



Alfred Lord Tennyson School

February 2024

Headteacher : Mrs K O'Connor

ALTS Gazette



Welcome to Spring 2 Edition of the Alfo Gazette

www.alts.northants.sch.uk

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Facebook!



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will see, the children have had another fantastic term—Chinese New Year celebrations being one of our highlights and celebrating our achievements. We have also continued to welcome more children to our ALTS family and look forward to welcoming Miss Camp and Miss Arch, who will be joining our KS2 team at Alfred Street. You will also see that we have improved our nursery provision this term and have big plans ahead next term for our EYFS reception sensory garden which we look forward to sharing with you.

Take a look at our website (address above) which has had further updates.

Wishing you all a nice break.

Mrs O'Connor



schooloffice@alts.northants.sch.uk

Poppy Cup Winners!



Rushden Poppy Cup

We were all very proud, when the members of the British Legion came into school to present us with the Rushden Poppy Cup. This was awarded to Alfred Lord Tennyson School in recognition of being the school making the most significant effort to remember those service men and women, from Rushden, who lost their lives in conflict. We also raised twice as much money as the other schools in Rushden for the Poppy Appeal per child ratio. Thank you very much to those parents and carers who sent in donations with their children.

SPORT AT ALTS

A group of children took part in a bocchia tournament at the Pemberton Centre. Bocchia is a target ball sport similar to bowls. Our Sports Ambassadors helped to run the event which really helped them to develop their leadership skills.



Y5 and 6 took part in a mixed futsal tournament this term. Futsal is a football-based game played on a hard court indoors. It is similar to five-a-side football. The games were challenging for us because some of the players were really strong. We played very well and came second - we were awarded Silver medals which made us all proud.

By Riley and Oscar



We came runners up in another Bocchia competition at Rushden Academy - only losing by one point. It was a very tense game and the leaders had to get the tape measure out in our final round. We were awarded silver medals and Mr Cox was very proud of us. **By Tyreece**



Chinese New Year

At ALTS we did lots of learning about how Chinese people around the world celebrate Chinese New Year.

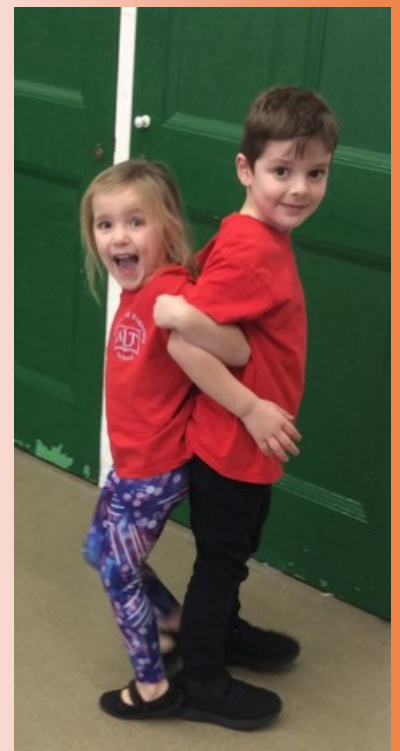
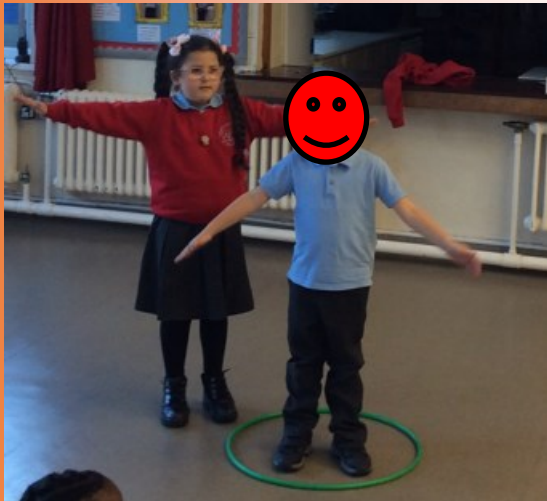
We learned that Chinese New Year is an important festival in the Chinese calendar and that this year is the year of the Dragon. It is very important for our children to learn and understand about the different ways in which other people and other cultures celebrate. Learning such as this raises the children's awareness and acceptance of what, how, and why other people celebrate. It puts our own cultural identity and celebrations into context and increases the children's knowledge about other cultures.



