

Alfred Lord Tennyson School

October 2024

Headteacher : Mrs O'Connor

ALTS Gazette



Welcome to our Autumn 1 edition of the ALTS Gazette

www.alts.northants.sch.uk

Find us on Facebook!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first ALTS Gazette for this academic year and welcome to our new reception children and their parents and carers. As you will see, it has been a busy start to the year with the children taking parts in a range of different enrichment activities. Happy reading! We also had an Ofsted Inspection this term and we hope to be able to share the report with you after the half term. I hope you all enjoy your half term break and we look forward to inviting you into school for lots of lovely Christmas events next term!

Best wishes
Mrs O'Connor

reach more parents
by weduc

schooloffice@alts.northants.sch.uk

New ALTS School Council



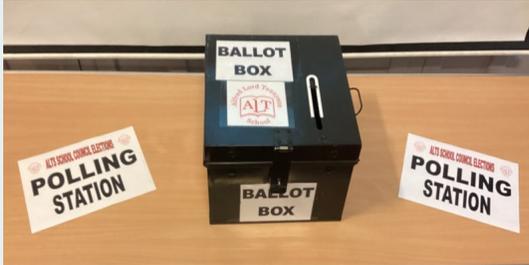
Special Visitors to ALTS

We were honoured to welcome the Rushden Town Mayor, Cllr David Coleman and his Consort, Cllr Mrs Melanie Coleman into school this week to present our new, elected school council with their badges and certificates in a special ceremony. Parents were also invited which made the occasion extra special for the children receiving awards.

Our ALTS Awards were also presented to children from each class who have worked especially hard to display our school values this term.



School Council



Alhberg

Y1

Lucy

Freddie



Rosen

Y2

Blake

Iris



Blyton

Y3

Eloise

Jaxon



Blackman

Y5

Robin

Viky



Blyton

Y4

Elsie

Dimitri

Aalia



Shakespeare

Y6

Olivia

Marley

Evony

Martha

Ethan



Harvest Festival



Last week, we held our Harvest Festival. Thank you all for your generosity in donations which were gratefully received by Serve and our local foodbank. We collected an amazing amount of produce which will benefit many people in our local community.

During the service, our Y4 children talked to us about the meaning of harvest. We also thought about people who are less fortunate than ourselves.



We sang harvest songs which the children had practised in their weekly singing sessions and our fabulous Year 4 children entertained us all with poetry and facts about how harvest is celebrated in other countries around the world. They also presented their fabulous Autumn themed art work.



84th Anniversary of the Alfred Street Bombing



Earlier this month was the 84th Anniversary of the Bombing of Alfred Street School.

Mr & Mrs Baker, our Governors, and Rev Phil Hearson the Church Minister of the Independent Wesleyan Church, held a memorial service for the seven children who tragically lost their lives in the bombing of the school in 1940. This took place in our memorial garden. Afterwards, some of our Y6 children served tea, coffee and cake to our visitors and enjoyed chatting to them about their memories of wartime.

Our pupils continue to learn about the school's history during history lessons and are able to draw on the many memoirs and recollections that have been recorded over the years. Mrs Botterall, a former pupil in 1940, shared her memories with the children in a video recording. We are extremely grateful and recognize the importance of our children being taught about that fateful day in Rushden's history.

If you were unable to join us on the day, but would like to visit the memorial garden to pay your own personal respects, the gates remain open throughout the day.





As you will already be aware, as a school, we subscribe to TT Rock Stars for our KS2 children. The website allows the children to practice their times tables through a competitive element. When they log on, they can select different areas known as arenas to complete a range of times table tests. As the teacher, we can set the times tables which we want the children to access.



Your child should be using the TT Rockstars' log in on a regular basis as part of their school homework. If your child does not have access to a device to use, then please speak to your child's teacher as we do have devices in school which you can loan. In our hall, we have a display to record the top scores in each class, weekly certificates are awarded and children go on the Hall of Fame.

For our younger children, we also have Numbots which helps with the understanding, recall and fluency of mental addition and subtraction, so that children can confidently move from counting to calculating.

