

Arundel Court Primary Academy

Spring 1 Newsletter

After all the excitement of the Christmas break and farewell to Ms Stocks, the children have settled back into school life brilliantly. They continue to impress us with their excellent attitudes towards learning and keeping our school values at the heart of all they do. This half term has been full of exciting trips, learning new skills such as swimming and having opportunities to work with people from around our great city. The Arundel Court community continues to grow and inspire the children in so many different ways.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a personal note of thanks for all your support over the last half term, which on reflection has been extremely busy. Shutting the school due to a broken boiler in January was not an easy decision or an ideal one to make on the 1st day back. However, with your support it all worked out. We also navigated the first of four strike days and with your understanding, we were able to support all our staff with the difficult decisions they had to make.

Now for the well-deserved half term break! Please take this time to enjoy being with family and friends. We look forward to returning to school on Monday 20th February and hearing all the news the children will have.

Dance Live

Some children in Year 6 are hard at work preparing for their Dance Live competition that will take place on Wednesday 8th March at Portsmouth Guildhall. This is the first time that Arundel Court have entered this competition and we are extremely excited! Rehearsals are going well and take place weekly during school. We have been using the Landport Community Centre for rehearsals and continue in the school hall at an after-school club. The design team have begun to get creative and think about costumes. They have come up with lots of ideas for fundraising money for costumes, make up and set design. We hope that this will be a yearly competition that Year 6 children take part in so, if you're a dancer or performer lower down in the school then look out for this exciting opportunity next year!!!

Tickets can be bought using the link here [Dance Live Tickets](#)



Eco Club

Eco club members have been taking part in the RSPBs Big bird watch '23. We made natural bird feeders and got our clip boards and binoculars ready to see what birds we might see. We saw Magpies, lots of Pigeon's, Seagulls and a Robin. We hope to encourage more native bird species into our school environment and are going to set up a bird feeding station.



Nursery Valentine Parent Session

The nursery children have been looking at 'The Love Monster' and have been completing activities with their adults during the Valentine's day parents session. They have all had a lovely time.





Year R Curriculum News

Year R found a mystery box in the playground at the beginning of this half term. They thought the box had fallen from Santa's sleigh, as it was covered in Magical glitter. All of this half term we have been wondering what is in the box and at the end of this week we will find out!





Year R Toy Museum

This term in reception our topic has been toys. We have been designing and making toys ready for our very own toy museum. The children have very much enjoyed creating their masterpieces and they cannot wait to bring their toys home to play with!







Year 1 Food Tasting

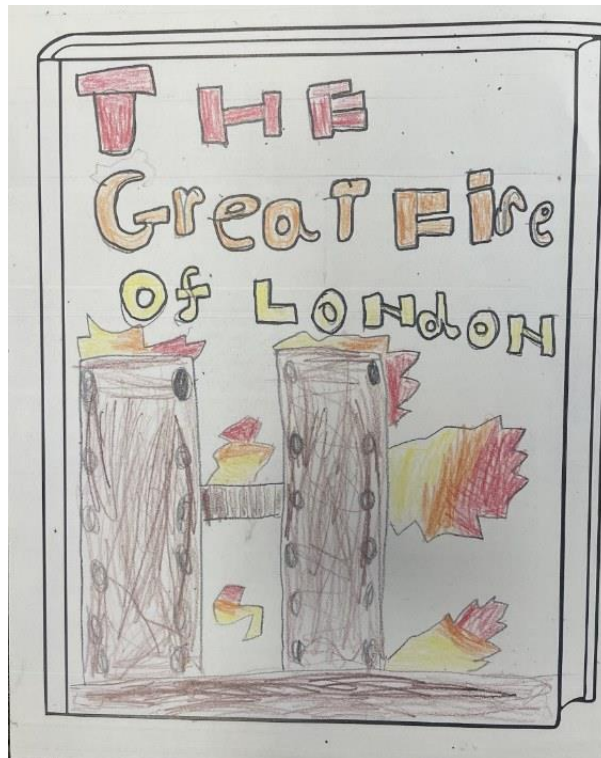
We have been learning about the countries and capital cities of Great Britain to help Paddington Bear as he tours Great Britain. We have tried food, found out about the national flowers and flag.





Year 2 Great Fire of London

Year 2 have really enjoyed learning all about The Great Fire of London this half term. We started our topic with a visit from OpenBox Theatre Company which the children really enjoyed. We have written diary entries in role as people who might have been alive during the fire and we have created our very own fact books.





