

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 2nd February 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

To help support parents with reading for pleasure, 'good reads' information can be found on the school website. <https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/learning-reading>. Scroll down to see the reading lists. School would like to hear from you if you have any recommendations too.

We have created a short 10 question survey about reading for pleasure at home to provide us with better insights 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 suggested book wish lists that they would like for the children to read. Parents can support this by purchasing a book for school from the list and can add a message too. This could be an alternative option to providing fruit for birthdays to children. 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 have noticed that lateness has become more of an issue recently. School opens the gates at 8:40 in the morning. School officially starts at 8:55am. It is really important that children arrive on time as this builds good habits for later in life and also means children can start the day settled in class and able to participate in learning with their peers. 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 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 February we have...

National Storytelling Week - 27th January to 4th February

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

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/>

Online safety advice on any topic:

The internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers. That's why you've now got access to hundreds of courses, explainer videos and online safety guides to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help.

Sign up is easy. Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/alexandra-primary-school-1> and complete your details.

Once you're set up, you'll be able to choose 'Parent/Carer' as your user type and get instant access to all training and resources. Download the app for free.

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want. You can download the National Online Safety app using the links below:

- [App store](#)
- [Google Play](#)

They're always here to help. The National College has a brilliant support team if you have any questions. Their help centre provides a comprehensive bank of answers to most FAQs, but if you still can't find the answer you're looking for, you can always get in contact with them.

I hope you'll sign-up and make the most of their resources.

Thought for the week:

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.

Question of the week:

What if we all had wings?

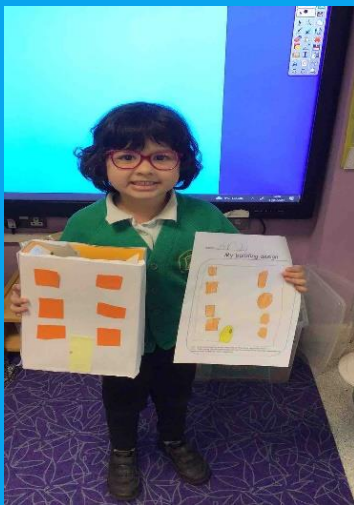
Nursery – The children have had an exciting week bringing our focus story of "The Gingerbread Man" to life. We had a special visit from the Aesop Touring Theatre Company who performed 'The Adventures of the Gingerbread Man'. The children enjoyed joining in with the interactive show. We have also been baking gingerbread in small groups. The children have been using lots of skills to follow a recipe and measure the ingredients. In Nursery, we have lots of photographs from the theatre visit and also baking props in the home corner so that the children can use the vocabulary and talk about their experiences.



Reception – The children have been learning about buildings. There has been lots of construction of buildings using different materials. Lego and Duplo have been popular.



I have made a flat, it is not tall but it is still a flat.



The children have designed a range of different buildings and then used recycled materials to build a model.

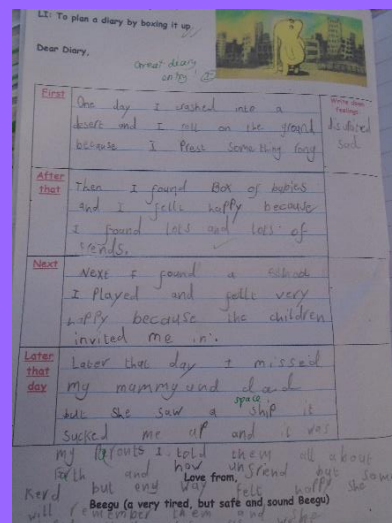
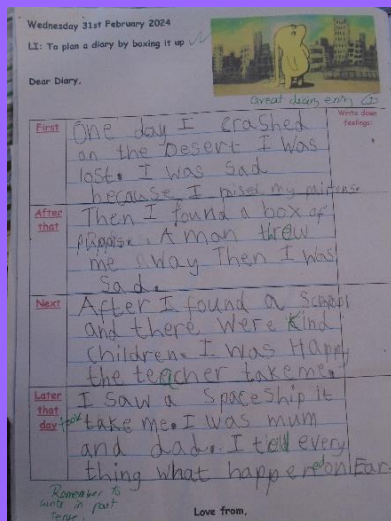
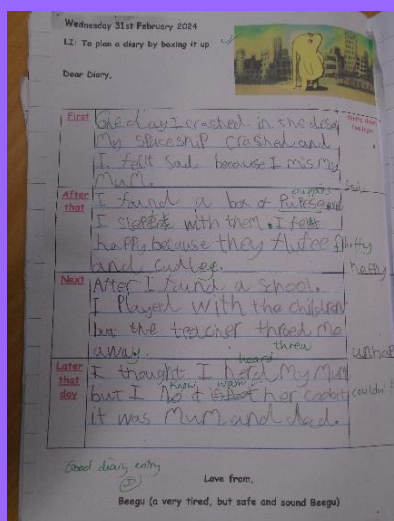


