



Friday 22nd July 2022

This week's shows

This year we added musical theatre and street dance to our curriculum and after school clubs. If we are judging success by smiling faces, then this has to be one of the best decisions we have made. The quality of the children's performance and the confidence they are developing is great to see.





Year 6 Market Day

Once again, we were blown away by the support you all gave our school with this project. Thank you for allowing your children to spend some money. Thank you to the parents of the Year 6 children who I know really helped in getting many things ready for the actual day - or even continuing to help on the day by buying more ice. Thank you also to the Year 6 children who put in a lot of effort with this. Due to all these things, Market Day in Year 6 was a great success. The Year 6s had a great time selling their products and those who visited certainly enjoyed the range of products on offer. The money made will be used to provide the Year 6 children with a final treat before they leave us; some will go to a local charity; and the rest will be used towards some resources for the school. Thank you once again to all involved.



Care in the Community

I think most people know how much I enjoy Friday's celebration assembly. It's always a joy to hear about the great things the children have been doing. This is even more special at the end of each half term when we celebrate our Care in the Community Champions. Today there was a great range of achievement, from helping snails from being crushed, to donating clothes to children in Russia. There was a great feeling of children taking action to help the environment and caring about the education of others. The other quality which stood out was the children's commitment to helping those less fortunate than themselves through a huge range of sponsorship activities and fundraising. We also had another staff winner, Mr Stanley, who gives up huge amounts of his weekend to run and coach basketball teams. He was also a legend at PGL, where he helped lots of children overcome their fears (and actually his own fears too as he scaled the climbing wall!)

Viking Awards

Each year our children work towards our Care, Aspire Achieve Awards and receive wristbands when they have excelled in these areas. The children who have earned all of their wristbands and completed their certificate received a Viking Award today, along with a certificate and a gift voucher in assembly. This is a fantastic achievement and these children should be extremely proud of this amazing achievement.

There was a special party today for both the Care in the Community Champions, Stars of the week and the Viking Award Winners!



Staff Changes

After 19 years at Alexandra Park, Miss Hulmes has accepted the position as Head of Reception at Adswold Primary. This is a great opportunity for her, and a role I am sure she will be very successful in. Miss Hulmes is a fantastic teacher and person and will be greatly missed by our children, staff and I am sure by our parents also. On a personal level, Miss Hulmes was the first teacher I worked alongside when I first came to Alexandra Park. She has the best laugh I have ever heard and creates a lot of smiles everywhere she goes.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to, and welcome, two new teachers joining our school next year: Mrs Hotten and Mr Comer. We are very fortunate that when we recruit, the reputation of our school means we can attract teachers of the highest calibre. From the interview process and my experience of working with Mrs Hotten and Mr Comer since, I am very excited about how much they can bring to our school with regards to further increasing the levels of Care and education we provide. They are both fantastic teachers and we are delighted to welcome them to the Alex Park team.

Next year we will also have an Assistant Head Teacher. This will create more opportunities at a strategic level to further improve our school. The qualities we want for our children: Care, Aspire and Achieve are exactly the same qualities we look for in our staff. Our new Assistant headteacher exemplifies these qualities as well as anyone I have ever met. She started at our school as a teaching assistant 15 years ago. Since then she has completed her degree at night school, then completed her teacher training qualification. She has then gone on to complete a Masters degree in Education and a Masters degree in Leadership. She has progressed from teaching assistant to teacher; then from Research Lead to Assistant Head. Congratulations Mrs Wood! You should be very proud of what you have already achieved and we are very grateful for the impact you have already had on our school, and excited about how much further impact you can have in your new role.

Classes for next year

Today your child has spent the morning with their new teacher. I hope they have all come home happy and are looking forward to next year. It was great to drop in classes and see the children doing fun activities and getting to know their new teacher and classroom. Please see below for full class lists

Teacher	Class name
Miss Cresswell	R Peake
Miss Otley	R Donaldson
Miss Walker	1 Nightingale
Miss Tighe	1 Rashford
Mrs Hunter	2 Simmonds
Miss Bull	2 Thunberg
Miss Simpson	3 Pankhurst
Miss Freeman	3 Attenborough
Mrs Curtis	4 Kahlo
Mr Jowett	4 Malala
Mrs Hotten	5 Obama
Mr Williams	5 Wonder
Mr Corner	6 Turing
Mr Read	6 Mandela

Changes to the School Day

As a school we are constantly reviewing how we can improve. Our main focus over the last few years has been on developing the children's learning behaviours. We have seen a huge positive impact as a result of this - notably in the children taking more ownership of their own learning in class. Next year we want to build on the children's increased understanding of the impact of positive learning behaviours by introducing daily 'Class Forums' These forums will be an opportunity for the children to voice their opinions and for them to know their opinions are valid. They will then hopefully see that by expressing them they have the power to make a difference for their own and others futures. During the sessions, they will discuss their learning behaviours and they will have opportunities to feedback on what and how they want to learn. During our trials, one class expressed that they would like more ownership of the content of their creative writing. As a result of this, their teacher changed the following week's lessons to provide them with more ownership and choice. This not only led to fantastic writing, but also showed the children that we respect their views and by expressing them, they can bring about positive change. The class forums will also be an opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements and support their social and emotional development.

We know the Class Forums will be something which will have a huge impact on the children as learners, but more than this we think it will develop them as people. We also understand that there is a risk that introducing a new initiative could mean that other areas of learning suffer because they have less time. To overcome this problem, from September, we are going to extend our school day until 3.25. This extension of the school day also aligns with the Government's Whitepaper for future schools improvement. School will still open at 8.40 and we would encourage all children to arrive at this time. Lessons start at 8.55. The 15 minutes before the first lesson will continue to be 'Ready to Learn Time'. During this time, there are always activities for the children to do and more importantly it is an opportunity for us to check in with all the children and make sure they are happy and ready for their day.

We are excited about these changes and we know the children will love having the opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions about their learning.

Important dates:

Last day in school Wednesday 27th July
Return to school Thursday 1st September