



Audlem St. James' C of E Primary School

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



12 January 2024

A New Week at Audlem St James CE Primary School

I would just like to say a huge welcome back to all children and parents and a happy new year to you all. I am glad that we are all back at school.

Already over the last week the number of children smiling and enjoying what they are doing with their friends makes you realise the importance of our jobs and we will endeavour to ensure this carries on over the next half term. We are here to educate and make sure children leave school with a smile and feeling positive that they can do anything.

All teachers have this: **'It takes a big heart to shape little minds'**

New Year - new start – water bottles and uniform

Can I remind you again of the need for children to have water bottles in school. We are all aware of the importance of drinking water during the day. Please ensure that your child has a working water bottle at the start of the new year.

I will also continue to insist that children wear uniform in school, particularly school shoes NOT trainers, except for the day they have P.E. On P.E. days, I will also be expecting children to wear suitable clothing; navy or dark blue hoodies/sweatshirts or, if you do not have these, their school sweatshirts, alongside dark blue, navy or black leggings or jogging bottoms. Logoed hoodies/sweatshirts are not acceptable. Thank you for your support with this.

Privacy online – useful information

The school is attaching a document alongside this newsletter, to help you protect your child from exposure on the internet to content, language and advertising that is not appropriate. Children may have received new devices over Christmas and it seems timely to send this information home. I intend to send other documents over the next few weeks.

Praise Book Children



Mrs Burgess and Mrs Kemp's class: C J Latham

Mrs Proctor's class: Maisie Hallatt

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's class: Theo Jones

Miss Morris's class: Freddie Fellows

Mrs Bird's class: Fletcher Cronshey

Mr Trude's class: Clara Wellings

Mr Blenkiron's class: Seth Minshall

The 5 'R's

As a school we are concentrating on the 5 'R's – **resilience, reflectiveness, responsibility, resourcefulness and readiness to learn**. These are the children who have shown such qualities this week:

Resilience: Olivia New and James Pritchard

Responsibility: Betsy Hockenhull-Campbell





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Resourcefulness: Florence Bonell

Readiness to Learn: Thea Waddington, Molly Parris, Thomas Hassall and Finlay Lambie.

Everyone!

You are all amazing shining stars.

School

All the children have enjoyed the different work that they have been learning throughout the week and the classrooms have been buzzing with activity. Here is an overview of what has been happening in every class.

Amethyst class: This week in Amethyst Class, we started our new Transport topic "On the Move" by reading Naughty Bus by Jan Oke. We looked at different types of vehicles, played ISpy and wrote simple sentences. In maths we looked at the composition of the number 5, investigated its number parts and played a bean bag game. We also had fun working in the car garage role play area and enjoyed cosmic yoga.

Sapphire class: This week in Sapphire class we have been learning about finding a missing part in Maths. In English, we have been detectives in our detective agency – investigating Nibbles! We have also been imagining our own Nibbles stories. We have also started our new afternoon topic on farming.

Pearl class: The children in Pearl Class have written letters from Plop (the barn owl) to persuade another owl that dark can be exciting. The children have written non-chronological reports all about owls, using their knowledge from last term. In Maths, we explored number patterns and solved problems when adding and subtracting tens using a hundred square. In Design and Technology, the children reviewed their pouches considering what went well and what could be improved. In PE the children explored movement sequences in gymnastics. In Music we learnt Bobby Shafto's Gone to Sea as we begin our new hot air balloon journey to different countries. In Science we have talked about animals and sorted them in different ways e.g. they have legs/no legs, they fly/walk/slither, they live on land/in water, they are herbivores/omnivores/carnivores.

Amber class: This week, the children have use direct speech in their writing and practised their handwriting in English. They have worked on numbers that add up to make 100 in maths and on estimating answers. The class looked at locating tropical countries using atlases in Geography and started planning their castle models in DT. We worked on doing cartwheels in gymnastics and also reviewed forwards rolls, backwards rolls and front arm balances in PE. We continued our learning about friendship builders in PSHE where the children learnt good strategies to maintain healthy friendships.

Emerald class: Year 4 have been very excited to make a lot of noise while learning about how sound works. They have been learning about how sound is caused by vibrations and enjoyed beating a drum with rice grains on top so that they could see the vibrations in action. They really enjoyed making the rice jump as high as possible! The children have also begun to learn about volcanoes and have been writing descriptions about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius near Pompeii. In PE, the class have been practising cartwheels and are beginning to put together a gymnastics routine.

Ruby class: The first week is nearly done, and what a great week it has been! Everyone has settled back in tremendously well. In English this week, we have continued looking at 'The Lost Happy Endings' developing character profiles for Jub, the witch and the old lady in the house. During Maths, we have continued looking at fractions, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers. In PE, we have started looking at gymnastics (floor exercises) forward and backwards rolls, arabesque, front support to press up, etc. During History, our topic has





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changed from World War 1 to Vikings and Anglo-Saxons where we looked at what life in England at the end of the 4th Century was like? The children continue to work hard in all other subjects.

Diamond class: This week in maths, the children have been focusing on adding mixed numbers by finding common denominators. In English, we have begun to look at Oscar Wilde's 'The Selfish Giant' and have started to write descriptive narrative and dialogue based on an image from the book. At the start of the week, the class also wrote New Year's Resolutions which considered who and what could help them achieve these goals. In computing, Diamond Class have been working on MS Excel and have learned how to write formulae to make the spreadsheet complete calculations quickly across many different cells. In art, we looked at photomontage and have created adverts for a new shopping centre by turning household items into a city skyline. In science we have begun to explore classification - we have discussed what constitutes a living thing and have sorted 16 different living things into the kingdoms of animal, plant, fungus and microorganism.

Attendance: Whole school weekly attendance this week is 95.33%. This is higher than the final week of the Autumn term but is still below our school aim of at least 97%. Even though we have had the Christmas break, there are still children absent due to chicken-pox and this is still having an effect upon attendance. In EYFS/KS1, Sapphire class has had full attendance this week which is excellent. In KS2, Ruby class has had the best attendance this week. Congratulations to both classes.

Running Course in the New Year – Spokes and Laces – beginners welcome

We have been asked to publicise a new course which starts on Wednesday 17 January and we have sent out a flyer with the newsletter advertising this.

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

