

Alderman Jacobs School (Academy Trust)

Autumn Term 2 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to report that school is busy as usual. Children and staff have embraced the Autumn season with some attending the Friends of AJS Spooky Disco, some making decorations for the Christmas tree festival at St Mary's church and some attending the Remembrance Day parade. Children will soon be preparing to entertain you all at 'Coffee and Carols', the Early Years nativity and with preschool Christmas singing later this term.



We have all been very excited to introduce some new members to our family. Meet Annie, Reggie and Blair!



Annie Tendance and Reggie Ster will be residing in the classroom of the class in KS1 and KS2 with the highest attendance each week. Blair (the bear in the chair) will be joining the Early Years class that is the best company at lunchtime each day to celebrate with them how nicely and tidily they have been eating their lunch. We have all been delighted by the arrival of the bears - they really make us smile.

As we move towards the Christmas break, I'd like to wish you all the best of the season. I look forward to seeing you in school or on the playground over the coming weeks and hope you and your children enjoy the rest of this term.

Sending best wishes as always,

Elaine Crane
Acting Headteacher

Attendance ~
up to 17/11/2022 ~ 93.59%

Whittlesey Extravaganza — Colouring Competition

Congratulations to Violet who won the colouring competition for the Whittlesey Extravaganza and was awarded with free tickets for this upcoming event.

Please note that the Autumn term ends on Tuesday 20th December 2022 and the Spring Term starts on Wednesday 4th January 2023.



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Whittlesey Heritage Walk

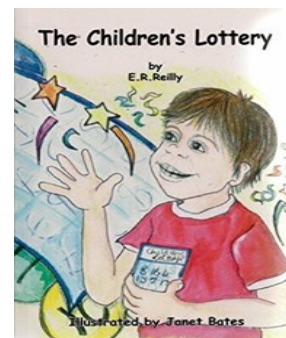
For a free and enjoyable activity whilst learning about our local area, why not try out the Whittlesey Heritage Walk. There are boards in a few locations around the town (with more due to pop up) which have a small trail to follow whilst documenting the history regarding our local area.

For more information please click on the following link:

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/WhittleseyHeritageWalk>

Author Visit

On Tuesday 8th November we had a visit from author Eamonn Reilly. Whilst at school, Eamonn gave two assemblies to KS1 and KS2 and spoke to the children about his writing and the books he has published. He also set the children some writing challenges and then children were then given the chance to ask Eamonn some questions. The children were all very inspired and asked some brilliant questions! During his visit Eamonn also told us that his book *The Children's Lottery* is going to be made into a film so watch this space!



Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Eva J-N won 5 bronze medals at Club Champs for March Marlins and 1 bronze medal for the Autumn Meet gala at the Manor Leisure Centre.

Thea H has moved up her first swim level and is now on orange hats.

Jessica H has passed level 8 in ice skating and has passed skate UK - free skating bronze.

Roxy B achieved 2nd & 3rd Place at the Bristol Open, 1st & 2nd place at Interclub, Grand Champion at Peterborough Series and multiple 1st place trophies at Peterborough Series, Northants and at the WKO Grand Prix Winner 2022.

Robyn B achieved 2nd & 3rd place at the Bristol Open and at Interclub. Robyn also achieved 1st place at the WKO Grand Prix Winner 2022.

Jasmin B achieved 1st place at Interclub and at the WKO Grand Prix Winner 2022.

Well done everyone!



Parent Feedback

Your feedback is extremely valuable in supporting us to make positive changes in our school. As part of this, we are going to offer parents the opportunity to respond on a topic in each newsletter. This half term, we would like to know more about your thoughts on reading with your child and what the barriers are to reading with your child at home.

Please click the link below to give us your feedback:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7knhqgdNFz7R_jTtqFmfTdpJuBkrGi0uZa8mx3CVxHpeQhg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Early Years Firepit immersion morning

We have had a very exciting first day back. We started by talking about fire safety linked to bonfires and fireworks. We watched a firework display and described the shapes and colours we could see. We then listened to Handel's firework music and talked about the different instruments in the orchestra.

