

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 19th January 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

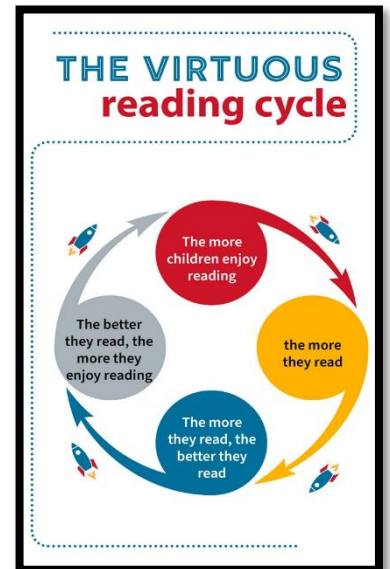
Hello Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term. We hope that you had a lovely break. Staff would like to thank parents for their kind words and gifts at the end of term. We do not expect these, but are very grateful and very appreciative for the kindness shown.

The importance of reading for learning and for enjoyment cannot be understated. Reading skills are taught at school. We teach reading through phonic development, decoding, development of vocabulary, use of the 8 reading strategies taught. Reading comprehension develops when reading speed increases, vocabulary is understood and when reading fluency, expression and reading stamina is developed alongside enjoyment of the text being read.

Reading for enjoyment or pleasure is when children choose to read as an independent, leisure or recreational activity. I am sure that you would encourage this with children and yourselves. Anticipating the satisfaction of reading has many benefits on mental health and well-being. Reading for pleasure can help to relieve anxiety and can help increase empathy, social development and develop the imagination.

With this in mind, we have created a short 10 question survey about reading for pleasure at home to provide a better insight into this. Please click on the survey to complete and many thanks for participating. Participants will be entered into a prize draw selected at random to receive book tokens as a thank you.



Reading for Pleasure Survey link: <https://forms.gle/7FYEEwrr83BJRkT36>

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 and can add a message too. If you would like to do this please use this link and many thanks in advance.

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

Please remind the children to use the paths when coming and leaving the school, walking on the left to avoid others. Road safety is so important at the moment. Children on scooters should be concentrating on travelling safely and sensibly without having snacks and food in their hands.

We were delighted that this week school received a visit from Hannah Beharry, a European boxing champion and ambassador for female boxing. She led two assemblies and then activity sessions. She certainly inspired the children and provided an insight into her early life and how she got into boxing. The challenges she faced and how she overcame these. Children enjoyed hearing about her life, her resilience and how she overcame obstacles along the way to succeed. Do ask the children about the visit.



Parents, children in Years 3 to 6 are entitled to benefit from The Mayor of London's free school meals scheme. This is going to be extended to 2024-25 too. You don't have to do anything apart from talk with your child about the lunch menu from the school website. We currently have too many children having a packed lunch when they could be having a hot meal at lunchtime, saving parents time and money. More information can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals#:~:text=support%20for%20families-.The%20Mayor%20is%20funding%20universal%20free%20school%20meal%20provision%20in,guidance%20and%20support%20for%20families.>

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 .

And don't forget:

In January we have...

Big Schools Garden Watch - 26th - 28th January

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/ukhmd/>

National Storytelling Week - 27th January to 4th February

<https://www.sfs.org.uk/>

Thought for the week:

Be yourself—not your idea of what you think somebody else's idea of yourself should be.

Question of the week:

Would you rather be an ant or a spider? Why?

Rights Respecting Articles of the Week: Holocaust Memorial Day - Article 2, 19, 37, 38

Article 2 - The Convention applies to every child without discrimination

Article 19 - Protection from violence, abuse and neglect

Article 37- No child should be tortured, sentenced to death, imprisoned unfairly or treated in a cruel or inhuman way

Article 38- No child under 15 should join the army and children should be protected in war

Why do we have Holocaust Memorial Day each year?

The awful events around the Second World War must be remembered.
Few survivors are still alive but the truth of what happened should be kept alive.
If we don't learn lessons from history, we won't be able to make better decisions in the future.
It helps people to learn and to remember.
The lessons of the Holocaust helped lead to a world in which human rights are valued.
If we really learn from the past, there can be hope for the future.

