

Head Boy & Head Girl

Children in Year 6 have written wonderful letters to Ms Jordon, outlining why they should be chosen to be Head Boy and Head Girl. It has been a very difficult decision to make as the letters were so inspiring! We are incredibly proud to announce that our Head Boy is **Kateef**, and our Head Girl is **Scarlett C**. Congratulations Kateef and Scarlett, you are going to be amazing in your new role!



Deputy Head Boy & Girl

The children who we would like to support us in carrying out this role are **Minsa** and **Adam**. Congratulations – we are certain you will do an excellent job!

Children's Leadership Team

To represent their year group Units, we have selected some responsible and confident children to form part of our children's leadership team. Every class worked hard to understand what this role would include and then voted to choose the person they thought would be best for the job!

The successful team members are: Year 1 & 2: **Harriet & Runo** Year 3 & 4: **Vaida & Archie** Year 5 & 6: **Daud & Hannah**

EYFS

Amber and Ruby

This week we have been talking about pairs and matching in maths. Finding different ways we can find the perfect match or find the odd one out!



KS1

Opal

This week, we have been composing our own pieces of music using graphic notations. We used stamp and clap, and made our own pictures to match the music.



Jade

This week in maths, Year 2 have been learning all about tens and ones, looking at numbers all the way to 100! The Year 1 children have been exploring numbers to 30, being detectives to find the missing numbers. Great work!

Pearl

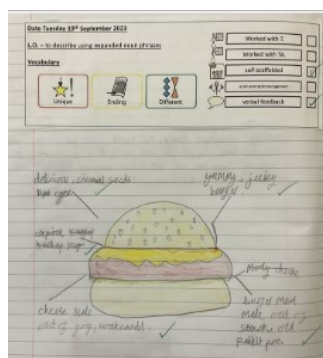
Pearl class has been reading the book, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have learnt lots about the characters and even done some drama when retelling the story.



Lower KS 2

Topaz

During dance this week, Topaz class treated us to some fantastic moves to Elvis Presley's 'Jailhouse Rock'. Every single member of the class joined in and danced fantastically. Ask us to show you our Elvis move 'aw uh'!



Citrine

We have been drawing some delicious treats with some not-so-delicious ingredients in English this week. It was our first chance to get creative with our writing and the children have done a fantastic job.



Emerald

This week, we had our first ukulele lesson of the year. We practiced increasing pitch and tempo. We learnt how to hold our ukulele, how to play the notes and even some tunes. Luckily, we had our Year 4 friends to help us too!

Upper KS2

Amethyst

In Science, we have been learning about Sir Isaac Newton and the force of gravity. We used Newton metres to calculate the weight of objects around our classroom.



Tanzanite

We have begun exploring some of the major events that took place throughout the Tudor period this week, as we paired our creativity with our history skills and created our own timeline that went through the entire period.



Sapphire

In Sapphire class, we have started our Science topic on forces. We have been learning about Issac Newton and his discovery of gravity and the difference between mass and weight. We have been using force meters to measure the force in Newtons of different objects in the classroom.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Kenzel	For a fantastic and positive attitude towards others
Ruby	Lakeisha	For being a fantastic role model to others and always doing the right thing!
Opal	Yaqub	For a determined effort to all learning tasks this week.
Jade	Shaz	For showing an increasing confidence in school life and making some lovely, new friends.
Pearl	Kiaan	For settling in so well at Alt Academy.
Topaz	Hassan	Great work in maths and putting his hand up regularly to 'have a go'
Citrine	Mark	For approaching every challenge with the same desire to enjoy and succeed in all school has to offer.
Emerald	Minsa	For always doing the right thing and being an excellent role model
Amethyst	Maya	A superb first week back!
Tanzanite	Blake	For showing an excellent approach to his new learning and challenging himself to be the best that he can be
Sapphire	Musa	For putting in 100% effort into literacy lessons with some amazing word choices both orally and in his writing.

Principal's Reading Champions

Luca, Frankie, Joshua O, Zoella, Fabian, Vaida, Covenant, Janice, Ellie D, Zayaan , Rayan K, Iysla-Mai



Health & Safety Reminder

Please be reminded that children are not to play on the climbing frames or with the play equipment either before or after school. Bikes and scooters are to be pushed once on school grounds and either stored in the bike shed or taken home with parents.



Nursery Places Available

We have morning nursery places available at Alt Academy, 8.45-11.45am. Your child must be age 3 before 31.8.23. Please enquire at the school office.



Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please could and join us!

26th September - Information, Advice & Guidance on applying for secondary school for Sept'24

3rd October – Qwell – Online Counselling Service for Parents

10th October – Coffee chatter and natter! Parents to offer each other support, tips, suggestions & encouragement.

17th October – Parenting course –starting soon in Alt Academy – come along to find out more!

