



Dear parents, carers and pupils,

The time leading up to Christmas at Aspire is always an exciting time. The pupils have had the opportunity to engage in many Christmas-themed events, including Elfridges, class-based activities and Christmas performances. Thank you to all parents for their continued support of these events, whether by making donations or through attendance. Thank you also to the PTA for their contributions in making many of these events possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the new school website, which has gone live recently (<https://www.aspire-ba-mat.org.uk>). The new website will continue to have new information regarding curriculum, policies and other school updates added over the upcoming months, so please do visit the website for information.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all Aspire families a wonderful festive period. I hope you all have a wonderful break. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2024.

Please do contact the school on our email address or [01795899788](tel:01795899788) if you have any questions or concerns.

*Warmest wishes
Neil Dipple
Headteacher*

Message from Tracy, AHT & Safeguarding Lead

How did it get to December already? Wow, what a busy time we have had! It may not look like it from the front of the school but there has been lots going on at Aspire from behind the scenes. We have made significant investment in our outdoor areas, especially in our Early Years classes and we are continuing to fund improvement projects in our environments. One of our future projects which will begin in May 2024 is the OPAL project (<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/>)

This programme's purpose is to sustainably improve the quality of children's play. This is something we hope will really benefit our children and become part of some really great learning. There will be some opportunities for parents to support with key projects within the programme. If you would like to help, please email the school with the subject OPAL.

Message from the Therapy Team

It has been an enjoyable term for the Speech and Language Therapy team. Alongside working with the children and teachers in the classroom, we have provided staff training sessions as part of a rolling programme to continually develop the communication supports for all of the pathways within the school. We have also updated the therapies information on the website, which you can find under the 'Key Information' tab.

As always, you can contact us via the office email or Aspire phone number.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Rosie, Gem, Lou and Katherine

Message from Claire, Family Liaison Officer (FLO)

Attendance News

Whole school attendance is currently 90.3%

Attendance is very important to every child as it enables them to access their education and reach their full potential. The government guidance requires all children to be in school and to have an attendance of 96% and above to be achieving the best they can.

At Aspire we aim to have attendance above 85% for every child.

We would urge parents and carers to ensure their child attends school every day and all non-emergency appointments are booked outside of the school day. We understand that children can become ill but also ask parents and carers to consider if your child would in fact be able to attend school in the event of them having colds and coughs as this can be controlled with over the counter medicines in some instances.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea requires a 48 hour absence from school to ensure all tummy bugs have cleared and to prevent it spreading to other children and staff as much as we possibly can.

Any absences must be reported to the main school office either by phone call, answerphone or email.

All medical appointments require evidence to support them and to be authorised on the registers. Medical/ Hospital appointments should be given to the office in advance so the absence can be logged on the registers and staff made aware of the upcoming absence.

Attendance congratulations

We currently have 64 children with attendance over 96% from Sept to Dec

We have 14 children with 100% attendance from Sept to Dec, WELL DONE!

CERTIFICATES FOR 100% ATTENDANCE WILL BE SENT HOME AT THE END OF TERM.

Reception



Presley Class

We've had another fantastic term in Presley Class and have developed great relationships with the adults in our classroom. We have enjoyed lots of creative and messy play, as well as exploring a range of Bonfire Night and Christmas activities.



Mozart Class

This term the children have been enjoying learning more about the topic of families as well as the festivals and celebrations at this time of year. We have also starting working on our first sounds and the maths concepts of sorting and size.



Sheeran Class

Sheeran Class have been exploring fireworks, Diwali and Christmas messy play and activities this term. The children have had fun exploring with glitter, vegetables, tinsel and much more. We have had fun playing out in the snow, Sheeran Class are now transitioning to and from places with good understanding and most children now sit daily for Attention Autism and lunch!



Andersen Class

Andersen class have enjoyed exploring the stories "Funnybones," "Elmer," and "That's not my reindeer." The children have engaged in a variety of sensory activities, from exploding colors to creating oil-colored elephants, crafting mosaic masterpieces, and exploring the concepts of filling and emptying. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Dickinson Class

Dickinson have had a very busy term through exploring the stories Funny Bones, Elmer and Stickman! We have been making lots of collaborative and colourful artwork, learning about the different ways to look after our bodies and improving our communication through lots of fun activities.



