



Audlem St. James' C of E Primary School

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



9 February 2024

This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'

During Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters".



My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

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Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February the school took part in the national day looking at safer internet use.



Praise Book Children

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Kemp's class: Clara Dodd

Mrs Proctor's class: Phoebe Fellows

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's class: Freya Parker-Bowen

Miss Morris's class: Alexandra Lee

Mrs Bird's class: Heidi Boyle

Mr Trude's class: Reece Sumnell

Mr Blenkiron's class: George Aspinwall



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: Harry Morgan, Carter Dobson and Bella Roberts

Resourcefulness: William Rowe

Readiness to Learn: Theia Evans, Olivia Smith and Edward Millington-Johnson

Everyone!

You are all amazing shining stars.





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Absence from school – reminder

A letter was sent out about attendance to every family last March but I think everyone is due a reminder. The detrimental effect of absence on children's education and well-being is evident in many case studies and as a school we always support our families. Can I ask that all parents support us in helping us achieve our goal of 97% attendance across school?

Key to attendance:

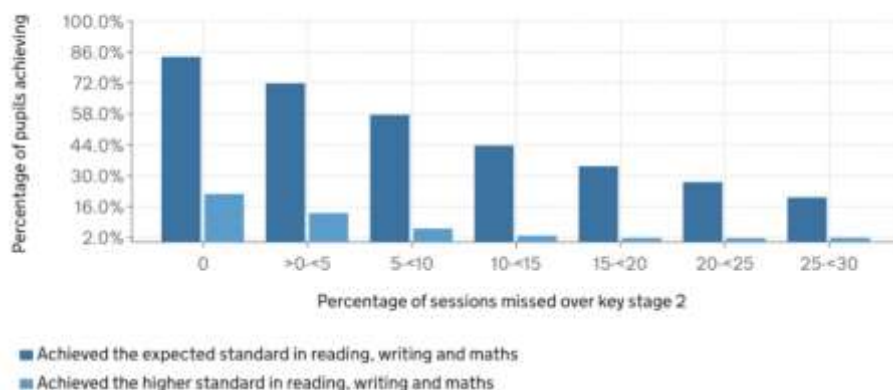
Below 85%	85-90%	90-95%	95-99%	100%
Very high concern	High concern	Low concern	Good/very good	Excellent
Classified as persistent absentee				

The impact of poor attendance:

%	Over an academic year your child will miss:	Over the 7 years at Audlem St James your child will miss:
95% attendance	9.5 days Approximately 47 lessons missed	66.5 days Equivalent to 13.5 weeks Equivalent to 1 term.
90% attendance	19 days Approximately 95 lessons missed	133 days Equivalent to 26 weeks Equivalent to 2 term.
85% attendance	28.5 days Approximately 140 lessons missed	200 days of absence Equivalent to 40 weeks Equivalent to a whole school year + 2 weeks.

National data shows the clear link between pupil attendance and pupil attainment:

Figure 2: Overall attainment in reading, writing and maths at the end of KS2 by percentage of sessions missed over KS2



It is expected that your child will attend on all school days unless unwell or at a school-approved activity. We do have Request for Leave of Absence forms but these should only be used in exceptional circumstances. They are available from the school office. The form includes the following words:

"We want all children to be happy and successful at our school and believe that good, consistent attendance at school is crucial in giving your child the best chance of success. Taking holidays in term-time can seriously





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*disrupt a child's progress. From the 1st September 2013, **new legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Parents must prove that any application for leave of absence must be in exceptional circumstances and that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave of absence. Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school. Fine payments are £60 per parent, per child to be paid by the 21st day increasing to £120 per parent, per child by the 28th day. If the fine is unpaid it will be processed to court for prosecution."*

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: This week in Amethyst class, we read 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane by 'Katy Haworth.' We wrote a list of things we would pack to go travelling around the world, made passports and learnt about hot and cold countries. We also learnt more about transport in the past. In maths, we focused on ordinality: considering where numbers are in relation to each other on a number line or number square. We used the language of 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal to' to describe the relationships between numbers. We made chalk number tracks, played snakes and ladders and sung counting songs. We also had fun making and decorating paper aeroplanes.

Sapphire: This week in Sapphire Class we have continued to look at our story 'The Lion Inside'. We have been writing all that we know about lions and mice and writing sentences which describe the illustrations in the book. In Maths, we have been enjoying singing and dancing to our 2d shapes songs and we have been trying to remember our 3d shape names. In History we were being Stone Age farmers - we role played building our own farm and settlement and learnt why farming started. In PE we were all super brave and we all had a go at doing a forward roll on a bench and off a bench onto a mat!

