

Monthly Newsletter

Asfordby Hill Primary School

January 2025: Issue 16



Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you all enjoyed a lovely break over the festive period, which seems a distance memory now! As we complete the first month of 2025, we wanted to take a moment to share some exciting events that have happened to help set the stage for a fantastic year ahead at our school.

Firstly, we had an inspiring assembly led by Julia from the Leicestershire County Council, which focused on sustainability and travel. It was a brilliant way to kick off our new term, encouraging our children to think about environmentally friendly travel options. Well done to Nora, who won the banner competition set by LCC. Her creative design can be seen at the front of the school.

We also want to draw your attention to our recent Safer Internet Day. The workshops were excellent — lively, engaging, and incredibly fun! The sessions were tailored to be age-appropriate, ensuring our children are equipped with knowledge about online safety in a way that resonates with their everyday experiences and the latest online trends as well as enriching their understanding. A huge thank you to our computing lead, Mr Forde, for organising the whole day in partnership with Open View Education. The parent / carer online video training - *Internet Safety Now* and access to *Parent Zone Resource Hub* are still available on the link sent through on Arbor.

On the sporting front, we kicked off our first cross-country event of the year at Ratcliffe College. It was fantastic to see so many of our children participating and giving their best effort. Well done to all who took part!

Additionally, at the beginning of January, Sycamore class enjoyed a creative graffiti workshop led by our talented creative library services. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to express their creativity while learning about artistic techniques. This really did inspire further learning on this term's art theme.

Looking ahead to March, we want to inform you about an exciting initiative happening in our school—Aspirations Week! This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to be meaningfully inspired and challenged, and for their understanding of the world beyond the classroom to be enriched. To achieve this, we would love to invite guest speakers from diverse professional backgrounds to come and share their experiences with our classes. If you have an interesting career or career path, or know someone who does, we would be thrilled if you could spare some time to talk to a class during that week of the 3rd March. Your involvement could truly open our children's eyes to the possibilities that lie ahead. Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested in participating. We would be happy to discuss this further and work around your availability. Together, we can make this a memorable experience for our children.

We have also set the dates for the next **parents' evening**- see the dates section of this newsletter- and last Monday our booking system to book your slots went live on Arbor. We are looking forward to seeing you all over the two evenings.

In more personal news, we would like to extend a huge congratulations to Miss Parrott on the birth of her baby boy! We are all thrilled for her and her family during this joyful time.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Mrs Millward and Mrs Bailey

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

Key Dates

PE timetable/After school timetable

Free School Meals

What have we been up to?

Reading For Pleasure

Team Points

Wow Awards

Mental Health Information

Community information

Key dates for your diary

Other Dates:

Tuesday 4th February: Year 5/6 Basketball event

Monday 10th February: Swimming Gala

Tuesday 11th February: Safer Internet Day (AHS)

Tuesday 25th February: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 26th February: Parents' Evening

Week beginning 3rd March: Aspirations Week

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day –theatre group visit in school

Week beginning Monday 12th May 2025: Year 6 SATS week

Wednesday 11th June – Friday 13th June 2025: Year 6 residential to Beaumanor Hall

PE Timetable

Please remember to wear PE kit on your PE days. PE days for each class are below:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
AM					EYFS- Chestnuts
AM	Yr 5- Sycamore		Yr 4 - Beech		
Lunch					
PM	Yr 3 -Rowan	Yr 1- Willow	Yr 3- Rowan	Yr 1-Willow	Yr 5 - Sycamore
PM	Yr 4-Beech	Yr 2-Holly	Yr 2 -Holly	Yr 6 -Oak	Yr 6 -Oak

Free School Meals

Are you struggling with the rising cost of living?

Could your child be eligible for a free after school club place? or free PE hoodie?

Could your child be eligible for a free hot meal?

Come and speak in confidence to Miss Webb in the office for advice.

What have we been up to?

During January, Julia Thomas joined us from the Leicestershire Environment and Transport Department to celebrate the winner of the sustainable travel competition that some of our children entered.