Chinese New Year



KS1 Enjoying PE



Mental Health Week

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week, 'My Voice Matters', was about empowering children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

Feeling empowered can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel their voices are heard and can make a difference, have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

Mrs Appleby and our Wellbeing Ambassadors held a school assembly to share why looking after our wellbeing is so important.

Throughout the week, the children engaged in various activities aimed at fostering self-expression and wellbeing.

We asked the children what stood out to them about their learning this week.

Caitlyn and Tyreece

The words we use to communicate with are important. **Chikaima**

Don't be afraid to speak about your feelings. **Year 3**

Everyone has days when they feel a little down, but talking helps. **Year 6**

Every Voice Matters
Bronwyn

It is ok to have a different opinion than my friends. **Year 3**

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 8th February was International 'Safer Internet Day 2024'. The theme of the day was: "**Together for a better Internet**". It focused on all stakeholders joining together to make the Internet a safer and better place for all, mainly for children and young people. Why not ask your children what they have learned and if there are any important messages that they could share with you and the rest of your family about staying safe online.



As part of **Internet Safety Day** we completed a number of activities about being safe online.

We learned that being respectful online means:

- Including people when they want to be included
- Being kind and supportive
- Thinking about how our words and actions make other people feel
- Understanding that someone might not want the same things as you
- It is important to listen to other people's views
- Not putting pressure on someone and accepting their boundaries
- Remember, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is!

By Caitlyn, Hattie and Blossom

It is not easy to tell if someone is joking with you when they send silly comments or if they are being mean as you can't see their body language

Stephen

Addictive Behaviour - Online Gaming

We learned about online addiction and how it can affect your brain. Online addiction is when you play a game on the internet a few times, and a few minutes later you can't help playing the game again. Before you know it, you play the game all the time and you're addicted to it - it kind of takes over all of your thoughts. If you spend too long playing the game, you can get a headache and actually start to feel really sick. We all need to take care to limit our screen time!

Never tell anyone where you live, your name or where you go to school if you want to stay safe online **Josh**

Mostly, being on line is great but sometimes people make you feel bad about yourself. This is when it's time to ask for help from an adult. I know how to delete numbers from my contacts. **Charlotte**

The games I play online helps me relax after a stressful day. I know what to do if anyone posts anything that makes me feel uncomfortable. **Charlie**

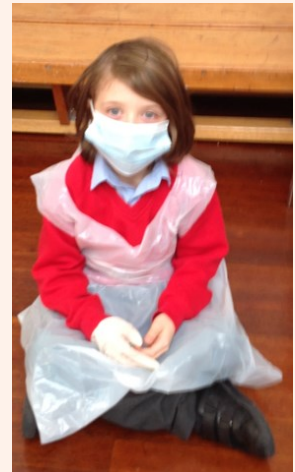
Online games are a good way to stay in touch with my friends who live a long way from me, but I know not to connect with people I don't know. **By Ethan**

Children brushed up on what happens during a visit to the dentist and how to look after their teeth following a visit from University of Northampton Dental Nursing Students.

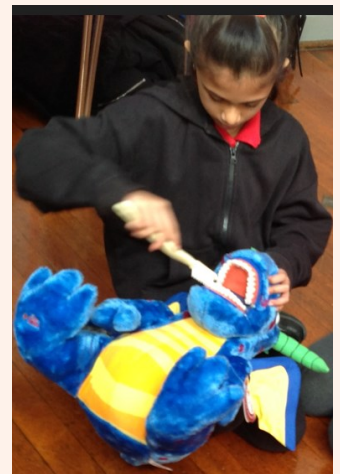
Activities included correct teeth brushing, maintaining good oral health and introducing the 'Change 4 Life' health website's sugar app that allows users to monitor the sugar in everyday food and drink.

The children learned about the sugar content of their favourite treats and nibbles – with eye-opening results for some!

The children also had the opportunity to dress up as dental staff in a session to help explain the different roles of each person in the surgery and why certain items, such as masks and protective goggles, need to be worn. Brigette said: "It was such a fulfilling visit to see and capture the children's enthusiasm and to help them realise a visit to the dentist isn't daunting. We hope they now understand the process more clearly and have helped them to take better care of their teeth."



Some of our children had never been to a dentist before so this was a perfect way to demystify what goes on in the dentist's chair.