It is important to remember about other non-Jewish groups of people who were persecuted including other European and non-European nationals, Romani people, people with disabilities, LGBT people, political prisoners and people of other faiths.

Other terrible events have happened since, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Gaza, Ukraine and Darfur and these are included in this remembrance.

Holocaust Memorial Day provides a moment for us to learn about and remember what has happened in the past and to act for a better future.

Think of your wishes for the future. "One day, I will..."

Think of your wishes for all children around the world "One day, all children will..."

What can we do today to make your wishes for all children come true?

Nursery – This week we have been reading the story 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We have been using story props and resources to act out and retell the story.

The children have also been using directional vocabulary to help Little Red Riding Hood find her way through the woods. The children have had the opportunity to explore this vocabulary (forwards, backwards, and sideways) whilst exploring with other activities such as action songs and rolling the car forwards and backwards through the paint.

The children have produced some excellent art work linked to our story this week using a range of skills such as paint and collage. We have also used the recent cold weather as an opportunity for the children to explore winter. They have been finding out why the ice melts.



Reception – We have been busy learning the number bonds to 5. We have used numicon to support our learning so that we can visually see what 5 looks like. We know that we now have to learn the number bonds by heart so we can instantly recall the numbers.



Our topic this half term is buildings and we have started by talking about homes and replicating them in different creative styles.



Creating a picture of flats using crayons and collage.



Building a model building starting with the walls.

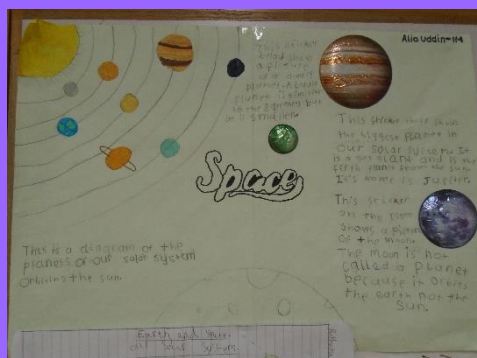
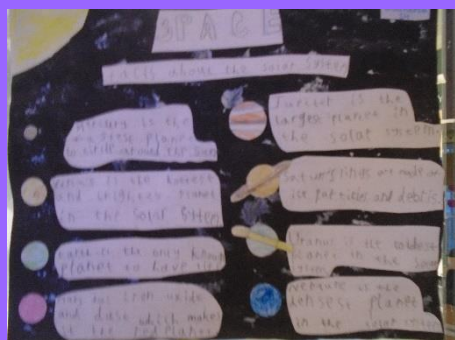


Drawing flats using numicon as a template.

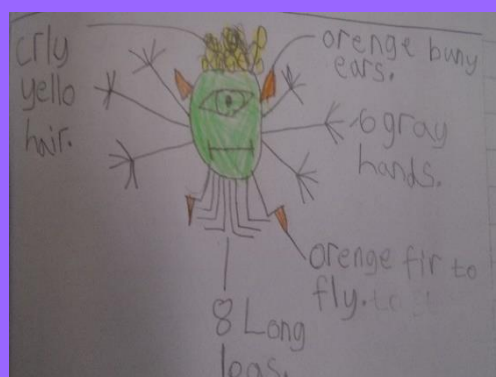
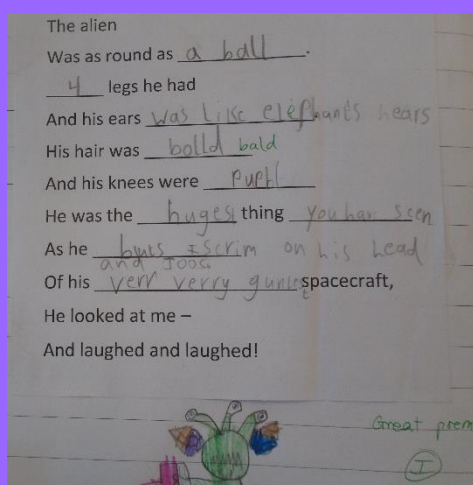
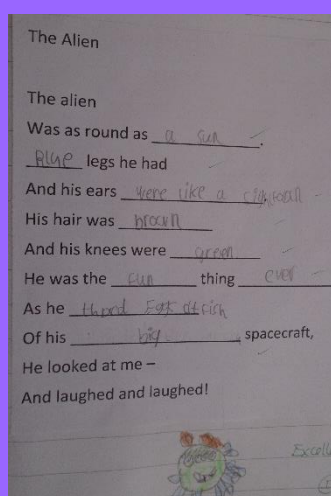
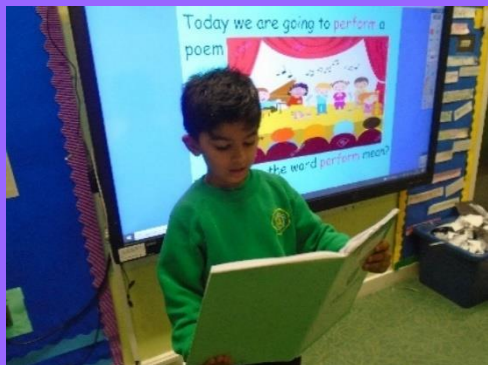
The children have also enjoyed using their imagination by playing with the small world.



