrated excellent investigating and recording skills by using the proper symbols. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm in action!



In History, Year 6 have been delving into the fascinating world of the Industrial Revolution. They've been exploring how and why people moved from the countryside into towns during this time of great change; they really impressed with their thoughtful contributions to our class discussion. Art and DT have also had a link to the past - the children have been learning about Victorian samplers, and they're now in the exciting stage of sewing their own creations based on their plans. We can't wait to see the final pieces.



In English, the pupils have used their poetic talents to craft diamante poems inspired by our film narrative, 'The Lighthouse.' They have really enjoyed incorporating challenging and exciting vocabulary. Well done, Year 6 – another great week.

LANGUAGES

This week in Spanish, pupils across the school engaged in a rich variety of linguistic and cultural learning experiences designed to deepen both their communicative skills and their understanding of the wider world.

Our Infant learners immersed themselves in playful yet purposeful activities that strengthened their recall and sentence-building skills. Through carefully structured memory games, they revisited key vocabulary while developing confidence in recognising patterns within the language. Pupils also practised writing full Spanish sentences to express their likes and dislikes about different foods—an early step toward personal expression in a new language. Singing familiar Spanish songs further supported their pronunciation, rhythm and enjoyment, fostering a positive emotional connection to language learning. In Juniors, pupils extended their grammatical and thematic knowledge by working with the days of the week. They explored how linguistic structures connect to daily routines, embedding new vocabulary through meaningful associations. By linking each day to an activity they complete, pupils engaged in authentic communication, demonstrating their ability not only to recall language but to apply it purposefully. This approach helps to develop stronger cognitive and cultural awareness, showing learners how language reflects real-life experience.



The highlight of the week came from Years 5 and 6, who combined linguistic learning with intercultural exchange. Pupils prepared a beautifully crafted parcel of homemade Christmas decorations to send to their partner school in Trévoux, France. This project offered an invaluable opportunity to explore the significance of festive traditions across cultures, encouraging pupils to reflect on similarities and differences in how communities celebrate. By contributing their own handmade creations, they actively participated in a meaningful act of international friendship—deepening their understanding that language learning is not solely about vocabulary and grammar, but also about fostering empathy, curiosity and global citizenship.



Across all year groups, this week's activities demonstrated how language learning becomes most powerful when it is rooted in connection: connection to memory, to personal expression, to everyday life and ultimately to other cultures and communities. Through these experiences, pupils are not only developing their Spanish but also building the intercultural awareness that will serve them as thoughtful, informed citizens of an increasingly interconnected world.

SPORTS NEWS

U9 U11 Rugby v The Grantham Prep School 19.11.25



It was our first properly cold fixture of the season. Our U9s played Tag Rugby and were on good form from the start. We scored individual and some good team tries with several passes being made whilst in possession. Lots of energy was put into strong tagging in defence. A good performance maintaining the upper hand throughout the match against the Grantham team. Harry was player of the match.

The U11s faced a strong, well organised Grantham team. When we found a gap in the defence the opportunities were taken and

tries were scored. Grantham kept their shape and were able to extend their play getting round our defence and scoring some good tries. Over the match, the Grantham team were stronger though our players showed good determination and effort to the end. Oliver was player of the match. There were lots of positives to take from the fixture and it also showed us some areas that we can develop for the future. Well done to all who took part and thanks go to those who braved the cold and supported our teams.