Year 6 asked our Y3 children to tell them something they'd learned:

Ben - I learned that you have to clean your teeth twice a day for 2 minutes.

Christina - I learned that children have 20 teeth and adults have 32

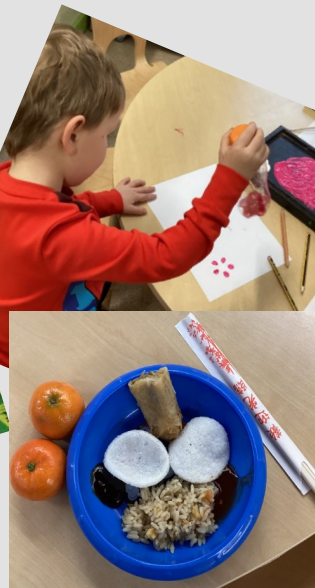


Donaldson Class

This term Nursery has had an exciting revamp of their provision. They now have a lovely new, cosy learning environment which will encourage the children to be more curious in their learning. They have really enjoyed exploring the new animal small world biomes and learning about the different types of dinosaurs. Take a look at their new environment...

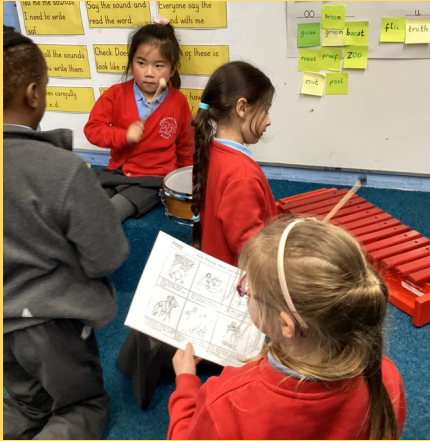


The Reception children have been busy learning about the author Julia Donaldson and have been focussing on the stories 'The Stick Man' and 'The Gruffalo'. They made their own stick people, Gruffalo crumble and they even changed The Stick Man story to a version of their own called The Stick Lady!



Donaldson Class have also been learning about Chinese New Year this term. They have really enjoyed this topic, learning about a different culture and asking sensible questions. They understand how the New Year is celebrated and have joined in by playing in our Chinese restaurant in the role play area, making red paper lanterns, creating their own dragons, learning about the flag of China and how it is different from the St George's Cross. They were very adventurous at trying Chinese foods such as, vegetable spring rolls, prawn crackers, egg fried rice, sweet chilli sauce and hoisin sauce.

Rosen Class



In Music we have been creating our own music to some traditional tales. Here, Janice, Hyllan, Martha and Eva are composing their own music to the story of Little Red Riding Hood.



In PE this term we have been learning fitness skills. Junior and Coral are both in action with the skipping ropes.



In Art we have been looking at the artwork of Kandinsky and Miro and using paints and pastels to create secondary colours from primary colours. The artwork here is by Emily, Arya and Eloise.



In Science we have been learning about the uses of everyday materials and explored their properties.

In History we have been learning about 'The Plantagenets'. We have explored the sinking of the White Ship, looked at the trials by ordeal and jury under Henry II and how Henry II fell out with Thomas Becket.





Spring 1

Blyton



Our PE lessons this term have been dance and yoga. "Yoga really helps our mental health because it helps you relax, focus on breathing and helps you be strong." **By Khaynna and Chikaima.**

"In dance, we have learnt about timing and creating sets of moves in groups of eight. This helps us to learn the routine."

By Lauren and Scarlett



"Science has been really interesting this term. We have been studying rocks and soils. Did you know that igneous rocks come from a volcano?" **By Christina.**

"Sedimentary rocks and igneous rocks sometimes combine together and create a new rock called a metamorphic rock." **By Chikaima**

"I really enjoyed the experiment to test how suitable soil was for planting crops. We had to test how fast water would drain through the soil." **By Lauren**