Bonnello Class

Bonnello class have had a very busy term 2. We have truly settled into school life and have immersed ourselves in some exciting learning. It has been a term full of festivities and celebrations as we explored events such as Children in Need, Remembrance Day, Fireworks and Christmas. We enjoyed some spooky activities as we looked at the story of FunnyBones. It was fantastic to see so many children in their spooky costumes. Children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story of Elmer which filled our rooms with colour. In Maths we explored lots of learning linked to measure and pattern along with embedding our understanding of number. Children loved creating marbling ink Elmer's, rainbow fruit kebabs and working on giant collaborative pieces of art, now proudly displayed in our class. It has been wonderful seeing the excitement and joy as we lead up to Christmas. We have been watching the countdown each day and have loved discovering what our cheeky class elf has been up to. Children have worked so hard following visual and verbal instructions to complete a range of festive activities from Christmas biscuits to working with their friends to complete a Christmas scavenger hunt.



Year 2



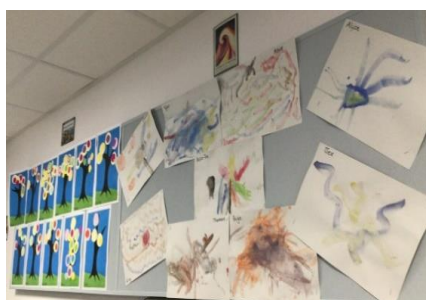
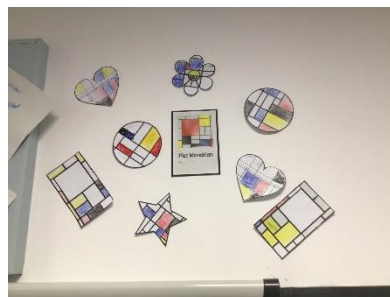
Packham Class

This term in Packham we have been using Colourful Semantics to help develop our sentence structure, we have been learning new dance moves in PE and had a treat visit to the local park where we developed our sharing and turn taking skills.



Thunberg Class

Thunberg have focused on 'colours, shapes and lines' this term. To explore these, we have enjoyed producing a mixture of art styles based on the works of various artists and have looked at shape in maths. We have also concentrated on sharing and working together as a team!



Bellamy Class

Bellamy class have enjoyed a term of exploring different artists. We have found our inner artists and made some amazing colourings, paintings, shape trees and food sculptures, inspired by Kadinsky, O'keefe, Oldenburg and Modrian. In the last few weeks of term we are looking forward to getting very Christmassy!!!

Year 3

Burton Class

Burton class have been having lots of fun creating artwork. We have looked at Rangoli patterns and have created 'stained glass' Christmas trees. Christmas jumper day was lots of fun and we all enjoyed Christmas dinner!



Tajiri Class

This term, Tajiri continued learning about materials in science. We conducted experiments looking at the purpose of materials for different objects including windproof and waterproof materials. We developed our awareness of measurement in maths and learnt all about the Gunpowder plot in history. In R.E, we explored light in different religions and celebrated Diwali and had a Christmas dinner together.





Gutierrez Class

We enjoyed celebrating Diwali in Gutierrez class this term. The children made their own Diya lamps, and learned about traditions through art and bucket. We explored the gunpowder plot and fireworks too. Our favourite part of the morning has been following our sensory circuits to help us focus ready for learning too!



Year 4

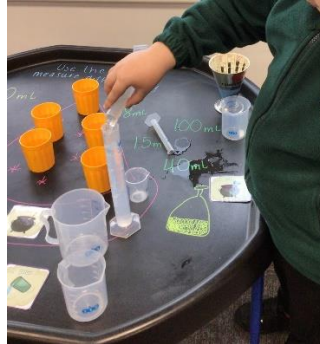
Darwin

Darwin class have been having a blast diving into history this term, writing diary entries about The Great Fire of London and building Tudor houses. Darwin class have loved their science this term too and loved learning about different light sources and experimenting with electrical circuits. Christmas vibes have also been in full swing for a while now and Darwin have been having a blast with "The Santa Trap" book - they're even crafting their own genius traps. Merry Christmas everyone, we will see you in the New Year!



