

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 15th December 2023

Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

This will be the last newsletter of the year. Thank you for your support this term. The children have made a great deal of progress in their learning and with their social and communication skills. We wish you a happy holiday when it arrives and hope that you manage to spend time with your family and friends. School closes on Thursday 21st December at **1:30pm with no aftercare**. School will reopen on Monday 8th January. Staff also wish you a Happy New Year for 2024.

The recent winter discos were a great deal of fun. They were very popular and children had a really good time. To avoid disappointment parents, do book as soon as it comes out on Parent Pay as there is always a cut-off point. We will look to repeat in the coming terms.

School attendance is currently 95.89%. Since the beginning of term, attendance and lateness has improved over the term too.

School raised over £100 for the recent Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, thank you to children and parents.

At APS, we have been focusing on the importance of reading for learning and for enjoyment. Reading skills are taught at school and we have been teaching reading through phonic development, decoding, development of vocabulary, use of the 8 reading strategies taught, developing reading comprehension and through hearing children read to develop fluency, expression and reading stamina. We have also been using child led book talk. This helps build a picture of what reading looks like at school.

Staff have been asked to suggest book wish lists that they would like for the children to read. Parents can support children by purchasing a book for school from the list, particularly at this time of year. You can add a message too. Any books purchased will be delivered directly to the school. Please use this link and many thanks in advance.

<https://www.bestbooksforschools.com/community/wishlist/?id=7094133194971>

At times, you may want to discuss concerns and issues with class teachers. You can email using office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk or telephone on 020 8570 6826.

Year Group Leader emails which can be used for general concerns:

Nursery at Alexandra Primary School nursery@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Reception at Alexandra Primary School reception@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 1 at Alexandra Primary School year1@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 2 at Alexandra Primary School year2@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 3 at Alexandra Primary School year3@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 4 at Alexandra Primary School year4@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 5 at Alexandra Primary School year5@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 6 at Alexandra Primary School year6@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

The Year Group Leader may answer directly or ask a class teacher to phone you.
If you need to contact the school office regarding absence or medical appointments, please use the office email – office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk .

We encourage children to wear their Christmas jumpers on Wednesday 20th December and donate £1 to charity.

And don't forget:

In late December we have...

Festival of Winter Walks begins on 17th December
<https://nationaltoday.com/festival-of-winter-walks/>

21st December - Winter solstice, shortest day
<https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/when-winter-solstice-shortest-day>

31st December - New Year's Eve

1st January 2024 - New Year's Day

Thought for the week:

If you want a different result, make a different choice.

Question of the week:

Does your pet love you the way you love it?

Rights Respecting Articles of the Week: Article 14

Article 4 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

Who or what influences the way you think about the world and shapes your thoughts and beliefs?

Did you think of these?

Your cultural background and heritage
Friends
Family
TV
School
Where you live
Your religion

Social media
Personal life experiences
Your family history
Politicians
Celebrities
Education
Your health

Nursery – Last week we read the story 'Whatever Next'. The children have enjoyed acting out the story and pretending to visit the moon. The children had an extra opportunity to experience a picnic with their teddy bear just like in the story. This week we have introduced the story 'Snow Bears'. The children have been exploring with ice and talking about how it feels and melts. In Maths, we have been comparing quantities and using the word 'same' when two groups have the same amount.



Reception - Christmas is coming and the children have been busy creating Christmas arts and crafts and decorating the classrooms.



The children enjoyed reading and listening to stories in Reception. Re-enacting the story of 'I'm Going on a Bear Hunt' was really enjoyed.