24th October – Coffee chatter and natter! Parents to offer each other support, tips, suggestions & encouragement.



Crossing Patrol



We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. In assembly on Monday, we are going to recap the 'look left, look right' approach so that children know to watch the road very carefully. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.

Uniform

Please be reminded that children need to wear full school uniform and school shoes (not trainers). On Tuesday and Thursday, children can wear their PE kit to school. PE kit is a white t-shirt, black shorts or trousers and trainers.

There are too many children who are not wearing this specific PE kit. Please support your child by ensuring this is the case. If you require any help with sourcing a PE kit, please speak Roseena (our family support worker).



No Smoking or vaping signs



You may have noticed the new signs that have been put on the fence at the front of school. We don't want our children to have to walk through cigarette or vape smoke on the way into school. Please refrain from smoking or vaping in this area.

Football Competition

Our Year 5 and 6 football team went to Hathershaw College yesterday for a football tournament.

The team played incredibly well and were undefeated in all matches. The team will now progress into the top tier competition next week. Keep up the good work boys!



Parent iPad meeting – Year 3 parents

Calling all Year 3 parents!

Come and join Mr Stuckey, Mrs Branwood and Mr Denny as they talk you through your child's new iPad.

You must attend to sign the correct forms so your child can bring their iPad home.

There are two options:

Friday 6th October at 9:00am – KS2 hall

Friday 6th October at 3:00pm – KS2 hall

It is important as many parents/carers attend so that we can keep all children safe online.

Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance

Please support your child's learning by ensuring they are in school, and on time every day.

We ask all families to book holidays in the school holidays (except for exceptional circumstances).

The attendance policy for Alt Academy is on our website. Here is a link:

https://www.alt.theharmonytrust.org/serve_file/19778567

If you have any questions about this, please speak to Mrs Cooper, our Office and attendance manager.

Thank you for your continued support.



Overall attendance year to date – 94%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

EYFS and KS1 – Ruby 96.8%

KS2 – Citrine 97.2%

Our target is 96%



There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

If your child does not attend school regularly (over 90%) the Local Authority can take action against you. This can be through a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) or a summons to appear at Magistrates Court.

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced legislation for Local

Authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notice

Fines to parents/carer of pupils who have unauthorised absences from school.

A Penalty Notice fine can be issued for two reasons:

- If a holiday is taken during term time
- If a pupil has unauthorised absence from school and their parent/carer fails to co-operate with school staff and/or other professionals to improve the situation

What are the fines?

£60 per parent/carer if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. If the £120 is not paid within 28 days a summons can be issued to appear in Magistrates Court.

The Local Authority can decide whether to issue a summons to Magistrates Court instead of a Penalty Notice fine.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY COUNTS

Alt Academy 0161 260 0622

Creswell Close Junior Academy 01332 672338

Greenhill Academy 0161 260 0621

Northmoor Academy 0161 260 0462

Richmond Academy 0161 260 0610

Westwood Academy 0161 627 4257

The Harmony Trust 0161 260 0452 ext 15



Whatever the reason, when your child is absent from school it will impact on their learning.

There is a link between good school attendance and high levels of achievement.

their future in your hands

You are legally responsible for ensuring your child is on time every day.

Children must not be absent from school for:

**Day trips | Shopping | Birthdays
Parent/sibling illness**

ILLNESS

Your child can still attend school if they have a minor ailment (e.g. headache, stomach ache, sore throat). They can be given over the counter medicines before school and if they become too ill to remain in school then the school will contact you.

If your child is ill and you are unsure how long they should be absent speak to your child's school, doctor or pharmacist for advice.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

You should always try to book medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible time spent away from school must be kept to a minimum. You may need to provide medical evidence for school to authorise the absence.

PERSISTENT ABSENCE

Regardless of the reason, if your child's attendance is below 90% (19 days or more in the year) they are considered to be a persistent absentee.

ABSENCE AFFECTS THEIR FUTURE

Evidence shows that persistent absence from school can affect your child's GCSE grades which will have an impact on their future and potential to achieve.

ROUTINES

Having a hectic morning schedule means that it is harder to ensure your child gets to school on time. Making changes to your household routine and establishing a **GOOD MORNING AND EVENING ROUTINE** makes it much easier to make sure your child is on time for school every day.

PUNCTUALITY

It is important that your child attends school every day and on time. Arriving late to school is unsettling for children.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

If you take your child on holiday during term time the absence will be unauthorised. Family holidays should be booked during school holidays and never during term time.

Any requests for leave due to exceptional circumstances must be made directly to the Principal otherwise the leave will be automatically unauthorised.

REPORTING ABSENCE

If your child is ill or unable to attend school for any reason, you need to contact the school by telephone and/or letter to inform them.

SUPPORT

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please speak to their teacher or the Principal.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people; compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday