AYSCOUGHFEE HALL SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER: 09/01/26

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a very happy New Year. It was lovely to see a little snow on Monday, and I am sure the children appreciated the opportunity to be able to get outside and have a good play in it.

Our first week back has flown by as always and the children have settled back in very well. There is lots to look forward to this term and new topics are already underway. As usual, our newsletters over the coming weeks will keep you updated about everything we have been up to in school.

Have a good weekend everyone.

KINDERGARTEN

The first week of the new year doesn't get more exciting than one in which it has snowed! Kindergarten had a lovely start to the year exploring the snow and ice and finding ways to make it melt. We also began our new topic, ' Robots and Machines'. We have been creating our own robots in drawing club, thinking about different ways they might be able to help us. (Apart from the baddy robots!) We've danced like robots, talked like robots, painted robots and collaged robots. What a busy start to the new year! Well done boys and girls.

RECEPTION

We have had a lovely start to the new term, and the children have settled back into school beautifully after the Christmas break. It has been wonderful to see them return with happy smiles, ready to learn and play with their friends.

Our new topic, Robots and Machines, has already sparked lots of excitement! We began by looking at a range of machines in school and discussing what machines (or robots) help us at home! We learnt fun robot action poems and the children enjoyed using movement and expression to bring the robot actions to life. In art, we explored simple shapes to make our own robot pictures and everyone did a fantastic job choosing and combining different shapes and colours and describing the features. Our DT skills have been tested by beginning to create robots with moving parts using split pins; the children were very proud of their creations and cannot wait to take them home!

We are looking forward to even more robot-themed adventures in the coming weeks including a robot themed visit to Spalding Library.

YEAR 1

It has been lovely to have the children back and all the Year 1 children have had such a positive attitude towards all areas of their learning! We have been so impressed with how enthusiastic they have been. All the children went swimming this week and they did such a fantastic job. They displayed such lovely manners and excellent behaviour and demonstrated excellent resilience. Everyone tried their best, well-done Year 1!

This week we have been continuing to develop our phase 5 phonics knowledge. We started the week by recapping our split vowel diagraphs before moving on to learning alternative singular phonemes such as ‘a’, ‘e’ and ‘i’. The children were able to apply this knowledge by spelling words that contained our focus sounds as well as writing sentences that included all our of writing techniques. We have also been focusing on their letter formation in our handwriting sessions.

We started our science topic of seasons this week. As a class, we described what we already knew about the four seasons before creating a big class mind map that showed all our prior learning. The children then worked together to go on a winter scavenger hunt around the playground to find different objects that we would see in the winter. They were fantastic at working together and enjoyed trying to find all of the objects!

YEAR 2

It has been lovely to return after the Christmas break and see the children settle back into school life with such enthusiasm. We have had a busy and enjoyable first week together.
The children have been very excited about starting our history topic for this term and are already enjoying learning facts and information about The Great Fire of London. In English, we have started reading the beautifully illustrated text Journey by Aaron Becker. Even though it is a wordless book, it has sparked wonderful conversations. We have been using the images to help us learn about inverted commas and how to use them correctly when adding dialogue. The children enjoyed bringing the characters to life with their own imaginative speech.

In Maths, we have been focusing on money, recognising and counting pounds and pence. The children particularly loved playing a game where they created different values for their friends to count. This practical activity helped build confidence and supported their understanding in a fun, hands-on way.

Well done to everyone for a great start to the term!

YEAR 3

Happy New Year from everyone in Year 3!

The children returned to school refreshed, enthusiastic and eager to begin the new term, bringing with them many lovely stories from their Christmas celebrations. This week, Year 3 launched their “Healthy Me” topic in PSHEE and Science, where they learned how to sort foods into different food groups and explored the nutrients that various foods provide. They discussed the importance of caring for their bodies, eating well and making healthy choices. The children especially enjoyed being active during PSHEE lessons and setting themselves fun fitness challenges.

In English, the class delved into the legend of “Romulus and Remus” and learned about the founding of Rome. Year 3 loved bringing the story to life through drama, acting out key scenes and using their performances to inspire imaginative and thoughtful written work.

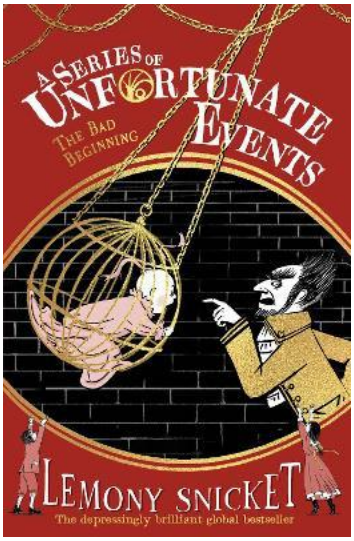
In History, the children began learning about the Roman invasion and developed their understanding of chronology by placing the Celts and Romans on a historical timeline.

