

February 2025

Headteacher : Mrs K O'Connor

ALTS Gazette



Welcome to Spring 2 Edition of the Alfo Gazette

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Another fun filled term has past. My favourite enrichment activities this term have to be World Religion day and the NSPCC number day. I loved seeing the children all come together and interact to complete activities. It was also lovely to see our parents and carers sharing the experiences with us.

Next term, I am looking forward to when the Juniors will again carryout activities with the Infants, as part of World Book day.

I hope you all enjoy the half term break and that we have some Spring weather.

Mrs K O'Connor

reach more parents
by wealc

schooloffice@alts.northants.sch.uk

Boccia Tournament Winners!

ALTS Took part in the Rushden and District Boccia Tournament this term. Boccia is a sport where players throw, kick, or roll balls to get as close as possible to a target ball. It's similar to bowls and is played on a flat surface.

At the start of the competition, the children Keelan, Freddie and Lily were really nervous. They played their first game and it was a close one! They drew 4-4. After this first game it seemed that the children's nerves had disappeared. They played 6 more games after the first match, and were victorious in every single one of them! This granted ALTS top of the league table by a comfortable margin. As a result, the children were awarded 1st place medals and a spot in the county finals next term! **By Mr. Cox and Sports Reporter Lily**



SPORT AT ALTS

A group of children took part in a boccia tournament at the Pemberton Centre. Boccia is a target ball sport similar to bowls. Our Sports Crew Ambassadors helped to run the event which really helped them to develop their leadership skills.



Cluster Dodgeball Tournament

We entered two separate competitions - Y3/4 and Y5/6. Both teams were successful and reached the finals of the competition, finishing runners up.

The team were amazing and came up against some tricky opponents. Mr Cox was extremely proud of both teams.



We came runners up in another Boccia competition at Rushden Academy - only losing by one point. It was a very tense game and the leaders had to get the tape measure out in our final round. We were awarded silver medals and Mr Cox was very proud of us.

This week, Anglia Water visited Year 6. We learnt about how our water travels through the sewage system, we talked about how some materials can't be flushed without consequences. Some wet wipes are branded as "flushable" but all wet wipes need to be binned. The manufacturers are allowed to do this because they do actually flush away and go down the loo, but do not break down and can then cause blockages.

We added a range of solids and liquids to clean water to mimic what it does when it enters our sewers and looked how they did or didn't break down. We found out that fats, oils and grease (FOG) need to be binned because they turn solid in the sewers and cause fat burgers which then cause the drains to block and burst spillage sewage into the streets and rivers.

By Bronwen & Avni



Leaving the tap on when we clean our teeth wastes on average 10 litres of water so we need to turn off the tap!

There are many litres of hidden water that we don't even realise we are using.

Flushable wipes are bad for the environment - people are working hard to get the manufacturers to change the wording on the packaging.

It takes 1300 litres of water to make a loaf of bread.



To reduce our water usage we should try to take showers of no more than 5 minutes.

Fibres in wipes are actually made of plastic and do not decompose for many years

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11th February was International 'Safer Internet Day 2025'. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year Safer Internet Day covers online issue or themes that young people are seeing and experiencing online.



The 2025 Safer Internet Day theme is: **'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.'**

As part of **Internet Safety Day** we completed a number of activities about being safe online.

We learned that being respectful online means:

- Including people when they want to be included
- Being kind and supportive
- Thinking about how our words and actions make other people feel
- Understanding that someone might not want the same things as you
- It is important to listen to other people's views
- Not putting pressure on someone and accepting their boundaries
- Remember, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is!



Addictive Behaviour - Online Gaming

We learned about online addiction and how it can affect your brain. Online addiction is when you play a game on the internet a few times, and a few minutes later you can't help playing the game again. Before you know it, you play the game all the time and you're addicted to it - it kind of takes over all of your thoughts. If you spend too long playing the game, you can get a headache and actually start to feel really sick. We all need to take care to limit our screen time!

Donaldson Class

This term, Reception have been very lucky to have been invited to the "House of Venom" reptile shop, where they got to learn all about the reptiles, especially the snakes. The children really enjoyed meeting real life snakes and finding out about how they live, what they eat and where they came from. They even got to meet a real crocodile called Swampy!



The children have also been busy learning about the author Julia Donaldson and we have been focussing on the stories The Stick Man and The Gruffalo. They made up their actions to recall the story, made their own stick people and Gruffalo crumble!