We also looked at how to melt chocolate and talked about how it changes when it is heated. We made chocolate and sprinkle sparklers with breadsticks and enjoyed them so much! We ended the morning by toasting some marshmallows over a fire pit. We all had a fantastic morning.



Pre School

We are now accepting Pre School applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Application packs can be found here [Pre School Applications](#), or can be collected from the school office.

For further information, please contact Mrs M Neal in the school office.

Community Information

We are sent many communications about nearby and local activities, opportunities and support for our families. This information will be added to the About Us - Community Links page on our website and updated regularly. The page can be found here [Community Links](#). Please do take a look to see if there is anything to interest you and your family.

Road Safety

Please can everyone ensure that they park safely and responsibly and do not obstruct road junctions or residents driveways.

Lost Property

Please note that all lost property will be placed on the rail in the foyer.

Any items left at the end of term will be donated to charity.

Sponsored Walk 2022

Thank you to everyone that took part and contributed to the sponsored walk. We raised an amazing £1,510.75.

We would like to give a special thanks to the following:

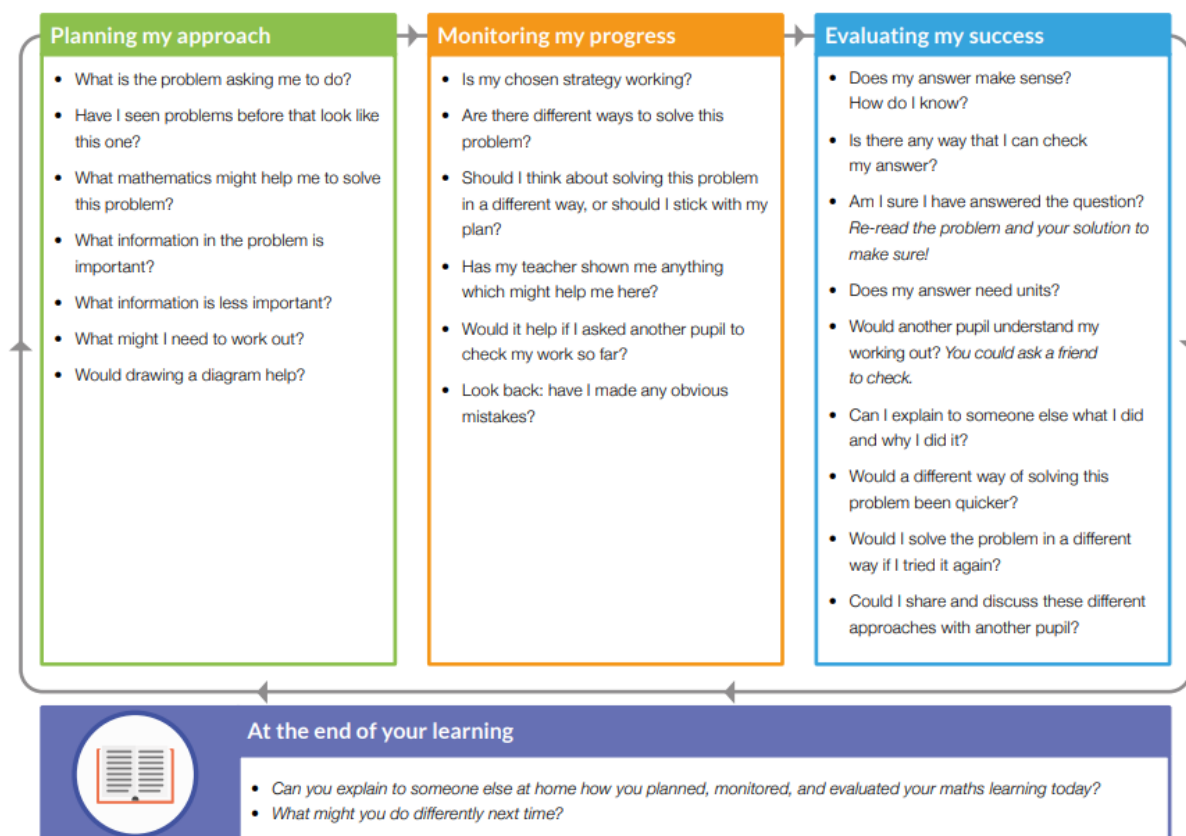
Jude C ~ £30
Harper S ~ £55
Wyatt M ~ £50
Harry R ~ £50
Mia A ~ £30
Ellie P ~ £35

