



The Alexandra Times



Autumn Term 2017 - Year 6

Looking back on this term, the children have worked incredibly hard and produced work of a very high standard. There have been many exciting, engaging and motivating activities provided and organised by our talented staff team.

Year 6 have been learning about the Vikings and Anglo Saxon life and using historical events to develop their writing. They have written their own Viking Stories.

The children have also had the opportunity to participate in a number of workshops, the Heathrow Coding challenge was a great opportunity to develop their IT and programming skills. There have been a number of trips out of school to Osterley and to the Houses of Parliament as part of Democracy Week.

We have been very pleased with how children have demonstrated their understanding of our school values each day and across the curriculum. We are really pleased with their achievements, read on to see more of what we have achieved together this term.

P.S. Don't forget to check out the school website, which contains lots of information at

www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Thank you for all your support this term.

Happy Christmas and we all wish you a very happy and peaceful
New Year.

The Vikings

As part of our Vikings topic, Year 6 have been reading a text called 'The Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman as inspiration to write Viking adventures and sagas. The children have also been writing narrative poems, which tell a story about an aspect of Viking tradition.

Round the open fire, Odinia and her daughter, Elaina, cuddled together. The warm smell of chicken stew filled their senses. Elaina's mind was racing. Elaina had a lot of questions about her mother's past. Why didn't she have any grandparents? Mother always said she was too young but today she would turn 13 and she wanted answers. "What happened to grandma and papa?" she blurted out. Mother stopped ladling stew and with a huge sigh, she said, "It's time I tell you the truth!"

Silently, Odinia crept out of her bed, the flicker of candlelight mesmerising her. With caution, she creaked the wooden door open two inches, two contrasting voices whispering. "The raiders are coming," with fear in a man's voice. "You've done it once before!" squeaked a woman. Who were these people? "I was young back then!" his whisper becoming louder. Shadows appeared on the wall of the oak long house. Odinia could make out a man with brown and grey hair: Dreng, her father. She felt more at ease. Black hair whipped around the door. Her mother, Freydis was cooking breakfast when the door crumbled off its hinges and an arrow pierced her father's heart.

She pulled the dagger out of her scabbard, angrily charging towards the enemy, red faced. She slashed his chest; blood puddling where he lay. Her mother was open mouthed: gaping at her daughter. Odinia took no notice, running towards her father, but someone was holding her back.

After the blink of an eye, her mother's hands were bound behind her back. Odinia tried to run but the grip on her hair was too strong. "Run" her mother mouthed before she was gagged. Everything around the long house was silent. Odinia twisted and turned to face the ogre who attacked her family. The ogre who stopped her from saving her mother and her father.

Terrified, Odinia screamed and slashed a deep gash on the back of the ogre's hand. The long blonde hair covered its eyes. Thick layers of shiny armour piled up on its body. "Speak your name now or forever hold your silence!" boomed Odinia through gritted teeth. "Erland!" retorted the towering figure, a smug look on its face.

A sudden relief came over her. Odinia's hair was free but her father lay on the floor breathless and her mother was shackled to the wall. A ferocious and vicious look startled the warriors. Scabbard in hand, she slashed, crashed and stabbed multiple warriors before they could scream.

Before Erland had a chance to turn around, Odinia bolted to the heart of the gruesome forest amongst the trees.

Erland took off but, no one was to be seen for miles. His sword slashed off vines. Sneakily, Odinia leapt through the bushes and plunged her dagger into his back. Erland lay there, eyes frozen in time. Elaina's eyes were wide open, not in shock, but with excitement. She jumped up rapidly and started to fight with an invisible enemy. Odinia could see fire in her daughter: the passion and determination.

Viking workshop

Early in the term, we had a Viking workshop. Here is a report about the day from a Year 6 pupil:

Year 6 went to a Viking Workshop and experienced life in the Viking times, from clothing to punishments.



In the Viking times, they didn't have many rules which meant anyone could do what they want however that meant there were many punishments. If you were summoned to court especially women, they wouldn't be allowed to come in and a man would have to speak on your behalf.



In addition to this, there would be other punishments which were really bad. Fortunately they don't do that now. Some of the punishments were: stoning, hot iron bar, whipping, being a wolf man and having your head chopped off. One of the worst punishments was the bloody eagle. This was where you would be in court and they would stick a knife in you and hang your ribs behind your back without cutting them off. Then they would hang you on a tree and press your heart until you die. This could also be called slow dying.