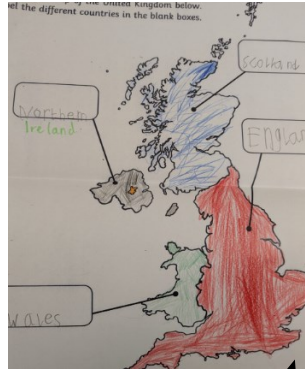
Donaldson Class have also been learning about Chinese New Year this term. They have really enjoyed this topic, learning about a different culture and asking sensible questions. They learnt about how the New Year is celebrated and have joined in by playing in our Chinese restaurant in the role play area, making red paper lanterns, learning about the flag of China and how it is different from the St George's Cross. They were very adventurous at trying Chinese foods such as: vegetable spring rolls, noodles, prawn crackers, vegetable rice and hoisin sauce.

Ahlberg Class

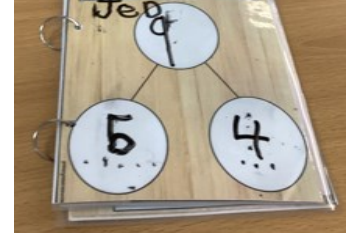
Scientists



Geographers



Mathematicians



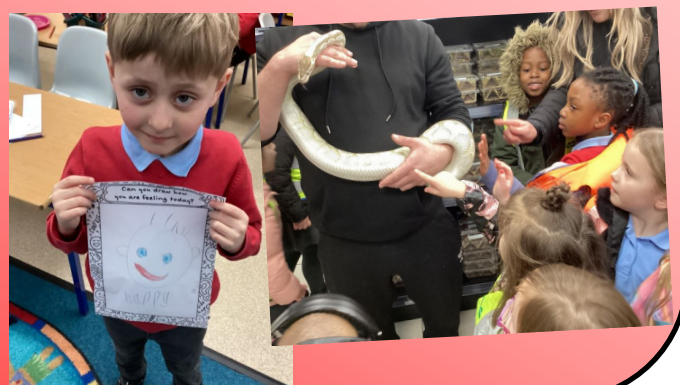
Fitness and gymnastics



Artists



This half term Year 1 children have been learning about the United Kingdom and the four countries within it, developing their understanding of their different senses in Science, as well their knowledge of patterns and shapes in art. Look at all the extra enrichment activities we have had this term too!



Rosen Class



In DT, we have made vegetable salads. Some of the class thought that it would not be very tasty but many were really surprised and enjoyed every mouthful. We used lettuce, cabbage, beetroot, sweetcorn and cucumber. We learnt how to use different preparation techniques and how to be safe when preparing food.



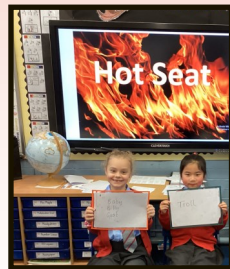
In History, we have been learning about 'The Normans'. We re-enacted the three battles of 1066 where William of Normandy became victorious and claimed the throne of England. Dora played Harold Hardrada, MJ was Harold Godwinson and Asher William.



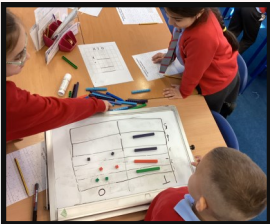
Blyton - Spring 1



Welcome to the first of our Spring Gazettes. This term has been a whirlwind of exciting learning opportunities for ALTS. As you can see, we have been really busy with lots of different activities which I am sure the children will tell you all about when they see these photos! Have a wonderful half-term.



For our English unit, we have developed our ability to write narratives. We based our learning around the classic 3 Billy Goats Gruff story. Here are two Blyton members during our drama session, taking part in a Hot Seat activity, acting in the role of Baby Billy goat and the troll.



In Maths, we have continued building on our knowledge of multiplying and dividing numbers. We are excellent at using resources to show our working out!



In PE, one of our sessions has given the children an introduction to yoga. They have all embraced this and have worked hard to develop their strength and flexibility with

challenging poses. It was so much fun, even Mrs Ebsworth couldn't resist joining in!



In Science, we are learning about different rocks, fossils and soils. So far, we have explored different rock formations and looked at different types of fossils.



We created a pentatonic melody in our Music lessons, based on the music played during Chinese New Year. Then, we developed moves to our music, masks and created a dragon dance.



To celebrate World Religion Day, all classes took part in a carousel of activities. These sessions gave the children insight into the different religions in a fun and engaging way.



Dahl Class



In Science, we have been learning about sound. We know that sound is caused by the vibration of particles and that it travels in waves through our ears before it is converted to something we can hear by our brains.

In art, we have been focusing on Elements of Art—Light. We learnt how to create tones and shades and how to use negative and positive space.