A huge well done to our winner, Nora, whose banner is now in pride of place at the front of the school.



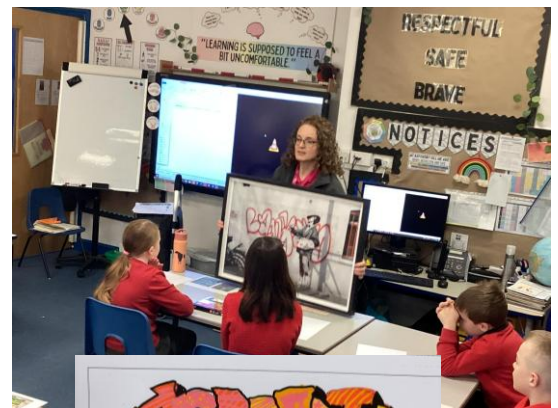
Tesco are yet again supporting AHS through a project for increasing our children's library. We are aiming to buy more books that inspire children to read for pleasure.

Please share and support where you can by dropping the blue tokens into our box. Thank you.

Don't forget to send your photos in via seesaw or the office email so that we can share.

Sycamore Class had a great start to this term's art learning with a creative and funky Graffiti workshop by the Creative Library Services. The children were introduced to street art and the skills to write Graffiti style using examples of work by Banksy and Jean-Michael Basquiat.

The time lapse video and live demonstrations got the pupils started with the basics before creating their own "tag" design. It was a brilliant and inspiring session.



Key Stage Two classes had a fantastic treat last Friday afternoon watching Sky Theatre performing some of the songs from the musical SIX. The children were so inspired with the acting, singing and dancing. Thank you again for visiting us.



Cross country at Ratcliffe

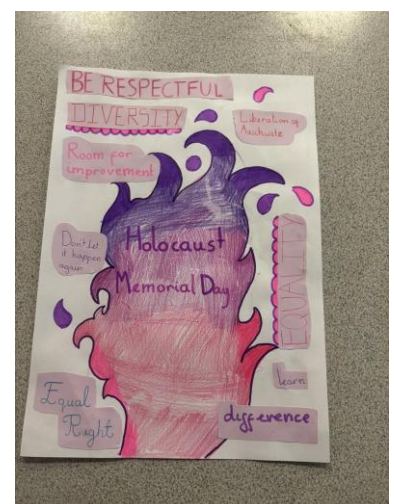
Our AHS cross-country team did us proud at Ratcliffe College last Saturday. Mrs Smalley and Mrs Millward enjoyed seeing their resilience and enthusiasm before, during and after their races. Most importantly, each and every one of them had a smile on their face! Well done team AHS!



Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January)

Monday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day 2025. Oak and Sycamore classes had an assembly based on difference and diversity. They listened to a survivor of the holocaust, Steven Frank, about his experiences of being an outsider and the discrimination he and his family encountered over 80 years ago.

Steven's own words: 'We are all different, but we should all be respectful to one another.'



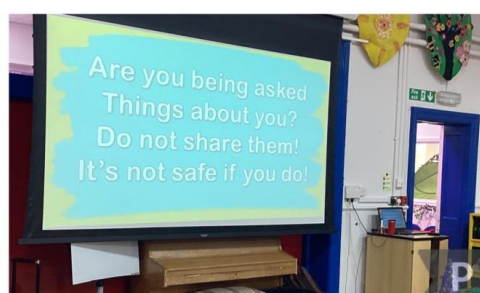
Safer Internet Day

On Thursday we held our own school's Safer Internet Day. The workshops were excellent — lively, engaging, and incredibly fun! To find out more there is a parent / carer online video training - *Internet Safety Now* and access to *Parent Zone Resource Hub* this will be available on the link sent through on Arbor in the coming days.

Parent link: <https://openvieweducation.co.uk/login/> The username and password will be sent out on Arbor.



Today we learnt how to stay safe online and became internet wizards. A big thank you to Phillip the Puppet who helped us learn all about staying safe online and which trusted adults we can go to if we have any problems.