In the Viking times, weapons were essential as they were needed for almost everything: eating, surviving and many more. Chainmail was one of the weapons. It would be attached to helmets and would be worn to protect them from weaponry. It was made out of flexible metal and would weigh a lot. Axes, swords, spears and arrows were also other weapons used in the Viking times.

At the end of this brilliant workshop we had learnt a lot about the Viking way and also about their life.



BATTLE OF HASTINGS POEM

Let me tell you about this historical fight
Two people fighting for the crown from morning
till night
If you want to know how it started this way
Then listen to the facts I'm about to replay
It all started when a noble man died
Now who would be the king? They couldn't decide
Until a man stood up strong and tall
No one could push him down now he was as
strong as a brick wall
HEY that's not fair! Another man said
And as quick as a fox he went and fled
So I heard
That was King Harold the III
He wanted to be king and dressed up with fame
But soon found out he had the other Harold to
blame

Then came along a sneak invasion
But no one knew what would happen from this
occasion
But his plan failed - HIP-HIP HOORAY!
They all cheered now they could sleep another day
Now William the conqueror had a plan
It was to kill Harold but no one thinks he can
Now Harold had to search for recruits
And made them accept for some hefty loot
Up and down William made them go
What could do? He didn't know
Until he saw William fall
"YES!" he shouted and went away
But no he was tricked and got shot in the eye that
day
1066-You should remember that day
One mistake and Harold died in a cruel way
Now I ask you would you do the same
Would you kill Harold just for fame?
BY CAVELL ADEGBESAN 6M

VICIOUS VIKINGS ATTACK

The vicious Vikings raided the lonely village of Lindisfarne and its monasteries on January 15th to steal its riches and wealth.

Arriving on colossal dragon-headed long ships, the Vikings murdered many innocent monks and also took some as slaves. Many were drowned to death or devoured by the swords and arrows.

Only one survived from this reign of terror and evil, here is what he has to say: "I only merely escaped with my life by pretending that I was already killed. They have no respect for our religion for they destroyed our shrines and holy scripts; it was devastation, I tell you. It was truly a horrible sight."

It was a great shock for Christians when they heard the news. A Viking sword was buried deep through the body of a monk. Through this we found that the raiders were Danes as the words “Long live the Danes” were inscribed on the hilt of the sword. We also found a Dane helmet lying on the floor; this might mean we fought against them too! We have lost many riches and we suggest you gather up men just in case they attack your village.

By Toni 6F

Science

In Science we have been learning about micro-organisms. We have been investigating what factors affect the amount of mould on bread. Here is a write up from Poorti in 6C about what she and her group found out:

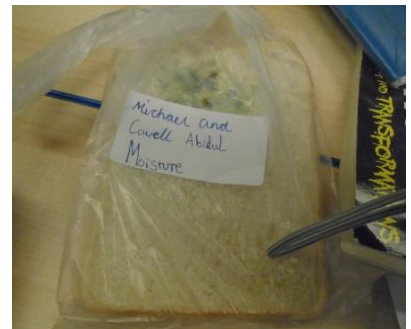
Firstly, we were given three slices of brown bread and with gloves we placed them in a zip lock bag each. We did this so that no additional bacterium would start to grow on the bread. Next, we had to put each bread in a different place: a dark place, a lighted place and an equally dark and lighted place. Our group put it next to the window, on a shelf, and inside a cupboard. Then, we let them remain there for a week. Although, after a week there was no mould on any bread, so we let it remain there for another week.

After three weeks...

Unfortunately, our group’s bread did not grow any mould. However, another group’s bread did grow mould. One of the reasons why their bread grew mould could be because they accidentally put their bread into two zip lock bags. They also had little holes at the bottom which might have let air containing bacteria enter.

As a group we think mould did not grow on our bread because the temperatures were different. Like the bread next to the window would be cooler because the window could let air come in. This means we had more than one variable. Though, our main variable did not work. We were supposed to find out if mould grows best in the dark. Our drawback was that after school all the lights go off.

Next time, we will definitely use white bread as it grows mould quicker than brown bread. Plus, we will try to keep the lights on. We also now know that mould only grows when it is moist, when air is allowed in and if it is kept in warm conditions.



We have also been investigating what factors affect our pulse rate.