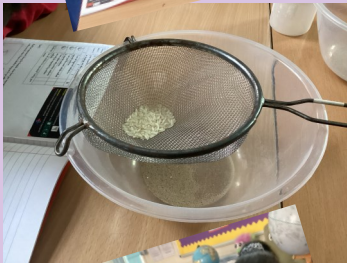


In computing, we have been using Logo to code different patterns. We learnt that instructions can be repeated and how to make our coding more efficient. We also took part in a live Internet Safety.

In maths we have been learning all about multiplication, division and perimeter. The children got to apply their skills during Number Day.



Blackman Class



In Science, we have been learning about materials. We used indentation tests to see how hard different materials were. We also learnt different methods for separating mixtures. Filtering is used to separate an insoluble solid from a liquid. Sieving is used to separate solids of different sizes.



In dance, we learnt the hand jive as part of our rock and roll dance. We also learnt a dragon dance which is used to celebrate Chinese New Year.

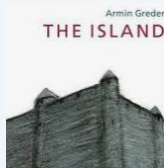


In badminton, we learnt two different ways to serve. We learnt how to use an underarm backhand and an overhead shot. We also learnt tactics which we used when rallying.

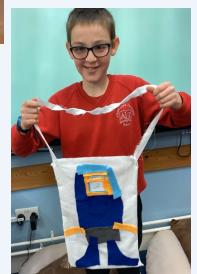
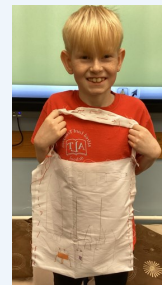
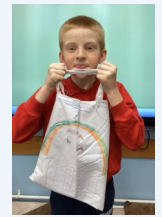
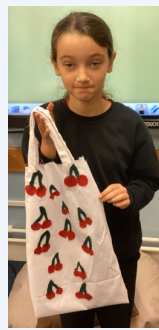


Shakespeare Class

In **English**, Y6 have used 'The Island' by Armin Greder as a stimuli. An unknown man arrives on a remote island. The Islanders know their obligation to care for him but feel threatened and frightened by the man's differences. This fear turns to anger and the islanders send the man back to the sea. The story deals with emotional issues, such as refugees, racism, humanity and inhumanity, acceptance of difference, communities and fear. The children will use their skills of empathy to write character descriptions and letters from the man. They will also take part in drama to highlight the differences between the characters.



DT—Tote Bags



Geography - North America

In Geography this term we are learning about North America. We have found out about key human and physical characteristics of the continent as well as exploring the process of erosion to create different landforms. We learned the factors that effect population in North American countries and the causes and consequences of flooding.



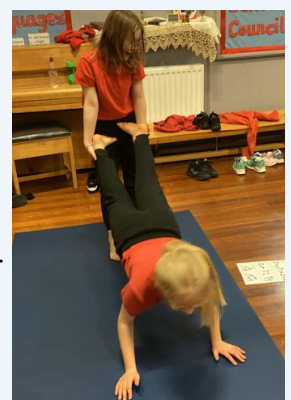
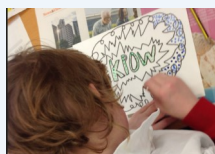
Thomas & Martha

Science - Classification of Living Things

The last 2 weeks in year 6, we have been doing a very exciting science experiment. This experiment was to test how mouldy bread would get if we changed something about it. The two things we could choose were: damp bread, and normal bread OR bread in darkness and bread in light. Some group's bread got very mouldy, Our groups bread only got 2 spots of mould. We did this for about 6 days and most of the groups bread got at least 2 spots of mould on them. Our class really enjoyed this experiment and checking how it changed every day. **By Lily, Martha and Marley**



Art - Pop Art



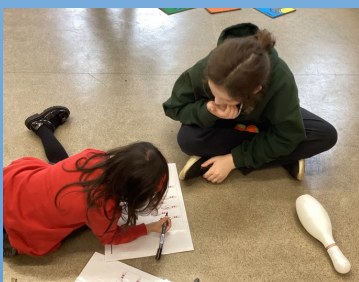
PE -

Number Day

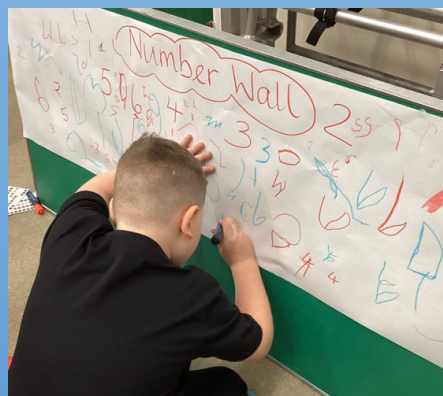
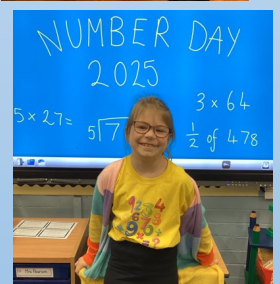
On Friday 7th February, we took part in NSPCC Number Day. The children were encouraged to come in wearing a digit and had some fabulous ideas, including homemade hats and t-shirts. As well as this, children took part in fun maths activities and lots of game based maths activities during lesson time.