PIC • COLLAGE

Reading For Pleasure

2024 Literacy Trust Research below:

Our research demonstrated that children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them:

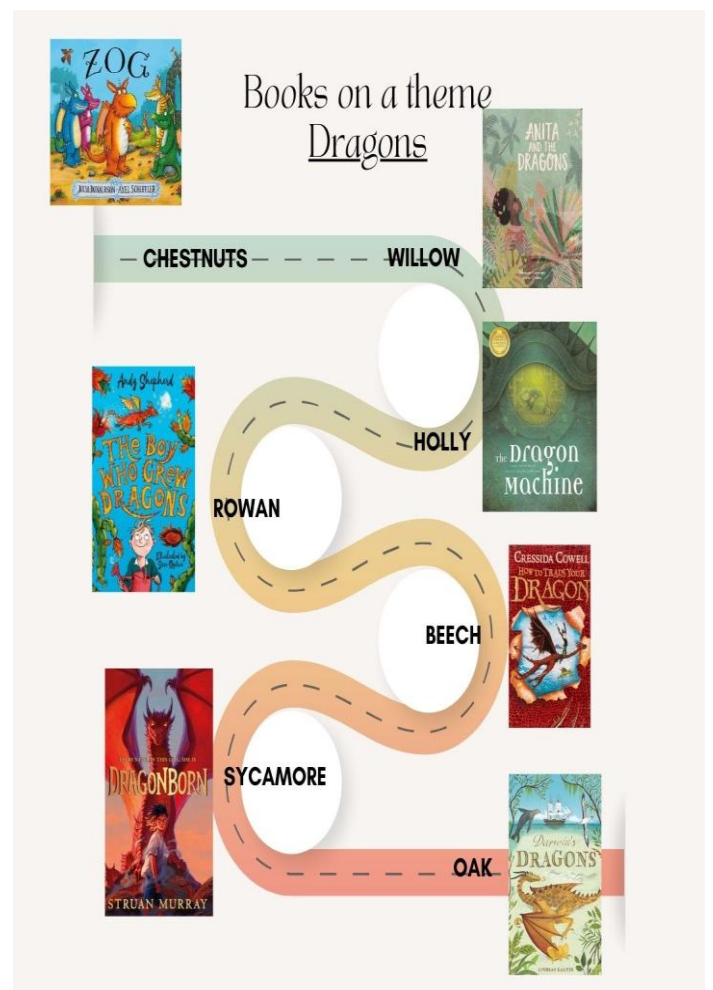
-  to relax (56.6%)
-  feel happy (41.0%)
-  learn new things (50.9%)
-  understand the views of others (32.8%)
-  learn about other cultures (32.4%)
-  be confident (26.0%)

All these attributes are significant for a child's development, wellbeing and future opportunities. Reading for pleasure and nurturing a love of reading in a child's free time is a tangible way to equip children with the reading skills they need to thrive in school and beyond, as well as empower them with the chance to discover new things, both about the world around them and people and cultures they may not yet know, and explore their sense of self.

Top 10 Tips for Reading for Pleasure at Home

1. Try to have a selection of books at home. You could create your own family bookshelf together. Start by signing up to [Twinkl Book Club](#) to receive a printed story every half term.
2. We know how busy family life can be but try to make time to read together. Reading is everywhere! You could incorporate reading into a trip to the shops, reading road signs when you're in the car, playing a game, reading instructions when baking together, reading song lyrics or popping on the subtitles while children are watching their favourite film. Take a look at the [24 Hour Reading Challenge](#) and discover the wide variety of things that you read in 24 hours together.
3. Let your children see you as a reader. Talk about the book you're reading to your children - talk about what the character is doing, where it's set and the plot.
4. Read aloud to children and let them read aloud to each other. You could work together and enjoy [journaling](#) what you are reading or take on a reading challenge together.
5. Let children take ownership of what they read and try to give them choices. You could create a storytime [book rotation station](#). Discuss with children their likes and dislikes - it's OK for children not to want to finish a story because they aren't enjoying it. Let them move on and choose another.
6. Try to talk about stories, settings, characters, the plot and all aspects of reading. Ask them about what they have been reading at school. Are there any other books by the same author that they could get from the school library? Build intrigue and excitement.
7. Build a reading den, jump in with your children and enjoy a good story.
8. Join your local library.
9. Try to give books as presents and put a spotlight on how wonderful they are.
10. Most importantly, have FUN!

