



Alfred Lord Tennyson School

October 2023

Headteacher : Mrs O'Connor

ALTS Gazette



Welcome to our Autumn 1 edition of the Alfo Gazette

www.alts.northants.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will see from our newsletter, we have had a busy, fun packed term in our new Primary School. This term we also welcomed a number of new children to our school. I am so proud of how well the children and staff have adjusted to becoming a Primary and would like to thank parents and carers for supporting our changes. As a school, we are looking forward to continuing to go from strength to strength .

Best wishes

Mrs O'Connor



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Our first joint celebration assembly!

Pupils, staff, governors and guests joined us to celebrate the first all-school assembly of our newly formed Alfred Lord Tennyson School (ALTS). Following elections in both KS1 and KS2, representatives of the new school council were announced and handed their badges of office at a special ceremony. Our new school ties were also given out to pupils in KS2, after which a cake was cut to mark the special day.

Cllr Scott Edwards (Con), NNC's executive member for children, families, education and skills, said: "It's great that after two years of hard work it's finally come together.





ALTS School Council

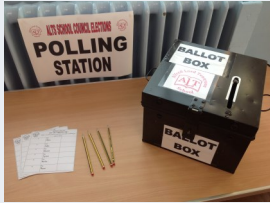


**Our KS2 children were presented with their new
ALTS ties**



School Council

We are very proud to introduce our new School Council members, two from each class, who were elected by their classmates. They will start on an exciting new project next term.



Alhberg

Y1

Sienna

Matthew



Rosen

Y2

Leo

Mila



Blyton

Y3

Lauren

Dimitri



Blackman

Y5

Sophia

Marley



Blyton

Y4

Ruby

Travis



Shakespeare

Y6

Olivia

Nicolai





This week, we held our Harvest Festival. Thank you all for your generosity in donations which were gratefully received by Serve and our local foodbank. We collected an amazing amount of produce which will benefit many people in our local community.

During the service, the children learned about how the harvest is collected in by the farmers with their huge machines and also by hand. We also thought about people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

We sang harvest songs which the children had all practised with Mrs Taylor and our fabulous Year 2 children entertained us all with poetry and songs of their own. We were all impressed with their loud, clear voices.





We would like to invite any interested parents, carers, grand-parents, or friends of the school, who might be interested in helping launch the new Friends of Alfred Lord Tennyson School (FOALTS) to a short meeting on the afternoon of **Wednesday 1st November at 3.45 pm.** The meeting will be held in Mrs. Smith`s Y6 classroom at Alfred Street, which will be accessible through the school playground.

We would like to find out which events and activities FOALTS might provide for the school community, in order to raise funds. All money raised is spent for the benefit of all the children at the school. We would also like to provide activities of general interest to the parents and children, for example, a tabletop sale, disco, film night, sponsored events and raffles etc.

If you are interested in joining us for the meeting to share your ideas, can you please contact the school office, as we will be providing refreshments and need to know the number to cater for.

If you have some interesting ideas but cannot make the meeting, or you would be happy to help at any future events please contact the school office and leave your contact details.

Many thanks in anticipation of seeing you there.





As you will already be aware, as a school, we subscribe to TT Rock Stars. The website allows the KS2 children to practice their times tables through a competitive element. When they log on, they can select different areas known as arenas to complete a range of times table tests. As the teacher, we can set the times tables which we want the children to access. KS2 children should be using the TT Rockstars' log in on a regular basis as part of their school homework. If your child does not have access to a device to use, then please speak to your child's teacher as we do have devices in school which you can loan. In our hall, we have a display to record the top scores in each class, weekly certificates are awarded and children go on the Hall of Fame.



What are the benefits of Times Table Rock Stars?

- ◆ Incorrect answers are always immediately corrected in front of the pupil so that they start to associate the correct answer to every question
- ◆ The clever code behind the scenes works out which times tables facts each pupil is consistently taking longer to answer and then it gradually starts to present these facts more frequently until pupils have mastered them.
- ◆ It will also ask related division questions 20% of the time in order to reinforce division facts.



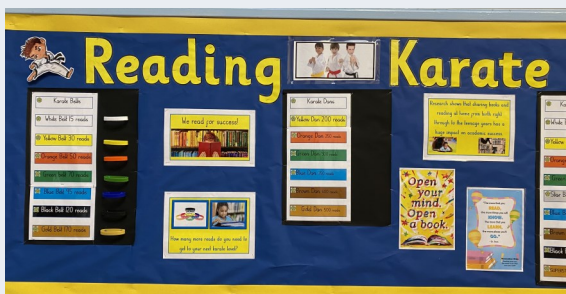
For our younger children, we also have Numbots which helps with the understanding, recall and fluency of mental addition and subtraction, so that children can confidently move from counting to calculating.