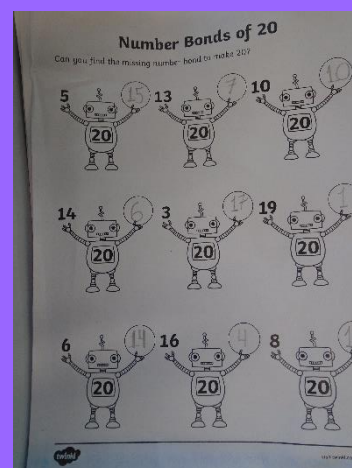
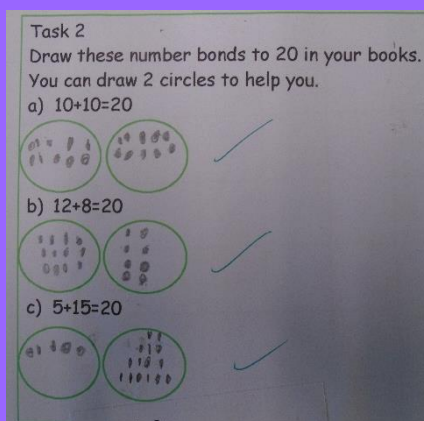
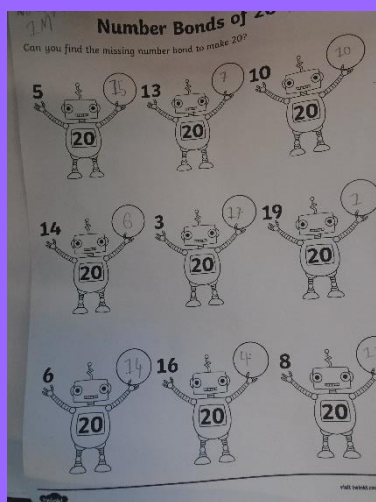
Year 1 – The children worked incredibly hard over the holidays on their space projects. There were so many different projects, books and information. We have displayed all their wonderful work in our group area. Thank you for your hard work on these – we hope you enjoyed making them.