BBC Bitesize - Maths KS2 - Guardians: Defenders of Mathematica

Defenders of Mathematica is a **free**, online math game for primary school children that helps them build and test their math skills. The game covers 10 different Key Stage 2 (KS2) math topics, including times tables, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, ratio, proportion, shapes, measurement, algebra, and statistics.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn2y7nb>



Reading is a lifelong skill which we try to develop as your child continues their journey through our school. Here at ALTS, we are keen to develop a love of books and escapism as early as possible.

Our **Weekly Reading Trophy** is a whole school competition for reading at home, where each class's average weekly reads are calculated at the end of each week. The class with the highest average are awarded extra playtime and a league table is kept on display in the hall.



Sport at ALTS



Football Tournament



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

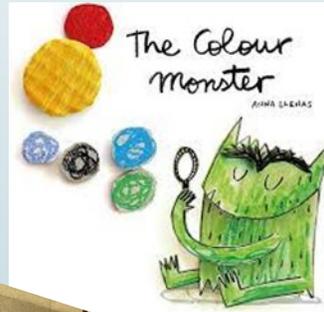
Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



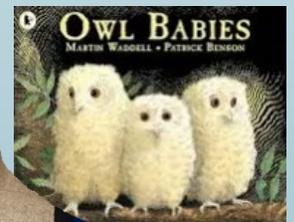
Sources: <https://www.windowcentral.com/youngster-spends-over-8000-fifa-box-highlighting-predatory-game-design-02> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>

Donaldson Class

Nursery and Reception have settled well into school life, learning and following new routines, sharing and making friends. They have also been learning about their feelings and emotions through the story "The Colour Monster" and how colours can represent our feelings.



Reception children have explored how separation from parents and loved ones can be tricky but how we can use coping strategies for dealing with these emotions. We have been using the story book "Owl Babies" to support this. The children were able to identify feelings, retell a story from memory and learn all about owls..



They have also been learning about Superheroes including Real Life Superheroes such as: Police Officers, Firefighters and Dentists. They have learnt that if there is an emergency then they can call 999 for help!



The children have also been learning about the season Autumn and Harvest time. They can talk about what happens to the trees and animals during Autumn time and the important job of a farmer during this time of year.

Ahlberg Class

Scientists



Mathematicians



Historians

Wow! What a busy term it has been. Year 1 have settled into different routines and have been developing their skills as...

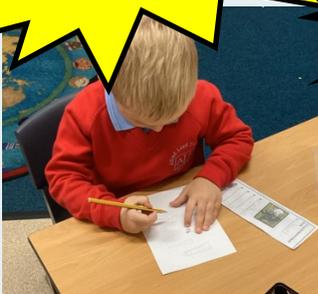
Artists



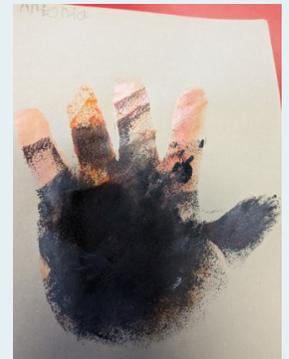
Geographers



Writers



Team players



Phonics

Children have been working hard to learn a range of new sounds to such as 'ee' as in 'tree' and 'ay' as in 'play' to work out other words in their reading. We practise lots in school and really need your help to practise and try to read at home.

Rosen Class



In Geography we have been learning about different types of map. It has been interesting looking at Google Earth and finding our houses and school. We have used maps to locate the equator and the poles.

In PE this term we have been learning ball skills. We have been learning how to pass a ball in different ways and to develop our catching and trapping skills.



In History and Art, we have been learning about Mesopotamia. We have enjoyed finding out about how they lived and the strict rules they had to follow. In art we have used clay to create our own busts, tablets and to make imprints using cylinder seals.



In Science we have been learning about how different animals care for their young and what animals need to survive.

We enjoyed watching videos of chicks hatching and developing.



Lunchtime Fun

Mr Cox, our Sports Coach, along with members of our Sports Crew, deliver a wide variety of fun activities at lunch times. For our children who prefer some quiet time, we also have our Reading Shelter.