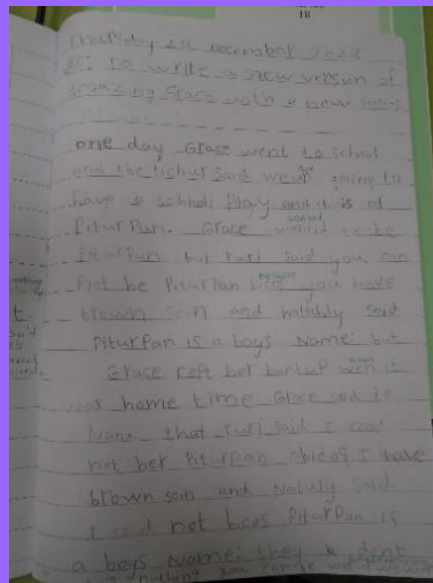
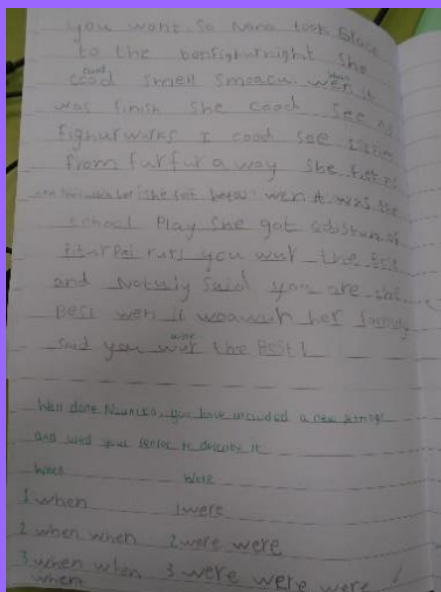
Swishy, swashy
Swishy, swashy
Swishy, swashy



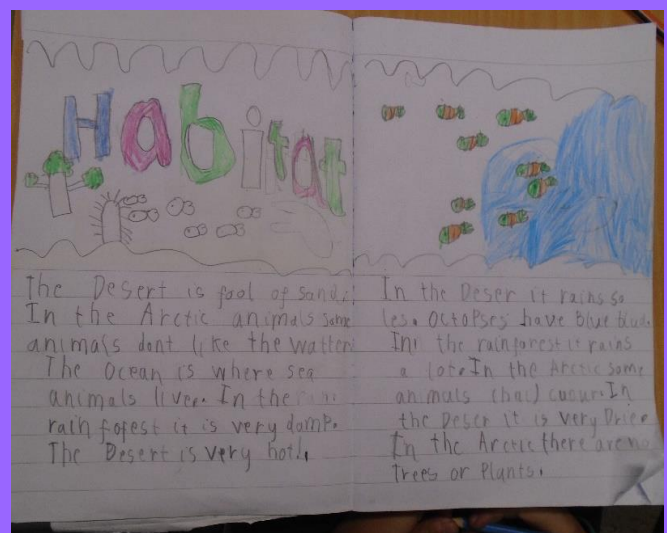
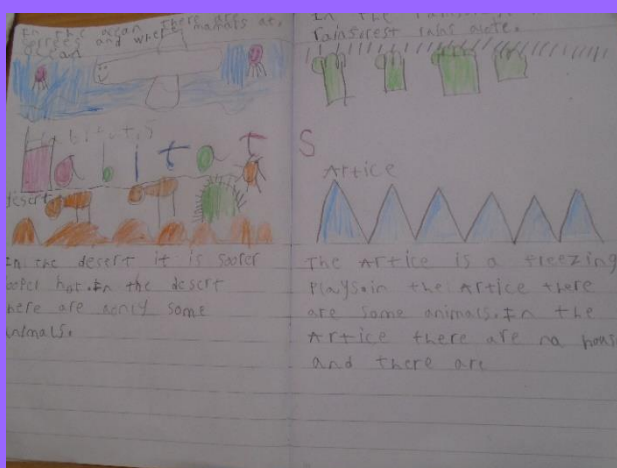
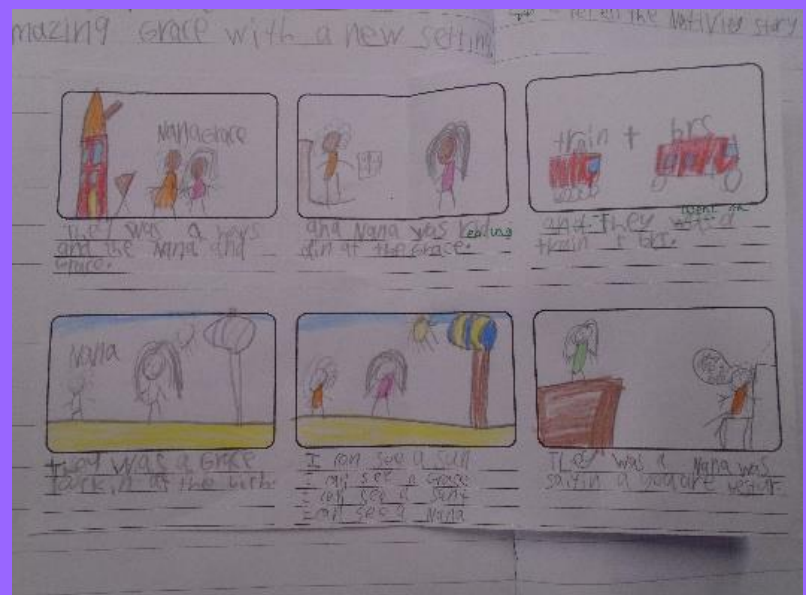
The children enjoyed the challenge of a good puzzle.

