

DECEMBER 2025



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. December is always a magical time in school, and it has been wonderful to see the children's excitement and creativity shine through in all our festive activities.

From winter crafts to Christmas performances, our pupils have worked incredibly hard and shown great enthusiasm. These events remind us of the importance of community and the joy of learning together. I am so proud of everything they have achieved this term.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to provide enriching experiences for our children. Their commitment ensures that every child feels valued and supported.

As we look forward to the holiday season, I wish you all a wonderful break, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming the children back in January for another exciting term of learning.

Warm regards,
Mrs Woodhouse



Aspire

Our EYFS/KS1 Aspire cohort had a wonderful time during our recent Christmas crafts session with parents! The children enjoyed creating festive crafts while sharing the experience with their families. Alongside the creative fun, we explored ice sensory trays, investigating what makes ice melt and sparking curiosity about science in everyday life. During Maths and Writing we have completed practical, multi-sensory activities, helping children develop key skills in an engaging and hands-on way.

Our KS2 group have been exploring the importance of listening to both sides of a situation before reacting. Through further stories from Beowulf, the children have deepened their understanding of text retrieval and inference. In Maths, we have focused on multiplication, learning a range of strategies to build confidence and accuracy. A highlight of the term was our exciting trip to Millennium Point, where the children had the opportunity to code robots! It was a fantastic experience that combined creativity and problem-solving, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

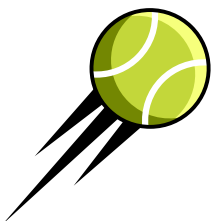


Choir

Choir have had a very successful term and their hard work culminated with our singing some all time favourites to the residents of two local care homes. The children looked very festive and sang beautifully, raising the roof and spirits of all those present. It was a seasonal triumph and the pleasure it gave was palpable.




After school clubs - Strike Youth




We are pleased to have a partnership with Strike Youth here at Kates Hill. A new partnership where Strike Youth coaches come into our school and deliver after school club provision years 1-6, four days a week.


The after-school clubs have proven to be a success with most clubs being full to capacity, long may this continue.

Year group updates


 Nursery and Reception have had a very busy few weeks to mark the Christmas and winter season. Nursery have held two craft workshops where children were very busy with paint, glitter, decorations and biscuits; we think their parents and carers had just as much fun!

Reception held their own craft session where children had a wonderful time creating with their adults. Many thanks to all those who came along and spent time with our wonderful EYFS children. Friday 12th and Monday 15th December see our EYFS children being very twinkly in our performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity'. They have worked so hard and we are sure everyone will agree they all have the cute factor!

 Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic pantomime performance of 'Robin Hood' on Tuesday 2nd December. There were laughs all round and singing to raise the roof! to enhance and sharpen our understanding of biodiversity and what we can do to strengthen it.


 This term in Art, Year 1 have been looking at a famous artist called Leo Sewell. We learnt that he is an artist who makes sculptures from various pieces of 'junk' using a combination of interesting colours and shapes. We have had so much fun exploring a range of his work and talking about what we like best! Taking all of his wonderful ideas into consideration, we were inspired to create our own sculptures of buildings that are local to us using a variety of junk that we collected and brought into school. To stretch our knowledge further and challenge ourselves, we tried to add windows and even a door. We were very successful and had a great time finding different uses for our junk!

Year 2 have had an action-packed term full of learning and fun!

 On 17th November, we enjoyed an amazing trip to Chester Zoo, where we saw a huge variety of animals including elephants, giraffes, and even some cheeky monkeys! The children loved exploring the different habitats and learning fascinating facts about wildlife and conservation.

Shortly after, we celebrated Number Day in style – everyone looked fantastic in their rockstar outfits while taking part in exciting maths challenges and games. Another highlight was watching a fantastic Robin Hood pantomime, which had us laughing and cheering throughout the performance.

And of course, we've been working incredibly hard practising for our Nativity play – the children have been learning lines, singing songs, and getting ready to put on a magical show for families. What a brilliant few weeks it has been!