OUR PULSE RATE: My results

Activity	-	--	Pulse Rate	-	-	-
	P.S	S.G	N.M	K.C	M.S	D.C
Resting	60 beats p/min	48 beats p/min	63 beats p/min	85 beats p/min	100 beats p/min	85 beats p/min
Walking	65 beats p/min	76 beats p/min	74 beats p/min	94 beats p/min	86 beats p/min	111 beats p/min
Jogging	98 beats p/min	86 beats p/min	94 beats p/min	163 beats p/min	180 beats p/min	140 beats p/min
Sprinting	111 beats p/min	112 beats p/min	126 beats p/min	174 beats p/min	200 beats p/min	174 beats p/min

From the data we have collected, we know that M.S had the highest pulse rate of all. This may have been due to the fact that he would have participated in the activity more intensely and faster. Some of the elements were not a fair test: people counting their beat late or cannot find their beat in time. When we were walking, the people who were in the lead walked more. We tried our best to make the experiment fair.

For some people, they had a higher resting pulse rate than walking. This may have happened because they may not have walked briskly. We tried to make it a fair test. Though, some people when you were supposed to sprint, they jogged and vice versa. Some people had unbelievable results like over 200. So, we had to make an educated guess what the beat might be. Most of the children's progression went quite steadily. However, for one child it increased 14 from resting to walking and from walking to jogging it increased over double.

PSHEE

During Democracy week, we visited the Civic Centre to learn all about the Voting system. We even voted ourselves, despite being under 18!



Democracy week by Girisha 6KM

Today, we had a brilliant day at the **civic centre**. We were learning about **democracy**...
As I gobbled down my lunch, my heart-rate quickened because I was finally able to go to a place where our local authority debated, a place where the important decisions for Hounslow was made, the civic centre! As soon as the clock struck 12:30, I sped like wind to the line, breathless and panting due to the fact that I had been roaming around the quad. Just in time for the excursion to take place; I queued up, adrenalin pumping through my body.
The only thing that disappointed me was that we had to sit in one place for at least an hour! This was made up by the simple fact that we were sat in the same place as the councillors! As we walked and finally reached there, we learnt briefly about who rules the UK. Having a heated debate, we finally reached a conclusion that our nation was not ruled by the queen, not the parliament, not Theresa May, but people- the general public of the UK (who are 18 and over). After that, we learnt a lot about our country and generally Hounslow. After that, we had an interesting question and answer session in which we asked an employee about his life working in the council. Finally, we had a vote which decided that between 6KM and 6C, Emma Watson was the most popular celebrity...

That was my day in a nutshell: amazing, awe-inspiring, interesting... I could go on with my list forever...

Visit to Osterley Park

Visit to Osterley house and park by Aarman 6KM.

Year 6 went for an amazing trip to Osterley house and park. Firstly, we quickly took the register and laid down our items onto our chairs. Afterwards, we went to watch an assembly before arriving back at our classrooms, buzzing with excitement. We trooped out of our classrooms and stood at our respective bus stops. We waited patiently for an hour. Suddenly, our class saw 6C dash by on their bus. Although it took a lot of grumbling and moaning, our bus, the H28, finally arrived. We seated ourselves, rapidly talking about the interesting activities ahead.

We finally reached a bus stop and hiked the rest of the way until we reached the park. As we marvelled at the wildlife around us, we caught sight of a gorgeous, massive lake that stretched beyond Osterley house which loomed ominously over us like a disapproving face. Whilst we were resting on some well-kept benches near us, a teacher told us that we had to go around the house. We trekked around it (finally catching up with 6C) and gazed at the sheer height of the gargantuan house.



Feeling slightly worn out, we entered a ramshackle area that lead into a classroom. It was bare apart from the various possessions children had carelessly strewn across the floor and various boxes that were halfway through tumbling down to the clean, polished floor.

A woman, dressed in a jet-black Osterley uniform encrusted with its trademark leaf, switched on a projector that projected an image onto a screen. Although the image was slightly wonky, we were still able to understand. She explained the history of Osterley house and the various owners who had previously owned it. We learnt about the Child family, who were the richest owners of the house by far, and their history. We also learnt about the most valuable item Tudor families could have that portrayed their wealth exquisitely: pictures.