Year 3 Chichester Harbour Trip

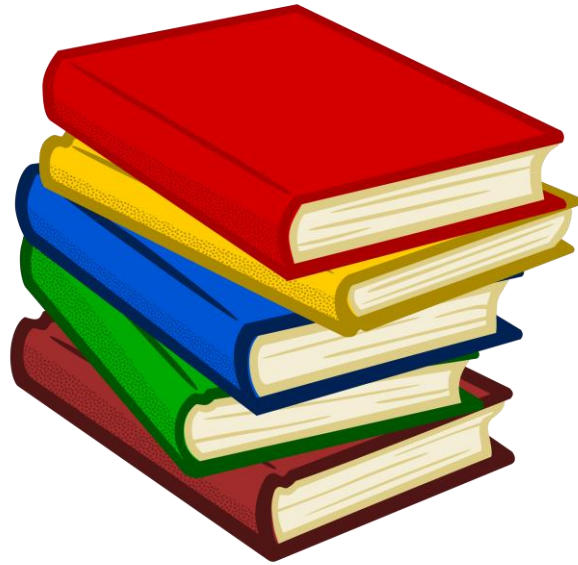
Year 3 were lucky enough to visit Chichester Harbour last month. We walked the length of Chichester Harbour exploring locations using a map, then we helped design a map for their educational area. After lunch, we did some sketching of local landmarks, focusing especially on human and physical features of Chichester. Finally, we learned about the Water Cycle and created our very own model.





Year 4 Parent reading session

On Monday 16th January , Year 4 opened up their classroom doors to family members for a Reading Session. There was such a huge turn out that the classrooms were brimming with children and adults! It was such a lovely opportunity for family to come into school and spend sometime in the classroom environment sharing a book and reading with their child. We discussed how important reading is and how many 'different ways' there are to read. The Year 4 team would like to thank the family members who attended. If you could not attend this time, do not worry as we will host another family session soon as we really do value your support.



Year 4 Science Centre trip

The children in year 4 enjoyed a visit to the Science Centre in Winchester. They learned more about sound during their visit, taking part in a sound workshop and trying out all the activities around the centre. They also visited the planetarium and found out all about the planets in our solar system. The day was out of this world!



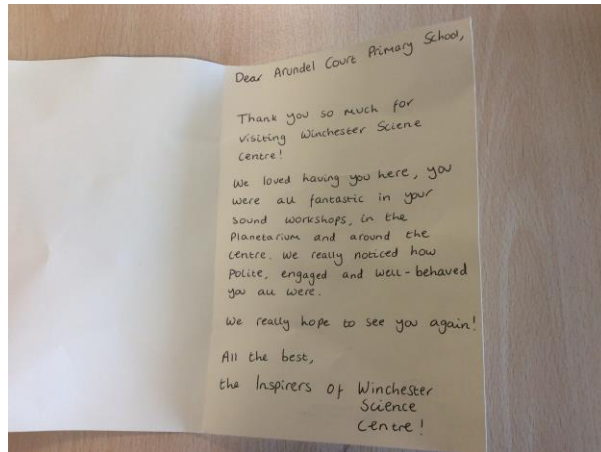






Year 4 Big Well Done

A surprise package arrived for Year 4 this week, the children were so well behaved and polite on their trip to the Science Centre that they sent us a gift and a thank you card in the post. Well done Year 4!!!



Year 5 Curriculum News

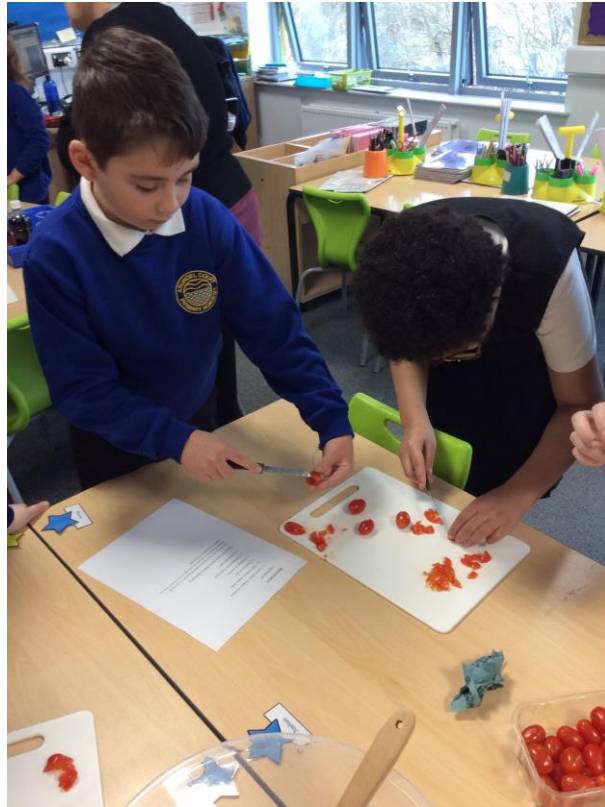
Year 5 have focussed particularly hard on three areas this term. They are South America, the Earth, Sun and Moon and the Portsmouth Book awards.

