

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 4th October 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

There has been a great deal of learning happening along with lots of fun over the past few weeks. Parents can find out more from the learning pages on the school website found here: <https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum-overview>.

Reading is the key to our curriculum and we teach 8 reading strategies and repeat these over the year. There is a great deal of research to suggest that the more children read or are read too or have reading modelled by parents, teachers and adults the more successful they will be later on in life. Reading for pleasure is such a beneficial experience for so many reasons. Encouraging this is one of the most important jobs we can all do.

The school shop is open on Tuesday afternoon from 3pm to 3.30pm selling a range of preloved uniform for £1 and is great value.

Breakfast club still has a few places. More information can be found on the school website at: <https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/breakfast-club>.

Thank you parents for following our drop off and collection arrangements. It is really important to use the correct gates for both drop off and collection. These arrangements support safeguarding as when we are full there are nearly 700 children that need to attend and leave the site daily. Please ensure the children remain with you and leave the site promptly.

Face to Face parents evening can be booked using the following link: <https://alexandra.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>.

This term we have had the opportunity to offer Rocksteady Music School to children in Years 1 to 6. As well as learning new musical skills within their very own band playing instruments such as drums, keyboards or guitar; lessons also help the children with their confidence, wellbeing, social skills and teamwork. These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by a highly trained, professional musician who knows how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of each term each band will perform a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come.

We still have a small number of spaces still available for these sessions. If you would like further information or you wish to sign your child up to take part, please visit their website:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents/>

ROCK STEADY

YOUR CHILD COULD PLAY IN THEIR VERY OWN ROCK BAND!

Are you looking for a fun activity to boost your child's confidence and support their overall journey through primary school?

SCAN QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

Rocksteady lessons support wellbeing, grow confidence and build resilience, all in fun and inclusive environment.

Each lesson will build on your child's individual learning and motivational style, and they'll get to play real music in their own band from the very first lesson!

84% parents say Rocksteady lessons supports their child's confidence

97% children say they enjoy attending lessons or wish they could do more

100% head teachers say Rocksteady lessons have a significant impact on children

CLICK HERE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD UP NOW
WWW.ROCKSTEADYMUSICSCHOOL.COM/INFO-FOR-PARENTS

Thank you so much for very generous donations for the Hope Hounslow foodbank. The community has been very kind and here are some pictures demonstrating how supportive and kind our community is. Thank you for all the donations.



And don't forget:

In October we have...

Black History Month

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

World Space Week

<https://www.worldspaceweek.org/>

National Poetry Day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zr6yd6f#z2xtvj6>

Thought for the week:

Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts.

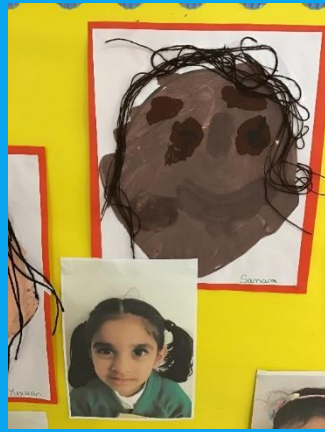
Question of the week:

What's your favourite board game?

Nursery – This week we have been focusing on the nursery rhyme 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'. We have been singing the rhyme and reading stories about space. The children have been comparing the size of stars and using the vocabulary big and small to describe them. The children have enjoyed creating a range of star themed artwork using paint and collage. They have also used the space small world resources to play imaginatively. The children in Nursery are doing a great job of getting to know the rules and routines of Nursery.

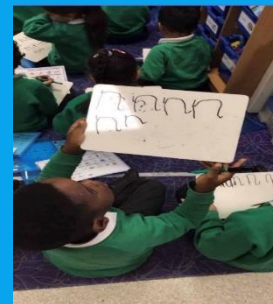


Reception – Reception have been busy creating self-portraits. The children spent time looking at their facial features in the mirror, looking at their eyes, skin and hair. They used different resources such as paint, coloured paper and wool to create their masterpieces!



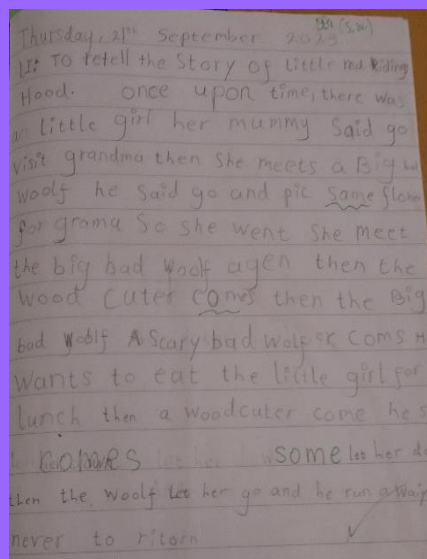
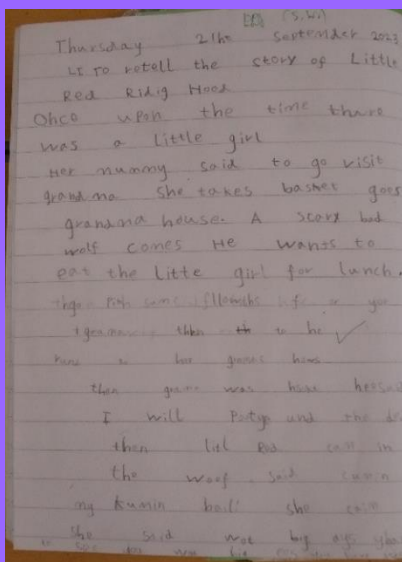
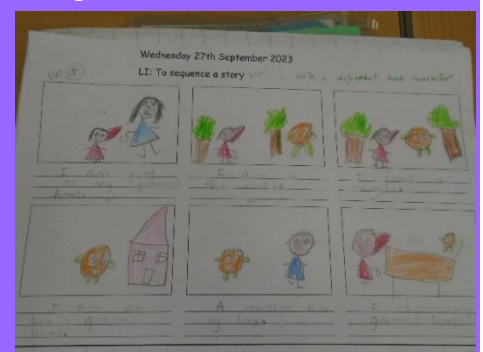
The children have also enjoyed using scissors to cut and stick body parts.

They have continued to explore the construction toys in Reception to build their own creations.

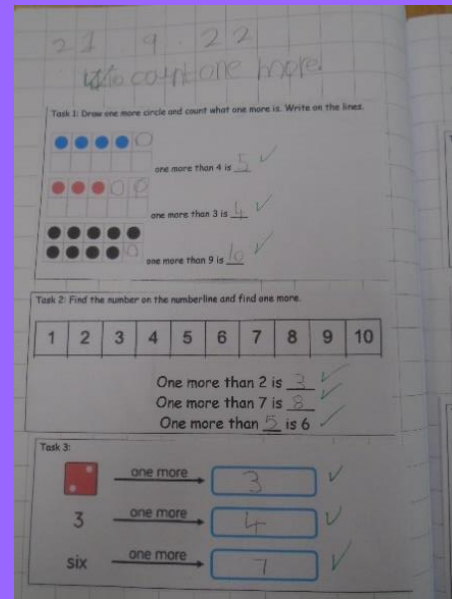
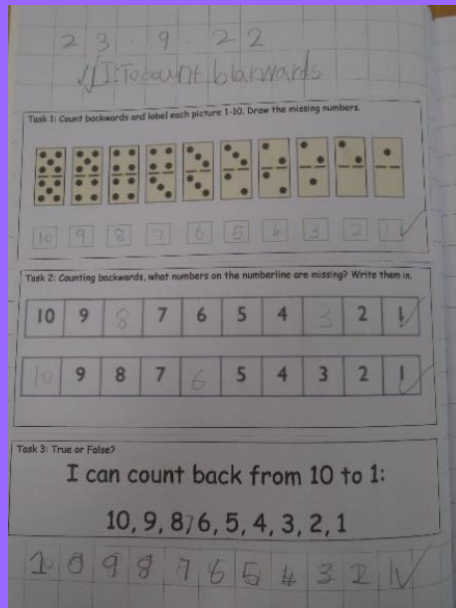


We are continuing to learn new phonemes in our phonics lessons. Look at this wonderful writing!

Year 1 – The children have been working hard on their story writing in class. After using a story map to draw the main parts of Little Red Riding Hood they began retelling the story. The children focused on their neat handwriting, using simple sentences and their phonics for their spellings. They did a super job!



In Maths, the children have been learning about counting forwards and backwards and they have started using the greater than, less than and equal to symbols ($<$ $>$ $=$). They have been working hard to present their work neatly in their books and use the correct number formation.



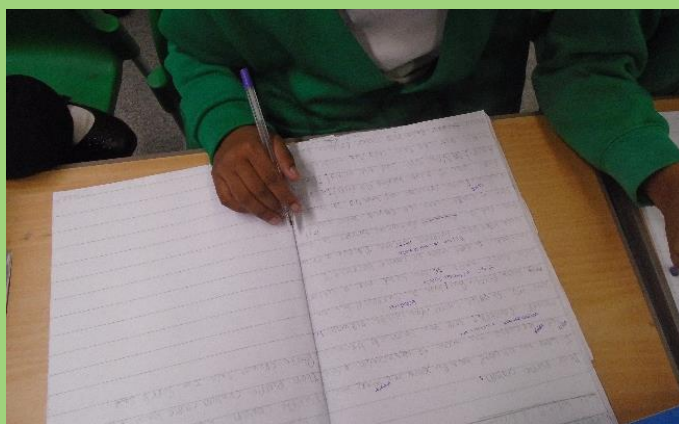
In Science, we have been learning about the human body. Over the past few weeks we have been learning about the names of different body parts both inside and outside the body.



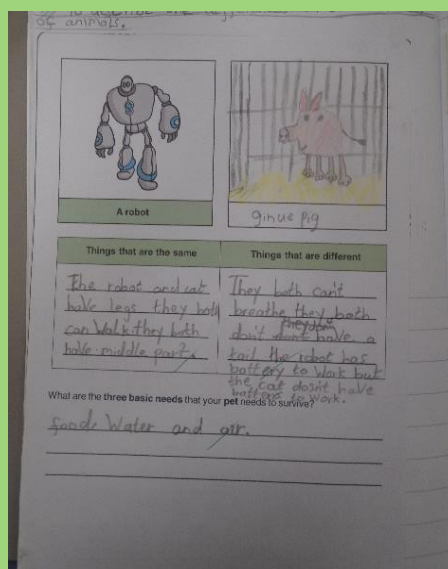
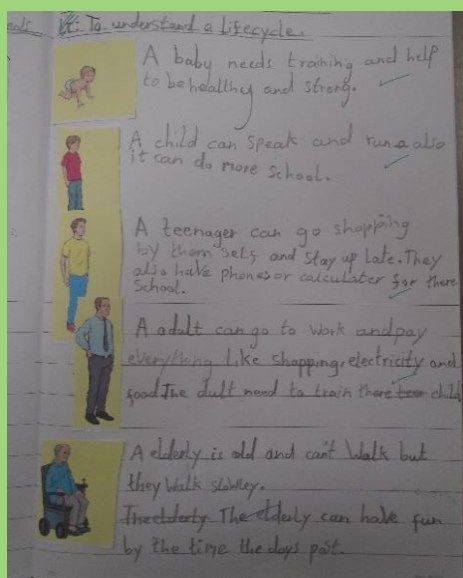
Year 2 - In Maths, we have been practicing adding two-digit numbers together, using different strategies such as; place value, part whole models and number lines. We have also been able to make our own two-digit word problems for our partner to solve.



We have been learning how to write opinion letters in English and what features are needed to create a good opinion letter. Following our class text 'The Day the Crayons Quit', we discussed and drafted a letter to our favourite colour crayon, explaining why we don't want them to quit.



In Science, we have been learning about Animals and Humans. So far, we have studied; what components are needed in order for something to be classed as a living thing. The lifecycle of animals and humans and what their basic needs are.



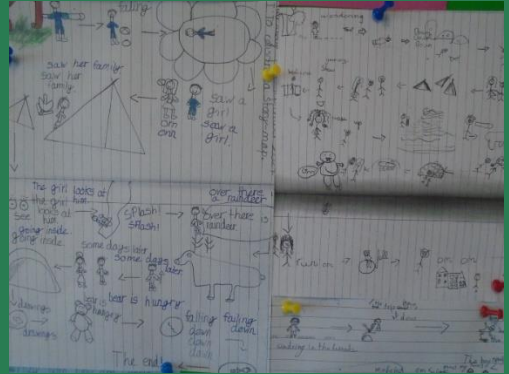
Year 3 - We have had an amazing few weeks in our Science lessons where we are learning all about different types of rocks and soils and learning about how they are created. We have spent lessons looking closely and investigating different rocks. Obsidian has been our favourite. We have also been holding lava rocks!