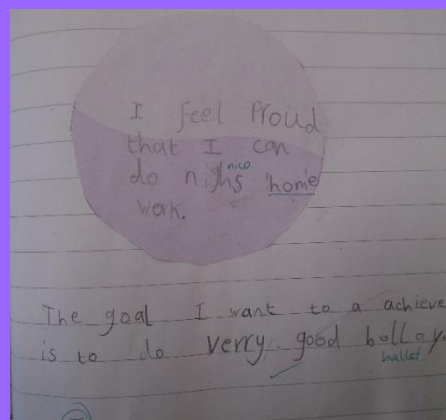
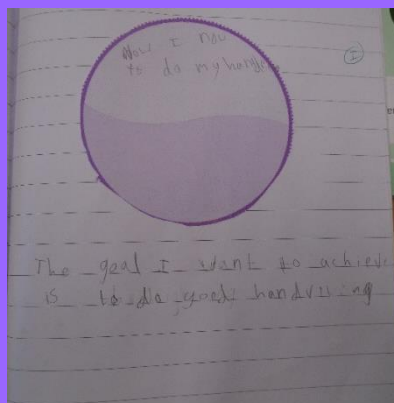
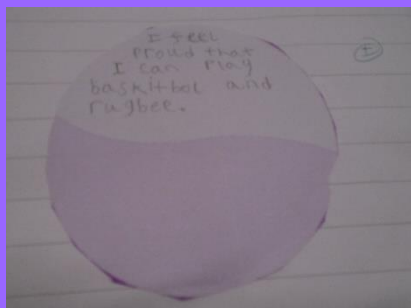
We have started our new topic, 'Reach for the Stars' and the children are already thoroughly enjoying learning all about space and aliens. They have been looking at the poetic story. We read 'The Alien' by Julie Holder as a class. We imagined what the alien looked like and asked the children. The children planned an alien poem and performed it in front of the class.



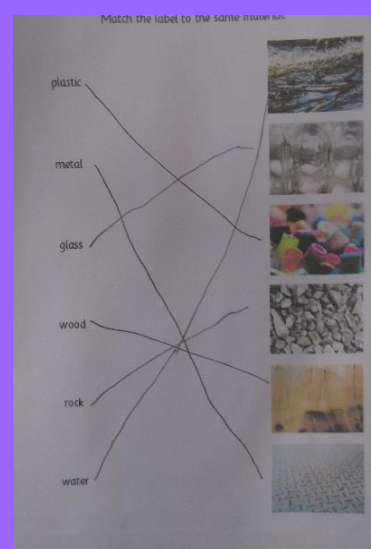
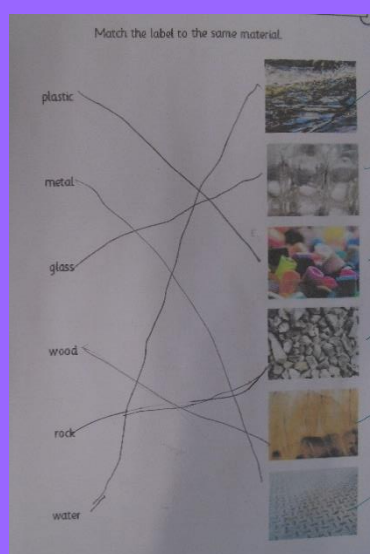
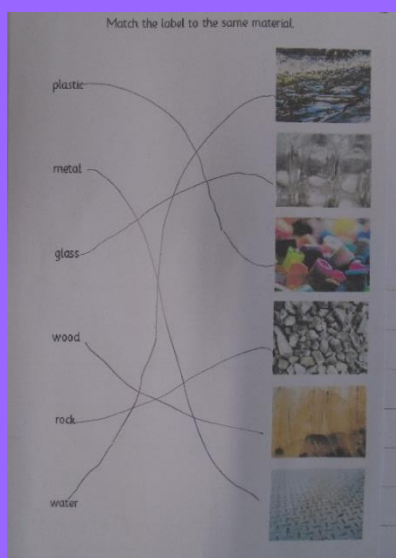
In Maths, the children started the term by learning about adding by counting on to 20. This week, they have moved on to counting number bonds to 10 first and then 20. They have been using different resources to help them, such as cubes, number lines and number cards.



In PSHE, we have been thinking hard about our New Year's Resolutions. We discussed why it is important to set goals and how we can achieve them.



In Science, the children have started their new topic on materials. They have been learning the names of different materials and spotting them in their environment. This week they have been identifying the different materials.



Well done Year 1 for a super start to 2024! 🌟

Year 2 – We have had a fantastic start to the new year, especially coming back to school and taking part in 'The Great Fire of London Workshop' with the History Man. We were able to learn more exciting and interesting facts about this historical period. We especially enjoyed the interactive tasks like dressing up and looking at historical artefacts.