REMINDERS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 24TH NOVEMBER:

MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

- Deadline for PTFA Movie night form - today

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER - YEAR 6 OUTING TO CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

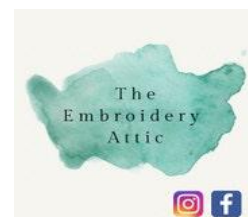
- Year 6 pupils will walk from school to the Baptist Church – leaving at 10.30am

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

- Deadline for Infant / Junior party – fish n chip orders today
- 11am - Year 3 & Year 4 pupils walking to Broad Street Methodist to hang Christmas decorations
- Non-uniform day – pupils can come to school in warm clothing and sensible shoes
- PTFA Movie night – 3:20pm – 5pm
- PTFA Christmas Fair – 5pm – 7pm in the school hall

THE EMBROIDERY ATTIC – SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER

New price lists and order forms were sent out earlier in the week; should you have any queries at all please do not hesitate to contact Laura on 01775 712644 or via the website info@theembroideryattic.com



PTFA NEWS

The PTFA would like to invite any parents to join the “Ayscoughfee Hall School PTFA” Facebook & Instagram page. These pages are private groups used by the PTFA to keep parents up to date on any news and events.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

COSY FRIDAYS – PTFA members will be selling hot chocolate at the end of the school day every Friday.

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER – CHRISTMAS FAIR - 5pm – 7pm - £1 entry (see the attached poster)



THURSDAY 4TH AND FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER – SANTA’S SECRET SHOP – IN SCHOOL / INFANT CHILDREN WILL CHOOSE GIFTS ON 4TH AND JUNIOR CHILDREN ON 5TH (see the attached poster).

Dates for Your Diary

November	
Mon 24 th	Deadline for Christmas Movie Night form today
Wed 26 th	Away Fixture: U8 / U9 Tag Rugby at St Hugh’s – starts 2.15pm
Thurs 27 th	Year 6 Outing to Christmas Unwrapped at the Baptist Church – 10.50am – 12.15pm
Fri 28 th	Non-uniform day – pupils can come to school in their own clothes with sensible shoes. 11am – Year 3 & Year 4 pupils walking to Broad Street Church to hang decorations Christmas decorations on trees Deadline for Infant / Junior fish n chip orders today. PTFA Movie night – 3:20pm – 5pm PTFA Christmas Fair – 5pm – 7pm (see the attached poster for further details)
December	
Mon 1 st	Clubs and Music lessons finish this week Infant dress rehearsal to Juniors starts 9.15am
Tues 2 nd	Deadline for Secret Santa orders today. Infant production for parents starts at 2.00pm
Wed 3 rd	Home Fixture: U9 / U11 Tag at AHS against Grantham Prep – starts 2.30pm Infant production for parents starts at 2.00pm
Thurs 4 th	Year 6 Dragons’ Den – more details tbc nearer the time PTFA Secret Santa Christmas Shop (infant pupils in school)
Fri 5 th	PTFA Secret Santa Christmas Shop (junior pupils in school) School Choir – out singing at Fenchurch and Ashdown Care Homes
Mon 8 th	Year 5 Outing to Burghley House – Tudor Christmas Infant Party / fish & chips
Tues 9 th	Junior Panto Outing in town – am Reception outing to Pennington’s
Wed 10 th	Junior Party / fish & chips Interhouse – Year 1 / Year 2 Interhouse games
Thurs 11 th	Last day for Year 3 / Year 4 Swimming Christmas Jumper Day – pupils are able to wear a Christmas jumper along with their uniform. Year 6 readers rehearsal at Broad Street Methodist Church – 9.30am
Fri 12 th	Last day for hot meals Whole School Christmas lunch – Ideal School Meals All children who are not having hot meals will need a disposable packed lunch. Christmas Carol Service at Broad Street Methodist Church – 2pm. Children will then go home with parents after the service. SCHOOL TERM ENDS

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to this week's **STARS** who are;

Kindergarten: Vesna

Reception: Wyatt

Year 1: Eva

Year 2: Ryan

Year 3: Vera

Year 4: George S

Year 5: Harry

Year 6: Tendekai



Kindness Awards: Joshua (Infant) Mr Wright (Junior)

Headteachers Award: Reception

Golden Dustpan Award: Year 3

We have the following birthdays coming up:

25th November – Rupert H, Hetty and Nancy

26th November – Mollie

28th November – George L and Mrs Grew

Best wishes,

Mrs Wright