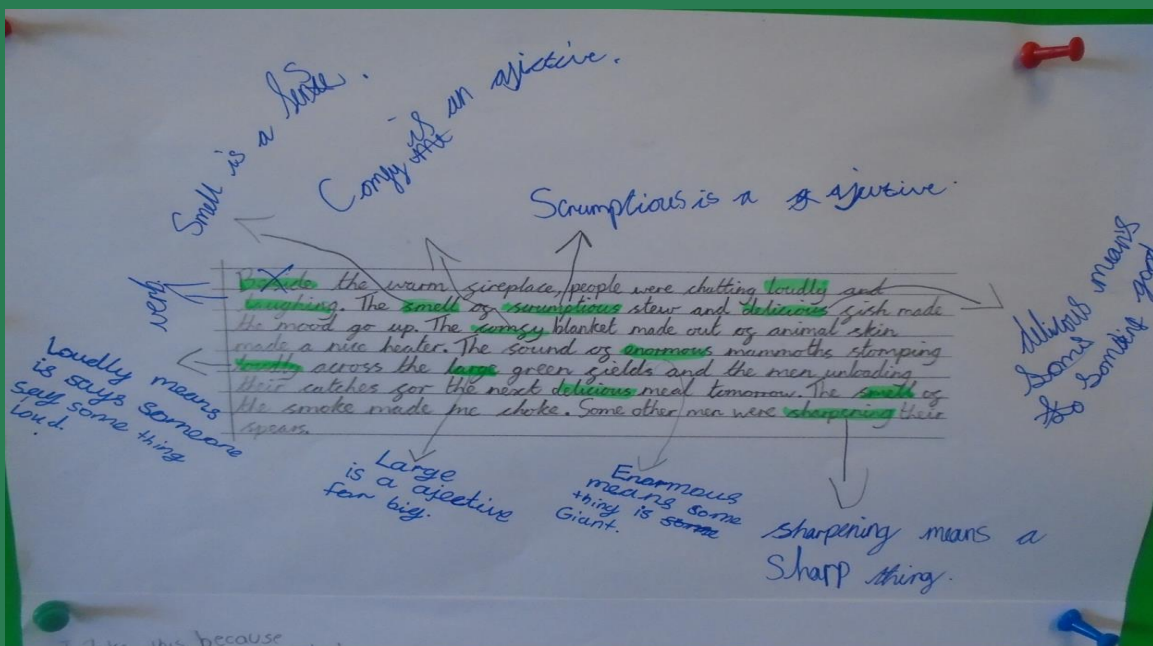
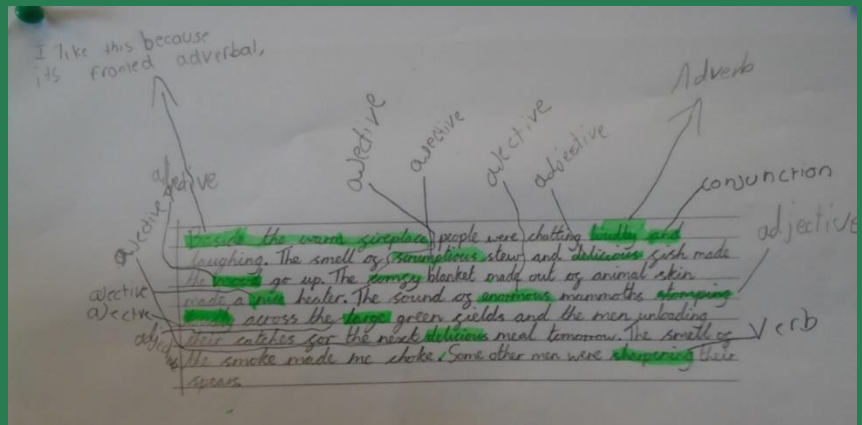
Recently, we have had an opportunity to recreate some of the types of rocks being made by making them in the same way that nature would construct them. Of course, we had to use different materials so chose to use starburst sweets. First, we had to squash them together to make sedimentary rocks, then we had to blow on them to add heat to make metamorphic rocks before finally using the microwave to add some super heat and create igneous rock.