Autumn 1 in Blyton

Welcome to your first Year 3 page. I hope you all enjoy looking at and reading about the wonderful things we have been up to this term. The children have all settled in amazingly to life as a 'junior'. They have all blossomed so much over the term and are showing our values of confidence and resilience in their learning.

In Art this term, we have looked at the art in Ancient Greece. We learnt of the importance of vases and the types of images they are decorated with.

As part of our sculpture unit, we designed and created armatures before filling and covering with mod-roc and painting our final pieces. I'm sure you will agree, we have some budding artists!

In our English lessons, we have learnt how to write portal stories. The children all worked hard to include the features taught this term. They all tried hard to write descriptively so the reader could really picture the character and setting of their stories. I am sure they will be keen for you to read their story on Parent's Evening next term!

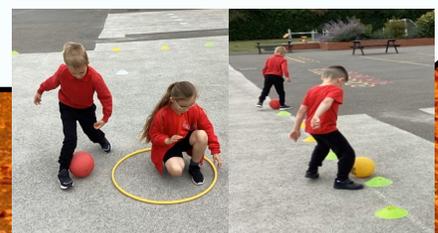
In PE, we have worked on the children's development of fundamental skills. This has included: ball skills, running techniques, and movements such as hopping, jumping and skipping. It has been wonderful to see their happiness as their skills developed and they could finally master skipping. Each and every member of Blyton has shown our value of empathy towards their peers through the encouragement and support they have given each other.



Our Maths skills are improving daily! Keep practising those times tables at home!



We welcomed our local PCSO in to talk about how to keep safe and how to recognise unsafe feelings.



Dahl Class



Our Harvest Assembly on 14th October 2024



In Art, we have been learning about Monuments, but here we are preparing for our Harvest Assembly

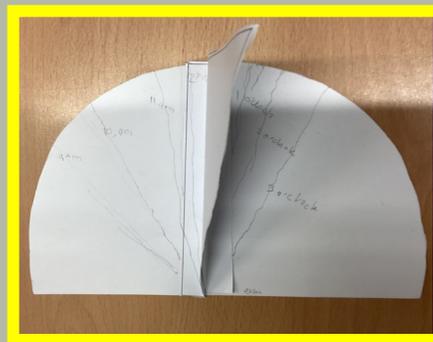


In Science, we have been learning how **Electricity** is generated, how circuits work, and which materials conduct electricity and which don't.

Blackman Class



In Art, we have been learning about different styles. We created a collage using a range of materials. Our collages combined visual and tactile qualities.
By Ellie, Paige & Cassandra



In Science, we have been learning about how the sun appears to move across the sky. We made sundials to find out how we can use the changing shadows to tell the time.
By Viky & Travis



Shakespeare Class

Science

We have been learning about 'light' and have carried out investigations to see if the power of a light source makes a difference to how far the light can travel. We have also investigated how and why shadows change in size. Our most recent learning has been about refraction and why pencils look as though they have bent when put in a clear glass full of water!

By James and Oscar



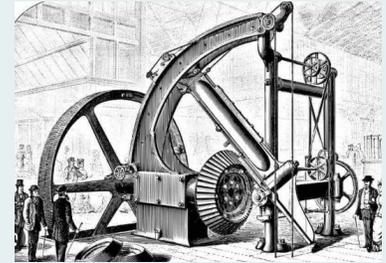
Geography

In **Geography**, we have been learning about the North West and the different types of energy, such as wind power, solar power and hydro power.

We have also been learning about the Lake District and how the physical geography provides lots of fun activities for tourists. **By Layla**



English - We used drama, including freeze frames and hot seating, to consider the thoughts and feelings of the characters in our class text 'Holes'. We have been improving our inference skills when reading as well as using the events in the story to complete a range of writing tasks based around the main character Stanley Yelnats.



In **History**, we have been learning about how hard life was for children in the Industrial Revolution.

We have talked about the slums and the diseases, caused by over crowding and poor living conditions, such as cholera. This was made worse due to the whole city's human waste being dumped into the river.