 Year 3 have had a fantastic autumn term learning about so many exciting things! We started by learning about the Stone Age and using VR headsets, we took a journey back in time to see what life was like thousands of years ago. We then used this information to create some amazing pieces of writing such as stories, non-fiction texts and brochures. We had an amazing time designing, making and then eating our own delicious biscuits in DT and alongside this learnt some great life skills such as weighing/measuring, rolling and decorating.

In Geography, we have been learning all about Dudley. We used Ordnance survey maps to find human and physical features in Dudley, understand and apply map symbols, 4 figure grid references to find landmarks and planned routes around Dudley using the 8 compass points. Linked to this, we also researched, designed and made our own sculptures of Dudley landmarks using Andrew Logan's Pegasus statue (outside Pegasus Academy) as inspiration.

In Maths we have learnt how to add and subtract 3 digit numbers, explored 3 digit numbers and place value, the 4 and 8 times tables, and applied these skills to solve problems. We have also used lots of fun practical activities to deepen our understanding.

In Science lessons we have learnt about keeping healthy with the different food groups, all about our bones and the different types of skeletons and also muscles and how they help us to move. We have also learnt about the different types of rocks, how they are formed and their properties which we really enjoyed. In Science we have also planned and carried out lots of experiments. Our English work has seen us read Stone Age Boy and The Last Bear alongside non-fiction texts and lots of reading comprehension. We have had a really fun term in Year 3 and can't wait until Spring term!



Year 4 have had an action packed Autumn term and here are a few of the activities we have taken part in.

Everyone has engaged fully in Forest School, making an array of keep sakes and eating some deliciously tempting snacks on the open fire, whilst learning about our immediate environment and what we should and could do to not only maintain but also improve it.

We have sharpened our awareness of what we need to do to avoid creating a fire risk in our homes, whilst also learning about the actions we should take in the event of a fire, from the West Midlands Fire Service.

On two occasions, we have taken part in live lessons - one from the Antarctic and the other from Brazil, during this year's COP meetings. Such opportunities help broaden our understanding of the world around us and our role within it.

Earlier this term, we had the opportunity to visit Dudley Zoo, as part of a rolling programme, to enhance and sharpen our understanding of biodiversity and what we can do to strengthen it.



Year 5 have had a brilliant term! We have learnt all about the Ancient Greeks, how to read a map and how to separate parts of mixtures in Science. In maths, we have practised the four operations, with a real focus on long multiplication and long division.

Year 5 also had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability. Those who took part made such progress in their biking riding skills and really faced new challenges with brilliant attitudes.

Next term, we are looking forward to a visit from our Viking expert to launch our new topic



Step into Oz!

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful trip to The Link to watch the Performing Arts students' production of The Wiz. It was a fantastic show, full of amazing singing, acting, and dancing—a truly festive afternoon that inspired our children and showcased incredible talent.

Creative DT Fun

Year 6 have been busy designing and making their own steady hand games as part of our Design and Technology work. They learned about electrical circuits and used their knowledge to create interactive games that test patience and precision. The children showed fantastic creativity and problem-solving skills.

Celebrating Success

Well done to Year 6 for working so hard on their recent assessments and making fantastic progress. Their determination and effort have really paid off, and we are proud of the resilience and positive attitude they have shown towards their learning. Keep up the great work!



After school - Swimming Club

We have successfully passed at least 6 children in our after-school swimming club for their 25m badge. This club for year 6 provides the opportunities for our children to meet the required criteria of being able to swim 25m by the time they leave primary school. We will continue to provide this opportunity in the new year.

Christmas Fayre



This years Christmas fayre was a great success. Children enjoyed looking around the various stalls, purchasing books to read at home and playing games for a chance to win chocolate!



Meeting Santa

All children had the opportunity to meet Santa in his at school grotto! Every child was given a present.



Important dates

5th Jan - Return to school

8th Jan - Y6 WW2 workshop

9th Jan - Praise assembly

12th Jan - Kindness assembly

16th - 20th February Half Term