In our writing lessons we have been studying the story of Stone Age Boy. We have used our sketching skills to draw the main parts into a story map.



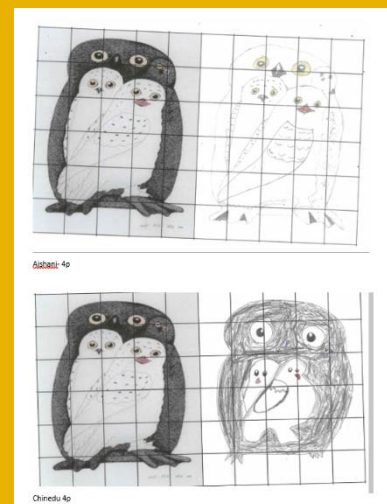
Also we have been working like detectives to identify different writing features that we can use in our own story writing. We have been finding adjectives, adverbs and even fronted adverbials.



Year 4 – In PE, alongside our weekly swimming lessons, the children have been taking part in PE lessons that focus on their balance, coordination and communication; which we know is important in different ways for a variety of sports and activities.



During Art, we have been looking closely at artwork by famous artists. Using a piece by the artist Kananginak Pootoogook, we created our own modern interpretation, thinking about the proportion and perspective of our work.

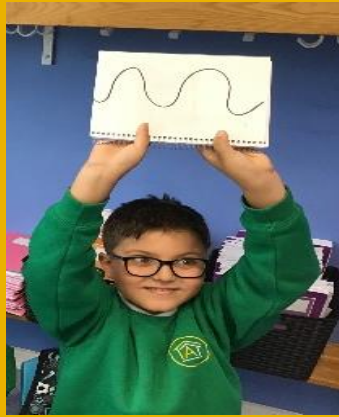


We have had the opportunity to take part in the pedestrian skills training as part of the For2Feet scheme. The children learned essential road safety skills that will make them safer pedestrians throughout their lives. The children were reminded to:

- Stop, Look, Listen' and they practised,
- Finding a safe place to cross the road.
- The correct use of pedestrian crossings such as zebra/pelican/island that are close to the school.
- How to cross at junctions and near parked cars.
- The importance of wearing bright clothing.
- The dangers of cars reversing from driveways, across the pavement.
- The dangers of being distracted such as wearing headphones or using a mobile phone.



In Music, we are learning to create musical rhythms using body percussions. The children had the opportunity to listen to a piece of music from the rainforest and discuss what they liked and disliked as well as the tempo (speed), dynamics (volume), texture (different layers) and structure (organisation of the piece). The children drew out the image that the music created in their heads.



Year 5 - In Science, we have been learning about how people used to view the shape of the Earth and how we came to understand that the Earth is (almost) spherical.

We have been doing lots of research into the different planets in our solar system and completed a networking activity to fill in any gaps in our knowledge.



L1: To describe the movement of earth, and other planets relative to the sun in the Solar System.

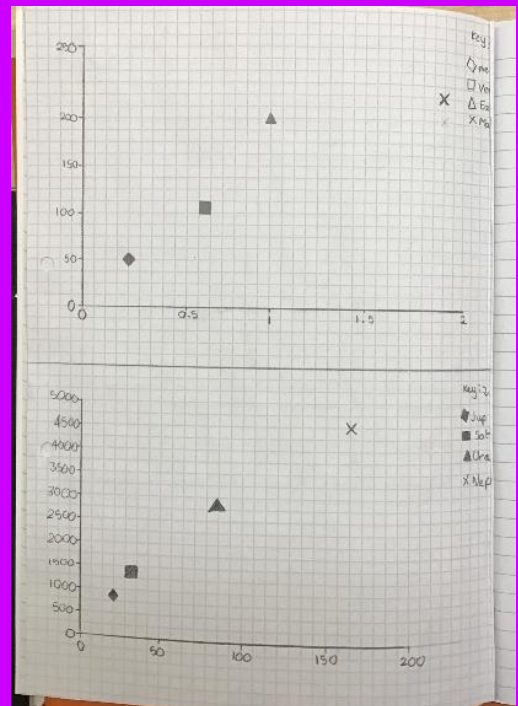
The Sun is a Star it is at the centre of the Solar System - Solar relating to the Sun. The orbits of the planet in the Solar system are almost circular with the sun at the centre.

