



Altmore News



Please visit www.altmore.newham.sch.uk for more information

Dear Children and Families,

What a busy, busy time it's been. It's so lovely to read about some of the highlights of what everyone's been learning. I'm particularly impressed with all of the work that children have been doing linked to core texts that they have been reading, as well as the D&T project work that children in Year 2 have created – I think we have some engineers of the future here!

Thank you to everyone who has supported many of the fundraising events this term, your generosity makes such a difference to so many children and families. Thank you also to parents who supported us by attending concerts as well as joining-in with children's learning by coming to workshops to find out about how you can support children's learning at home too.

Well done to everyone for managing to stay safe during the recent cold and snowy weather, let's hope we all manage to rest and relax over the Christmas holiday.

I wish everyone a happy festive period, and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year on Thursday 05.01.23.

Sarah

Attendance Awards



Highest Class Attendance Week Ending 9.12.22

Our Target: 96%

Nursery	Green room	95.8%
Reception	Class 5	86.7%
Year 1	Class 18	93.9%
Year 2	Class 13	92.9%

Nursery

Green Room

In Green Room we have been looking carefully at some of our core books, such as 'Where's Spot?' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' We had fun hiding in boxes and looking for Spot around the classroom. We have been exploring mud, grass, water and now snow linking to the 'Going on a Bear Hunt' Story. The children now know these stories really well.



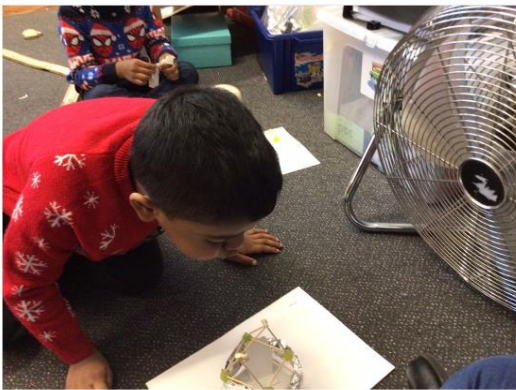
Red and Blue Room

This term we have been finding out about food and celebrations. We made chocolate apples for Bonfire Night, a diva for Diwali, cakes for Guru Nanak's Birthday and enjoyed a Christmas Party! We also made a class song book about our favourite food.



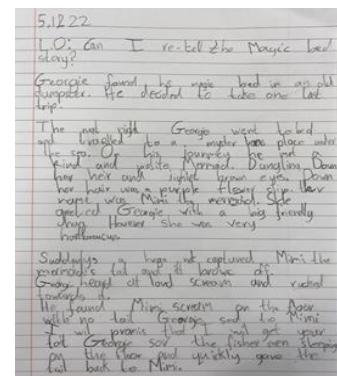
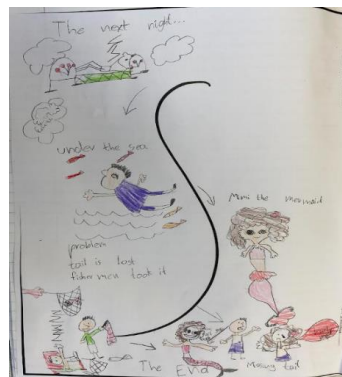
Reception

This term, Reception have been reading Traditional Tales such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. When reading 'The Three Little Pigs', we made houses using a variety of materials. We used different techniques to join the materials together and tried to make our houses strong and safe. We then used a hairdryer to try and blow the houses down, just like the Big Bad Wolf did in the story. After testing our houses, we discussed what we would do differently next time to make them even stronger.



Year 1

In Year 1 we have enjoyed reading the story 'The Magic Bed'. We took part in games to help us learn new vocabulary. We sequenced, ordered and created story maps to help us retell the story and created our own story maps.

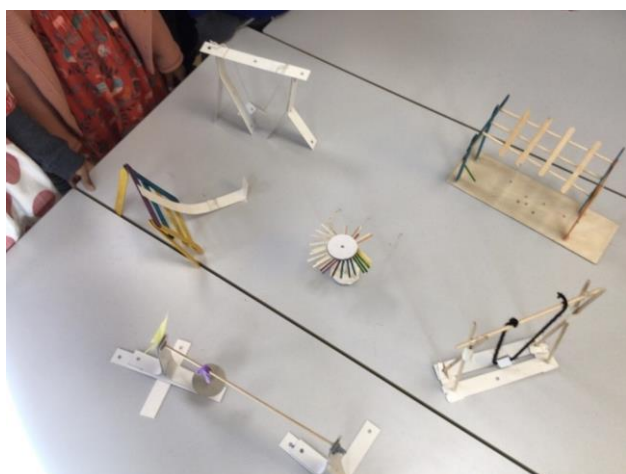


In Geography we explored different types of weather patterns in the United Kingdom. We recorded weather reports and used globes to find the equator and hot and cold countries in the world.