The children have been learning about the story of the "Three Little Pigs". They have re-enacted the story using a variety of props and retold the story using a story board as well as being creative and painting pictures of the characters of the story.

The children have had fun exploring different instruments. They have been learning about the tempo and using the instruments accordingly.



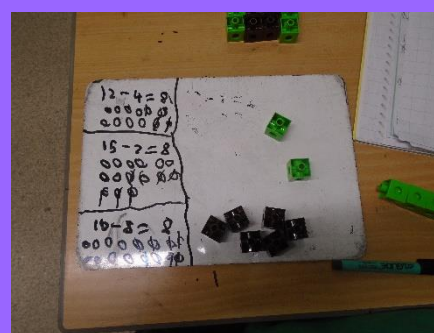
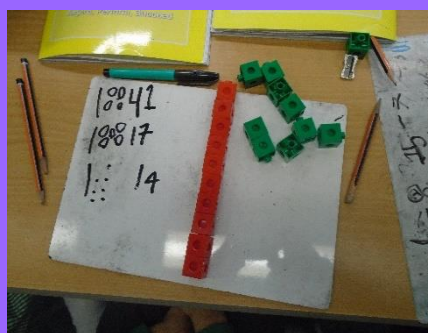
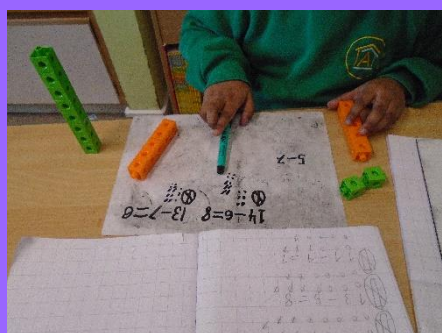
Year 1 – We have been working very hard on diary writing in English. We have been very excited to incorporate our space topic into our English lessons. This week we are writing from the perspective of the alien character Beegu. We discussed key features of diary writing and the children were encouraged to write their diary using the past tense. We first boxed it up and then they wrote the diary entry.



In DT, we have been creating space buggies. Last week, children made the wheels and axles of their own buggies. They used cardboard and straws to make them. This week, we are going to make the bodies of their buggies and they will also decorate them with tinfoil. They have been careful and precise about their work.



In Maths this week we have been learning about subtraction. We have been subtracting up to 20 by regrouping. We started off the week by using practical objects such as cubes, we then moved to pictorial representations and lastly, we solved word problems.