Completing puzzles helps concentrating skills as well as fine motor skills.

Year 1 – The children have been working hard on their story writing during their English lessons. They created a new setting for Amazing Grace and thought hard about where Nana would take Grace to make her happy. The children were very creative and read over their work carefully.



In Science, we have been learning about different habitats. Last week we learnt all about the Arctic. This week, children are doing their double-page spread to recap all the things they have learnt this half term.



During DT lessons this half term, we have been designing dressing up boxes for Grace from the story Amazing Grace. Over the last few weeks, children have built their boxes and decorated them. Then they designed some clothes for the dressing up box that Grace might like to wear.



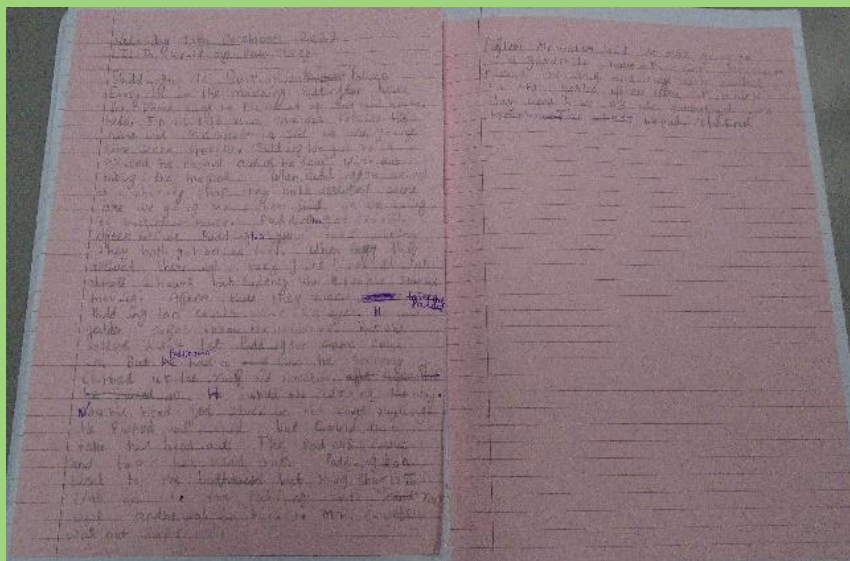
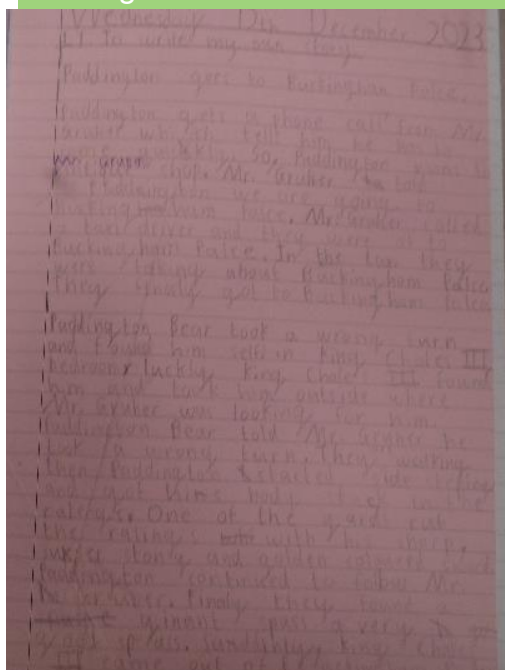
In RE, we have been learning about the Nativity Story. They have retold the story and learnt about the important people in the story. This week they worked in small groups to create a piece of art to show one of the main parts of the story. They used different resources and were very creative.