Year 6 set up and ran a puzzle hall. Each year group were invited to the hall to have a go at the challenges Year 6 had set up - the Year 6 children were fantastic when encouraging and supporting the younger children and loved the responsibility they were given. It was brilliant to see lots of children persevering with difficult puzzles!

As well as having a lovely day, we also raised £154 for the NSPCC - Thank you so much for your support



Number Day



Online Safety Information!

WhatsApp Parent / Carer Advice



What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app. It allows you to send text and multimedia messages (video, images and voice recordings) to people in the contact list on your phone. It also allows users to set up group chats where the administrators can invite up to 256 people to share messages and images publicly within the group. Although the age limit for WhatsApp was recently raised to 16 it is popular with primary age children and above. So what are the risks?

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Reasons for concern


- Group administrators can invite people your child does not know into group chats. Some of these people may not have innocent intentions or may be older and post age-inappropriate messages.
- Some WhatsApp groups can contain images and messages which can cause distress to children. These might include violent images or videos, abusive messages and sexual content.
- Chain messages are often shared through WhatsApp. These pressure children to post them on to their contacts, e.g. by claiming that failure to do so can result in the child or a family member dying. Many children find such messages distressing but also feel they must share them with others due to fear of the threat.
- WhatsApp does not allow users to decide whether to join a group. Your child will be automatically added to any groups that their contacts add them to. If your child leaves the group the administrator can add them straight back in.
- Your child may be in WhatsApp groups in which huge numbers of posts are made. The alerts this generates can be an unnecessary distraction and can disrupt sleep.
- WhatsApp's default privacy settings are that anybody can see your child's profile photo and when they were last online.
- WhatsApp 'dare games' have become popular with children. These involve the child making a quiz about themselves to share with others and this can lead to oversharing of personal information which can be publicly available.
- Children can add and then remove other children from groups as a form of exclusion and bullying.

Safety Tips

- As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use WhatsApp and any issues they have encountered.
- With your child, look through the groups they are members of and discuss any areas of concern you have. You may agree that it would be best to leave the group.
- Go to the settings (by pressing the three dots in the top right of the screen) and ensure your child's profile is set to 'contacts only'.
- To leave a group: Open the group in WhatsApp. Press the three dots in the top right of the screen and select 'Group Info'. Scroll down to 'Exit group'.
- If an admin adds your child back into a group they have left, your child can ask them not to do this. If they keep adding them then you can prevent it by blocking the admin. To do this, WhatsApp provide the following guidance:

- Go to the group in WhatsApp, then tap or click the subject of the group.
- Tap or click the phone number of the admin you wish to block.
- If prompted, tap or click Message (phone number) or Send Message.
- A blank chat with the admin will open up. Tap or click the phone number at the top.
- Tap or click **Block**.

TikTok Parent / Carer Advice



What is TikTok?

TikTok is a social media app where users share short video clips of 15 seconds duration. It started out as an app named 'Musically' and was used to share videos of dancing and lip-syncing to music. Much of the content on TikTok still reflects these origins, but popular videos now also include pets, makeup, magic tricks, fashion, art, people reacting to situations, etc. According to OSA research, TikTok is now as widely used by 11-14 year olds as Snapchat and Instagram.

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Reasons for concern

- TikTok has a minimum age rating of 13 and anybody under 18 should have parental permission to use the app. However, new users simply enter a date of birth to indicate their age and there are no verification steps. As such, children of any age can create an account by using a false date of birth.
- New users will be shown a range of video clips the app feels may be of interest. Many of these will quickly expose users to offensive language which will be inappropriate for children.
- The clothing worn and the type of dancing in some videos could be deemed sexualised and therefore something that might be inappropriate for younger users to be exposed to.
- The default privacy settings in the app are concerning. Although only friends can send users direct messages, the videos posted by users can be seen by anybody and anybody can like / comment on the videos. New users are also available for anybody to perform a musical duet with. Such default settings can leave children vulnerable to unwanted communication from others.
- Many children in the UK are posting videos to TikTok where they are wearing their school uniform, making it possible for strangers to identify their location.
- The nature of videos children are posting to TikTok (singing, dancing, etc) can leave them vulnerable to receiving negative comments which can have an impact on mental health.
- The company that owns TikTok is facing legal issues and stands accused of illegally collecting data on children (when it was Musically) and the app has been deemed a 'potential security risk by the FBI'.