Also, we have talked about how contagious diseases were spread since people worked side by side and slept back to back. We have also learnt about the agricultural revolution and the inventions made during that time like the 4 field system where farmers rotated which fields they used. Also, selective stock breeding where farmers breed the strongest animals for the best stock possible. **By Bronwen**



PE We have been perfecting our dribbling and defending skills in football during this term's PE lessons, as well as working on our fitness levels.

By Freddie & Marley





NENE VALLEY DISTRICT
SCOUTS 55th ANNUAL

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2024

FUN STARTS AT 6:30pm

Advance Tickets	Adult - £7	Child - £5
On the Night	Adult - £8	Child - £6
		Aged 3-14 Yrs

HIGHAM FERRERS

RUSHDEN

MARK BIRD FLOORING
GROVE STREET STORES

RUSHDEN LIBRARY
PREMIER STORES CHURCHILL ROAD
HAPPY MONDAYS COFFEE SHOP
PW HOUSE JEWELLERS
MINI MARKET HIGH STREET
BARRY THOMAS NEWS 02/11 ONLY

RAUNDS

POST OFFICE

Supported by:



Keeping Safe

SAFETY MATTERS:

The Halloween and Bonfire Night edition



Welcome to our seasonal safety newsletter which is designed to help keep families safe across Northamptonshire as they celebrate Halloween and Bonfire Night.

We want you all to have lots of fun, but please don't forget about safety as you get swept along with the excitement of the season. Here are our top tips...



Don't let fire creep up on you this Halloween



Candles and flames

Candles can be popular for use in pumpkins and homes at Halloween, but unfortunately, candles also cause many fires and can be a hazard to families and properties. Opt for artificial candles instead. They are safer and also emit the same glow for those creepy decorations.

Help your Bonfire Night go with a bang! (but a safe one)

At Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police, we would always say its best attend an organised fireworks display, but for those who are planning to use them at home, there are tips to remember to avoid accident or injury.

Using fireworks... some tips

Firstly, it sounds simple, but read the instructions on your fireworks. Light them at arm's length using a safety firework lighter or fuse wick. Everyone should stand well clear and never return to a lit firework. It's best to keep a bucket of water handy too.

Fireworks should always be handled by adults.

Sparklers are not suitable for children under five. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.

Last tip - It can be a frightening time for pets, so keep furry and non-furry companions safe indoors and be mindful of the effects on pets in your neighbourhood.

Fireworks: knowing the law

Unfortunately, people sometimes use this time of year to misuse fireworks. Fireworks may be beautiful to watch but they can also cause devastating injuries to people and damage to property if they are used in the wrong way. Never throw them or store them unsafely, such as in a pocket.

The laws state:

- You can't buy fireworks if you're under 18.
- Fireworks cannot be set off between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. On New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, the cut off is 1am.
- You must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.
- You should only buy fireworks from registered dealers or licensed shops
- You can be fined an unlimited amount and imprisoned for up to six months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

Careful with costumes!

Are you or your family planning on dressing up for Halloween this year? Remember, whether shop-bought or homemade, costumes can catch fire and cause burns. The two most important things to remember are:

- Costumes should be kept well away from any candles or matches. Again, think about using artificial candles.
- If the worst does happen and the clothing of either you or another person catches fire, remember the phrase '**STOP, DROP and ROLL**'.



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!

Safe trick or treating

If members of your family are planning on 'trick or treating this Halloween please make sure:

- Younger children are always supervised.
- If you have older children make sure you know where they are, who they are with and remind them to act responsibly.
- You behave responsibly and do not try to deliberately frighten or intimidate people.
- Stick to areas you know and respect people who have a 'no trick or treating' sign displayed on their property.
- You are careful when crossing roads as some masks and costumes can restrict vision.

Bonfires - the safe way

Fireworks may often be the main feature of a seasonal display, but bonfires are also a major attraction.