We were shown a diverse range of pictures and the scintillating stories behind them. We learnt about the value of paintings back then and most importantly: what they meant. Sometimes the stories were given directly to us; and sometimes we cooked up our own questionable (and hilarious) ideas. We also looked at pictures on a wider scale, and the peculiar items painted on them. My favourite item that was spotted was the peanut-butter chicken. Halfway through our educational experience we received the chance to get up and stretch our legs. We also had the chance to pull off some "laugh-out-loud" poses.

We soon left for lunch time, munching on some scrumptious food. After we devoured our delicious meals, the same woman who had given us the presentation led us through a dense forest where vegetation thrived and flourished. We were told that, in groups, we would collect items from the forest and at the end we would arrange them to make terrifying Halloween art. We collected and gathered natural items and devised ways in which we would use these wondrous items. For example: we might find berries and smash them to a pulp which would result in a blood-like substance.



However, there were some strange creations of nature, such as spiky green balls that had prongs that were razor-sharp. At the end our group was impressed with our eerie monster. Although insects had distracted us, we had created our own masterpieces. Other groups had created even more terrifying creatures of absolute horror and disgust.

Grotesque pumpkins leered at us and ghost looked as if they were swirling about right in front of us. We had the chance to roam around and admire splendid pieces of work. Even though children yelped when they touched sharp plants or grimaced in disgust as a bug crawled up their arm, they created magnificently terrifying creatures.

When we left the park, we were extremely disappointed. In fact, even the geese, swans and ducks that roamed the ponds looked miserable. Actually, maybe it was the fact that it was pouring rain heavily. This only emphasised our sadness. However, as a bonus, a woman walked by and let us stroke her adorable, noble-faced dogs. They yapped happily as they were stroked by many cooing children. Our bus finally reached our school and children from the upper level waved gleefully at us, wondering inquisitively about the amazing school trip we had to Osterley Park and house.

Cycling at school

A few girls and boys from year 6 took part in some Bikeability Training. This would make us better and safer on the roads, especially if we choose to cycle to secondary school. I think it was a fabulous experience and if I had the choice to do it again, I definitely would. We started off by meeting our trainers Pam and Mark. There were also two other trainers but they taught another group. The second thing we did was checked our bikes. My bikes gear wasn't working so I had to use one of their bikes. A few people I cycled with were: Diya, Asmitha, Mursal, Kritika and Wiktoria. Next we learnt how to turn around and do a left and right hand signal. I did wobble a few times but then I started to know how to do it.

After that we learnt how to turn around on the road and ride on the road, which was enjoyed by everyone. On the last day of Bikeability we rode around a lot of roads and we also went to Lampton Park and had a lot of fun.

When Bikeability ended everyone was very sad. I learnt a lot of things and I am better at riding a bike than I was before.

By Kashmala 6M



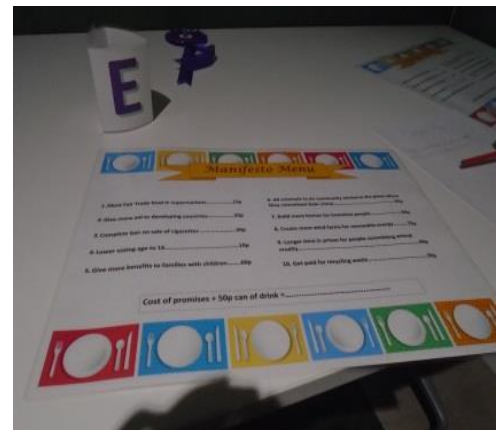
Year 6 Class Assemblies

Every class in Year 6 have performed their class assembly. 6C did a wonderful assembly based on languages day earlier in the term where we celebrated the different languages around the world. 6KM informed everyone how to work better as a team, using the Avenger heroes as their inspiration to show that all of us have different skills to bring to a team. 6M did their assembly on Remembrance. It was very thought provoking about how we can help and support people as well as how we can remember those who lost their lives for us. More recently, 6F have performed an assembly about the Vikings, which was both entertaining and informative with great examples of the work they had done as well as telling the stories of the Vikings.