Thank you!

'Teaching and Learning update'

On our October training day, teachers spent some time planning how we develop metacognition or 'thinking about thinking' in school and how we can encourage children to think about the strategies they use that help them learn. Here's a link to research-based guidance on this, in case you are interested: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/metacognition>

Children are already using various strategies, for instance to remember spellings, work out problems in maths and plan investigations in science. We are going to encourage children to use useful questions more often in planning, monitoring and evaluating their learning to help them develop metacognitive strategies even more. These are the types of questions we are encouraging children to consider at an age-and-stage-appropriate level for children (this example is from KS2 maths):



This example is from the EEF: https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/eef-guidance-reports/maths-ks-2-3/Planning_a_Think_Aloud_1.0.pdf?v=1667568113

Do you have a child starting Primary School in September 2023

If your child will be age 4 by 31st August 2023 you need to apply for a school place. The website is now open and you have until 15th January 2023 to apply.

For further information please visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions

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Safeguarding

The safeguarding snippet this time is about online safety and steps you can take to help keep your child safer online. We teach about online safety in school but children need support with this at home too and it can feel difficult to know how to help.

A good approach is to have an ongoing conversation about apps, games and sites your children like to use, and what they like and don't like. Ask them every so often if they have any concerns about being online.

Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult in school if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble and that we are all here to help.

For information about online safety, the NSPCC has a dedicated site that you may find useful:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

Diary Dates

School Term Dates 2022/23

Autumn Term Closes ~ Tue 20th December

Spring Term Opens ~ Wed 4th January

Half Term ~ Mon 13th February - Friday
17th February

Spring Term Closes ~ Fri 31st March

Summer Term Opens ~ Mon 17th April

Bank Holiday ~ Mon 1st May

Half Term ~ Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June

Summer Term Closes ~ Tue 18th July

Professional Days

School will be closed to pupils on the following days:-

2022/23

Wed 21st December 2022

Wed 19th July 2023

*****Extra Bank Holiday ~ 8th May 2023
for The Kings Coronation *****

DECEMBER

Fri 2 ~ Coffee & Carols 9am

~ Y6 Reading Café 2-3pm

Tue 6 ~ Eysrs Nativity 9.30-10.30am
(Younger siblings can attend)

Wed 7 ~ Eysrs Nativity 2-3pm (Younger
siblings can attend)

Thu 8 ~ Eysrs Nativity 9.30-10.30am
(Adults only)

~ FOAJS Secret Santa 3.15pm

Fri 9 ~ FOAJS Secret Santa 3.15pm

~ Y4 Reading Café 2-3pm

Mon 12 ~ Pre-school Look & Share 11.50-
12.05pm & 3.05-3.30pm

~ Look & Share 3.15-4pm (Whole
School)

Tue 13 ~ Christingle Eysrs-Y3 (In school -
Children Only)

Wed 14 ~ Carol Service Y4-6 at St Marys
Church 1-3pm (Parents Welcome)

Thu 15 ~ Flu Vaccinations Catch up

~ Pre-school singing to parents
9.15-9.30am

Fri 16 ~ Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

Mon 19 ~ Y6 Panto