Planets take different amounts of time to go around the sun. A single orbit is called the planets year and the further out a planet is the longer it takes to take a year.

- A star - the sun
- planets are dwarf planets orbit around the sun.
- Satellites moons - orbit around the sun.

There are eight planets including earth, and smaller dwarf planets. Such as Pluto.

A planets year is the length of time it takes to orbit the sun.



Planet	Days to orbit	Earth Years
Mercury	87.97 days	0.2 years
Venus	224.7	0.62
Earth	365.25	1.0
Mars	687	1.88
Jupiter	4331	11.87
Saturn	10,747	29.46
Uranus	30,589	83.80
Neptune	59,800	163.84

L1: To name and describe planets in our solar system

	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune
Type of planet	Terrrestrial	Terrrestrial	Terrrestrial	Terrrestrial	Gas giant	Gas giant	Ice giant	Ice giant
Mean diameter (km)	4879	12,104	12,756	6792	142,984	120,536	51,118	49,528
Distance from Sun (millions of km)	57.9	108.2	149.6	227.9	778.6	1433.5	2872.5	4495.1
Number of moons	0	0	1	2	67	62	27	14
Surface gravity (m/s ²)	3.7	8.9	9.8	3.7	23.1	9	8.7	11
Mass (sextillions of kg)	0.33	4.87	3.97	0.64	1898	568	84.8	102
Length of day (Earth hours)	1724	2802	24	24.7	9.9	10.7	17.2	16.1
Length of year (Earth days)	88	224.7	365.25	687	4331	10,747	30,589	59,800
Mean temperature (°C)	-167	464	15	-65	-110	-140	-195	-200

I find the hours of venus interesting because it takes 2802 for 1 day

We have also described the movement of the Earth and other planets in our solar system relative to the sun. We compared our results using a recording table and then presented our findings on a graph.

In English, we planned, composed, edited and then published our own versions of the poem 'Six ways to look at the Moon'. We chose which planet we would describe and then focused on using expanded noun phrases, metaphors and similes. Here are some examples of our wonderful work:

To write a poem about space independently.
Six ways to look at Mars.
Fighting madly,
like a Roman Soldier.

Mars is a red ball,
Flying through dark space,
like a football.

Mars is a tomatoe,
changing through dark, infinite space,
like a athlete.

Mars is an apple,
orbiting the boiling sun,
as fast as a cheetah.

Mars is a lava ball,
defending its rusty territory,
like a King.

Mars is a deadly storm,
storming through dark hostile space,
like a fast arrow.

To write a poem about space independently.
Always to look at Saturn.

Saturn is the shadow of liberty,
floating endlessly in a rich black room
is hostile as a angry cylob.

Saturn is a hurricane,
swimming continuously in the endless desert
like a tonado.

Saturn is a floating ball,
orbiting the darkish Sun in the infinite space,
like a hula hoop.

Saturn is an undefeated warrior,
fighting continuously in the dark olympic stadium
like a gladiator.

To write a poem about space independently.
Six ways to look at Mars.

Mars is a red beachball,
Spinning fast in the infinite void of space,
like a ballerina.

Mars is a dog bucket,
Decaying in the infinite black space
As fast as a desert.