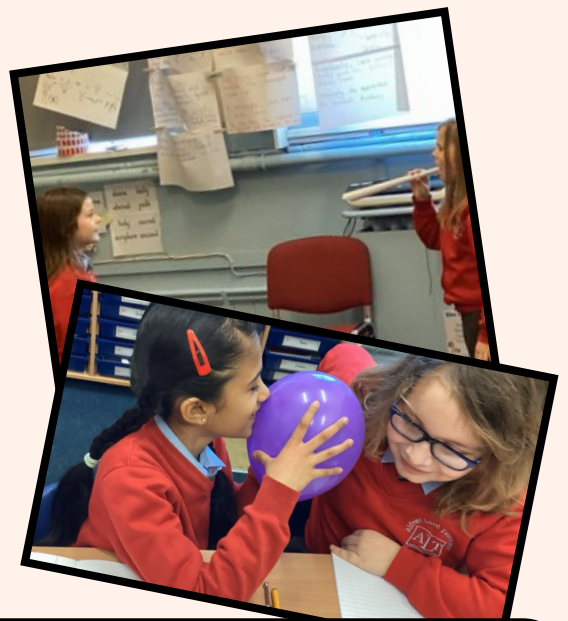
We are super proud of our resident artists whose work is on display in the ALTS gallery. These pieces belong to Evan and Khaynna. Aren't they incredible!

On the right is a fantastic piece of work from Ezra. We looked at 'A Starry Night' and how Van Gogh incorporated light and dark, and the principles of balance to this piece.



Dahl Class

In Science, children have been learning about sound and how we hear sounds as vibrations and how these can be seen and felt through different objects such as talking through a balloon.



In PE this term, children have been working towards fish awards in swimming. They have all demonstrated such resilience, enthusiasm and determination to achieve their best. 'I swam without armbands today! I couldn't believe it' Gracie commented after her swimming lesson. They have also worked hard to develop their fitness levels by practising workouts for speed, agility and strength.



In art this term, children have learnt about light and dark and the techniques used to create this. They created ice-creams with shades and tints as well as replicating some work in the style of Warhol, who developed pop art using a triadic art scheme.



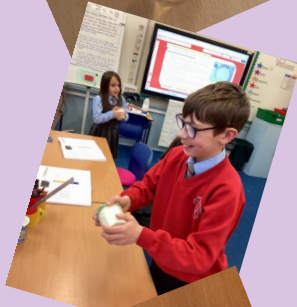
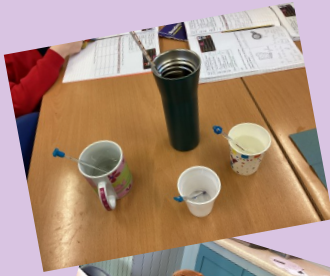
In History, children have learnt about the Stuarts time period and the rule of James I and Charles I.



In Music, children have had the opportunity to develop a Chinese New year dragon dance to celebrate the year of the dragon.



Blackman Class



In Science, we have learnt about separating. When you make a solution, you can separate it using evaporation. We also tested whether changes were reversible or irreversible. We shook a jar of cream to make butter. This change was reversible. When we added bicarb to vinegar, it produced gas which inflated the balloon. This change was irreversible.

By Freya



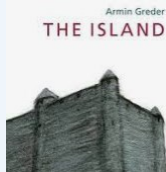
In PE, we have been learning about badminton. First, we learnt how to serve the shuttlecock over the net. Then we learnt how to use backhand which involved being very active. If the shuttlecock was very high, we used an overhead forehand. We also learnt how to use rallying to play in a game.

By Stephen

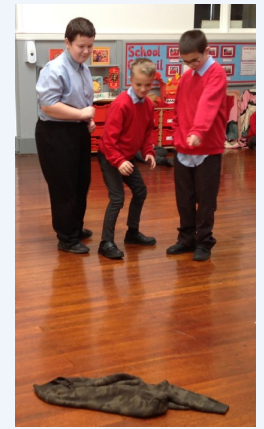


Shakespeare Class

In **English**, Y6 have used 'The Island' by Armin Greder as a stimuli. An unknown man arrives on a remote island. The Islanders know their obligation to care for him but feel threatened and frightened by the man's differences. This fear turns to anger and the islanders send the man back to the sea. The story deals with emotional issues, such as refugees, racism, humanity and inhumanity, acceptance of difference, communities and fear. The children have used their skills of empathy to write character descriptions and letters from the man. They also took part in drama to highlight the differences between the characters.



Drama



Geography - North America

In Geography this term we are learning about North America. We have found out about key human and physical characteristics of the continent as well as exploring the process of erosion to create different landforms.



We learned the factors that effect population in North American countries and the causes and consequences of flooding.