Year 2 – We have been learning about the best conditions in order for plants to grow in our Science lessons. After carrying out different investigations, we concluded that although the majority of plants grow in the same way and need sunlight, water and nutrients are also needed to grow upwards. We especially enjoyed planting watercress seeds and monitoring over the course of a week how they grow in the correct environment, compared to an insufficient area, such as in a dark cupboard.



For English, linked to our topic of the Great Fire of London, we have been following the story of 'Paddington goes to St Paul's'. After learning about what makes an interesting story and the features of a story, we decided to write our own version of the story called 'Paddington goes to Buckingham Palace'. We then had to edit it before publishing our story.



In D&T, we have been working extremely hard as a team to complete our models of the London Eye. We first had to design our structure and label our design with the materials we will use to build our structure. This task was at first quite tricky for us, as it involved a lot of cutting and putting together, like a jigsaw puzzle. However, now they are almost complete, we are overjoyed at the outcome and they actually rotate like the real London Eye.



Year 3 - We had an amazing experience recently. Through science we have been learning about the human body and how it links to other animals. As part of this, we invited in a brilliant virtual reality company to help us learn even more facts about the human body. Using the goggles, we had to travel through the human body learning about our skeleton system and how our blood works.



Our writing topic has been focused on creating some diary entries. We have learnt about different features we could use to make our writing amazing, but the best feature we have been learning about is paragraphing. Just look at the paragraphs we have here!

Dear Diary,

Today was an ^{extraordinary} extraordinary day. Do you want to listen to the ^{sp}unbelievably, extraordinary ^{sp} day?

~~At~~ Hungrily I woke up so early in the morning. I brushed my teeth and wore my clothes and ~~stumbled~~ ^{stumbled} downstairs. ~~For~~ breakfast I had ^{sp} cereal ~~and~~ ^{sp} while I was eating I had an idea to go to the dark, damp woods ~~for~~ a walk so I left the house.

I was in the scary woods ^{I heard} ~~and~~ I tripped ^{and} on a rock ^{and} fell into a dark hole. It felt like ages. Suddenly, I got ~~knocked~~ ^{knocked} out. I woke up in a dark cave. I ^{sp} saw a speck of light. I slowly walked closer ^{towards} it.

I got scared because the boy was so close to me. The boy ~~needed~~ ^{needed} me to her smile.

^{Introduction} ^{in context} They gave me some stew if hungry. The boy gave me a warm blanket and I ~~stayed~~ ^{stayed}.

Dear Diary,

Today was the most extraordinary thing that has ever happened to me! Can you believe it?

I woke up in the morning and then I brushed my teeth. Then I had a shower then got dressed up quickly. As I hungrily gobbled my breakfast, an idea flashed through my mind. I could go on a walk in the ^{deep} woods!

