



Audlem St. James C.E. Primary School

'Let your light shine'

Matthew 5:16



14th January 2022

Stay Connected

A New Week at Audlem St James CE Primary School

We have had a busy second week back in school with all of the children returning to start new topics in their classes - I have been tremendously impressed with the energy and excitement in each class as the children have begun the term and I am looking forward to seeing how each topic develops over the coming weeks. We have been very lucky at the present moment as we haven't been badly affected by COVID-19 this year but can I ask that we keep vigilant and keep to the protocols I asked last week in my return to school letter. Further information was sent in a brief email yesterday but an explanatory letter has just been sent home today regarding yesterday's latest change to the self-isolation rule for children in a household where there is a positive case.



Winter Weather

As we begin the new term, please ensure that the children are suitably dressed for the playground as it is important that they get outside during breaks. Hats, scarves and gloves, as well as a warm coat are necessary. We would also ask that on snowy days children come to school in boots and bring a change of shoes to wear inside so they are able to have fresh air breaks without getting their indoor shoes wet. Please ensure that all clothing is **clearly marked** with your child's name.

As you know, we make every effort to keep the school open during snowy and icy weather conditions but sometimes I have to make the decision to close the school for the safety of your children. In the event of a school closure local radio stations will be contacted and we will also aim to put a message on our school website and onto the message board on our school phone system. A text message will also be sent out to all parents on our Parentmail database.

It is imperative in icy conditions that we all work together and are responsible for our own safety in the ice and snow and for the safety of children when they are walking into school. I would like to remind you of school's gritting plan. Our Site Maintenance Officer, Mr Jones, will grit identified pathways on icy days and parents and children must only use these routes for their own safety. There will be a gritted path from the main gate to the main entrance but this is for vehicle access only. Pedestrians must use the gritted footpath along the side of the car park and, for safety, access this through the small gate NOT the car park gate. There will also be a gritted pathway around the perimeter of the main building up to the Highfield Drive entrance. Please note the Heathfield Road playground entrance gate will remain locked on these occasions.

On days when gritting is required, we ask that children in Pearl (Year 2) and Sapphire (Year 1) classes enter school via their usual classroom doors (there will be a gritted path to both of these classroom doors. EYFS (Amethyst class) children should also be accompanied to their usual classroom but the gritted path from Heathfield Drive to the school building and along the side of the building to EYFS must be followed. Please do not cut across the rest of the playground as this will not be gritted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and understanding during the remaining winter months.



This week's Praise Book children are:

Mrs Maughan and Mrs Burgess' Class - Niamh Watson

Mrs Kemp and Mrs Hayward's Class - Howie Goldrick



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Mrs Richardson and Miss Ratcliffe's Class - Anna Hyncica

Mr Davies' Class - Caleb Bowen-Jones

Miss Morris's Class - Barney Stockton

Mr Blenkiron's Class - Millie Cronshey

Mrs Bird's Class - Calum Wilson

5Rs

Responsibility: Bobby Hough

Resourcefulness: Jake Quigley and Spencer Wright

Resilience: Parker Bennett; Freddie Fellows; Toby Le Grice and Willow Adams

You are all amazing and Shining Stars!

School

Amethyst class: This week in Amethyst Class, we have continued reading *Naughty Bus* by Jan Oke. We labelled characters waiting at the bus stop, wrote simple sentences and wrote a list of food that the bus drove through. In maths, we ordered numbers, found 1 more and learnt ordinal numbers - first, second etc. We used construction blocks, hoops and stackable toys to build staircase patterns and towers. We also enjoyed our Cosmic Yoga session listening to the story of 'Diggory the Dumpertruck.'

Sapphire class: The children in Sapphire have worked super hard this week. In maths the children have been learning how to solve number bond problems using apart, part, whole. In English the children have been sequencing pictures from our story *Lost and found*. They have been trying hard to write interesting sentences to match each picture. In science the children have been learning how to group animals. In P.E the children have been practising a variety of skills during a mini circuit training activity.

