

# Alexandra Primary School

## Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

### Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for the foodbank donations. As you can see, we have collected a great deal for the Rotary Club and this will help lots of families.

The recent World Book Day activities were amazing. There were some fantastic mini books made, very creative stories in a jar and dioramas.

Thanks to the many parents who have completed the reading for pleasure survey already. You can still participate by using this link:

<https://forms.gle/7FYEEwrr83BJRkT36> . Participants will be entered into a prize draw selected at random to receive book tokens as a thank you.

At the recent Get Hounslow Reading Conference, school was presented with two awards for our contributions and work with both Reading for Pleasure and Contingent Talk. More information can be found on the website.

Please put your child's name on scooters. It is great that so many children are using them. However they are very similar, in style and colour. If you discover that you have taken the wrong one by mistake, please return it to the cycle shed.

The recent book fair was very popular with over £1000 taken in book sales. This means the school could take over £500 worth of books for the school. Thank you, parents.

School raised over £300 for Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day) and over £500 for NSPCC Number Day – so again, many thanks to our community for contributing to these good causes.

Alexandra Primary School has been nominated as part of the Tesco Stronger Start Scheme to support our breakfast club. Please pick up a blue token when you are next in Tesco Osterley store and pop it in the box by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

School opens the gates at 8:40am in the morning. The vast majority of parents are teaching their children to be punctual which is really important later in life. School officially starts at 8:55am. We understand that morning preparation can be challenging for all, however lateness does impact on children's self-esteem, learning and self-confidence.

At times, you may want to discuss concerns and issues with class teachers. You can email using [office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:nursery@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Reception at Alexandra Primary School [reception@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:reception@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Year 1 at Alexandra Primary School [year1@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:year1@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Year 2 at Alexandra Primary School [year2@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:year2@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Year 3 at Alexandra Primary School [year3@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:year3@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Year 4 at Alexandra Primary School [year4@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:year4@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)

Year 5 at Alexandra Primary School [year5@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:year5@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk)



Year 6 at Alexandra Primary School [year6@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk).

**And don't forget:**

**In March we have...**

**World Water Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

**Holi, the festival of colours for Hindu's – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**World Theatre Day on 27<sup>th</sup> March**

<https://www.world-theatre-day.org/>

**British Summer Time begins on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**Thought for the week:**

**If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.**

**Question of the week:**

**What would it be like if there were no stars?**

**Rights Respecting Articles 24 and 27**

**Article 24 (health and health services) - Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.**

**Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.**



**Article 27 (adequate standard of living) - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.**

**Why do you think that the right to clean water is such an important right?**

**Did you think of these?**

- Our bodies are made up of over 60% water and we need clean water to keep them working properly and to stay alive.
- Drinking dirty, unsafe water can cause serious illnesses.
- In some communities, children miss out on their education because they must spend time collecting water.
- We need water for washing ourselves and for keeping our clothes and homes clean.
- A good water supply is important for good sanitation and flushing our toilets.
- Not having access to clean water makes it harder to be healthy and have a decent standard of living.
- Water and wetlands provide important habitats for plants and animals.
- Pollution of our oceans, rivers and waterways can have a serious impact on all living things.
- Water is important to generate power in some places and it is better for the environment than burning fossil fuels.



Nursery – We have had a busy week exploring colour mixing. The children have been using paint and chalk to mix primary colours both indoors and outside. We have also planted sunflower seeds as part of our science week project. In Maths, we have been thinking about numbers that are important to us. The children have been learning about the number 4 and talking about how old they are and lots of great conversations have been taking place around our birthday tray. The children have enjoyed playing I spy and looking for objects that begin with the 's' and 'a' sound. Our focus for people who help us has been on the police. We are excited to invite a police officer in to talk to us.



Reception – The children are enjoying the topic about fantasy stories. They have learnt about castles, knights, kings and queens, princes and princesses, dragons and of course witches too. The children have enjoyed being creative.





Cutting, sticking and the finished picture of a witch flying through the night sky was fun.

