

Thank you to all our children for working so hard this term with their learning. There has been lots of progress made in every single class across school and we hope that our children and their families have a lovely time relaxing and spending time together over the festive period.

As you know, **school closes today at 3:20pm** and school will **re-open on Monday 8th January 2024 at 8:30 am** – we hope to see you all in breakfast club then.

A heartfelt Merry Christmas to all families who are celebrating and a Happy New Year to everybody. We are certain that 2024 will be a year to be proud of at Alt Academy.



EYFS

Ruby

This week, we have adapted our very own special pets. We choose our favourite friend, named them and agreed to read to them every night. Have you been reading to your new pet?



Amber

This week we have been making our own lanterns to take outside and sing Christmas carols with! We have put glow sticks inside and practised 3 different carols!



KS1

Opal

We have been writing letters to the Elf about what we are going to be doing in the holidays in our English lessons this week.



Jade

We have embraced the festivities and enjoyed creating Christmas cards using oil pastels this week. We can't wait for you to see them! We hope they DAZZLE you!



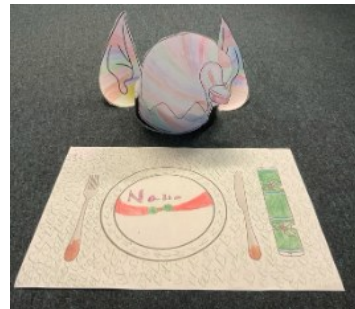
Pearl

We have enjoyed lots of Christmas activities this week and we have particularly enjoyed creating our own advent calendars. We hope you like them too when we bring them home!

Lower KS 2

Topaz

It's been an extremely busy week in Topaz class! As well as learning about money in maths, and writing a diary entry in English, we have also found time to create party hats, Christmas cards, calendars and place mats for our Christmas lunch. Phew!

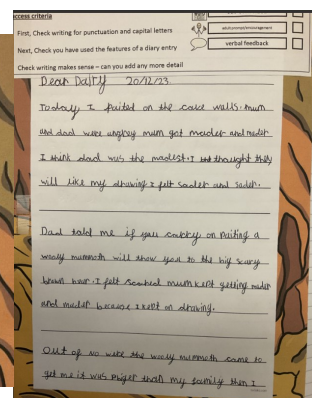
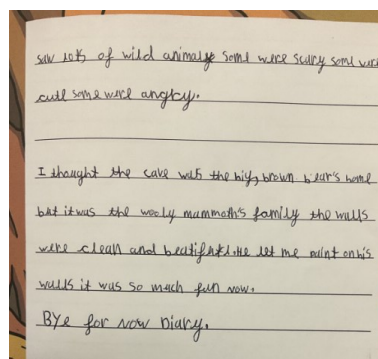


Citrine

Despite it being the last week of term, we have stayed focused on developing our writing skills and finished up work on our Stone Age topic.

Emerald

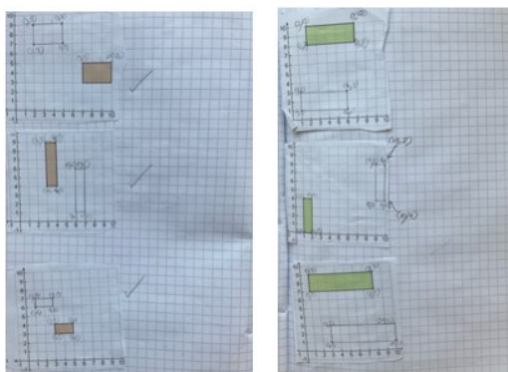
In English this week, we have been looking at the story Cave Baby. We thought about what the cave baby would have been thinking and feeling. We included all of these ideas in our own diary entries.



Upper KS2

Amethyst

In Amethyst class this week, we have composed our own songs in our Glockenspiel class. We learnt how to layer melodies to create a better tune.

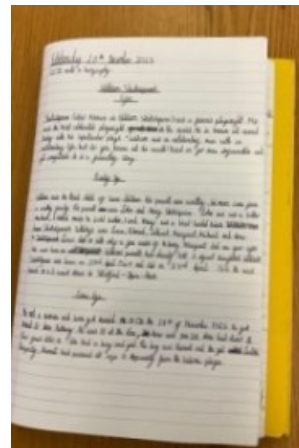


Tanzanite

In Tanzanite class this week, we have completed maths lessons based around co-ordinates, reflections and translations of shapes.

Sapphire

In Sapphire class this week, we have been writing biographies about William Shakespeare. We have been concentrating on organising our work using paragraphs, thinking carefully about our handwriting and making sure that our work is engaging and entertaining.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

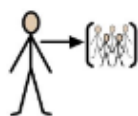
Amber	Kenzel	For consistently making an effort to work hard, make the right choices and come in with a fantastic attitude.
Ruby	Frankie	Excellent attitude to learning and making great choices all week.
Opal	Ruben	Fabulous work in English this week.
Jade	Haris	For trying hard with his phonics and writing.
Pearl	Analise	Always showing resilience and always trying her best.
Topaz	Faad	For his mature and sensible approach to everything this term.
Citrine	Hashim	Making more and more good choices every day. More careful working. More concentration. More effort.
Emerald	Iysla-Mai	For working hard to produce a brilliant big write with beautiful handwriting! Keep it up Iysla.
Amethyst	Daud	For working really hard in our Glockenspiel lessons.
Tanzanite	Rayyan	For being a role model student with a tremendous attitude to his time in school.
Sapphire	Dali	Improvements in behaviour and for a fabulous reading at our Christmas concert.