For English, linked to our new theme this term, 'Born to be Wild'. We have been looking at features of an adventure story and completing activities linked to our class text, 'Where the Wild Things Are?' We enjoyed the activity of creating a monster of our own and writing a character description. With our partner and in our groups, we also performed our version of the story.



For PE, we have started our dance unit with our specialist Dance Coach – Miss Alice. Linked to our topic 'Kings and Queens', we have started to learn a new dance that involves the skills of sequencing, mirroring and various dance moves.



Year 3 - We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the children who participated in their holiday homework. The teachers all agree that the work we have been given is amazing and aspirational!

As I'm sure you are aware, our brand-new topic is focused on Ancient Egypt.

Therefore we challenged the children to research different areas of Ancient Egypt and produce some work on the topic. We've gathered a small collection from the vast quantities of brilliant work to showcase in this newsletter.

You can see the variety we were given, from some Egyptian themed artwork to some geography mapping skills.



Finally, we have some papyrus paper that was used in Ancient Egyptian times. Dhiren has then written lots of facts about Egyptian farmers using this very special paper.

Ancient Egyptian Farmers
Farming was a very important part of life in Ancient Egypt. Since most of the Ancient Egyptian cities were close to the Nile River, which was very good, and the farmers could grow food and crops, and live on. The Ancient Egyptians had many crops such as barley, figs, wheat, vegetables, grapes, pomegranates, cabbages, lettuce, onions, beans... Grain was the most important crop that they would grow. There were 2 different seasons that were used for farming, one was the growing season and the other was harvest season. Each year in June the Nile River would flood. This was considered the flooding season and was a time when farmers would take a break to get all of their tools and things ready for after the flood went down. Farmers did not miss having food, because they done fishing, even if they didn't have crops. Farming was not easy job and the Ancient Egyptians had many tools. They had reapers, sickles, cattle, hoes, rakes, plows, scoops... During the farming season, cattle and oxen were very important because they would help to trample over the land and get the grain of the stalk. The animals would get very useful to pull things and to help with all of the farming needs on land.



Year 4 – Pedestrian Training.



On Tuesday 10th January, we were incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to take part in the pedestrian skills training as part of the For2Feet scheme. Children learned essential road safety skills that will make them safer pedestrians throughout their lives. The children were reminded to, 'Stop, Look, Listen' and they practised:

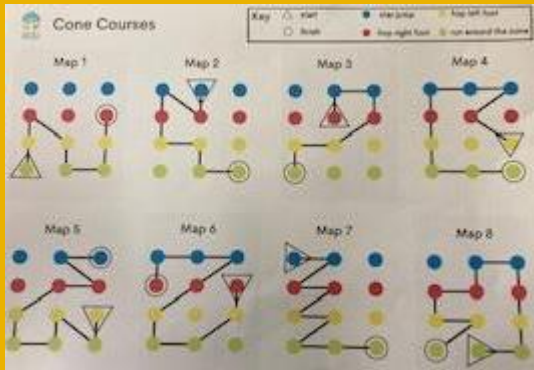
Finding a safe place to cross the road,
The correct use of pedestrian crossings such as zebra/pelican/island that are close to the school,
How to cross at junctions and near parked cars,
The importance of wearing bright clothing,
The dangers of cars reversing from driveways, across the pavement,
The dangers of being distracted such as wearing headphones or using a mobile phone.