The Reading Karate Colours

Wrist band colour	No. of reads to qualify
White	15 reads
Yellow	30 reads
Orange	50 reads
Green	70 reads
Blue	95 reads
Black	120 reads
Gold	170 reads



Reading is a lifelong skill which we try to develop as your child continues their journey through our school. We are keen at ALTS to develop a love of books and escapism as early as possible, which is why we use 'Reading Karate' in KS2.



Reading Karate is a reward-based system for reading at home, where children move up through coloured 'belts' (wristbands) depending on how many 'reads' they have completed. We would greatly appreciate your support with this initiative, not only by listening to your child read, but by perhaps sharing some of your favourite books from your childhood with them too.

Sport at ALTS



Football Tournament



Cross Country Competition
Winners of the Teamwork Award



Sports Crew Training Conference



PE and Clubs

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.



Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Sources: <https://www.windowcentral.com/youngster-spends-over-8000-fifa-sba-highlighting-predatory-game-design-qa/> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>

Donaldson Class

Activate Windows
Settings to activate Windows

Nursery and Reception have settled well into school life. They have been learning about their feelings and emotions through the story "The Colour Monster".



They have also been learning about Super Heroes including Super Worm and Super Tato as well as real life Super Heroes.



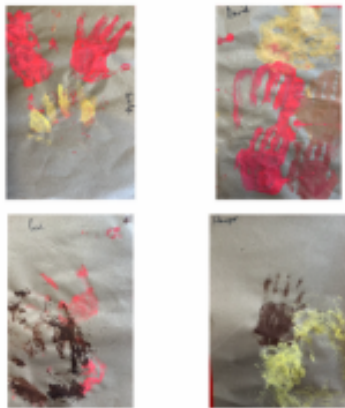
The children have enjoyed learning about the roles of Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Dentists, what they look like and how they help us.



Ahlberg Class



Ahlberg Class adores stories! Picture books play a pivotal role in this magical experience. Not only do they captivate young minds with vibrant illustrations, but they also lay the foundation for literacy skills. They introduce us to rich language, encourage empathy, and spark imagination.



Ahlberg Class has been on a time-travelling adventure learning about Prehistoric art! We've explored cave paintings and petroglyphs and recreated ancient masterpieces. It's been a hands-on way to connect with history and express our inner artists!



In Ahlberg class, we've been dedicating time to mastering the art of logging into laptops. This essential skill not only fosters independence but also lays the foundation for digital literacy. In an increasingly tech-savvy world, being able to securely and efficiently access digital resources is a crucial competency for future success.



We've been exploring the importance of physical fitness and its impact on overall well-being. Regular exercise can boost energy levels, improve mental health, and contribute to a healthy cardiovascular system. Understanding these effects empowers us to make lifelong healthy choices.

Rosen Class



In Geography we have been learning about different types of maps. It was so interesting looking at Google Earth and finding my country, India. I really enjoyed finding places on maps of the world.

By Arya



In PE this term we have been learning ball skills. I learnt how to stop a ball with my foot and pass it to my friend. I really enjoy having fun in PE and trying new things.

By Lily



In History and Art, we have been learning about Mesopotamia. I enjoyed finding out about how they used the rivers to irrigate the land and making a cylinder seal and cuneiform plaque out of clay. We also made busts of heads.

By Leo



In Science we have been learning about different animals caring for their young, feeding them and giving them milk. I really enjoyed learning about how chicks grow once they come out of the egg.

By Coral





Blyton - Y3 Autumn 1



What a busy, action packed term we have had. The children have worked immensely hard, not only with their learning but also on developing their ability to show and use our school values. It is heart warming to hear children using phrases such as, 'I am going to have to use my resilience here because this is a challenging task' and 'Thank you for showing empathy to me earlier'. We are all so proud of each and every member of Team Blyton. Have a wonderful Half Term.

In English, we have been working on developing our knowledge of word classes and how to use these in our sentences to make them interesting. Miss Shelley thinks we are brilliant at suggesting adjectives to describe nouns and using synonyms to replace boring words!

We have been writing portal stories and we are always impressing Miss Shelley with our amazing ideas and vocabulary.