Principal's Reading Champions: Maddison, Jessica, Zara, Ibrahim, Mateo, Bailey, Jannat, Archie, Marium, Rahaf

Principal's Award: Laila—For being such a wonderful helper at lunchtime.

Word of the Week ...

Engagement



Involvement

taking part

participation

sharing



Africa Topic

Next term, KS1 are learning all about Africa. If you have any African artefacts, clothing or fabrics that you would be happy for the classes to borrow, we would very much appreciate this.



Ukulele Performance

Last Thursday, the children in Year 3 and Year 4 performed a variety of songs vocally and on the Ukelele. Considering this is the first term of lessons for our Year 3 pupils, they gave a great account of themselves, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves on stage. Thank you for the fantastic turnout - your encouragement makes these experiences extra special for the children.



Nativity

This week our children in Early Years and Key Stage One performed their "Wiggly Nativity". It was a fantastic performance showcasing confident actors, excellent dance moves and super singing! We are so proud of how amazing the children were and would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a special occasion for all.



Carol Service



The KS2 children performed in our fabulous carol service on Tuesday. It was sensational and we are so proud of all our singers, readers and soloist.

You can watch their performance by clicking on the link.

<https://youtu.be/5VL6RIs60qE>



Food Parcels

A great big thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of our families to **Roman Road Church, Tesco Chadderton, our friends Maddie, Jen and their local community in Wilmslow** for their kind donations to our festive food parcels. We also want to say a special thank you to Miss Wood as without her hard work and determination, this wouldn't happen. Lots of our children and their families are going to benefit from these over the holidays and we are grateful for the support.



Steel Pans

We have also been lucky enough to witness children performing on steel pans. We are so proud of the effort and hard work they have put into their sensational performances. We hope their parents/carers enjoyed their performances too.



Christmas Dinner



On Thursday this week, Dusty, Dawn and the rest of our super kitchen staff team cooked a delicious Christmas dinner for everyone to enjoy. There were juicy sprouts and super festive cakes and biscuits. It went down a treat with everyone!



Santa

All classes were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas today in our Alt Academy Santa's Grotto! Some children listened to stories, some children sang a special carol for Santa and everybody received a special Christmas present. Our super elf, Miss Sexton, helped Santa to give out his super early presents and the children absolutely loved their visit. We know Santa is incredibly busy at this time of the year and we are so grateful that he could find the time to see us at Alt Academy. Merry Christmas everyone!



Attendance



Overall attendance year to date – 93%

Our target is 96%



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. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!



9th Jan - Mindfulness – colouring

16th Jan- FCHO –free accredited training & 121 employment support courses for tenants

23rd Jan – Coffee, chatter & natter

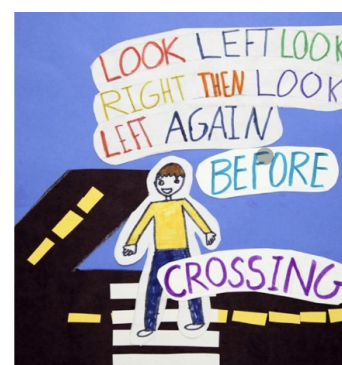
30th Jan – Get Oldham Working

6th Feb – Coffee, chatter & natter

13th Feb – Action Together – voluntary opportunities to promote self esteem, confidence & wellbeing

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. 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.



Family Support



Wishing all our families a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Emergency Support

Access Oldham Emergency (foodbank) Helpline: 0161 770 7007

Wellbeing or emergency support between 9am and 5pm on weekdays

UKEFF: Food parcels or emergency support: 0161 660 6818

Ancora Project: Tel: 0161 669 5868

Immediate help & ongoing support for anyone experiencing crisis

Homelessness: Tel: 0161 770 4605 or 0800 988 7061 (out of hours)

Free, mental health support: Kooth.com (children) Qwell.io (adults)

Useful telephone numbers:

Children Social Services:	0161 770 7777
Emergency:	999
Need medical help fast, but not emergency:	111
Samaritans:	116 123
NSPCC:	0808 800 5000
Dental Emergency Service	0333 332 3800
Citizens Advice Oldham	0808 278 7803
Warm Homes	0800 019 1084
Pennine Mental Health	0800 014 9995
TOG Mind	0161 330 9223
Money helper	0800 138 7777
Oldham Welfare Rights Service	0161 770 6655
Universal Credit Support	0800 144 8444



An **OnSide** Youth Zone

AGE 8 TO YEAR 8 JUNIOR ZONE OPENS THE DOOR TO NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND EXPERIENCES

Junior Zone at Mahdlo Youth Zone is the best place to hang out for anyone aged 8 to year 8. During these sessions, the building is open exclusively for Junior members. There's no need to book, just come along at the start of the session, pay 50p and try out some of the activities we offer!

Activities include dance, drama, cooking, arts and crafts, sports, climbing wall, outdoor trips and parties!



Tuesday 6.30pm - 9pm

Thursday 6.30pm - 9pm

Saturday 10am - 1pm

£5 per year and 50p per visit

Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company,

Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.

2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.

3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?

4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.

5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.

6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.

7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).

8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.

9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.

10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

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#WakeUpWednesday



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