Safety Tips

- As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use TikTok and any issues they have encountered.
- Discuss whether it would be best to change your child's account to private to avoid interactions with non-friends. If you agree to keep the account public you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users.
- Help your child to spring clean their account from time to time by removing videos you agree to be inappropriate.
- Ensure your child knows not to post videos in their school uniform. Also discuss how recording videos at school might break school rules and what the consequences could be.
- The TikTok settings allow you to set a time limit for how long each day you want your child to be able to use the app. This can be password protected to ensure they stick to the limit.

Supporting young children (6 -10s) online | Int...

Watch Later Share



Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caXwpyGnwQ>

Extra Curriculum Clubs Spring Half Term 2

Clubs will change this term from the week beginning 24th February. Below are the clubs on offer for Spring Term 2 - booking is necessary. There is a small charge of £1 per session made payable via the App.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	12-1 Sports Crew	12-1 Sports Crew	12-1 Sports Crew	12-1 Sports Crew 12-1 Language Club	12-1 Sports Crew
After-School	KS2 Badminton	KS1 Team Building	KS2 Athletics	KS1 Football Choir	KS2 Cricket

Team Points

			
14	11	16	20

Weekly Awards

On a Friday, we hold our weekly achievement assembly. During the assembly, the 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 tidiest class receives the 'Tidy Broom' award and Team Points are also announced.

Our '**Tidy Broom**' award has been won by: Rosen, Shakespeare, Blyton, EYFS

Our '**Reading Cup**' has been won by: Blackman, Blyton, Blyton, Shakespeare, Blyton

Our '**Attendance Cup**' winners were : Nursery, Dahl, Blyton, Rosen , Rosen , EYFS

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

Ahlberg Class: Darian, Esteem, Freddie, Lucy, Michael and Sarah

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

Blyton Class: David, Eloise, Eva, Finley, Janice, Kyle, Olivia

Dahl Class : Elsie, Harley, Bethany, Alexandra, Dimitri and Khaynna

Blackman Class : Ethan, Kevin Shae, Viky and Ellie

Shakespeare Class: Keelan, Lily, Olivia, Oscar and All Y6



ALTS Awards

Donaldson EYFS	Ahlberg Y1	Rosen Y2	Blyton Y3	Dahl Y4	Blackman Y5	Shakespeare Y6
Communication & teamwork	Resilience	Excellence	Self- Awareness	Passion	Self – Awareness & Resilience	Excellence
Nicole	Harry	Kaja	Kyle	Rafan	Sania	Jilson

Important Dates

February

Monday 24th - Pupils first day back

Wednesday 26th—Year 3 start swimming every Wednesday for the half term

Thursday 27th— KS2 Life Education Workshops

March

Monday 3rd—9.00am Parent/Carer Reading Workshop with Mr Butler at the Junior Site

Thursday 6th— World Book day, optional dress up and whole school activities

Tuesday 11th— Selected Year 6 children taking part in Rushden Rotary Quiz Evening

Wednesday 12th - KS2 Values Sports Competition (selected children)

Thursday 13th/Thursday 20th—MHST Workshops for Year 5 & Year 6

Tuesday 18th—Year 5 and 6 Easter Experience at St Mary's Church

Thursday 20th—Y4 Parent/Carers Multiplication Check Information Session (info to follow)

Friday 21st—Chocolate Mufit Day (information to follow), Y3 Easter Experience at St Mary's Church am, Year 5 and 6 Easter Workshop

Monday 24th—Year 5/6 Basketball Competition (selected children), Year 4 Easter Experience at St Mary's Church

Tuesday 25th—Scholastic Book Fair at the Junior Site until 1st April (information to follow)

- Reception and KS1 Easter Experience at St Mary's Church am

- Whole school Easter Assembly led by Year 3, 1.30pm at Alfred Street (information to follow)

Wednesday 26th—Epilepsy Awareness Day activities—option to wear purple

Thursday 27th—Sex and Relationship Education Parent/Carer Information session (Information to follow)

Monday 31st—ALTS Awards (invitation only) and Chocolate Raffle (information to follow)

April

Tuesday 1st—Y6 & Reception NHFT Weight check (information to follow)

- Y5/6 Netball Competition (information to follow)

Friday 4th — last day of term