We are taking part in the Portsmouth book awards and we have already read two of the books - just two more to go! We have produced lots of writing about them, especially in English where we have been creating one-sided arguments as to whether or not mermaids exist.

We started off our South America topic by making salsa. We made three traditional salsas; one that was Incan, one Mayan and one Aztec. The Incan salsa had avocado instead of tomato, the Mayan was full of chillies and the Aztec is more like a traditional supermarket salse - they were all delicious.

Our science has focussed on the planets and our solar system. We have looked at all of the planets and studied the rotation and orbit of the Earth and Moon around the Sun. We looked at phases of the Moon and used Jaffa Cakes to show how and why the moon changes shape. We also made an in-depth study into how the height of the Sun in the sky affects the length of our shadow.





Year 6 Volcanoes

Year 6 have been learning about volcanoes this half term. We have made volcano pictures using paint techniques, taking inspiration from the artist Nick Rowland.





Year 6 Trip to Fratton Park

Year 6 have been visiting Fratton Park to have a look at what goes on behind the scenes! We have been lucky enough to go up into the stands, see where the press sit, and sit in the dug outs. We also spent some time in the dressing rooms and learnt lots of facts about Portsmouth Football Club that we didn't already know. Once the last group of children have visited, we will use all of the information to put together a piece of writing.





House Point Winners

Whale Islanders were last terms house point winners enjoying an afternoon at the Landport Adventure with an ice cream. Masses of fun was had by all and we were lucky enough to have a lovey dry day.

At this point in the Spring term Baffin Ponders are in the lead!







Mrs Johnson

Mrs Johnson (used to be Miss Reilly) will be running her first half marathon on 2nd April on behalf of a charity very close to her heart called Head Up. This charity supports and helps those who have served and are still serving in the UK Armed Forces, and also give them the tools to get through tough times. If you wish to read her journey and donate please click on this link. [Mrs Johnsons Just Giving page](#) she will be grateful for any support she receives.



New Field and Playground Markings

You may or may not have noticed that this week we have had some fantastic new playground markings put out all over the playground in and around the track and in the lower playground by the nursery. The children have spent this week starting to play on them which has been lovely to see. We also had a new gym installed over by the muga which the children have been able to use since coming back from Christmas. The field is also coming along nicely and we are hoping that we will soon be able to cut the grass and start playing on it once the better weather comes and it dries out. Watch this space, we may get to have a sports day this year on grass!







Miss school, miss out

Regular attendance at school is a key factor in opening up more opportunities in adult life. Good attendance helps children to make good progress in school and fulfil their potential in life.

Going to school regularly and being part of the school community gives children and young people a sense of belonging and means that they benefit not only from lessons and learning, but also can see friends and teachers, ask for help, join clubs, go on school trips, have a clear routine and can get mental health support.

Did you know that:

- *A child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life*
 - *Each day of school missed by a child will reduce their attendance by 0.5%, and at secondary school will mean they miss five lessons.*
 - *Ten whole days of school has been missed if a pupil has 95% attendance – that's 50 lessons.*
 - *Twenty whole days of school has been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%.*
 - *If a pupil is persistently absent (90% attendance) they have missed 4 weeks of schooling.*
 - *Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school over the year.*
 - *Catching up on missed lessons impacts on the pupil, the teacher and other pupils in that class.*
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St Mary's Parish Panto

St Mary's Parish Presents 'Little Red Riding Hood'

at St Faith's Landport, Crasswell Street, PO1 1HT

Saturday 18th February at 2.30pm & 7pm

Come and enjoy a traditional panto and see members of the Parish enjoying themselves - including "spot the clergy" in disguise on stage.

Family Ticket: £10 (2 adults & 2 children) Adults: £4 & under 16's: £2 Tickets available at both St Mary's and St Faith's churches or phone 023 92822990 or email officeassistant@portseaparish.co.uk to book.

Dates for your Diary

Teacher Strike Days - 2nd, 15th & 16th March.

World Book Day - Friday 3rd March - Come dressed as your favourite book character

Dance Live at the Guildhall - Wednesday 8th March

Year 1 Space Dome visit - Friday 10th March

Comic Relief Red Nose Day - Friday 17th March - Full School uniform still, red accessory only

Parents Evening - Tuesday 21st March & Thursday 23rd March

Inset Day - Friday 31st March

Class Photo - Thursday 27th April/Friday 28th April

Year 6 Group photo 27th April