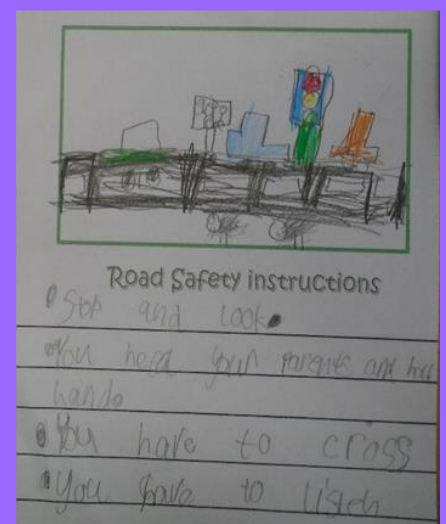
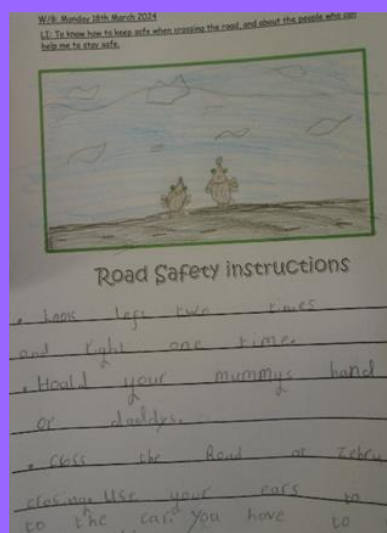
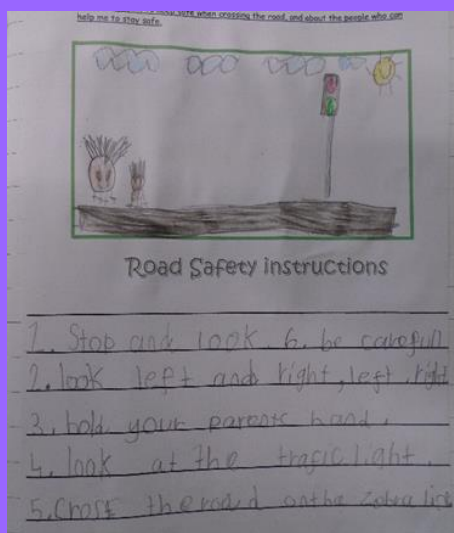


Some lovely displays have been created using chalk. Room on a broom witch made from paper. Being creative and a princess at the same time is great fun!

The children have enjoyed playing outside. They have kept themselves busy developing skills using hoops.