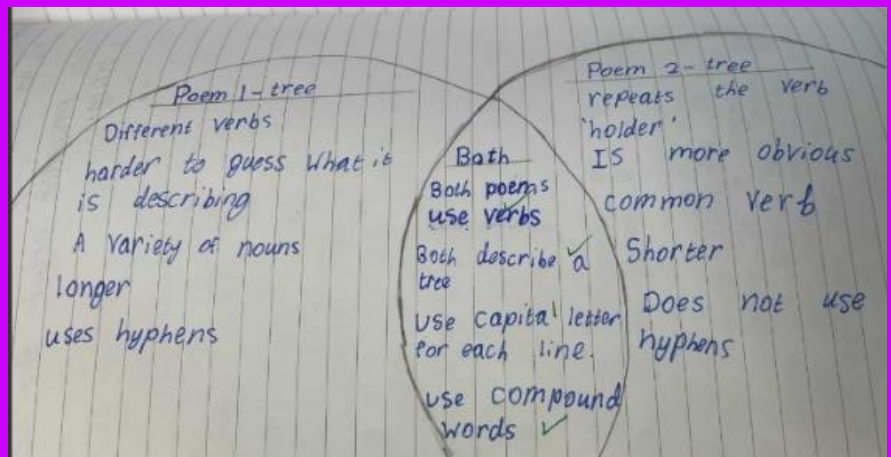
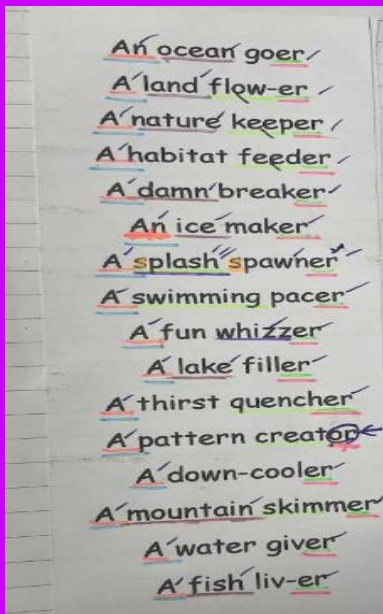
This week, 4C and 4S have practiced and performed the class assemblies to their parents. The children read, sang and performed excellently, demonstrating the fabulous variety of work completed on the Autumn Topic, Frozen Kingdom and Robert Falcon Scott. We were so impressed with their confidence and ability to deliver their lines.



In PE, this half term, we are completing different orienteering tasks. The children have been learning to use and follow directional language as well as using maps to find various objects and routes. They will have the opportunity to use a compass and plan routes throughout the half term.

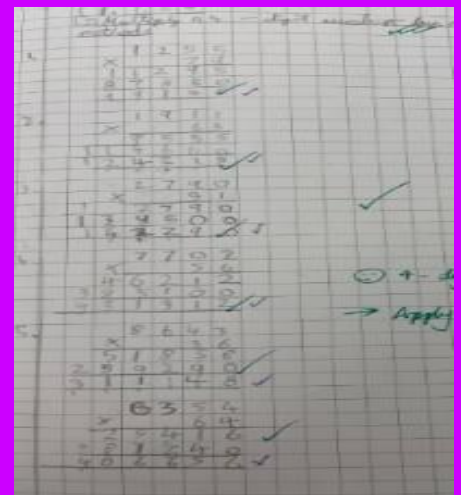


Year 5 – In English, we have started learning about Kennings. A kenning poem is a special type of poem that describes an object or a creature without ever using its name. The poem is made up of a list of four descriptions and each description has only two words. We will be using this to help describe a Viking.

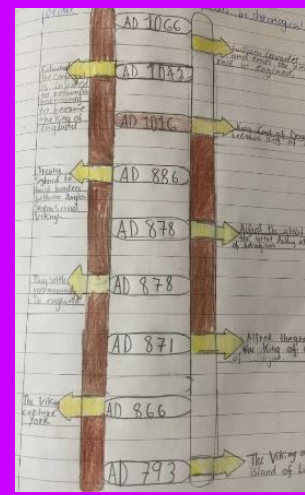
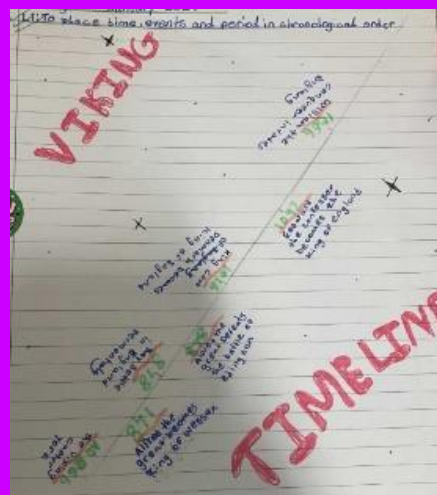


- a worm-eater
- a nest-maker
- a cushion-filler
- a seed-muncher
- a fish-guzzler
- a fast-flier
- a cat-escaper
- a tree-liver
- an acrobatic-glider
- an adventurous-swooper
- a tweeting-singer

In Maths, we have been revising our multiplication methods. We have used formal written methods to multiply up to 4 digit numbers by 2 digits. We have continued to practise the steps involved in this and discussed misconceptions as they arise.