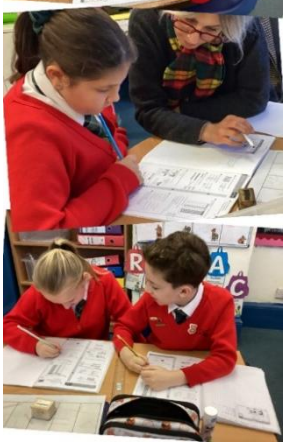
In Art, the children started work on their own mosaic pieces and were fascinated by the incredible mosaic artwork created by the ancient Romans, which inspired their own creative designs.

YEAR 4

English

This week, we began our new class text, The Bad Beginning. We started by looking closely at the front cover and made predictions about what we thought might happen in the story. We then read Chapter One together and watched the opening of the film to help bring the story to life. As we read and watched, we took notes about the main characters - the Baudelaire children. We created character profiles by drawing what we thought each character looked like and writing carefully chosen details about their appearance and personality, using clues from the text to support our ideas.





Maths

In Mathematics, Year 4 have been developing their understanding of multiplication. This week, the children focused on multiplying by 10, 100 and 1,000, exploring how digits move across the place value chart when numbers are scaled up. They used practical resources, place value counters and visual representations to help them understand why zeros are added and how the value of each digit changes. The children applied these skills to solve calculations and word problems, explaining their reasoning clearly and showing growing confidence when working with larger numbers.

YEAR 5

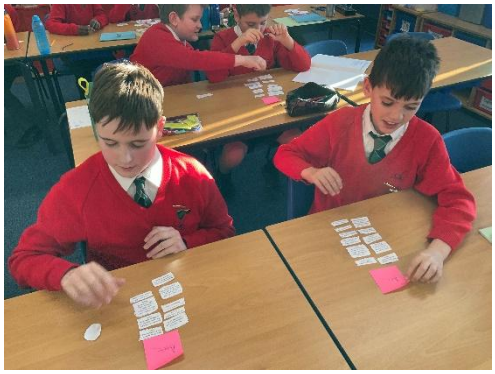
In Maths this week, the children have been learning about equivalent fractions, which is a tricky but very important concept. They have been using number lines to visually represent fractions and spot patterns, as well as applying fraction rules to help them find equivalents more confidently. There has been lots of discussion and problem solving, and it has been great to see the children persevering, explaining their thinking and supporting one another as their understanding continues to develop.

In English, our focus has been on biographies, with particular attention given to author intent. The children have been learning how to read texts as both a reader and a writer, thinking carefully about why the author has chosen specific language and how information is organised. They explored a range of biographies and really enjoyed reading these with their partners. Many children were excited by the inspiring people they discovered and are keen to learn more.

In Curriculum, the children have been introduced to our new space topic. We began by exploring the planets in our solar system and discussing their key features. The children shared their prior knowledge confidently, and it was fantastic to see how much they already knew. There was a real buzz of excitement during discussions, and this topic has already captured their interest. We are looking forward to exploring space in much more detail over the coming weeks.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have made an excellent start to their term with their exciting new topic, “Poles Apart.” In English lessons, the students have been diving into explanation texts, identifying key features to prepare for writing their own about polar bear adaptations. Their enthusiasm for learning has been excellent.
In maths, they have been exploring fractions of amounts and have recently embarked on a new topic focused on measures – it was great to see them using their estimation skills to identify appropriate measurements for different objects. Well done, Year 6!



Geography has also been linked with our fascinating topic, with pupils learning about the differences between the two poles and the challenges facing these unique regions. They have been investigating how the landscape, climate and animals vary between the Arctic and Antarctic, linking this knowledge to our science topic on evolution and adaptation. Working in pairs, students have reflected on their prior knowledge, sorting facts and determining which pole they relate to. It was fantastic to witness the excellent reasoning skills they used during this activity.
Overall, it has been a great start to Year 6, and we are all looking forward to learning more about the fascinating polar regions – it was fantastic to see the weather was helping us to understand how cold they are!

ON-LINE SAFETY

Over the course of this half term, we will be sending out weekly links to videos for parents from our online safety expert Alan Mackenzie. The videos are only a few minutes long but do give some really useful information and tips for keeping children safe online. During our recent staff training, we were shocked by some of the statistics given. Any feedback on the videos would be very useful, so please do contact the school office if you would like to offer this.

LOST PROPERTY

In school we seem to have an enormous amount of lost property – a frustration that we know is shared by many parents – and we are keen to tackle this issue. We have had a ‘clear out’ of the Junior lost property baskets and, as you will have seen, this has been displayed outside school at the end of the day this week for parents to check through. Any uncollected lost property will now be either disposed of or placed in the school shop. One measure we have taken to reduce lost property is to help the children record their initials and year group on any unlabelled jumpers, coats and blazers, these being the most commonly lost items. Our intention now is to work with the children to be more responsible with their own belongings and appoint monitors to check the boxes each week and return any labelled items. Unlabelled items will be displayed outside school each half term before being recycled.