As I happily skipped across the path I thought absent mindedly about everything in the wide wonderful ^{sp} wood. Suddenly, I slipped on a big wet puddle.

Down, Down, Down I fell for what felt like days with Bump! I had hit a dark ^{camp} cave floor. I sat up blinked a few times. Soon I saw a ~~small~~ ^{small} speck of ~~darkness~~ ^{light} and walked towards it. Later I saw a girl she ~~ped~~ ^{ped} towards it.

Later I met a girl, the ^{strange looking} girl pulled me towards her camp. Her ~~the~~ Family gave me stew and I fell into a deep slumber.

Year 4 – 4P held their class assembly and impressed us with their knowledge all about Frozen Kingdoms and Robert Falcon Scott. It was impressive to see how well everyone had learnt their lines off by heart too!



In Maths, we have been learning and applying our multiplication and division facts to answer various different questions. The children enjoyed playing the multiplication board games, demonstrating their recall of facts in a fun way.

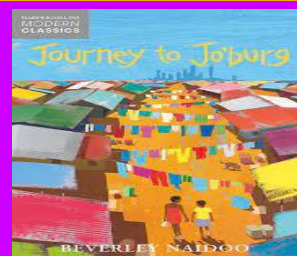


Year 4 have been extremely fortunate to have music specialists who have been teaching the children throughout the term to sing. The children have enjoyed learning the different songs and accompanying beats and actions. They even had the opportunity to perform to an audience, showing just how much they have learned.

As part of our DT project, we designed front covers. Thinking about the purpose of the book, colours and placement. We practiced our sewing skills before making our book covers and will be evaluating our finished products against the design criteria.

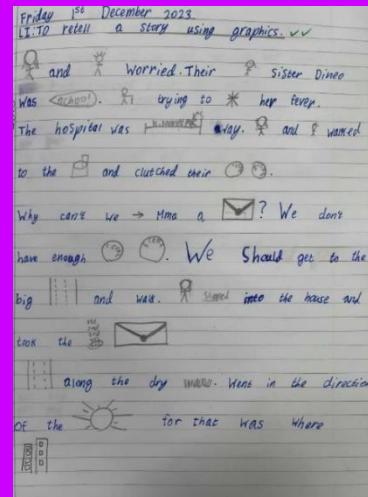
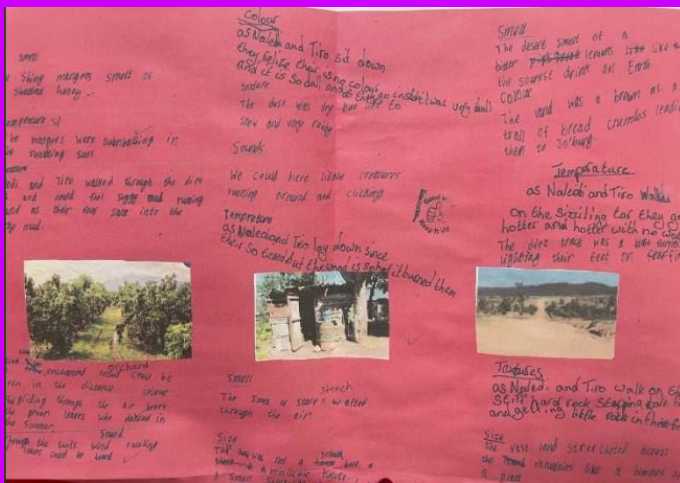


Year 5 – Using our focus text 'Journey to Jo'burg', we have written our own version of a chapter of the book. To enable us to produce this, we have described our character and setting. We used 'role on the wall' to help us understand the qualities both inside and out of our character. We also used our ambitious vocabulary to help describe our setting. Here are some examples of the work we have produced in this unit.