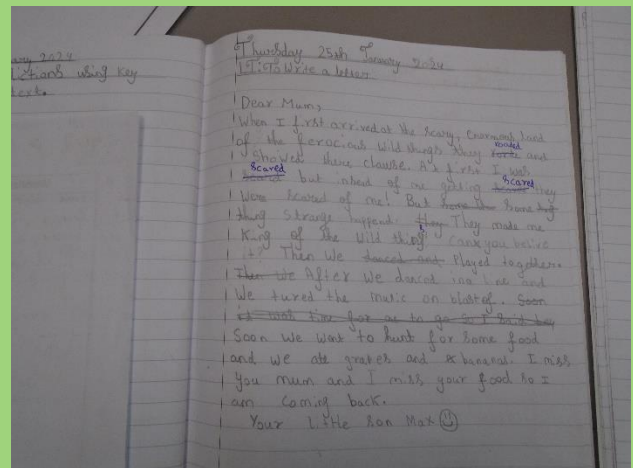
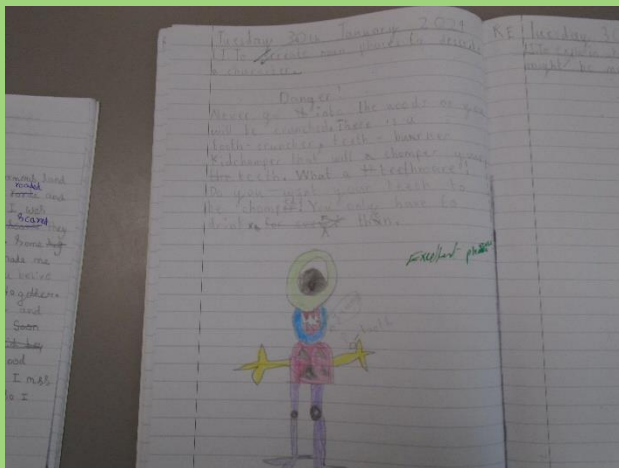


In PSHE, we have been learning about challenges and how to tackle a new challenge and understand this might stretch children's learning. We talked about how it feels when we start to learn something new. We might be scared, nervous or excited. Children then made their stretchy flowers, which will stretch their learning. Children learnt they might need to keep trying in order to achieve the goal.





Year 2 – For English, linked to our new class text – The Minpins, we have been looking at features of an adventure story and working towards writing our own version of the story. We have included lots of adjectives, imperative verbs, conjunctions and noun phrases to make our stories more exciting.



For PE, we have made so much progress in our dance unit with our specialist Dance Coach – Miss Alice. Linked to our topic 'Kings and Queens', we have almost completed our dance routine that involves the skills of sequencing, mirroring and various dance moves.



We had a fantastic morning, taking part in National Number Day. We researched the history of numbers and completed numerous activities involving numbers. We enjoyed coming to school in our numbered shirts and taking part in the number hunt where we had to find as many numbers as we can around the school.



Year 3 - We have been digging deep into the world of the Ancient Egyptians and are learning some amazing, and terrifying facts along the way. To help us with our studies, we were visited by the Hobgoblin theatre company who performed "The Curse of the Mummy". We found it really funny at times but also, scary at other times. We had to help Detective Baguette find out who stole the amulet of Tutankhamun.



As part of the visit, we also had a drama workshop where we had to act out different parts of the play, showing our acting skills to create freeze frames from the play, working on our facial expressions.



Additionally, we have been learning about the creepier part of the Ancient Egyptian world; mummification. We have learnt that the Egyptians would only mummify the important or rich people and that some of these people, Pharaohs, would then be buried within their very own pyramid!

Here we can see our attempt to mummify some of our classmates.

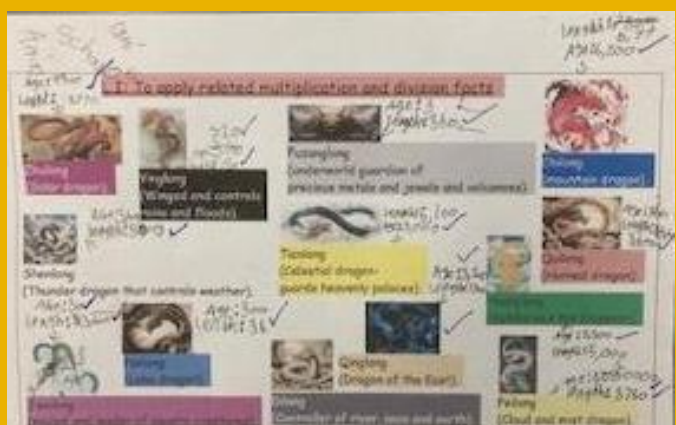


Year 4 – In Art this term, we have been exploring the artist Zheng Xie (鄭燮, 1693-1765). He is famous for his drawing of bamboo, orchids, and rocks. His artwork is often thought to have been the inspiration behind the 'Willow patterns' - the name given to the distinctive blue and white pattern found on many pieces of crockery (made in England during the 18th Century). The children imitated his style of art in preparation to create their own willow pattern plates.