Please support us in our quest to reduce lost property by ensuring all your child’s uniform is labelled clearly with their name; this will enable us to easily return any lost items to their owner. Many thanks for your support.

LANGUAGES

It has been a positive and productive start to the term in Spanish and French across the school!
In Infants, pupils have been enjoying stories, focusing on *Ricitos de Oro y los Tres Osos* (Goldilocks and the Three Bears). Alongside this, they have explored the world of *minibeasts* and woodland creatures, learning key vocabulary such as *el bosque*, *los insectos* and *los animales* through songs, stories and discussion.
In French, Juniors have been developing their translation skills and building confidence in expressing opinions. They have worked on topics including food and sports, using phrases and justifying their ideas with increasing accuracy.
Watch this space for some exciting initiatives coming soon from our newly appointed Language Ambassadors, who will be supporting and promoting language learning across the school!

SPORTS NEWS

U9 and U11 Netball Wednesday 7th January 2026 against The Grantham Prep. School

Our U8, U9 and U11 children were out this week playing netball against The Grantham Prep School. For some of the U8 girls it was their first outing at a netball fixture. We played a predominantly U9 team and an U8 team against Grantham's mixed U8/U9 team. Both our teams played exceptionally well, giving lots of thought to finding good space on the court and passing fluently and working hard on their defensive play. The Grantham School began to find their feet as the game progressed with the final score being just in their favour 3-2.

Our U11 girls made a strong start and found themselves three up in the first half; they passed firmly with determination and accuracy and worked hard on their offensive play. They rotated their positions on the court and continued to play well; the final score was 5-3 to AHS. Well done to our Captains, Olivia and Maddie, you both did a super job, from warming the girls up and helping with position changing, to the three cheers at the end of the matches, thank you!
Players of the match were Olivia and Mollie in the U9 games and Libby in the U11 game, well done girls!
Thanks to our parents for their support to the children on the day.

THE EMBROIDERY ATTIC – SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER

For all uniform enquiries / orders please 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.

PTFA Upcoming Events:
- Friday 30th January – Winter Disco – 5:30pm – 7:30pm (details to be sent out nearer the time)

Dates for Your Diary

JANUARY

Mon 12th	All Clubs start this week PTFA meeting – 3:30pm
Tues 13th	Writing workshop for Year 2 to Year 6 Parents – starts 6:30pm
Wed 14th	**Fixture: Away – U10 & U11 Netball at The Peterborough School – starts 2:15pm**
Wed 21st	**Fixture: Away – U9 Netball Festival at St Hugh's – starts 2pm**
Fri 23rd	*Class Assembly – Year 2 – starts 9am – Parents welcome.*
Mon 26th	Year 6 outing to Warning Zone / Year 5 outing to National Space Centre – Leicester
Wed 28th	**Fixture: Away – U9 Football Festival at St Hugh's – starts 2pm** **Fixture: Home – U9 & U11 Netball at AHS – starts 2.15pm**
Fri 30th	*Class Assembly – Year 6 – starts 9am – Parents welcome.* PTFA Winter Disco – 5:30pm – 7:30pm

FEBRUARY

Mon 2nd	Fire Safety Workshop in school – Year 2 and Year 6
Wed 4th	Reception visit to Spalding Library – 9.30am **Fixture: Away – U9 & U11 Football at Grantham Prep School – starts 2:15pm** **Infant Interhouse – Infant pupils will need PE kit and house t-shirts in school**
Thurs 5th	**Junior Gym Assembly – (details to follow nearer the time)**
Fri 6th	NSPCC Numbers Day – £1 donation – children can come into school dressed as their favourite number. *Class Assembly – Year 5 – starts 9am – Parents welcome* **Fixture: Away – Hockey at Surfleet – starts 3:45pm**
Mon 9th	Year 5 and Year 6 pupils leave for the York residential
Thurs 12th	Year 5 and Year 6 pupils return from York residential
Fri 13th	*Class Assembly – Year 4 – starts 9am – Parents welcome* Year 3 outing to Peterborough Museum – Roman Day
Mon 16th – Fri 20th	FEBRUARY HALF TERM
Mon 23rd	School resumes / Clubs and Music lessons resume.

STARS OF THE WEEK

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

Kindergarten: Alice
Reception: Arthur
Year 1: Elizabeth
Year 2: Thea
Year 3: Arlo
Year 4: Oscar
Year 5: Immanuel
Year 6: Ted

Kindness Awards: Wyatt (Infant) Eliza (Junior)
Headteachers Award: The AHS Netball Teams
Golden Dustpan Award: Year 6

We have the following birthdays coming up:
8th January – Olivia & Poppy VDB

Best wishes,

Mrs Wright