Pearl class: We have created posters to warn children about the dragons on the loose in Pearl class! We used nouns, verbs and adjectives in our sentences. We have developed strategies to add and take away one or ten from single and two digit numbers. We have used 'Word' in computing to change font size and colour when labelling our books.

Amber class: The class is creating a giant rainforest display with different children responsible for each level of the forest such as the canopy and the emergent layer. In maths we have been concentrating on two-, five- and ten-times tables and making equal groups and arrays. The two new reading books for this term are *The Iron Man* and *Stone Age Boy* so we have been making predictions about what will happen in them. In PE we have been concentrating on throwing skills in netball and in science we have been learning about parts of a plant.

Emerald class: This week in Emerald class we have looked at 7-, 11- and 12-times tables. We have also worked on multiplying three numbers together. In English, the class have written a note to Leon to advise him on whether to step into the magic box or not. Additionally, the children wrote 1st person accounts of the scene from viewpoints of the other characters. In Science, we looked at classifying materials as conductors or insulators by including them in electrical circuits. We studied the rise of the Roman Empire and began to look at why the Roman army was so successful. For art the children investigating mixing various shades of different colours in preparation for creating their own mosaic. We have really enjoyed welcoming Miss Barber into our class this week who is a new student teacher working with year 4 this term.

Ruby Class: In maths this week, Ruby Class have been learning about multiples and factors. We have been finding common factors and considering whether it is true that the larger the number, the more factors it has. Our timetable of the week has been the 12's. We have found patterns within this timetable and have discussed how we can use our other timetables knowledge to help us if we get stuck multiplying by 12. In English, we have begun to read our new writing stimulus '*Arthur and the Golden Rope*', making predictions based on the front cover and writing concise expanded noun phrases about the main character. We have been reading further into '*Odd and the Frost Giants*' and inferring details about Odd's personality based on small clues such as the authors choice of vocabulary.

In Science, we have been researching the different gestation periods of animals and searching for correlations between this and other factors such as life-span, number of offspring and size.



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In Music, we have begun to look at the inter-related dimensions of music and how they describe different elements of sound. We then used these to describe three different pieces of music; one classical, one pop-ballad and one rock song.

In History, we have been writing invitations from King Vortigern of the Britons to Hengist & Horsa of the Saxons to help him send the Picts north of Hadrian's Wall (now that the Romans have left to fight the Visigoths). After our discussion of these events, the children re-enacted the battles and alliances through the medium of dodgeball and tested their knowledge via a Kahoot quiz on the subject.

In P.E., we have started a unit on hockey. So far, the children have learned how to hold the stick correctly, how to move the ball without it getting away from them, and how to control the ball without using the wrong parts of the stick.

Diamond class: This week, Year 6 have been learning about the historical developments in electricity as part of the Science learning. They have also started to read a lovely story by Oscar Wilde called 'The Happy Prince', and have learned lots of new words to add to their expanding vocabulary. In RSE, the children have also been thinking about 'Keeping connected' and what to do with your worries, and in PE, they have been practising ball skills to use in basketball and netball. They are starting to get very excited about their residential trip to Conover, so we have been answering lots of their questions.

Prayers to Share this week - We pray for Kindness in our school, community and the wider world.



Safety Online

Many children (and adults) will have received games and electronic devices for Christmas gifts recently. As part of our ongoing work to promote Keeping Safe Online, I would like to remind you of the helpful and informative resources which can be found in the 'Share Aware' section of the NSPCC website. This campaign is aimed at helping parents to keep their child safe on social networks. The campaign is particularly relevant for parents of children aged 8-12 and aims to give information and advice in a straightforward and no-nonsense manner. I am providing the hyperlink below for your information: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/> Please check the esafety section of our school website for more helpful websites and information about online safety.

Finally

It is important that our newsletter and all other forms of communication we send out to parents and carers, give you a clear and detailed picture of our work in school, so that you are kept up to date with events in school and our community. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the content of newsletters please get in touch with me.

A.Perry