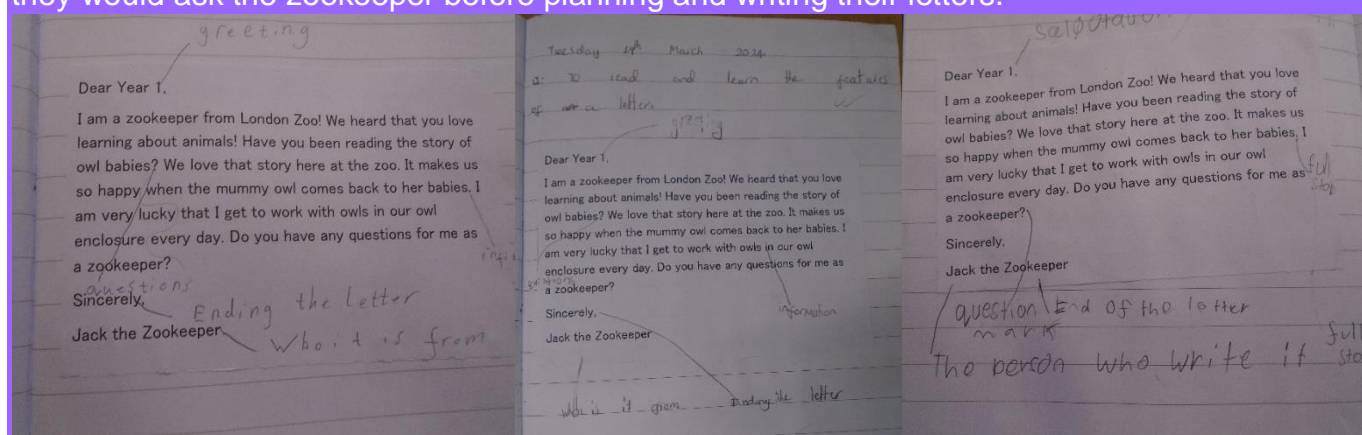


Year 1 – In PSHE this week we have been learning the very important subject of road safety. We have learnt that we always look both ways when crossing a road and to wait for a grown up. We know that we need to look and listen carefully to our surroundings to make the best judgement on when a road is safe to cross.

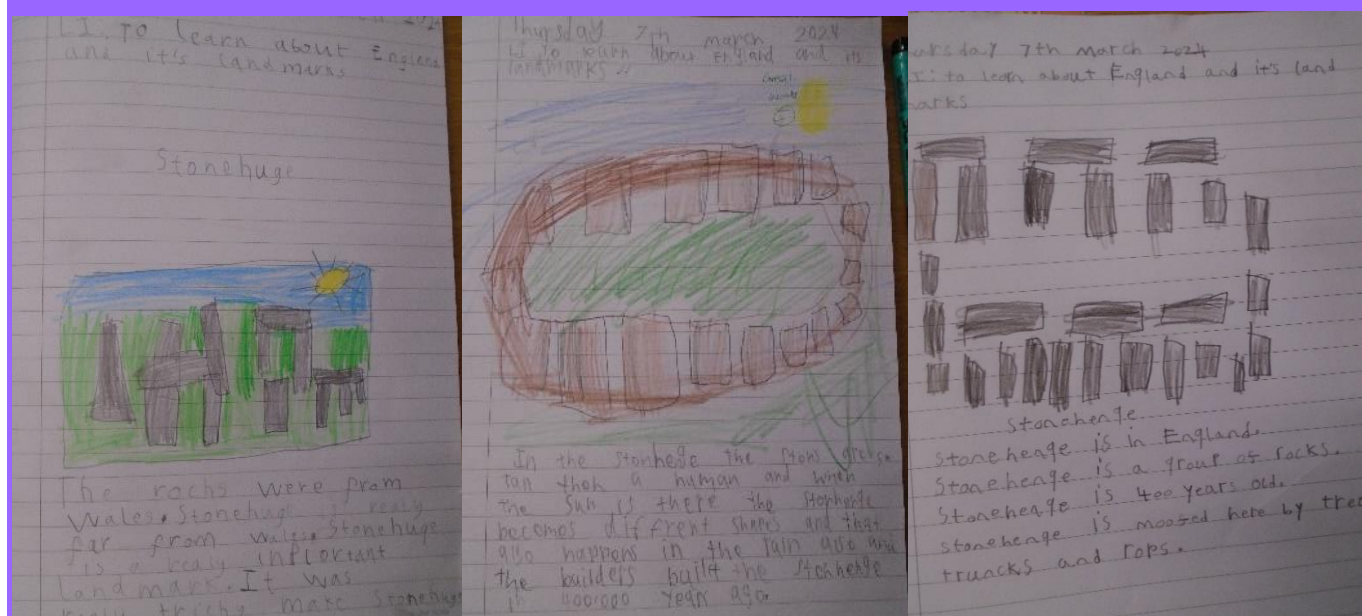




In English this week the children 'received' a letter from the Zoo! They were then introduced to the features of letter writing. We talked about the importance of letter writing and how letters get to their destinations. The children then decided to write a reply so they thought about questions they would ask the zookeeper before planning and writing their letters.



Over the last few weeks we have been learning about England, Wales and Scotland. We have learnt some really cool facts about each place. The children really loved learning about different landmarks including Caernarfon Castle, Stonehenge and Loch Ness.