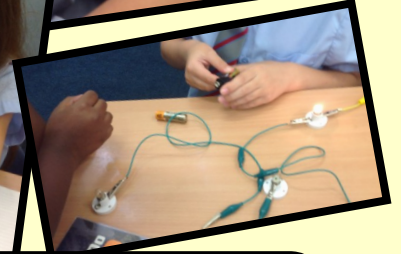
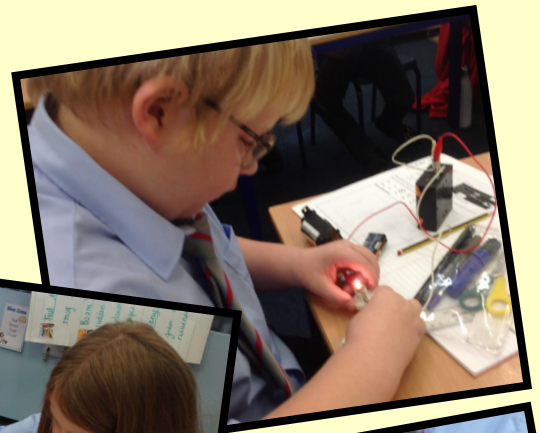
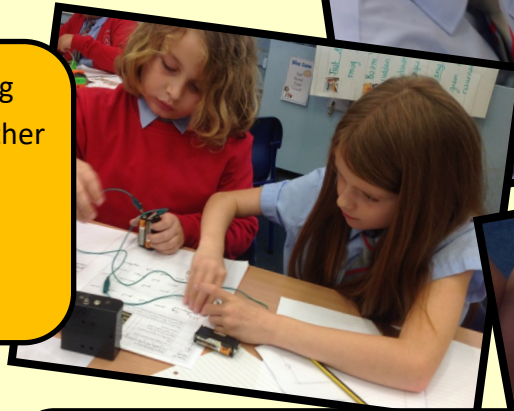
In our History and Geography lessons, we are learning about Ancient Greece. In History, we have learnt about the fascinating Battle of Troy and how the clever Spartans hid inside the horse to get into the fort. We all decided that we would rather be Athenian children and definitely not Spartans as their life was really hard! In Geography, we researched the climate of Greece and found out how hard daily life would have been for people living there.

In Maths, we are all getting used to using resources to show our understanding of number. We are becoming independent in using these and this is helping us to solve our questions with confidence. Remember to encourage us to use TT Rockstars to learn our times tables!



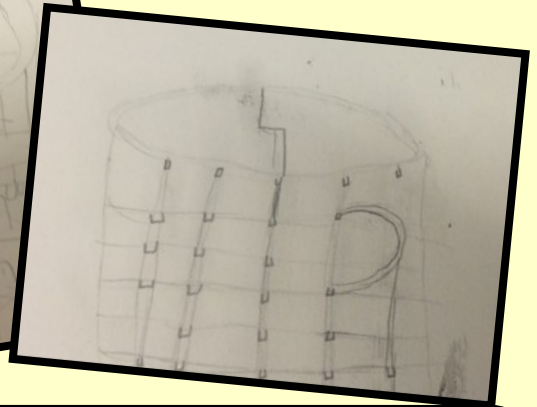
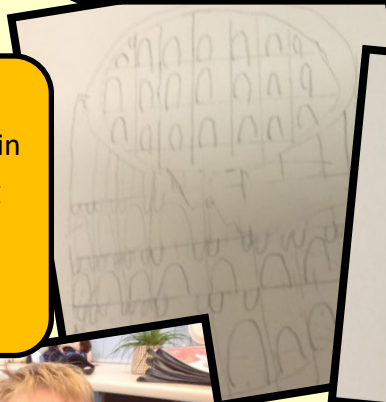
Dahl Class - Y4

In Science, children have been constructing sensational circuits and investigating whether the placement of switches can affect the brightness of a bulb. It's been absolutely electrifying!



In PE this term, children have become elite basketballers practising dribbling, chest passing and shooting as well as building their skills within tennis. We're convinced they would outsell Wimbledon with all of this talent!

In art, we have been learning about monuments and the techniques used in Roman Buildings. We used sketching pencils to draw the colosseum.



In computing children have learnt to be technical programmers and develop their understanding of coding. Here they are in action!



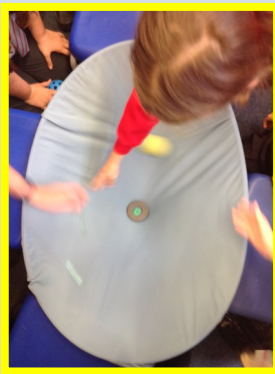
In Music, children have learnt about tempo, melody and timbre and used their learning to create their very own Percussion Jam.

Blackman Class



In Science, we have learnt about gravity. We made our own gravity well and dropped different sized balls into it and observed what happened. We learnt that the smaller balls orbited for longer and travelled at a faster rate.

By Keelan



In Art, we have been learning about different styles. We have also learnt how to use oil pastels to create texture.

By Martha

In Geography, we have been learning about longitude and latitude. These are lines which go across the globe to help us locate places. Lines of longitude go down (vertically) and lines of latitude go across (horizontally).

