



Alexandra Park Primary School
Care, Aspire, Achieve

Friday 13th January 2023

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2023! Last year was a very successful one for our school and community. The shows and performances have been a real highlight and something we know the children have enjoyed participating in. It has also been nice to hear such positive feedback from parents. We increased the amount and range of after schools clubs we provide, which again are proving to be hugely popular. After achieving so much as an Associate Research School, both for our own school and schools across Cheshire and Manchester, we were awarded the position of full Research School, which is a great opportunity for us to learn more as a school and improve the education and Care we provide for children further still. Our school's SATs results were the highest we have achieved and when looking at the children who achieved the highest level we were in the top 3 schools in Stockport for both English and maths.

I am excited about the coming year and the opportunities we have planned for the children. A great example of this is next Friday's trip to Chester Zoo. Here again, I would like to thank everyone for the support you provide for the school. Being able to take every child to the zoo at no cost can only happen thanks to the donations parents made, and people helping at and coming to events like the disco and school fair. We received enough to cover the cost of the coaches and still had money to further invest in developing the playgrounds for the children.



We may even be lucky enough to see Chester Zoo's new arrival - a baby chimp. The new arrival is a critically endangered Western Chimpanzee. They are still thinking of a name but they know in line with the zoo's tradition it will be named after a rock or pop star.

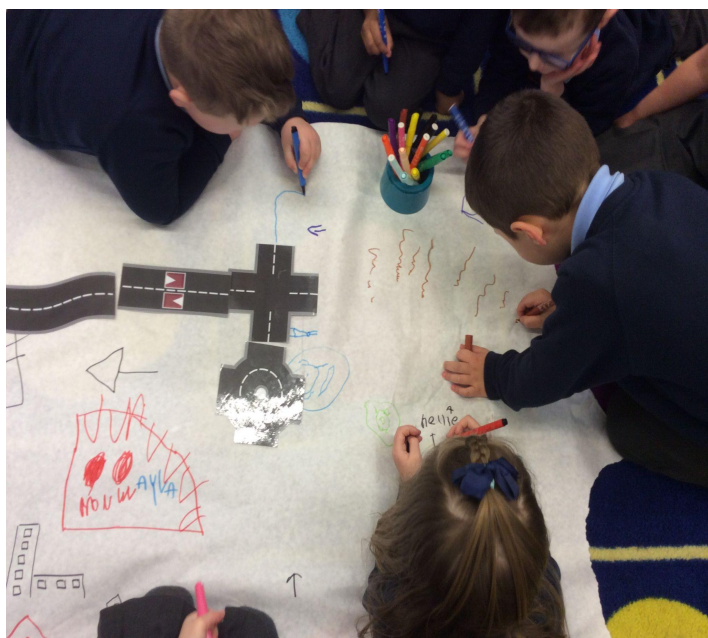
Attendance

Over the Autumn term the Government's research into attendance has highlighted some every concerning national trends. From previous covid levels, there is a 70% increase nationally in unauthorised absence. This is obviously a huge concern. Their second finding is as obvious as it is concerning too. *'Missing school can seriously undermine a child's education and future life chances.'* Our own data shows that when children miss school they find school much more challenging. For some, this is academic, for others it is social and emotional, and unfortunately for too many it is both. The reason I'm writing this is we want to work with

parents to help improve children's attendance and, as the research shows, life chances. We know when we have worked with parents we have been able to improve attendance and how well children are doing as an overall. Either myself, Mrs Millward or Mrs Lockett will be increasing the support we offer around attendance. Even if something is a national trend, it does not mean it needs to be an Alexandra Park trend. I want the best for every child at this school and if there is a barrier to this goal, such as attendance, then I and my team will do everything we can to remove it. For this one we need all of your help. Thank you

Reception

Reception have had a great first week back! We have had lots of fun starting our new topic on journeys and transport. The children have made their own road maps which they enjoyed following even making a stop at the car wash! We read the story 'The Naughty Bus' this week and the children enjoyed creating their own stories.



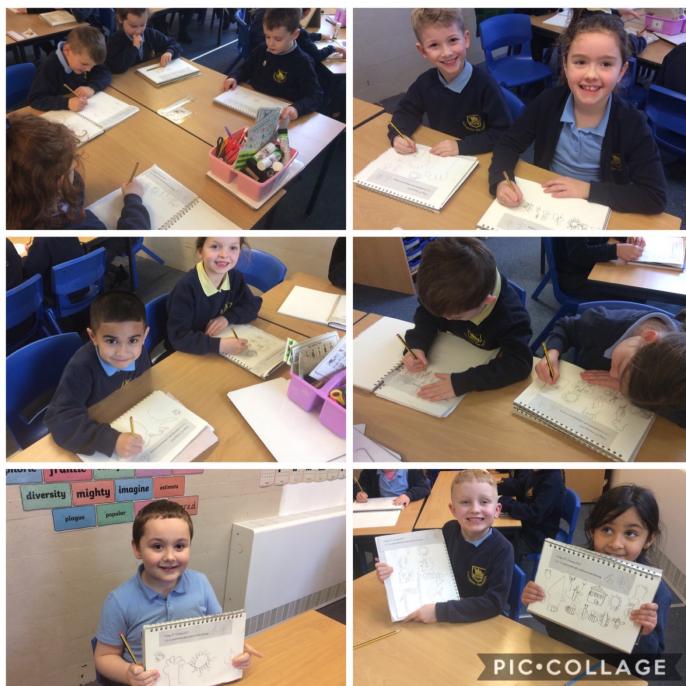
Year 1

This week, Year 1 have enjoyed a fantastic art lesson learning all about Andy Warhol, Pop Art and the primary and secondary colours. We used a variety of his artwork to identify different colours and we recognised his use of repeating patterns too. We then began to experiment with paint and we worked collaboratively to mix primary colours to create our own colour wheels!



