



Issue 2

20th December 2023

Altmore News

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

Dear Children and Families,

Here we are again, at the end of another very busy term. I am delighted to share the newsletter with you, but it only gives a very small picture of all of the amazing learning experiences and opportunities that your children have been part of – I hope they have told you all about their learning at home.

Like me, I am sure you are very pleased with your children's progress, teachers really enjoyed chatting with you all during the parent meetings at the start of November, thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

'Our' learning has included visits to interesting places outside of Altmore as well as welcoming visitors to our school. I was, and continue to be particularly impressed with our status as being Summer Reading Challenge Champions of Newham! Our children also ensured that East Ham library was 'crowned' library champion of Newham too. Let's make sure that we are winners of the *Winter Reading Challenge* over the Christmas holiday, our friends in the library will be so happy to see everyone again – they recognised some children when they visited to present our trophy.

We have had such an enjoyable end of term, so please join me in saying a big "THANK YOU" to all of our staff, they are the people that make the excitement and memories happen.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and hope that you all enjoy being able to spend time with your family and each other.

Sarah

Attendance Awards



Highest Class Attendance Week Ending 15.12.22

Our Target: 96%

Nursery	Red (afternoon)	77.7%
Reception	Class 3	94.9%
Year 1	Class 9	93.1%
Year 2	Class 11	95.7%

Nursery

Green room

Our topic this term is Core Books. We have been enjoying stories such as 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?' 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar,' 'Where's Spot?' 'Handa's Surprise' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.



We also did lots of fun activities about the stories such as making a Very Hungry Caterpillar out of cucumber and tomato.

Red room and Blue room

This term our topic is Food and Celebrations. We have been looking at lots of different food, drawing our favourite food and making a song book.



We also had fun playing a maths game, rolling a dice to find out which fruit we need to collect and then rolling the dice to find out how many we need to collect. We had two turns each and then counted our total to find out who was the winner!



Reception

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'

In Reception, we have been reading the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen, as part of our topic 'Bears'. Taking our learning outdoors, we went on a bear hunt in Wanstead Park. We retold the story as we travelled through the grass, forest and mud. The children loved recreating this core book, especially squelching through the squishy mud.



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been enjoying learning about The Nativity Story. Children created their own dioramas of the story. We visited St Georges and St Ethelbert's Church where they took part in a variety of activities.



In Topic we have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We have taken part in role play and sequenced the story of what happened. We have really enjoyed using our drama skills to become Guy Fawkes.



Year 2

In Geography, we have been learning about our local area and where we are in the world. The children began by exploring our local park and identifying the human and physical features in the area. They had lots of fun finding physical features such as sticks, leaves and other plants to make a journey stick. They then looked at a range of maps of the local area as well as map symbols before creating their own map of East Ham.



Other News & Events

Road Safety Week



As part of Road Safety week the children in KS1 took part in a special Road Safety assembly. This was run by Newham's Road Safety officer. Children learnt a song and explored keeping safe on the roads.



At the end of the week children were encouraged to come to school dressed in bright clothes for 'Be Bright Be Seen Day', where they learnt about the importance of wearing bright clothes now that the nights are getting darker.

Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Sock Day

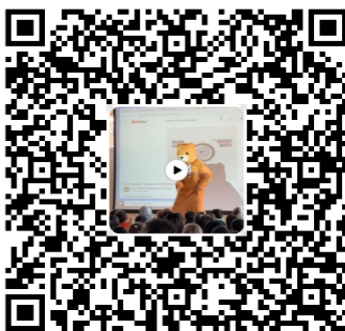


This year the theme for Anti-bullying week was 'Make a noise about bullying'. To promote the start of this important week, children came into school wearing odd socks. During the week KS1 children had the opportunity to take part in an Anti-bullying workshop performance.



Children in Need

To support Children In Need children were encouraged to wear spots or something yellow. We also had our own visit from Pudsey bear during Assembly time.



Remembrance Day

Each year group carried out activities to mark this event. Children learnt the symbolism behind the poppy and made their own poppies from different art mediums. Each year group created Remembrance Day window displays.



Lean on Me Appeal



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Children and staff all dressed in their Christmas jumpers and thought about the charity Save the Children. Everyone looked very festive in their jumpers.



Christmas Lunches



Thank you to all of the parents who were able to join us for our festive Christmas Lunches.

Christmas Carols

The children have been working so hard to practise their Christmas songs for their performances. Well done to everyone at Altmere for singing so beautifully!



Christmas Market

Thank you to all parents who came and visited our Christmas Market. Our special guest (Father Christmas) enjoyed meeting you all! With your help, we raised £985 which will go towards exciting learning opportunities for the children.



Christmas Discos

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children all had a fabulous time at their year group discos. They really enjoyed playing games, dancing with their friends and eating delicious snacks.



Reading Challenge Award Presentation We are the winners!

On Monday 6th November 2023 we had our celebration assembly for winning the Summer Reading Challenge. We had visitors from Newham Library and West Ham United Football Club.

Well done and a big THANK YOU to all the children who engaged and completed the Summer Reading Challenge.

Please look out for information about the Winter Reading Challenge. It would be amazing if Altmere children can win this challenge too.



Writing Competition

To celebrate National Poetry Day, children in Year 1 and 2 took part in a poetry competition called 'This is Me Acrostics'. They were asked to write a poem inspired by themselves from their favourite things and people they care about to their dreams for the future and what they like about themselves. We have simply loved reading every single poem we've received.