Pearl: The children have been learning about 3D shapes in Maths this week. They have counted faces, edges and vertices on a variety of 3D shapes, sorted shapes in different ways and created repeating patterns. In English we created a character description using subordinating conjunctions. Today we have enjoyed taking part in 'Express Yourself Day.' We have talked about 'my voice matters' and played games to encourage listening to other peoples' views. We learned some Makaton and used it to talk about our favourite animals, colours, food and books. We also enjoyed our 'No Outsiders' lesson where we read the book 'All Are Welcome' to encourage the children to notice that we are all different and we all belong. In Art, we created a concertina book and a story map using drawing techniques taught in previous lessons. In History, we found our own solutions to inventor questions posed. We also learned how to stay safe online during Internet Safety Day.

Amber: This week, Amber Class have worked on learning their 3 and 4 times tables. They have used counters to make equal groups and use the counters to help them with division questions. In English, they have looked at rules for adding the suffix -ed to verbs. They have used these to help them write a first person diary entry as Tom. They have included paragraphs, time adverbs, prepositions and adjectives. The children enjoyed safer internet day where they discussed the positive and negative influences of the internet and looked at how apps and games persuade users to spend money and time on them. The children finished their castle structures in DT, continued with their gymnastics work in PE and learned the musical notation for the notes D and E in music.

Emerald: Over the last five days, Year 4 have been learning about how to stay safe online. They have looked at how people may try to influence them or pretend to be someone else. They have also looked at what information is safe to share online and how they can protect their own identities. In Science, the class have





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been exploring pitch and amplitude, and have been using different types of instruments to find out how to make a note higher or lower. They have also started to learn the words for their Singfest performance in March. There are a lot of words to learn, so quite a challenge!

Ruby: During this week in Year 5, the children took part in Safer Internet Day where we looked at keeping safe online; the dos and don'ts of being on the internet. As part of the day the children had to think about what technology would be like in 20 years time and how it would affect daily life. During Maths, we have continued looking at adding and subtracting mixed number fractions as well as converting mixed number fractions into improper fractions. English has seen us delve a little deeper into Norse myths finding out about the Yggdrasil (The World Tree) and how its roots wrap around Asgard, Midgard, Jotunheim and Nilfheim. We have also been working on free verse poems to describe the different beasts, monsters and Gods found in the different realms. Ruby class have continued their reign as TT Rock Star champions.

Diamond: This week, Diamond Class have been focusing on dividing fractions by whole numbers - thinking about this pictorially as well as what "cheat codes" can be used to work them out abstractly. In English, we have been completing our diary entries and articles about giants and charities. In Science, we looked at branch keys and used these to categories different types of biscuit. In PSHE, we will be looking at 'King of the Sky' - a story about an Italian boy who emigrates to Wales and develops a love of pigeon-racing. We will also be thinking about our proudest moments.

Attendance

Whole school weekly attendance this week is 95.86% which is unfortunately below our school aim of 97% every week. I have drawn attention to attendance earlier in the newsletter. In EYFS/KS1, Sapphire class has again had full attendance and, in KS2, Emerald and Ruby classes have had the best attendance. Congratulations to all three classes.

Friends of Audlem School – Rainbow Donations on Non-Uniform Day – Friday 9 February

Thank you for your support with the "Express Yourself" non-uniform day and thank you too for the rainbow coloured items you have generously brought in for Friends of Audlem School. We will be reporting back with more information next week.

Poppy Appeal – November 2023 - £192.08 raised

We have just received notification that the school raised £192.08 for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and other merchandise in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day.

NAR – free Girls' Football training – February and March 2024

We have attached a poster with details and we have also been asked to send you this link: <https://nar-sports.classforkids.io/term/198>. The poster has a QR code on it to scan.

Sports Coaching Group – Half-term courses at Pear Tree Primary School

We have attached a flyer from SCG concerning half-term paid sports courses for your child held at Pear Tree Primary. The link to the relevant site is Pear Tree: <https://sports-coaching-group.classforkids.io/camp/162>

Congleton Museum – "Meet the Romans" during half-term – 20-25 February

Congleton Museum are offering free daily events during half term all centring around the Romans. We're aware that Y4 are studying the Romans but all children will find these interesting. Craft events cost £3 but entrance to the museum and all the other events are free. Details on the attached poster and flyer





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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