Year 2

This week we have been investigating continuous line drawings in our art lessons. We absolutely loved experimenting with different shapes and patterns, and we were really proud of what we created. It wasn't always easy to keep our pencil on the paper, but with fantastic determination and creativity, we managed to produce some beautiful drawings!



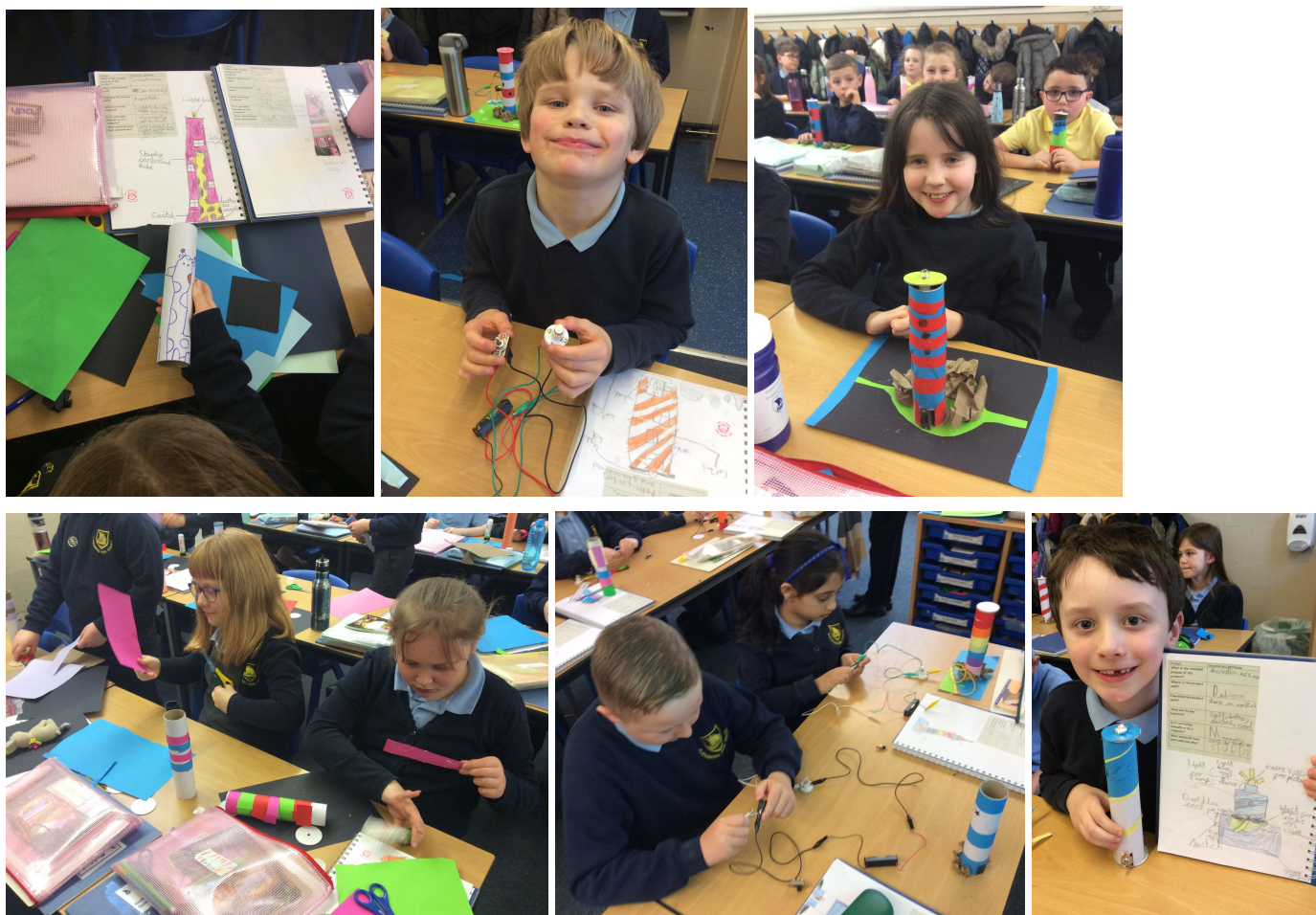
Year 3



Year 3 started their new writing unit with a bit of time travel, back to the stone age. They had a go at building structures out of sticks, doing some cave paintings, designing a new tool and stitching together some 'animal skin'. They were full of enthusiasm and really enjoyed the morning.

Year 4

Year 4 spent three days this week researching, designing, making and evaluating model lighthouses. They showed amazing focus and attention to detail. The finished products are to be used as decorations in their homes. We are sure that you would agree, they all look amazing!



Important Dates

- Stay and Read for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and parents will continue on Thursday mornings 8.40 to 9.10am
- Trip to Chester Zoo **Friday 20th January**
- Young Voices January 30th
- School breaks up for half term on Friday 17th February
- School reopens on Tuesday 28th February