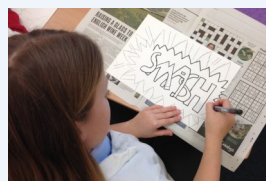
Science - Classification of Living Things

The last 2 weeks in year 6, we have been doing a very exciting science experiment. This experiment was to test how mouldy bread would get if we changed something about it. The two things we could choose were: damp bread, and normal bread OR bread in darkness and bread in light. Some group's bread got very mouldy, for example team C's bread was covered in teal mould after we sprayed water on it. Our groups bread – group 4 – only got 2 spots of mould, only on the damp piece. The normal piece just got a bit hard. We have really enjoyed checking how much the bread changed each day. We did this for about 6 days and most of the groups bread got at least 2 spots of mould on them. Our class really enjoyed this experiment and checking how it changed every day.



By Charlotte and Harley

Art - Pop Art



PE - Gymnastics/ Volleyball



Get Creative ...



Poster Design Competition

£50 Prize

Design a poster with the headline ...

DON'T RUBBISH RUSHDEN!

Rushden Town Council is inviting local children to participate in designing a poster aimed at encouraging people to bin their rubbish. The winning entry will be used in future awareness campaigns

Guidelines


Format	Deadline	Send To
Submit an A4 poster or a high-resolution format (JPEG or PNG)	All entries must be submitted by 15th March 2024	Send designs to: Rushden Town Council, Rushden Hall, Hall Park, Rushden, NN10 9NG info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Please include name, address, email address, phone number and name of school when submitting the entry.

THE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY FRIDAY 22ND MARCH


Bring your poster into school and we will send them off for you.

Online Safety Information!



WhatsApp

Parent / Carer Advice



What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app. It allows you to send text and multimedia messages (video, images and voice recordings) to people in the contact list on your phone. It also allows users to set up group chats where the administrators can invite up to 256 people to share messages and images publicly within the group. Although the age limit for WhatsApp was recently raised to 16 it is popular with primary age children and above. So what are the risks?

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Reasons for concern

- Group administrators can invite people your child does not know into group chats. Some of these people may not have innocent intentions or may be older and post age-inappropriate messages.
- Some WhatsApp groups can contain images and messages which can cause distress to children. These might include violent images or videos, abusive messages and sexual content.
- Chain messages are often shared through WhatsApp. These pressure children to post them on to their contacts, e.g. by claiming that failure to do so can result in the child or a family member dying. Many children find such messages distressing but also feel they must share them with others due to fear of the threat.
- WhatsApp does not allow users to decide whether to join a group. Your child will be automatically added to any groups that their contacts add them to. If your child leaves the group the administrator can add them straight back in.
- Your child may be in WhatsApp groups in which huge numbers of posts are made. The alerts this generates can be an unnecessary distraction and can disrupt sleep.
- WhatsApp's default privacy settings are that anybody can see your child's profile photo and when they were last online.
- WhatsApp 'dare games' have become popular with children. These involve the child making a quiz about themselves to share with others and this can lead to oversharing of personal information which can be publicly available.
- Children can add and then remove other children from groups as a form of exclusion and bullying.

Safety Tips


- As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use WhatsApp and any issues they have encountered.
- With your child, look through the groups they are members of and discuss any areas of concern you have. You may agree that it would be best to leave the group.
- Go to the settings (by pressing the three dots in the top right of the screen) and ensure your child's profile is set to 'contacts only'.
- To leave a group: Open the group in WhatsApp. Press the three dots in the top right of the screen and select 'Group Info'. Scroll down to 'Exit group'.
- If an admin adds your child back into a group they have left, your child can ask them not to do this. If they keep adding them then you can prevent it by blocking the admin. To do this, WhatsApp provide the following guidance:

- Go to the group in WhatsApp, then tap or click the subject of the group.
- Tap or click the phone number of the admin you wish to block.
- If prompted, tap or click Message (phone number) or Send Message.
- A blank chat with the admin will open up. Tap or click the phone number at the top.
- Tap or click Block > Block.



TikTok

Parent / Carer Advice



What is TikTok?

TikTok is a social media app where users share short video clips of 15 seconds duration. It started out as an app named 'Musically' and was used to share videos of dancing and lip-syncing to music. Much of the content on TikTok still reflects these origins, but popular videos now also include pets, makeup, magic tricks, fashion, art, people reacting to situations, etc. According to OSA research, TikTok is now as widely used by 11-14 year olds as Snapchat and Instagram.