Einstein Class

We have had a wonderful time at school this term. We have done lots of learning, but our favourite topic was witches and wizards! We got to measure the capacity of different liquids, watch a live experiment and make our own potions. We are looking forward to Christmas and we're especially excited for our Nativity!



Newton Class

Newton class have been learning about seasons and have enjoyed an Autumn walk in the woods. We found a huge puddle and loved climbing the trees. In class we have been reading Pete the Cat and the Four Groovy Buttons story and have practicing our counting skills in our groovy button shop. Newton class would like to wish you all a merry Christmas!



Year 5

Van Gogh Class

Van Gogh Class have had another fantastic and busy term! The children have amazed us with their water confidence and skills during our weekly swimming sessions at Kent Science Park and we had a great time watching Trolls Band Together at The Light Cinema as part of the Into Film Festival. Italy's geography and culture has inspired most of our learning this term, with the children developing their sentence skills by writing about stories such as '*Ciao, Sandro!*' and '*The Legend of Old Befana*'. We have finished off the term with lots of Christmas fun, including our Christmas jumper and dinner day, Elfridges and a visit to Santa's grotto! Everybody in Van Gogh wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Wiltshire Class

This term has been filled with fun, and lots of celebrations including Halloween, Diwali and Christmas! We have really enjoyed putting up our Christmas decorations, have explored some great Christmas stories including 'Stickman' and 'The Dinosaur that Pooped Christmas', and have made some lovely Christmas cards for our family and friends. Alongside all of this, we have been learning about Italy through reading the story 'Ciao Sandro'. We first found Italy on the map before exploring what life is like there, including what they eat, the language they speak and how they travel around their cities. Well done for your hard work Wiltshire Class, and Merry Christmas to you all!



Idowu Class

This term in Idowu class has been a mix of Diwali and Christmas! We have also spent a lot of time on some great social games! Our new den building has been a lot of fun, we have created a whole area for outdoor exploration!

Year 6

Applegate Class

We have had a lovely term in Applegate class! We have learnt a lot about History and we also really enjoyed playing in the snow. We are now celebrating Christmas by learning about the Nativity and decorating our classroom. Applegate staff team wish you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!



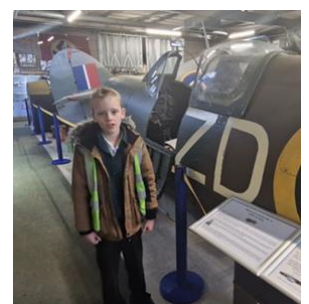
Park Class

We have looked at celebrations through the term which included a birthday party for our resident cuddly toy, Fred the Bear. The children have also looked at changes in Sittingbourne and England over time; comparing the differences. Hope you all have a great Christmas and we'll see you in the new year.



Phelps Class

During Term 2 Phelps Class have been really busy focusing on our topic driver of the Battle of Britain. We made some clay poppies for Remembrance Day to start with. We then moved on to diary writing in English and our students wrote diary entries as if they were children in London during the Blitz and they had to be evacuated. Our Design and Technology project was about the change in Technology between the 20th and 21st Century so we also decided to link this to our main topic driver and looked at the evolution of aviation in Kent over the year. We visited The Spitfire and Hurricane Museum so we could see some 20th Century planes and then looked at how Manston Airport is going to be developed as the world's first carbon neutral airport. Whilst on the trip we filmed the footage for our class film project which we hope you will all enjoy when we do our school screening. It has been a busy year and from all the staff in Phelps Class we would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!



A BIG THANK YOU!

We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Dan at Erriot Wood Christmas Trees for the donation of our first Aspire Christmas tree this year! We hope you agree that it has been a beautiful addition to our Reception area, and has brought lots of joy to the children, parents and visitors to the school.