In History, we have started our new unit about the Vikings. We have used key events and dates from the Viking era and put this in chronological order. We also explored the context of this time period and answered key questions, who they are, where they came from and why.



Hannah Beharry

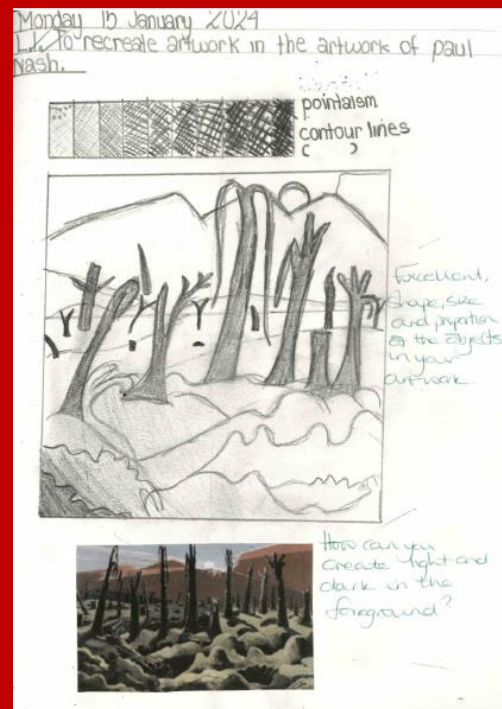
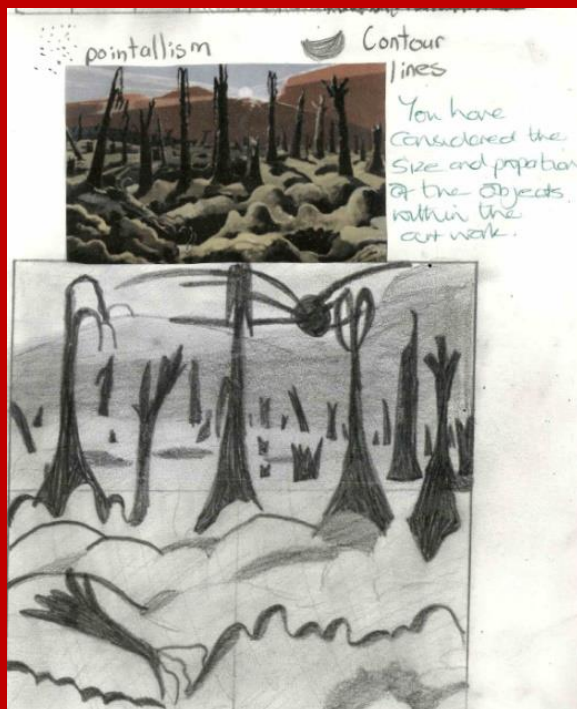
We had Hannah Beharry, a former British and European boxing champion (Team GB), come into school for the morning as part of our 'Athlete Day'. Some of us also took part in sessions where Hannah lead sports activities for us to try.



Year 6 - On Tuesday 9th January, we were lucky enough to have Adam and Matt from the Metropolitan Police join us in the Music and Drama room. The purpose of the visit was to inform the Year group about some of the issues that young people in London face today: knife crime, gangs, drugs and alcohol. Lots of the children reported that they were shocked to find out that under eighteens are most likely to get mixed up in knife crime. Most crimes take place at weekends and anything could be used as a weapon. At the end of the session, the children had the opportunity to ask the officers questions, some of which were very mature and insightful. I'm sure we can all agree that the Year 6 children at APS now feel safer and more knowledgeable about these situations.