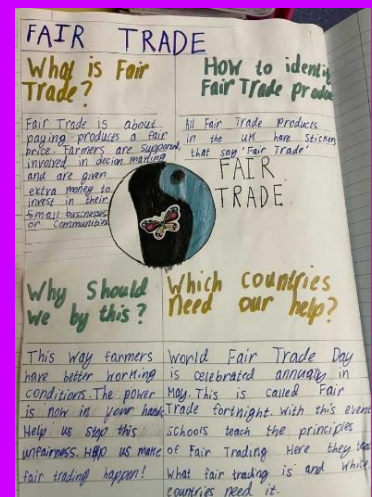
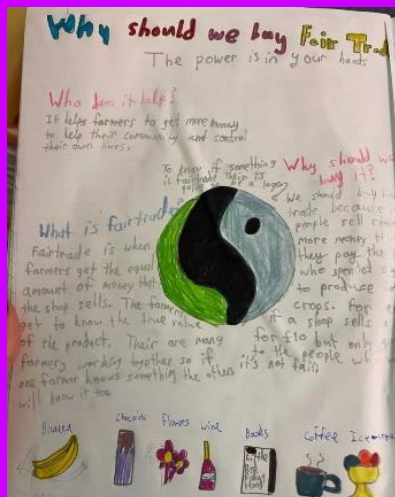


The ^{terrain} ~~the~~ Road stretched along for hundreds of miles. The damp grass was wet with dew, which glimmered in the early morning sun. Naledi and Tiro could hear cockroaches scurrying along the evergreen leaves of bushes. As they ambled towards Jo'burg they hummed a beautiful tune to let time fly past. As they bounded, they heard the 'crack' of twigs and 'crunch' of leaves under their feet. Naledi and Tiro trooped to Jo'burg as if soldiers.

Tiro was tired and wanted to sit down. They shambled up the hill gazing at the shape-shifting clouds. Tiro flopped down and warped around trying to get comfortable. Naledi could hear animals shuffling into the night as the sun began to set. As dusk came the sky became a vibrant shade of scarlet. The crimson sky became a thick layer of charcoal as the full moon rose into its habitual position.



Geography - In Geography, we have used our persuasive skills to persuade people to buy fair trade products. We learnt about where fair trade products have come from around the world and where to buy this produce from. We learnt about how fair trade affects farmers around the world.

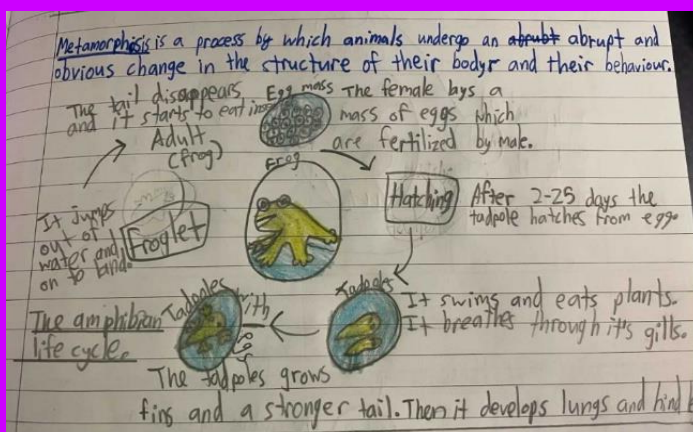


In Gymnastics, we made different shapes on the wall bars using gymnastics shapes such as; tuck, straddle and pike. Here are some of the creative shapes we made.



Science – Life Cycles

We learnt about metamorphosis (complete and incomplete) and how this changes the life cycles in animals.



Year 6 - This week, we participated in a fantastic workshop based on the Victorians. The children loved dressing up as Victorians and handling artefacts from the time. It was great to see them put their historical enquiry skills into practice! It was wonderful for them to be able to see and experience first-hand the clothes, toys, tools and mechanisms around in Victorian era. The workshop was an excellent way for the children to consolidate their learning of this unit.



