



AYSCOUGHFEE HALL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER: 23/01/26

Dear Parents,

Today was our first 'class assembly' of the year and our Year 2 children really did themselves proud. They gave us a wonderful and humorous run through of some of the many things they have been learning about this year and presented it all with admirable confidence and panache. Class assemblies are always such lovely occasions and every class will be stepping up to do theirs over the next few weeks. Parents you are in for a treat!

In other news, we have been so proud of all the children who have represented the school recently at sporting fixtures. The teams have had several notable successes, and just as importantly, have been fantastic ambassadors for the school. A big thank you to Miss Lawniczak and Mr Hutton for all their hard work with the children to get these results.

Have a great weekend everyone.

KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten has had a wonderfully creative week at school! The children have been busy designing and building their own robots, creating fabulous 3D models using a variety of boxes. They carefully thought about which materials to use and practised lots of important skills along the way, including cutting, sticking, designing and using masking tape to assemble their creations. We also had fun following instructions just like robots, helping us practise listening and sequencing skills in preparation for using the BeeBots next week. We are all very excited and can't wait to get started! 🤖 ✨



RECEPTION



What a fantastic week we've had in Reception! The children have been busy, curious and full of enthusiasm in everything they've done, we are so proud of them.

In phonics, we've been learning the trigraphs ear and air and the children have been amazing, listening carefully to sounds and blending them together. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they spot these tricky sounds in their new reading books and have a go at reading and writing them independently.

In maths, we've been exploring weight, learning all about heavy and light and how to **balance** objects. The children loved using the balance scales and making predictions before testing their ideas lots of great thinking and teamwork!



We also really enjoyed the story *The Littlest Robot*, which inspired some brilliant learning across the curriculum. In maths, we used the Littlest Robot to estimate and then weigh how many counters weighed the same as him. There were some excellent guesses and lots of excitement as we checked the results!

To top it all off, we took inspiration from the song "Ralph the Rusty Robot" by Nick Cope and worked together to create a huge wearable robot made out of boxes. The children were so creative and loved becoming robots themselves.



YEAR 1



Year 1 have been very busy doing lots of work this week! In our forest school session, the children made ice decorations to hang in the garden. The class worked together to make their ice decorations by using different objects such as branches, leaves and cranberries. The children then patiently waited a week for their decorations to freeze so that they could hang their ice decoration in the forest school area. All the ice decorations looked amazing and the children were very proud of what they had made. Well done Year 1!



In English, we have been focusing on the text 'Hibernation Hotel'. The children used role play to re-enact key parts of the story, which they then used to create a story map sequencing the book. The children had lots of fun pretending to be the different characters and loved acting the story out! As a class, we then used our story maps to write the story in our books.



All the children have been working very hard on their handwriting and the work they produced was amazing. They included our writing techniques which we have been practising and they even challenged themselves to include adjectives and conjunctions in their work.





In D.T we have been continuing to explore our topic cooking and nutrition: smoothies. As a class we recapped our prior knowledge about fruits, and we were then able to practise safely cutting and juicing different fruits. The children loved practising these skills and they all demonstrated amazing listening by waiting for the next instruction. The class were incredible at using the equipment safely and they are very excited to make their own smoothie nearer the end of term!



YEAR 2



Year 2 had a very special surprise on Monday afternoon when a visitor arrived in our classroom – none other than Thomas Farriner! He came to explain and justify what happened on the fateful night of 2nd September 1666, sharing his part in the Great Fire of London. The children were fascinated to hear the story straight from someone who “lived” through the events and asked lots of thoughtful questions. Thomas Farriner then offered the children a unique opportunity: he asked if they would like to become his apprentices and learn how to make bread. Everyone eagerly joined in, practising their baking skills and having a wonderful time. The children also impressed ‘Thomas’ by sharing their own knowledge about the Great Fire of London, showing how much they had already learned.