In Art we have been learning about environmental art. We talked about a famous artist called Andy Goldsworthy and how he uses natural resources to create art. We planned our natural art and created our work by using natural resources in the playground.





Year 2 – In keeping with our theme and cross curricular topic of India this term, Year 2 had the exciting opportunity of taking part in a Bollywood workshop. We had such a wonderful experience, learning about Indian drums and why they were created. We learnt about the parts of an Indian drum and how to hold and play it correctly. Fun fact: Did you know that the proper name for an Indian drum in Hindi is Dhol. We also learnt that the drums we played on were originally created for the Indian army, so that they could warn people that the enemy army was approaching.



We also took part in a Bollywood dancing session and learnt a lot about Indian dancing and costumes. Year 2 had a fantastic time putting a sequence of dance moves together and performing our dance to the other classes.

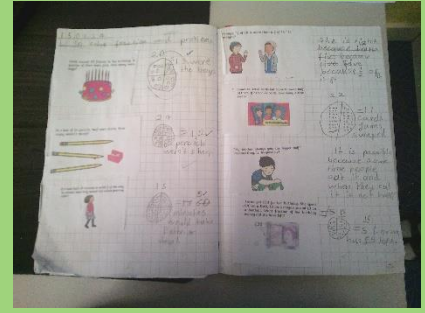
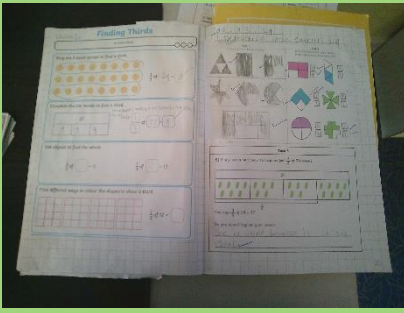


In PE, we have been learning lots of skills to improve our gymnastics. We have practiced our balances, rolls and sequences of movement. Some of the tasks we found challenging at first, like the forward and backward rolls but now we are all able to perform these movements and look forward to showcasing our achievements in our final lesson next week.



In Maths, we have been practicing recognising fractions involving halves, thirds and quarters. We also delved deeper into solving problems that include these fractions. We learnt that knowing and applying our times table really helped us to understand fractions and finding parts of a whole.





Year 3 - Recently in Year 3, we have been learning about different parts of plants and investigating what things plants need to survive. We learnt just how similar plants are to our own lives. With this knowledge, we decided to investigate the outside environment that we have in Alexandra Primary. Through science week we decided to look at how the nature of our playground has changed over time and started to think about how we could improve the school's level of nature so took some maps outside and looked for areas where we could perform a natural make-over.



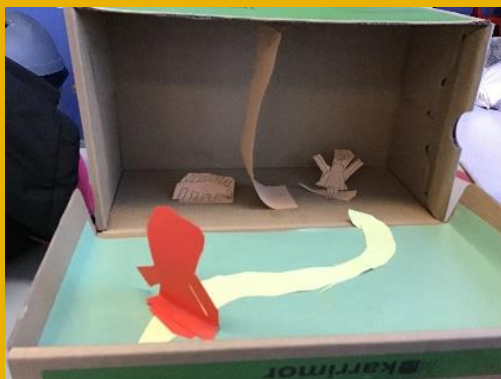
Also, it was recently World Book Day. We were super excited to share all of our favourite books with the children in class and spent a lot of time discussing our favourite books and why we love them so much. To show how much we love our favourite books, we decided to create some dioramas of them.



We spent the whole day planning and constructing our dioramas and were happy to then share these with our classmates.



Year 4 – The children enjoyed participating in a range of World Book Day activities which we hope helps to promote a life long enjoyment with reading. They enjoyed having the opportunity to talk about and show their favourite books to their classes as well as recreating scenes and characters from these books to make a story diorama. They also helped write a book written by the children of Alexandra Primary School. Year 4 were responsible for writing the ending. We discussed what this may look like, would it just been a dream? Would it be left as a cliff hanger? Would it answer all the readers questions? You will just have to wait and see.