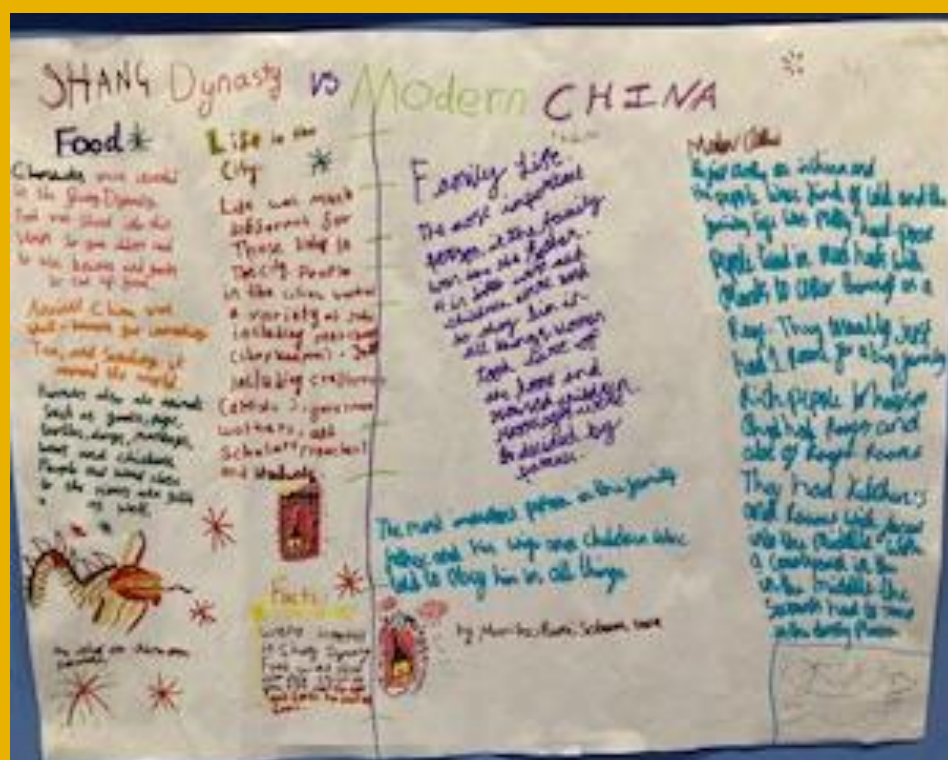


In Maths, this half term we have been learning and applying our multiplication facts to various written calculations and word problems. The children enjoyed applying their knowledge of multiplying and dividing given numbers by 10 and 100.

Zhulong: 9900 years old 8770m long.	Huanglong: 23 x 100 years: 50 x 100 m in length.	Tianlong: 23 x 1000 years: 100 times longer than Shenlong.
Chilong: 10 times older than Dilong: 1/10 the size of Qinglong.	Shenlong: 100 times the age of Qulong: 10 times longer than Dilong.	Qinglong: Age of 3200: 770m long.
Qulong: 6 x 60 years old: 600 x 60m long.	Jiulong: 210 - 7 years: 300m x 12 long.	Panlong: 2100 divided by 7 in age: 12 x 3m long.
Yinglong: 10 times younger than Qinglong: 5 x 10m long.	Dilong: 620 years old: 500 m in length.	Fuzonglong: 21 divided by 7 years old: 12 x 30m long.
	Feilong: 100 times older than Chilong: 10 times smaller than Zhulong.	



In Geography, our topic is China and The Orient. We have been looking at human and physical features as well as looking at how the Shang Dynasty compares to modern China in areas such as city life, family structure, jobs, food and medical care. The children enjoyed discovering and highlighting the differences and similarities between the two eras in time.







Viking Longboats homework – For our homework, we put our creative skills to the test and made our very own Viking Longboats and weapons- fit for a Viking voyage!



Year 6 - As part of our learning on "All Living Things", this week we have been learning about the tiniest living things on Earth, micro-organisms! We were amazed to learn that these microscopic creatures are not all harmful: some help create tasty foods such as cheese, bread and yoghurt and others are found in antibiotics that help cure us when we are unwell. We also set up an investigation to discover the conditions in which mould will grow best on bread and cannot wait to see how green our bread will become between now and half term!