In Science this week we enjoyed a walk around our local area to explore different materials in the world around us. The children carefully observed various objects, identifying the materials they were made from – such as wood, metal, glass plastic. They then had the chance to explain and justify their ideas, sharing why they thought each object was made from its specific material.



A very important job we had this week was to practise for our class assembly. On Friday, the children had the chance to showcase everything they have been learning so far this year. We hope that everyone, including our parents, enjoyed listening to all the things we have been busy doing in class.



Well done, Year 2 – another fantastic week full of learning, fun and surprises!

YEAR 3



Year 3 are thoroughly enjoying their Roman topic. They have been learning about the structure of the Roman army. After discovering that senior Roman soldiers had their shields painted with particular patterns and motifs that were dear to their hearts, the children designed their own Roman shields, with which they “marched” into battle!

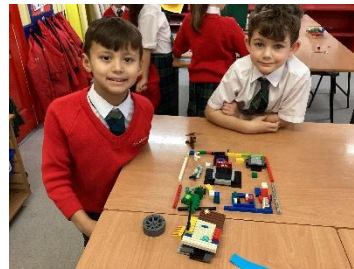


In English, the children worked on persuasive writing. They analysed a variety of texts, identifying key features of persuasive writing and preparing to write their own piece next week.



In Maths, we started a new topic - measuring length - and it was welcomed with great enthusiasm. The children especially enjoyed the practical activities and using metre sticks and rulers to measure various lengths around the classroom. No corner was left unmeasured!

In History, the children discovered facts about Roman cities and how they were structured. We even got the Lego out to build our own models of Roman cities!



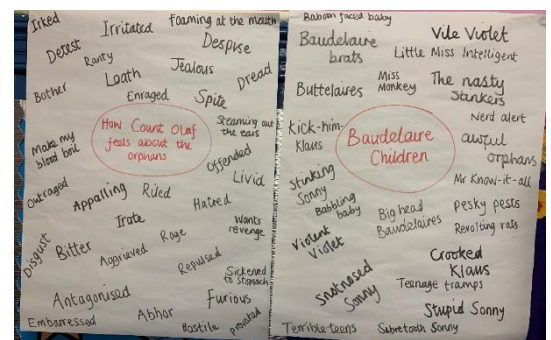
YEAR 4

Maths

In Maths this week, Year 4 have been learning to divide. The children used the part-whole method to break numbers into manageable chunks and made use of place value charts to support their understanding of how numbers are partitioned when dividing. They linked division to their multiplication facts and used practical resources, drawings and number sentences to explain their thinking and check their answers. Our next step will be to introduce the bus stop method, helping the children develop confidence with more formal written division.

English

In English, Year 4 have been reading more of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and developing their understanding of the characters. The children have explored personalities, motives and relationships, with a particular focus on Count Olaf. Using evidence from the text, they discussed his actions and behaviour to deepen their comprehension. We are now planning a diary entry written in role as Count Olaf, where children will use first-person language to express thoughts, feelings and intentions from his point of view.



Geography

During this lesson, the children explored the age of settlements across the UK, developing their understanding of how towns and cities have grown and changed over time. The children used iPads to carry out online research and atlases to locate settlements geographically, allowing them to link historical information with map skills.

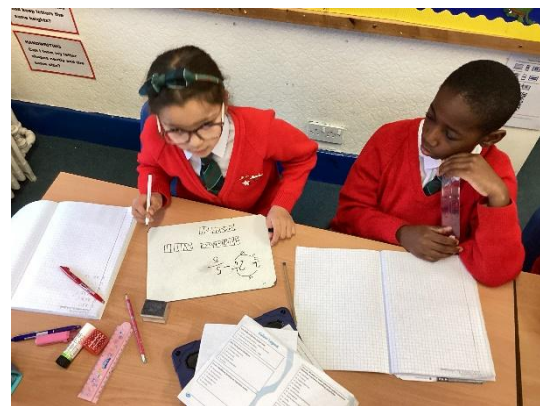
They successfully identified the origins of a range of UK towns and cities, discovering whether they began as Roman settlements, Saxon villages, Viking towns or medieval market centres. They worked independently and collaboratively to gather information, showing good digital literacy skills and confidence when navigating both physical and digital sources.