In Art, children have been exploring artwork from World War One to link with our War and Peace topic. We learnt about how the government commissioned artists to produce artwork for a certain purpose and responded to a range of different paintings, considering the impact they had on us. Our focus artist this term is Paul Nash. We viewed examples of his trench landscapes and used sketching skills to reproduce an image, focusing on the background first and then the finer detail.

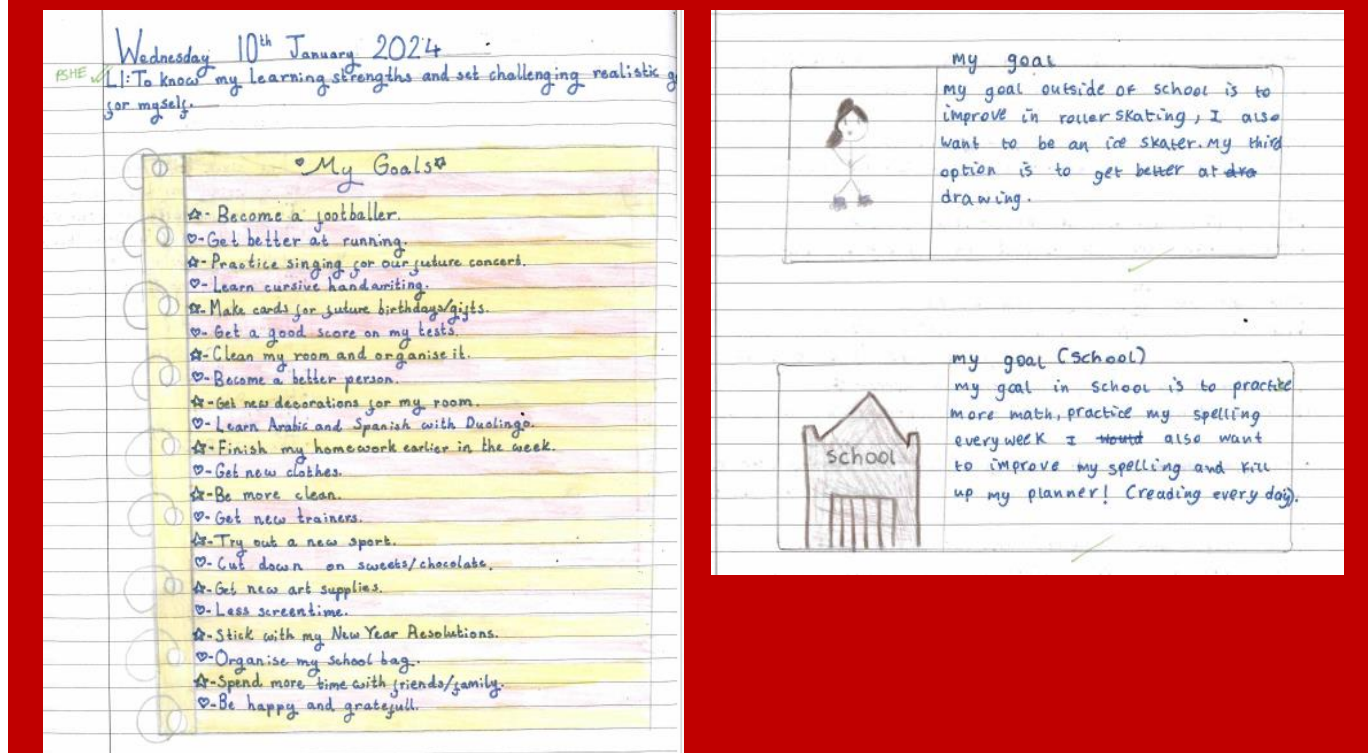


To start off the new year, children have been reflecting on their aspirations and goals for 2024. We considered the targets that we want to achieve both inside and outside school.

We had some interesting discussions about whether our goals were achievable and how important it is to challenge ourselves.

In the following lesson, we broke our goals down into measurable steps to help us ensure we meet them.

We are looking forward to seeing our success over the next year!



Alexandra children, staff, parents and carers are enthusiastic and articulate about their learning and their school community. Children know they can say how they feel and know how to communicate their thoughts and feelings. If we teach children to be articulate then they can develop their skills and consequently, become more confident.



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