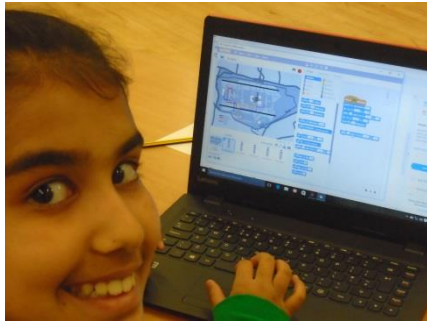


Houses of Parliament

On Friday 22nd September, 6M and 6C visited the Houses of Parliament. As you step off the coach, an astonishing sight of the Houses of Parliament filled our eyes. Due to the traffic, the first thing we did was eat our lunch outside the grounds. Once we had finished our lunch, we walked through security. Then we met our tour guides and went off to travel the Houses of Parliament. The House of Lords was the first part of the building we saw. It was beautiful. Then, we walked through a corridor and stood above the area of the gun-powder plot. It was absolutely amazing, thin layers of gold all over the ceiling. Through the rest of the corridor stood stone statues of former Prime Ministers. A big, green room came into sight and I realised we were in the House of Commons and we learnt amazing, new facts. Finally, we entered a room to our work shop and recalled all our new facts. We had to choose five MP's (Member of Parliament) and one PM (Prime Minister) out of the 6. Oli, Me (Diya), Jaismeen, Hamza and Shereen (6M) were in a group and we ended up winning. Oli, Shereen, Jaismeen and I won in our group. Oli became Maths MP, Jaismeen became Health MP, Shereen became Education MP and I became Prime Minister. Our amazing day had come to an end and we climbed back on the coach and waved goodbye to the Houses of Parliament. I will definitely be revisiting the Houses of Parliament during any free days I have and I would highly recommend it to you.



Heathrow Coding Challenge



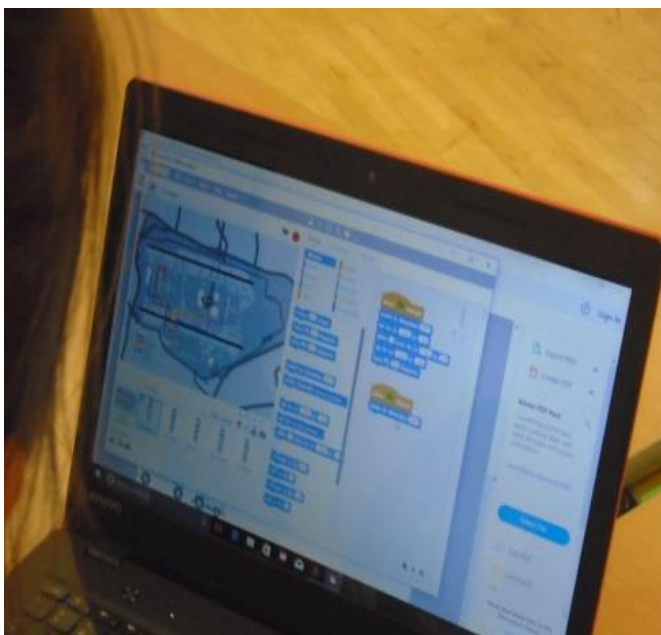
On Wednesday 11th October, Year 6 took part in a Heathrow workshop. We had red laptops in front of us provided by them and one lady from Heathrow had come to talk to us.

First, she talked to us about the jobs at Heathrow and what things they do there. Then she asked us if some of our parents work at Heathrow. A pupil answered that her dad was a Baggage Handler and I said my mum takes care of the cargo. That's when the lady started to talk about the cargo. She even said that one time they put a tank of water filled with fish in the aeroplane.

After that, we saw a video of a man named Nick whose job was to be in charge of the cargo. In the video he explained the cargo more in detail. This led to our activities with our partners we had to move a car using a computer program called Scratch. Our challenge was to do all five, which got progressively harder and harder. My partner and I did three challenges in total. There were three winners, two pupils from 6KM and one pupil from 6M. All three of them received a Heathrow notebook and a certificate.

In my opinion, I learnt plenty of things about Heathrow and the cargo. The coding workshop was a fun way of learning new ICT skills and it was really interesting to know all about Heathrow as it is so close to us.

By Shereen 6M



Spooooooky Boxes!



This term, we had an amazing piece of homework, which was to make a spooky box to accompany our Spooky stories. We had written spooky stories for the whole school competition. Poorti in 6C was the overall winner in Year 6. This was the best homework ever! We made objects based on the theme of our stories so that we could visualise the setting, such as pumpkins, ghosts and creepy creatures.

I really enjoyed making my spooky box. It took me two days and as they say; hard work always pays off! We are looking forward to more homework about projects and craft in the New Year.

Jaismeen 6M