By Freya



In PE, we have been learning cricket skills. We have learnt how to bowl the ball using an overarm throw and what a no ball is. A no ball is where the ball is too wide, too high or it bounces more than twice.

By Bronwen



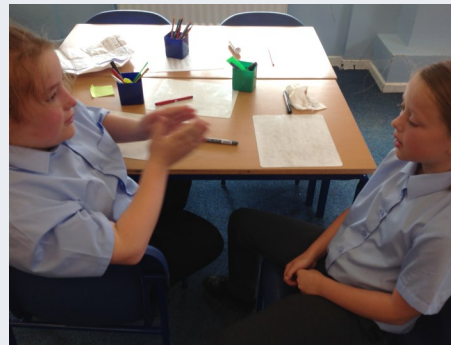
Shakespeare Class



English - We used drama, including freeze frames and hot seating, to consider the thoughts and feelings of the characters in our class text.

We have been using a range of features to create suspense in our writing.

By Charlotte and Charlotte-Ann



PE We have been perfecting our dribbling and defending skills in football during this term's PE lessons as well as working on our fitness. By Evie

Science

We have been learning about 'light' and have carried out investigations to see if the power of a light source makes a difference to how far the light can travel. We have also investigated how and why shadows change in size. Our most recent learning has been about refraction and why pencils look as though they have bent when put in a clear glass full of water! By Tyreece and Oscar



In **History**, we have been learning about how hard life was for children in the Industrial Revolution. We enjoyed having our own Dragon's Den, where we presented our 'new inventions' to the Dragons. They asked us challenging questions—we had to use our new historical knowledge to answer them convincingly! By Caitlyn

Team Points

 TIGERS	 PANTHERS	 LEOPARDS	 LIONS
1st	3rd	4th	2nd

Weekly Awards

Fab Friday winners receive their certificates and have the opportunity to showcase their work. The class with the highest attendance for that week receive the Attendance Cup. The class that have the highest average number of reads are awarded the 'Reading Cup' and Team Points are also announced weekly.

Our **'Fab Friday'** winners for this term were:

Donaldson: Freddie, Scarlett, Harry, Abel, Lucy, Kobi

Alhberg: Kiki, David, Claudiu, Kaja, Bentley

Rosen: Leo, Lily, Coral

Blyton: Rhys, Lauren, Dimitri, Chikaima, Hunter

Dahl: Viky, Oscar, Kevin, Cassandra

Blackman: Freddie, Bronwen, Harrison, Lily, Stephen

Shakespeare: Mason, Olivia, Caitlyn, Megan, Caitlyn

'Attendance Cup' winners :

Y1, Y3, EYFS, Y3, Y5, Y3

'Reading Cup' winners:

Y5 - Blackman are the only winners of our Reading Cup this term. Well done to Blackman Class but come on everyone - let's all do lots more reading next term!



ALTS Awards



Donaldson	Ahlberg	Rosen	Blyton	Dahl	Blackman	Shakespeare
Scarlett W	Blake	Arya	Lauren	Travis	Martha	Olivia

Well done to the children above for demonstrating our values this term.



Important Dates

November

Tuesday 31st—School opens to pupils

Phonics and Early Reading Information Session, 9.00am at Tennyson Road

Wednesday 1st - Friends of Alfred Lord Tennyson School Meeting, 3.45pm at Alfred Street

Thursday 2nd—Remembrance Assembly KS2

Monday 6th— Come and See for EYFS and KS1, 3.15pm at Tennyson Road

Tuesday 7th— Come and See for EYFS and KS1, 8.55am at Tennyson Road

Wednesday 8th—Y6 visiting the Garden of Remembrance

- KS2 Cross Country (selected children)

- Parents Consultations 4-8pm at Alfred Street

Monday 13th—Anti-bullying week and ‘Odd Sock Day’ (information to follow)

Friday 17th—Diwali assembly and Y2 workshop

Wednesday 22nd—KS1 and KS2 trip to Cineworld Rushden Lakes

Monday 27th—School Photos (information to follow)

Thursday 30th—Flu Vaccines

December

Thursday 7th—Christmas Jumper Day (information to follow)

- Christmas Disco (information to follow)

Friday 8th— Whole School Panto Trip

Monday 11th—ALTS Awards (invitation only)

Tuesday 12th—Choir singing for Serve (information to follow)

Thursday 14th—Christmas Productions

Wednesday 20th—Christmas Party and Last day of term

Extra Curriculum After School Clubs - Autumn Term 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.35	New Age Curling KS2 Choir KS2	New Age Curling KS1	Football Y3/4	Gymnastics KS1	Multi-skills KS2

Here are the after school clubs on offer for Autumn Term 2, which will run until the end of the half term. All sports clubs are free and you can sign up via ParentApp. Choir has a charge of £1 per session.