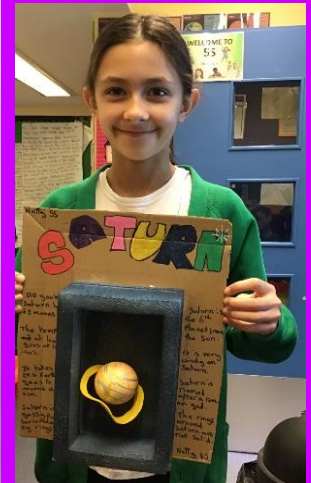
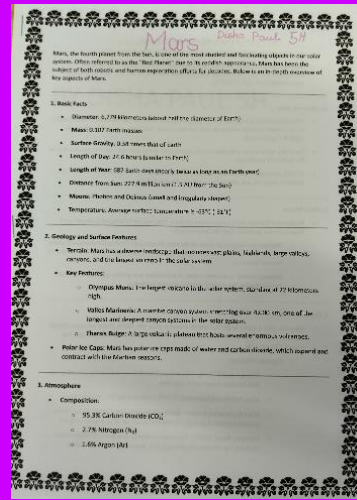
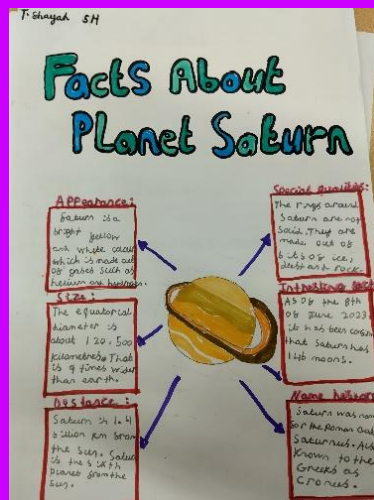
Mars is a rocky desert,
Blowing dust around its desertsplace
like a old dusty fan.

Mars is a red balloon,
floating endlessly in the empty space
As empty as an abandoned house.

Mars is an abandoned house,
Waiting for people to conquer it, in the dark at
nothingness,
like an As empty as an endangered region.

Mars is an cyclop's bloody red eyeball,
Defending it's dusty, abandoned surface,
like a brave Roman soldier.

Our homework to research a planet and present our findings brought out our creative side!



Year 6 - We took a walk on the wild side last week during our Bush craft trip to Kent. The children demonstrated team-building skills to make shelters in the woods using a range of materials. It was especially important that our shelters were effective due to the torrential rain that we experienced!

After lunch, children demonstrated excellent listening skills and craftsmanship to whittle tent pegs using branches and tools. Much laughter was had singing camp songs and playing games around the campfire.

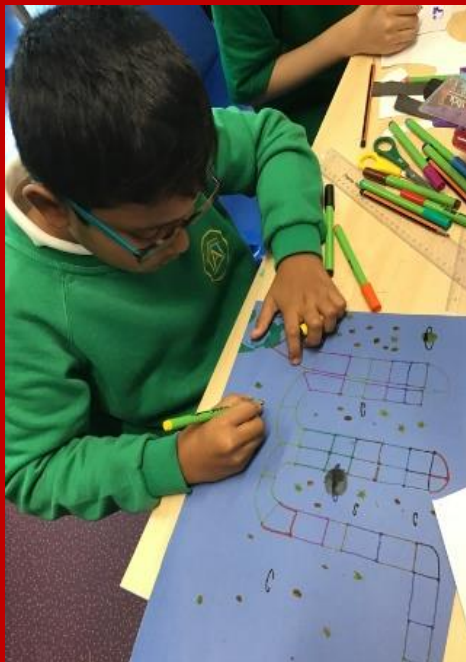
The children who stayed overnight reported that some of the highlights were navigating around the camp with their torches, making and eating smores and hearing deer and owls during the night!



Activity Day

The children not staying overnight on the residential trip really impressed us with their creativity and collaboration skills. We explored a range of artists who use nature in their work such as Andy Goldsworthy.

We then planned our own artwork and foraged for materials in the school grounds to bring our plans to life. In the afternoon, children worked together to design, make and play their own board games. We were so impressed with their amazing ideas!



The children continued their learning about evolution and inheritance this week through a hands-on investigation. We discussed Charles Darwin's time on the Galapagos Islands and his observations of finches and their beak shape and size. Using a range of different items to represent "beaks" and "food", we discovered how certain beaks were better adapted to eating certain foods. This investigation made it easier to understand how living things better suited to their environments will survive and thrive compared to those that are not.



At APS we talk about the values that underpin our school aims. Children at Alexandra aspire to be successful learners who enjoy learning through demonstrating the following values: Respect

Alexandra children, staff, parents and carers endeavour to work and play with everyone within their community and show respect for every group and individual, the school environment and themselves. We demonstrate self-respect and believe that everyone should be treated fairly and equally and with compassion.

What did you enjoy learning this week?

What are you looking forward to learning next week?

Who was kind to you this week and have you shown kindness to someone else?