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Reasons for concern

- TikTok has a minimum age rating of 13 and anybody under 18 should have parental permission to use the app. However, new users simply enter a date of birth to indicate their age and there are no verification steps. As such, children of any age can create an account by using a false date of birth.
- New users will be shown a range of video clips the app feels may be of interest. Many of these will quickly expose users to offensive language which will be inappropriate for children.
- The clothing worn and the type of dancing in some videos could be deemed sexualised and therefore something that might be inappropriate for younger users to be exposed to.
- The default privacy settings in the app are concerning. Although only friends can send users direct messages, the videos posted by users can be seen by anybody and anybody can like / comment on the videos. New users are also available for anybody to perform a musical duet with. Such default settings can leave children vulnerable to unwanted communication from others.
- Many children in the UK are posting videos to TikTok where they are wearing their school uniform, making it possible for strangers to identify their location.
- The nature of videos children are posting to TikTok (singing, dancing, etc) can leave them vulnerable to receiving negative comments which can have an impact on mental health.
- The company that owns TikTok is facing legal issues and stands accused of illegally collecting data on children (when it was Musically) and the app has been deemed a 'potential security risk by the FBI'.

Safety Tips

- As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use TikTok and any issues they have encountered.
- Discuss whether it would be best to change your child's account to private to avoid interactions with non-friends. If you agree to keep the account public you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users.
- Help your child to spring clean their account from time to time by removing videos you agree to be inappropriate.
- Ensure your child knows not to post videos in their school uniform. Also discuss how recording videos at school might break school rules and what the consequences could be.
- The TikTok settings allow you to set a time limit for how long each day you want your child to be able to use the app. This can be password protected to ensure they stick to the limit.



Supporting young children (6 -10s) online | Int...





Watch Later Share



Watch on  YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caX_wpyGnwQ

Team Points

			
15	6	9	20

Weekly Awards

On a Friday, we hold our weekly achievement assembly. During the assembly, the 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 tidiest class receives the 'Tidy Broom' award and Team Points are also announced. **'Tidy Broom'** award has been won by: Rosen, Shakespeare, Blyton,

Our **'Reading Cup'** has been won by: Blackman, Blyton, Blyton, Shakespeare, Blyton

Our **'Attendance Cup'** winners were : Nursery, Dahl, Blyton, Rosen , Rosen , EYFS

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

Donaldson Class: Ayannah , Freddie, Michael, Scarlet

Alhberg

Blyton Class: Aalia, Bethany, Ezra, Ben, Harley

Dahl Class : Candy, Chloe, Esme, Robin, Zed

Blackman Class : Freya, Harrison, Joseph, Martha, Sophia

Shakespeare Class: Nhi, Blossom, Mason, Hattie, Madiha



ALTS Awards



Donaldson EYFS	Alhberg Y1	Rosen Y2	Blyton Y3	Dahl Y4	Blackman Y5	Shakespeare Y6
Excellence	Empathy	Passion	Excellence	Empathy	Passion	Resilience
Lucy	Junior	MJ	Chikaima	Viky	Avni	Evie

Important Dates

February

Monday 26th—Children return to school

Tuesday 27th—Dodgeball Competition (selected children)

Wednesday 28th—Y3 start swimming lessons until the end of term

Thursday 29th—FOALTS meeting 3.45pm

March

Wednesday 6th pm—Parent Workshop on Emotion Coaching with Mrs Bunker and Mrs Hall (information to follow)

Thursday 7th—World Book Day (children will be able to dress up, information to follow)

Tuesday 12th—Y5/6 Basketball Competition (selected children)

Thursday 14th—Rushden and Higham School Councils Meeting (selected children)

Wednesday 20th—School Games Festival (selected children)

Monday 25th—Easter Service TBC (details to follow)

Thursday 28th—last day of term

Extra Curriculum Clubs

Clubs will change this term from the week beginning 26th February. Below are the clubs on offer for Spring Term 2 - booking is necessary. There is a small charge of £1 per session for choir made payable via the App

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	12-1 Sports Crew	12-1 Sports Crew 12-1 Crochet Club	12-1 Sports Crew 12-1 Language Club 12.30 Library Club	12-1 Sports Crew	12-1 Sports Crew
After-School	Dodgeball KS2 Choir (small charge)	Fitness KS1	Basketball Y5/6	Multi Skills KS1	Gymnastics KS2