Over the last three weeks, Year 6 experienced a once in a life time opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. They were taken on a tour and learnt the history of the building dating back to 1099; when William II ruled England. During our visit, we visited both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and got the chance to listen in to important debates about education and children's welfare.



The trip ended with a workshop hosted by the Parliament Education Service where the children discussed the importance of democracy and fairness, and the suffragette movement. The trip gave the children a unique opportunity to experience Parliament first-hand, to learn about its history and about the importance of democracy today.

In Science, we have been looking at non-renewable and renewable sources of energy and using our new gained knowledge to answer the question, 'have we, as a society progressed or regressed when it comes to where we source our energy. Children created posters to demonstrate what they had discovered and to try to persuade others to look for a cleaner and sustainable energy source.



Monday 29th November 2023 ✓✓

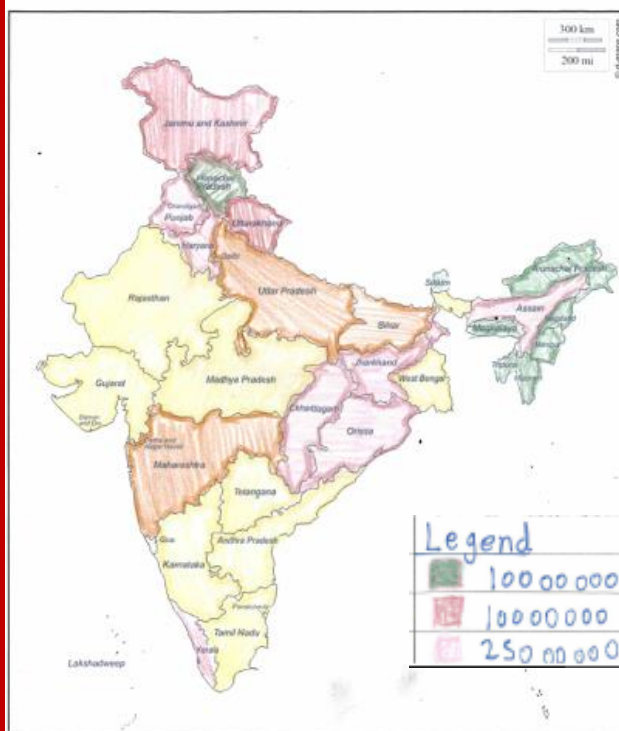
To understand what climate change is and how it affects the planet



In Geography, we have been continuing to look at the British Empire and focusing on India's relationship with the Empire.

Thursday 30th November 2023

To explore the relationship between Britain and India during the British Empire



Legend

- Mountain =
- River =
- Capital city =
- Seas or oceans =
- Country =
- Places in India =
- Places I have visited =

Map of India

This map shows the capital cities and rivers in India and the Himalayas mountains. It also shows the main oceans and Tropic of Cancer. This map also shows which areas of India is more dry or more moist like in a forest. Furthermore it has the other near by countries like Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka.

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | 100 000 000 And Below | | 500 000 000 - 1 000 000 000 |
| | 1 000 000 000 - 2 500 000 000 | | 10 000 000 - And Above |
| | 250 000 000 - 500 000 000 | | |

**At APS we talk about the values that underpin our school aims.
This one is about Honesty.**

Alexandra children, staff, parents and children learn that honesty is to say what we think and is telling what really happened. Honesty is telling the truth. When we feel honest, we feel clear on the inside. There are no contradictions in thoughts, words and actions. We learn that honesty is having a clear conscience and that being honest brings trust.

What have you learnt this half term?

What learning have you enjoyed?

What learning challenged you the most?



What are you looking forward to learning next year?

2023 – What are your best bits?

What will you do in 2024 that you haven't done in 2023?

What are you reading at the moment?

Where do you enjoy reading the most?

Which authors are your favourites?



What book or author would you recommend to someone in your family?