Books on a theme: Dragons



- ZOG** by Jack McQuinn and Axel Scheffler
- ANITA AND THE DRAGONS**
- the Dragon Machine**
- THE BOY WHO GREW DRAGONS** by Andy Shephard
- CRESSIDA COWELL'S BRONZE DRAGON**
- DRAGONBORN** by Struan Murray
- Dragon's DRAGONS**

Team Points



WATER

This
points



AIR

results:



EARTH

month's



FIRE

team

Week ending	AIR	EARTH	FIRE	WATER
Friday 10 th January	98	97	102	<u>106</u>
Friday 17 th January	186	189	<u>229</u>	210
Friday 24 th January	<u>158</u>	149	113	117

Congratulations to our weekly winning teams. Each week's team winners have had an extra 10 minutes of playtime on a Wednesday- enjoy!

Wow Awards

The children have worked exceptionally hard on using their rainbow skills. It has been a delight to see how many children are using these skills throughout the curriculum but also around school. On Fridays, two children from each class are awarded a WOW certificate in our Celebration Assembly and a gold star badge to wear in class the following week.

Congratulations to you all- you deserve a WOW!



Mental Health Information

Here at Asfordby Hill we champion the belief that to thrive, emotional well-being is just as important as physical health. We advocate that helping children to manage their emotions is as important as teaching them to read and write. We work with children, their families and other outside agencies by helping to support emotional wellbeing issues, so that they're able to fully engage with all aspects of their life. If you require further support with regards anxiety, sleep, managing emotions, toileting, emotional based school avoidance or grief, please see our excellent pamphlets from Dragonfly Impact Education in the school's foyer. In the newsletter each month, we will focus on a theme with additional signposting.

This month is **emotional health and wellbeing**.



Welcome to your place for emotional health and wellbeing

E-learning for parents and families. Brought to you by the Solihull Approach NHS team.

[View Courses](#)



[Online courses for emotional health and wellbeing](#)

This is a really useful link for all members of the family linked to emotional health and wellbeing. This includes online courses.

Stay Home, Stay Well
A Parent's Guide to:
Wellbeing

NHS
Leicester,
Leicestershire
and Rutland

Around 1 in 8 children and young people experience behavioural or emotional problems growing up.

It can be difficult to know if there is something upsetting a child or young person, but there are ways to spot when something is wrong.

You know your child better than anyone so, if you're worried, first think if there has been a significant, lasting change in their behaviour.

Look out for:

- Ongoing difficulty sleeping
- Withdrawing from social situations
- Not wanting to do things they usually like
- Self-harm or neglecting themselves

Remember, everyone feels low, angry or anxious at times. But when these changes last for a long time or are significantly affecting them, it might be time to get professional help.

[Go to more advice on Every Mind Matters](#)
[Chat with a health professional for advice](#)

February Half Term Swimming Crash Course

Swim England Swim School Of The Year



February 17th–21st

Queniborough Swimming Pool

Parent + Child, Beginners, Stage 1,2 + 3 +Private Lessons

Mon-Fri - 5 Days

Contact - admin@swimwithjo.co.uk



FREE Junior Training at Egerton Park Cricket Club

When
Starts 2nd May - 29th August
Fridays 6 PM - 7 PM

For Ages
School Year 3 through to Year 10
Boys and Girls welcome

Bar Open
BBQ on selected days & social events throughout the season

Contact
Chris Waldron, Youth Development Lead
Email: epcc.juniors1@gmail.com
Tel: 07825 711584



HALF TERM Workshop

FEB - 19,20,21
9 AM - 3 PM
£25 PER DAY
10% SIBLING DISCOUNT!

EXTENDED HRS FROM 8AM + £2
SPACE 2B STUDIO, MELTON MOWBRAY.