YEAR 5

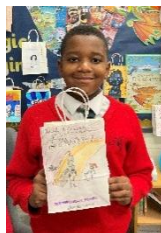
This week, the children have been finishing off a challenging unit on fractions in maths. We have focused on adding and subtracting mixed numbers, including problems that involved crossing the whole. The children completed White Rose Infinity quizzes to support and check their understanding, alongside a tricky missing numbers reasoning activity to stretch their thinking further. Using bar models, fraction diagrams and whiteboard work has really helped to secure their understanding and I am incredibly proud of the progress they have made.

In English, the children have been putting the finishing touches to their own biographies based on a person who has inspired them in some way. They have worked hard to include a range of advanced grammatical features such as parentheses and relative clauses, showing great maturity in their writing. They have been highly enthusiastic about this genre and have clearly enjoyed learning about their chosen figures while developing their ability to write in a formal, informative and engaging style. In science, the children have been exploring the fascinating topic of space, with a particular focus on the orbital paths of the planets. They have been calculating how long each planet takes to orbit the Sun and then converting these times into Earth years, applying a range of mathematical skills along the way. This cross-curricular approach has helped them see how science and maths link together, and the children have shown real curiosity and impressive problem-solving when tackling these challenges.



YEAR 6

This week, Year 6 have brought in their fabulous 'Book Bags' for their homework task. They've been reading and reviewing a book of their choice, writing about the characters and settings and even creating their own front covers and blurbs. The children will be presenting their books to each other, which should inspire everyone to dive into these fantastic reads!



In Art, we've been inspired by the amazing portraits of artist Mike Barratt. The children have been experimenting with different media to practise various styles as part of our 'Exploring Identity' theme. They are now looking forward to creating layered portraits that express their own identity.

In Science, the children have been learning about Darwin's moths and the impact of the Industrial revolution. They have been learning about natural selection and have been linking their understanding with their work on adaptation.

In English, the children have been planning and writing their explanations, impressing us all with their use of complex sentence structures and adverbials for cohesion. Meanwhile, in Maths, we've commenced our new topic on ratio, exploring additive and multiplicative relationships between numbers, building on our previous work with measures and converting imperial measurements.

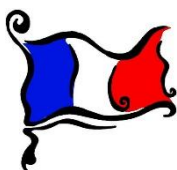
Well done, Year 6!

LANGUAGES

It has been another exciting week for languages across the school. Our Infants have been immersing themselves in Spanish through storytelling, enjoying *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* while learning and using key Spanish vocabulary. They have also been developing their counting skills and strengthening their memory through a range of fun and interactive games.

In the Juniors, our French learners were thrilled to receive letters from their pen pals this week. We are looking forward to responding very soon. They also became *language detectives*, exploring story books, newspapers and magazines to hunt for familiar words and discover how languages appear in the world around us.

Finally, we were delighted to hold our very first Language Ambassador meeting, where some fantastic ideas were shared. New initiatives are already being put into place — so if you spot a Language Ambassador in the playground, be ready to join in, as they'll be excited to play Spanish games with you!



SPORTS NEWS

U9 Netball Festival at St Hugh's School Wednesday 21st January

Our U9 children took part in St Hugh's netball festival on Wednesday this week. The festival is designed to encourage maximum participation, so lots of matches against different schools and involves a lot of coaching games, learning through match play. It also encourages England Netball's core values, Respect, Good Sportsmanship, High Standards of Behaviour and Ethics. I can certainly say with confidence that our children demonstrated all of these in abundance, well done girls!





Both teams played exceptionally well. Our white team worked confidently down the court, passing firmly and accurately, they marked their opponents tightly winning all their six games. Our blue team grew in confidence as they progressed through their matches, they had lots of determination to maintain possession which was excellent to see, managing to win one game and draw another, we were very proud of their efforts.