Tuesday 30th January 2024
1. To describe and investigate helpful organisms
2. To plan an enquiry

Hypothesis:
 We are investigating the conditions that mold needs to grow.
 Does temperature affect mould growth?

Equipment:

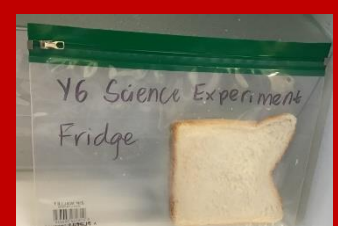
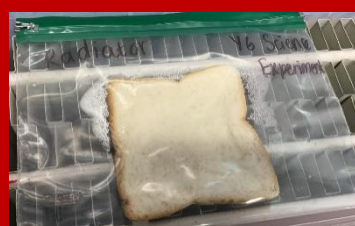
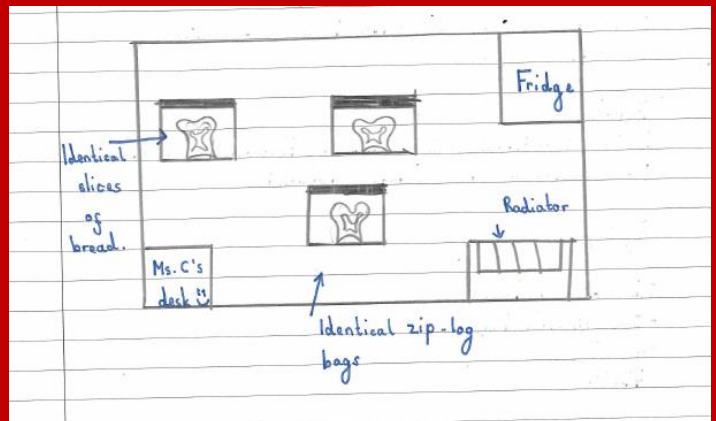
- Three slices of bread
- Three zip-lock bags
- A fridge
- A radiator

Prediction:
 I predict that the bread on the radiator will grow mold. I think this because bacteria need warmth to grow & if we put on the radiator this allows the bread to grow mold.

Variables:

Independent Variables: - The temperature of where the bread is stored.
Controlled Variables: - Type of bread, the ziplock bag, when we check the bread.

To make our test fair we are only changing one variable, We don't touch the bread when we are observing it.

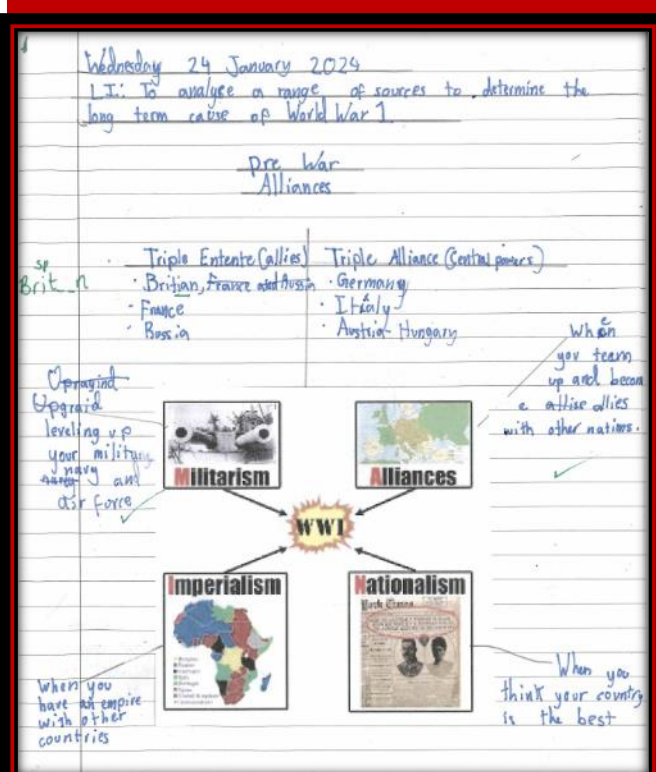


World War One Art

In Art this week, children have really impressed us all with their creativity and attention to detail. After exploring the work of World War One artist, Paul Nash, the children have created their own battlefield composition through an initial sketch, thinking carefully about the background, foreground and finer detail. Then, they applied their skills of mixing secondary and tertiary colours using the medium of watercolour to create a sombre mood as per the style of Nash.