Continuing with promoting reading engagement, the children had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a virtual workshop with Joseph Coelho, who has been the Children's Laureate. Please continue to read with your children every day – it really does make a difference.



In Science, the children have continued to learn and test their predictions around the topic of states of matter, this week they have been taking a closer look at gases and how they behave. They made scientific predictions, planned and conducted an experiment to discover the weight of gases within fizzy drinks. We then used our findings to draw conclusions.

#### Fizzy drink experiment (gases)



In DT this half term we are planning, preparing and cooking a Chinese meal. This week we had a food testing session to decide on which food we would like to use in our meal. As you can see some food went down better than others.





We were lucky enough to be able to visit Hampton Court Palace and the grounds, to observe the areas that inspired the pieces of music chosen for our performance in June at the actual Palace Chapel!

We had a great time exploring each area and thankfully managed to escape the maze too!



## Year 5 – World Book Day



For world book day this year, we celebrated our love of books by creating our own 'story in a jar.' We planned out our story on a story board and then made a small version of the book to place inside the jar. Using various resources, we made our own story scene with the jar that represented our chosen story. We also had an interactive online lesson with the poet and author Joseph Coelho who imparted his knowledge about how to write a poem.





In Science we have been learning about properties of materials and how materials can change. We took part in an experiment about an irreversible change; using flour, eggs and butter. We used scales to measure the correct amount of each ingredient and worked as a team to mix the items together, following a set of instructions. We observed the ingredients and their properties and predicted whether we would create an irreversible or reversible change.

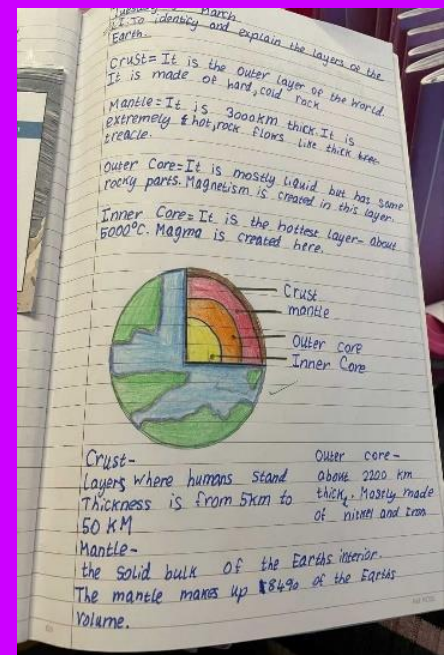


In Geography we have started our new unit on 'Extreme Earth.' Children for their homework, researched natural disasters across the world and created posters and PowerPoints about these. In class, we have identified and defined the layers of the Earth with a labelled diagram.

#### Iceland volcano



Facts : The volcano started on the 18th December 2023. An earthquake happened underneath the volcano causing tremors and eruptions of lava. First eruption was on 18th December 2023, the second eruption was on 14th January 2024. Currently ongoing a third eruption on 8th February 2024. And it is still ongoing.



Year 6 – World Book Day, lots of fun was had by everyone.

Last Thursday, Year 6 got to bring their favourite books to life for World Book Day. Children shared a book with the class and discussed the reasons why it is special to them. They then summarised the stories into a mini book using words and illustrations. They then used a range of craft materials to create either the setting or their favourite character into a jar. They took a great amount of care and pride during this activity and the book talk was contagious!

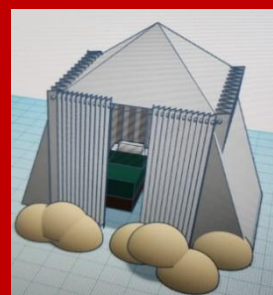




In addition to this, children were lucky enough to attend a virtual workshop hosted by Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho. He talked about what inspires his writing and discussed his love of reading and shared some poetry writing tips that we cannot wait to test out in the year group.



