



January



AJA News – 12.01.24

A message from Mr Dunn

Hi everyone,

I hope that you have all had a lovely week! On Wednesday, we had a fantastic 'one off' assembly. It was to hand out certificates to those children who had achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term. There were so many that we could not fit them all into the Monday assembly, hence having an additional assembly on Wednesday! The children were very proud to receive their certificates and there were lots of smiles and handshakes. Could I please take this opportunity to thank our parents in all that they do in getting the boys and girls to school every day. I know that it can be difficult at times but having your children come to school every day really does give them the best chance to shine with their learning and be the best that they can be! Thank you once again!

Have a great weekend!

Mr Dunn

A message from Mrs Bower

A very warm welcome back to school! Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. A special welcome to new pupils and parents; I hope you will be very happy here. Alvaston Juniors is a very special school! I will always make time to talk with parents, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any issues or ask questions. I send regular newsletters (every Friday) please ensure you read them carefully so you are clear about the events taking place each term.

We are in the process of updating the homework format. After listening to feedback from pupils, parents and staff, Mr Scott is now collating the information and designing the new layout. The new homework will be sent home for the end of January. For now, continue with reading, times tables and any other tasks set by the class teacher on Purple Task. Reading and times tables is the priority.

Since joining the Academy some parents have shared with me a concern that the Accelerated Reader scheme does not have enough books on topics that their child enjoys. Whilst we use the Accelerated Reader scheme to choose the right level library books, I understand and agree that we cannot limit pupils reading breadth and we want to encourage children to read widely across different topics and genres. We have recently purchased £5000 worth of fabulous books which link to the curriculum areas for each year group. These books will be kept in the book corners in each classroom rather than in the library. The books are fantastic and I look forward to sharing photos with you once the Children's Leadership Team have helped me label them next week. Any child will be able to read these books no matter their reading ability and can read them in the classroom in the daily reading time alongside their library book. I will send you photos of the books and class reading corners next week. The CLT have also decided to use the Christmas Fair money to purchase soft furnishings for the reading corners and I look forward to seeing which items they decide to buy.

Have a lovely weekend and see you all on Monday!

Important Dates

Wednesday 24th January

Parent workshop on ASD
2.15pm and 5pm

Friday 26th January

Y5 visit to the Space Centre

Wednesday 31st January

Academy visit by CEO Mr Hughes

Thursday 15th February

Last day of term!

Friday 16th February

INSET day
School closed to pupils

Monday 26th February

First day of term

Spelling Shed

School spelling champion this week is **Willow Mansfield**.

Second champion is **Oliver Rolling**.

Third champion is **Oscar Caudwell**.

Attendance

This week's attendance
95.18%

Highest class attendance

Perfect Pandas 97.5%

What's been happening this week?

Year 3



Welcome back and happy new year to you all! What a super start to 2024 your children have made. We have kick-started our 'Angry Earth' topic with a bang! This term, we are learning about volcanoes and earthquakes. Our first writing task is to write a non-chronological report about volcanoes before moving onto our story - Escape from Pompei. Our topic lessons link to volcanoes - structure of volcanoes, location and reasons why earthquakes and volcanoes occur, and we are doing a volcano collage in art. In maths, we have been doing place value - ordering numbers up to 1000. Next week, we are moving onto addition - column addition with numbers up to 1000 - some children may even move onto numbers bigger than 1000! As ever, please keep reading 4 times a week and practising spellings. I am aware of some issues with SENSO and it not letting children on certain websites, however I know that the IT team are working hard to fix this. Have a great weekend and see you all Monday.

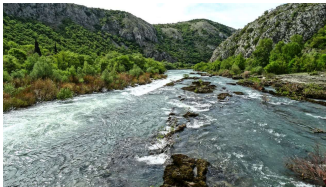
Year 4



Year 4 have had a fantastic first week back, with Jungle Jo being our highlight. The children learned so much from Jo and her world of rainforest knowledge, and showed how brave they were by touching and holding the exotic animals! We have been looking at rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 in maths, and when we would use rounding in the wider world. Science has focused on animals and their habitats, and becoming a scientist by classifying and grouping animals based on their shared features.

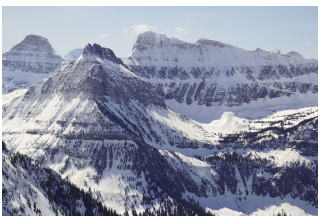
Geography this term will focus on rainforests around the world, the resources they offer, and the dangers of deforestation. Thank you to year 4 for their behaviour and work-ethic this week.

Year 5



Happy New Year and welcome back! Year 5 have dived straight in and worked incredibly hard this first week! This week we have focussed on poetry around rivers, following our 'Raging Rivers' topic in geography. We have drawn, created and performed our version of the river poem and had so much fun doing so! In maths, we have been looking at calculating perimeter and used all our previous knowledge of multiplication and addition to work out different rectilinear shapes. In reading, we have dipped our toes into the 'The Wind and the Willows' which is soon to be our English topic of the term! We have enjoyed getting to know the characters and are eager to start the rest of the story! As always, please remember to read at home – and write your reads in your reading diary!! Thank you Year 5, for a wonderful week and have a lovely weekend!

Year 6



Happy New Year and what a positive start! This term our topic is all about 'mountains' by the end of Spring II we will have decided which mountain or mountain range we would like to visit and why. In English, we are writing a biography of Edmund Hillary, who was the first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest with Tenzing Norgay. We are also learning about this moment in history in reading lessons too. In maths, we have moved classes around to target children's learning before SATs. Teachers and children are getting used to the new routines and we are looking forwards to seeing lots of progress. In science, we have begun learning about Carl Linnaeus - do ask the children who he is and why he is famous! Looking ahead we are excited about the new homework style, beginning booster groups and hopefully inviting you in to learn more about the SATs your children will be sitting. Have a great weekend.