Year 2

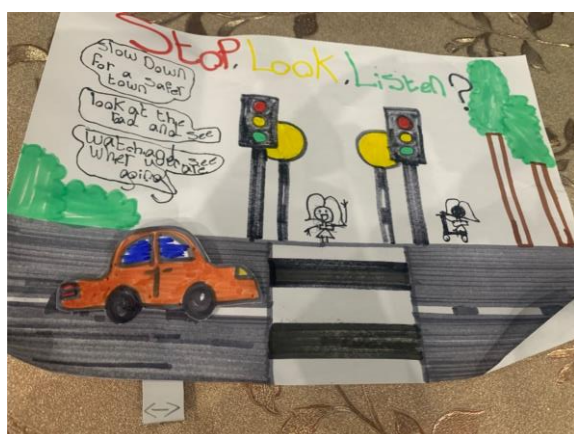
In Year 2 we have been learning all about our local area. We transformed into 'Street Detectives' and identified the human and physical features in East Ham by looking at maps and taking a walk around. During our walk, we looked at the playground equipment in Barking Recreation Ground which helped us to design and make our own models.



Other News & Events

Road Safety Poster Winners

A huge thank you to everyone who entered the Road Safety Poster Competition. We received lots of fantastic entries. The children will be told by their Class Teacher if their poster was chosen as a winner.



Children in Need



A huge thank you to all the families and children at Altmere who kindly made a contribution to this year's Children in Need appeal. The children looked fabulous in their yellow or spotty clothes. They were very excited when Pudsey Bear paid them a surprise visit.

Anti-Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, the children watched the performance Reach Out Now by OpenView Education. The performance was very informative and interactive. The children met puppets Milly and Philip and learnt how to be a good friend and what to do to help stop bullying.



Hour of Code

Year 1 and Year 2 children took part in an Hour of Code. Parents were invited to join in with the sessions too. Hour of Code is a worldwide event celebrating the importance of learning how to code as part of Computer Science. The activities nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. The children all explored using code to create algorithms, the children really enjoyed taking part. We have some amazing coders in both year groups.



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



The children and staff all dressed in their Christmas jumpers and made a contribution for the charity *Save the Children*. Everyone looked very festive in their jumpers.

Rocksteady Concert

A big well done to Altmore's three Rocksteady bands The Jolly band, The Sky Full of Stars band and The Fluffy Cats band! They have worked incredibly hard over the past two terms and delivered two outstanding concerts.

If you would like your child to join Rocksteady Music School, then please click the following link: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



Interfaith Week

A huge thank you to parents for coming to our Interfaith Exhibition held at Altmore. It really was an amazing week starting with children attending the exhibition with their classes and ended with children and parents both enjoying the experience! We were so pleased with the numbers of parents who joined-in the RE learning experiences.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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Christmas Assembly

What a lovely start to the festive season! Reception and Year 2 had a lovely Christmas story assembly hosted by Merrin our local vicar. It was lovely having a person of faith to retell the miraculous story of the birth of baby Jesus and how wonderful and magical it was for all the children!



Best Decorated Christmas Tree

Congratulations to Blue Class for winning this year's Christmas Tree Decorating Competition, you have worked really hard to make your tree sparkle from top to bottom! Well done to all the children for participating in this activity and really getting into the festive season!



Other Information

Winter Reading Challenge

Please join your local library and encourage your child to take part in the Winter Reading Challenge. The competition has started and finishes on 20 February 2023.



**WE ARE
READING.**



**Join the Gadgets for the
Winter Mini Challenge**

1 December 2022 - 20 February 2023



Year 2 children will be starting at Lathom Junior School in September 2023.

In order for your child to receive a place at Lathom Junior School, you will need to apply for this. You will need your USO login details to complete your application. Your USO documents will be an account you created when you enrolled your child in to Reception. Please do not try and create a new account as it will make the process harder and more complicated. Please can all parents visit the following website, use your USO to login and then select Lathom Junior School as your first preference. You **DO NOT** need to choose a second and third school preference.

The deadline for this is the **15th January 2023** however we ask that you do this ASAP. It is really important! Once you have completed your form correctly you will get an application reference. This will start with 316 -2023-..... Please save this reference number and give it to your child's class teacher.

Relaunching our Reading CAFE

Inviting all our wonderful families to join us as we relaunch our Reading Café.



Date: Friday 6 January 2023

Time: 9.00am – 10.00am



Come and enjoy reading stories with your child in their classroom.

Dates for your diary...

January	
5 th January	First day of term
6 th January	Reading Café
17 th January	Year 1 Visit to Science Museum
18 th January	Year 2 Visit to The Golden Hinde
19 th January	Year 1 Visit to Science Museum
February	
3 rd February	NSPCC Number Day - Parent sessions
6 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
8 th February	Safer Internet Day
10 th February	Last Day of term
20 th February	First day of term

We will endeavour to stick to the proposed dates and times. However, there could be times when events/dates will need to be changed. If this does happen we will give you as much notice as possible.