Well done to all the children who took part, and congratulations to all the children whose poem has been chosen for publishing! These children have all received a certificate for their achievement, and will have their poem published in the book 'This Is Me! Acrostics - Little Poets' in the New Year.

Class 11 Winners



Rocksteady Concert

Well done to our marvellous musicians at their Rocksteady Concert. We all had a fantastic time watching you perform and we are very proud of you!

Scan the QR Code to watch our performance.



Interfaith Week



To join-in the celebrations with multi-faiths around the world, our children were given an amazing opportunity to attend their very own Interfaith Exhibition. They were able to experience artefacts which represent not only their own faiths or family traditions but also those of their friends from our school community. Parents were also invited to join in with our celebrations and the turnout was amazing. Parents enjoyed learning new information and facts about different religions and faiths.

Hour of Code

Year 1 and Year 2 children took part in an Hour of Code as part of their computing lessons. 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, they really enjoyed taking part. We have some amazing coders in both year groups. The children received certificates to celebrate taking part in the event.



Athlete Visit

On Thursday 9th November, we were fortunate enough to have a very special visitor in school, Courtney Tulloch. Courtney is a gymnast who was successful in the Commonwealth Games on rings in 2018 and 2022. He was also a silver medallist on vault in 2018 representing England. Courtney was also part of the gold medal-winning England team at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2022.

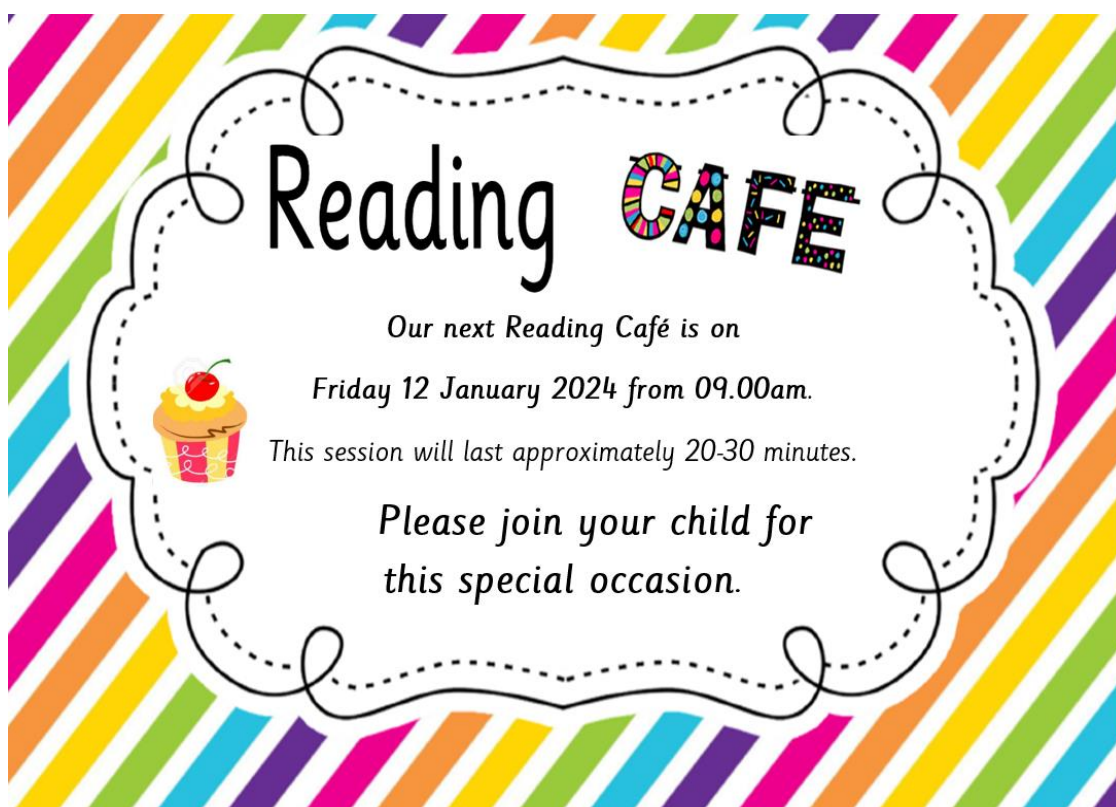
Courtney had the opportunity to work with all the children in Reception and KS1 classes, completing a carousel of activities which included *spotty dogs*, *leg drives*, *press-ups* and *star jumps*. He also visited Nursery classes showing the children his special medals. In a school assembly Courtney showed children some of his videos when he competed at the Commonwealth Games as well as doing a few backflips and cartwheels for the children to see.

This was a fundraising activity. As a school we raised £644. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated.



Other Information

2024 First Reading Cafe of the Year!
12.01.2024



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Dates for your diary...

January 2024	
Thursday 4th January	School Re-opens for Reception and KS1. Nursery Closed
Friday 5th January	Nursery Closed
Tuesday 9th January	Year 2 trip to The Golden Hinde Reception Parents Maths 'stay and learn'
Wednesday 10th January	Reception Parent Maths Session National Child Measurement Programme follow-up workshop (9 -10 a.m.)
Thursday 11th January	Year 2 trip to The Golden Hinde
Friday 12th January	Reading Café
Monday 15th January	Deadline for Reception and Year 3 admissions
Thursday 18th January	Year 1 Visit to Science Museum
Thursday 25th January	Year 1 Visit to Science Museum
February 2024	
Friday 2nd February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 9th February	Last Day of Term
Monday 19th February	School re-opens
Friday 23rd February	Reading Café

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.