- Before lighting a bonfire, always check the structure is sound and there are no small children or animals hiding inside.
- Position a bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees to avoid flames spreading.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light a fire. A safer way is to use paper and solid firelighters in two or three places to ensure an even burn.
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as foam-filled furniture, rubber, aerosols, tins of paint, pressurised gas cylinders, tyres and bottles.
- Have one person responsible for lighting the fire. That person, and any helpers, should wear suitable clothing such as a substantial outer garment made of wool or other low flammable material and strong boots or shoes.
- Never leave a bonfire unattended.

We hope you found our safety tips interesting and that you remember them when you have your celebrations. From everyone at NFRS and Northamptonshire Police, have a happy and safe Halloween and Bonfire Night.



Team Points

			
TIGERS	PANTHERS	LEOPARDS	LIONS

Weekly Awards

Fab Friday winners receive their certificates and have the opportunity to showcase their work. The class with the highest attendance for that week receive the Attendance Cup. The class that have the highest average number of reads are awarded the 'Reading Cup' and Team Points are also announced weekly.

Our '**Fab Friday**' winners for this term were:

Donaldson:

Alhberg: Antonia, Emma, Freddie, Harry, Kobe, Scarlett

Rosen: MJ, Sienna, Dora, Harper, Catherine, Elijah, Archie

Blyton: Rhys, Scarlett-Rose, Chikaima, Lauren, Christina

Dahl: Viky, Oscar, Kevin, Cassandra

Blackman: Cassandra, Esme, Numa, Robin, Travis, Zed

Shakespeare: Ethan, Stephen, Keelan, Evony, Martha, James

'Attendance Cup' winners :

Y1, Y4, EYFS, Y6, Y5, Y3

'Reading Cup' winners:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
Week 1	0	1	2	5	4	3	6
Week 2	0	1	2	6	3	4	5
Week 3	0	2	2	6	1	4	5
Week 4	0	1	2	6	3	4	5
Week 5	0	1	2	5	3	4	6
Week 6	1	2	3	6	4	5	5
Week 7							

This term's Class Reading Winners will go to the final week with Y3 on 34 points followed by Y6 on 32 points!



ALTS Awards



Donaldson	Alhberg	Rosen	Blyton	Dahl	Blackman	Shakespeare
Empathy	Excellence	Resilience & Passion	Resilience & Communication	Excellence	Excellence	Excellence
Willow	Ayannah	Blake	Lily	Lauren	Oscar	Freya

Well done to the children above for demonstrating our values this term.



Important Dates

November

Monday 4th—Training for teachers

Tuesday 5th—Children back to school, RBL Remembrance Assembly

Wednesday 6th—Year 6 visiting Rushden War Memorial

Monday 11th—Anti-bullying week activities, KS1 Come and See 3.15pm

Tuesday 12th—KS1 Come and See 8.50am, Odd Sock Day (information to follow)

Wednesday 13th—KS1 and KS2 visit to Cine World, Rushden Lakes, Parents Consultation evening @ Alfred Street

Thursday 14th—Parents Consultation evening @ Alfred Street

Tuesday 19th—Inclusive Kurling Competition (selected children)

Wednesday 20th—KS2 Cross Country event (selected children), KS2 Life Education workshops

December

Monday 2nd—New reception intake visit to Alfred Street Site, 6pm

Thursday 12th—Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner, KS1 and KS2 disco (information to follow)

Monday 16th—ALTS Awards (invitation only)

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th - Infant and Junior Christmas Production

Thursday 19th—Christmas Concert after school

Friday 20th—Last day of term and Christmas Party Day

Extra Curriculum After School Clubs - Autumn Term 2

Here are the after school clubs on offer for Autumn Term 2, which will run until the end of the half term. All clubs are £1 per session and you can sign up via our Reach More Parents app.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	12-1 Sports Activities	12-1 Sports Activities 12-1 Craft Club	12-1 Sports Activities	12-1 Sports Activities 12-1 Language Club	12-1 Sports Activities 12.30 TT Rock-stars & Maths Games
3.35 -4:30	KS2 New Age Curling	KS1 Boccia	KS2 Boccia	KS1 Gymnastic KS2 Choir	KS2 Dodgeball