In History this fortnight, children have been tackling a very big question: what caused the start of World War One? Initially, we learnt about the agreed short-term cause of the war, which was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. We then took the learning deeper and learnt about how alliances between countries, militarism, imperialism and nationalism played an essential role in the start of war too. In addition to this, children explored a range of primary sources to draw conclusions of what life was like for soldiers in the trenches.



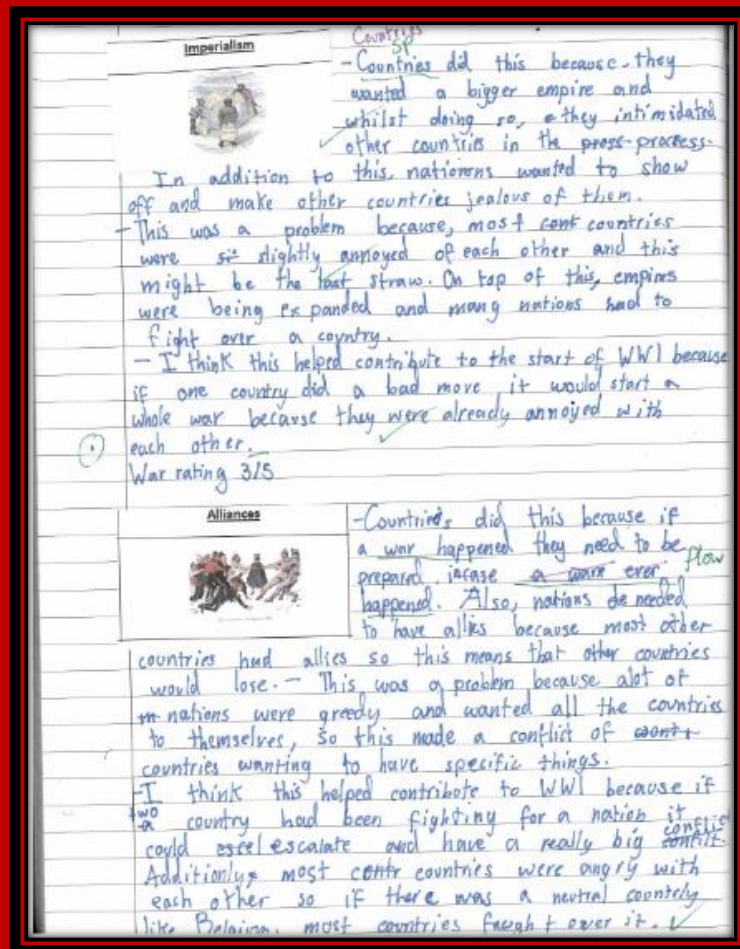
Militarism

Countries did this because they wanted to show off and prove to everyone that they had the best military by improving and expanding their navy, air-forces and their soldiers. In addition to this, nations wanted to expand their military just to have a bigger chance at winning the war. This was a problem because, countries were getting paranoid and worried abt other countries improving. On top of this, there were lots of teams and empires so countries not wanted to improve alot - I think this helped contribute to WW1 because lots of countries were getting jealous of each other and it annoyed annoyed them so much they started a war.

Good explanation
 jealous
 War rating 5/5.

I believe that there was not a main cause of the War. Most of them helped to make world war one. The as- assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was the breaking point. I think this because Austria-Serbia declared war on Serbia which made all of their allies join in.

Wow Jalal you have worked really hard to explain these tricky subjects.



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

Alexandra children, staff, parents and carers demonstrate the value of reflection, which is thinking carefully about our learning and actions. We get to know our own strengths and weaknesses and may have quiet time with ourselves and others. This in turn, will allow us to build on our past experiences of learning to make future learning experiences even better.

What learning have you enjoyed?

What learning challenged you the most?

What are you reading at the moment?

Where do you enjoy reading the most?

Please complete the Reading for Pleasure Survey
Link is on the first page to win some book tokens for your family!



What book or author would you recommend to a friend?