## DT and Computing



This term, in D.T, children have been researching and designing bomb shelters to prepare for their upcoming STEM workshop next Friday. Using Tinker CAD software, children used a design brief and knowledge of World War Two bomb shelters to create their own computer aided design. They tried really hard to make their shelters look realistic too and included features such as corrugation in the metal sides and sandbags around the edges – some even had vegetables growing on top!

## Science



Tuesday 5th March 2024  
(1) To investigate how a prism changes a ray of light to show the spectrum

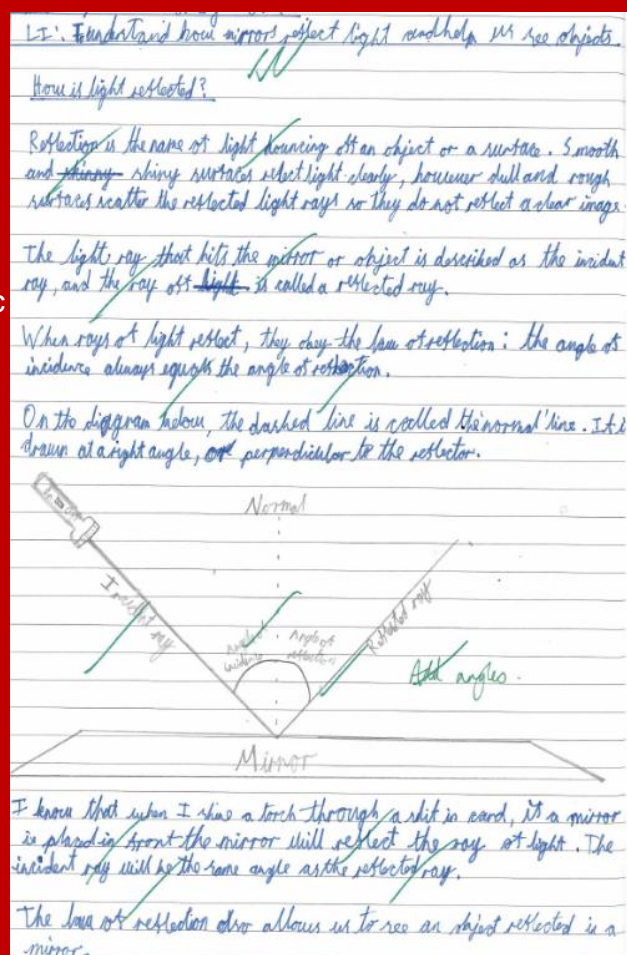
White light  
 Glass prism  
 Red  
 Orange  
 Yellow  
 Green  
 Blue  
 Indigo  
 Violet

Refraction is the bending of light as it passes through like a wall a window

When light is shone through a prism, the light bends and splits into the colors of a rainbow. This proves that light is made up of these colours.

This happens because colour within a ray of light has a different wavelength. Red has the longest wavelength, and Violet has the shortest. Since each colour's wavelength is slightly differently, the colours in the ray of light bend slightly differently.

In Science this term, children have been learning all about light. Through working scientifically, we have discovered that light travels in straight lines and reflects off of certain surfaces. To build upon knowledge from lower key stage 2, we discovered that light reflects back from a surface (angle of incidence) at the exact angle that it was reflected onto it (angle of reflection). Children drew scientific diagrams and wrote explanations of what they had observed. We also discovered that although light appears to be white or colourless, when shone through a prism it refracts and shows the colours of the rainbow.



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

Alexandra children, staff, parents and carers endeavour to work and play with everyone. We believe in the power of teamwork – of cooperating and collaborating. Working together equates to success for all. We show tolerance and understanding for every group and individual and people's different beliefs and ways of life. We have an understanding of good manners and demonstrate these always.

What are you reading at the moment and would you recommend it?

Which activity have you most enjoyed this term?

What learning challenged you the most this week?

What book or author would you recommend to a friend?