Well done all of you, you played some lovely fluent netball and gained some valuable match play experience.

SCHOOL STATIONERY SHOP –

The school stationery shop will be open during breaktimes every Thursday for pupils to purchase pens, pencils etc.



Bright Beginnings – Toddler Group

Just as a reminder to all parents and especially to those with younger siblings, please remember we have our Toddler Group which runs once a week in the School Hall on a Friday morning from 10am – 11.30am. Join us with your little ones for a warm welcome and a fun playtime. Toys, stories, singing and activities for all ages up to 3 years old. Enjoy a hot drink and a snack for the children in a friendly space. £4 per child. Everyone is welcome so please tell your friends.



THE EMBROIDERY ATTIC – SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER

DATE FOR DIARY: TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY – FROM 3PM

Laura from The Embroidery Attic will be in school with uniform if you are unable to make this date then alternatively you can 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.

COSY FRIDAYS – PTFA members will be selling hot chocolate at the end of the school day every Friday throughout this first half of Spring Term.

PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP – (see the attached poster)

The shop will be open **Monday 2nd March – 3pm to 4.30pm**. If you are unable to make either of these dates you can arrange an appointment by emailing PTFA@ahs.me.uk.

PTFA Upcoming Events:

- **Friday 30th January – Winter Disco – 5:30pm – 7:30pm (see the attached poster)**
- **PTFA Meeting – 3:30pm on Monday 23rd February.**
- **Friday 20th March – Family Bingo night – 6pm – 8pm (details to be sent out nearer the time).**



REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY – YEAR 6 OUTING TO WARNING ZONE



- The children in Year 6 will be going on a visit to Warning Zone in Leicester on Monday 26th January 2026, as this has always been a really enjoyable and valuable day experience.
- **TIMINGS – LEAVING SCHOOL AND RETURNING**
Please ensure your child is at school by **8:00am** as the coach will be leaving at **8:15am** and will aim to **return to school by 4:15pm**.
- **LUNCH / UNIFORM:**
All children will need to take a disposable packed lunch and water bottle. The children will need to wear full school uniform, including a blazer.



MONDAY 26TH JANUARY – YEAR 5 OUTING TO LEICESTER SPACE MUSEUM

- The children in Year 5 pupils will be going on educational trip to the **Leicester Space Station Museum** on **Monday 26th January 2026**.
- **TIMINGS - LEAVING SCHOOL AND RETURNING**
Please ensure your child is at school by **8:00am** as the coach will be leaving at **8:15am** and will aim to **return to school by 4:15pm**.
- **LUNCH / UNIFORM:**
All children will need to take a disposable packed lunch and water bottle. The children will need to wear full school uniform, including a blazer.



FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY – YEAR 6 CLASS ASSEMBLY – Parents invited to join from 9am.

Dates for Your Diary

JANUARY

- 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
- Tues 3rd National Measurement – for Reception & Year 6 pupils (nurse in after lunch)
Second date - Writing Workshop for Year 2 to Year 6 parents – 3:30pm
- 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
Junior Gym Assembly – (details to follow nearer the time)
- Thurs 5th NSPCC Numbers Day – £1 donation – children can come into school dressed as their favourite number.
- Fri 6th *Class Assembly – Year 5 – starts 9am – Parents welcome*
Year 1 Smoothie tasting – 2:45 pm – parents invited in school hall
Fixture: Away – Hockey at Surfleet – starts 3:45pm
- Mon 9th Early Years Open Week – new prospective parents to look round between 11am – 12noon & 2pm – 3pm.
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: Arnie

Reception: Poppy

Year 1: Primrose

Year 2: Ellie

Year 3: Morgan

Year 4: Max

Year 5: Jessica

Year 6: Molly

Kindness Awards: Edward (Infant) Benjamin(Junior)

Headteachers Award: Year 2

Golden Dustpan Award: Year 5

We have no birthdays next week.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wright