



Alexandra Chronicle



Winter Edition, December 2024



Introduction

Welcome to the Winter edition of the APS Chronicle.

This issue is packed full of interesting articles written by Year 5 and 6 students all about things going on inside school and all over the globe.

Our hard-working newspaper team hope that you enjoy reading the newspaper. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

TEMPERATURES AND WEATHER PATTERNS

Reporters: Alice and Avneet

Why Global Warming is a Big Problem

Global warming is when the Earth gets hotter due to certain gases (like carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases) which gets trapped in the atmosphere. These gases act like blankets, keeping the heat in. This might sound cosy, but it can actually be very bad for our planet, Earth.



What is the impact of global warming?

1. Melting Ice: Ice in the North and South Pole is melting really fast. This makes oceans rise, which then causes floods sometimes where people live.
2. Crazy weather: Global warming makes storms, heatwaves, droughts and more dangerous things. Sometimes it rains too much and sometimes it doesn't even rain at all!
3. Animals in Danger: Some animals, such as polar bears, are losing their habitats as the ice in their homes is melting. Other species of animals might also not be able to survive during hotter weather.
4. Hotter Days: As we notice this year, summers in the UK are getting warmer than usual (The average temperature in the summer is 28°C).

What Causes Global Warming?

Most of the gases that make the Earth warmer come from things we do, like driving cars, using electricity, and cutting down trees. Factories and farms also release gases like methane, which is extremely powerful at trapping heat.

When we burn fuels like coal, oil, and gas to power things, we release carbon dioxide into the air. Trees usually help by absorbing carbon dioxide, but cutting down too many forests means there are fewer trees to help.



Saving the Environment.

Save the earth! 'Life means protecting our planet' we protect all living things in nature, including us. Keeping Earth clean means saving all living things. Our environment provides us with water, food, clean air and other vital resources essential for our survival. It is very important to maintain biodiversity so we can stay safe and also keep the poor in good health. Human activities like deforestation and pollution have created menace by threatening this.

Teamwork?

Even though global warming is a big problem in life, if everyone of us work together as a team and collaborate, we can stop global warming and keep the Earth a nice planet to live (I'm sure we all don't want to live on Mars, Venus or even the Moon! Sends shivers down your spine, am I right?)

How Can We Help?

There are many ways we humans can help! Even little things can help and stop global warming.

Here are some ideas:

- Using bikes/scooters or walking instead of driving cars.
- Turning off lights when you don't need them or nobody's in the room.
- Recycling and using less plastic (some plastic can end up in oceans! and endanger sea animals).
- Planting flowers or trees, and also take care of the ones we already have.

Our Environment!

Environment refers to the natural surroundings and conditions in which we live in. Unfortunately, this environment has come under serious threat. This threat is nearly, almost entirely due to human activities. These activities certainly caused serious damage to the environment. Most noteworthy, this damage risks the survival of living things on earth. Therefore, there is an urgent need to save the environment. Our environment needs to be protected and conserved. Conservation of our natural energy is significant as it sustains us. There are many multiple ways of protecting our environment, the first being to decrease the levels of our pollution.

POLLUTION AROUND THE WORLD

Reporter: Simratul

During the year of 2024, the most polluted country is currently Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) discovered that air pollution, unsafe water and poor hygiene causes thousands of deaths and multiple illnesses. The country is quite polluted due to the use of fossil fuels which has worsened the air pollution.

In contrast to this, Estonia is the cleanest country in the world. Estonia's clean air is a national treasure, aided by low population and a high percentage of forest. Estonia has higher living ages and has a clean population.

There has been increasing pollution in the oceans recently. According to some scientists, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. Unless water use is drastically reduced, severe water shortage will affect the entire world by 2040. "There will be no water by 2040 if we keep doing what we're doing today." - Professor Benjamin Sovacool, Denmark.

Pollution impacts trees by declining in growth and causes many trees to die, which means forests will start to have less and less trees. We need trees as they prevent air pollution. Trees not only soak up carbon dioxide, they also absorb other harmful gases, such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

We can reduce pollution by:

- ☆ Recycling
- ☆ Storing chemicals safely
- ☆ Maintain automobiles
- ☆ Bike, scooter or walk
- ☆ Drive less
- ☆ Burn less coal
- ☆ Energy choices
- ☆ Don't burn your rubbish
- ☆ Switch off your lights



THE **ROCK** CONCERT!

Reporter: Rabia



Rocksteady!

Rocksteady is a must if you want to build confidence with music and have fun. In Rocksteady, you can play instruments such

as:

- electric guitars,
- microphones,
- electric keyboards,
- drums
- bass

The Rocksteady Concert took place on Tuesday 10th December and involved children from all across the school. It was a huge success and all of the children had fun being Rockstars on stage.

Using these instruments, you practise a song every week with your classmates. There are three concerts in a year and each time after the concert, you can change the song that you are performing in a band.

When you make a band, you can constantly change your band's name depending on the song you are performing. That's why you should go to Rocksteady, there you will make new friends, play on stage and you will have lots of fun!



Winter Disco

Reporters: Banipreet and Alice

Party Time!

The Winter Disco has been the main topic of most of the conversations this term and has been a long-awaited event. You might be wondering why this event is so popular and why everyone is buzzing with excitement!



What do you do?

The Winter Disco is a spectacular and fun event where you and your friends can dance the night (or evening) away! You can request whatever songs you want. There are snacks, treats and drinks for you if you're feeling hungry or thirsty outside of the hall where you and your friends will be. You can come wearing whatever you want (as long as you can dance in them of course)!

You can't bring any technology as this is an opportunity to cherish your friendships and enjoy the evening without any distractions; we can ensure that you will have an amazing time without any devices.

The evening, which was filled with to the brim with children, was exquisite! Crowds of children gathered together to sing (mostly screaming their lungs out-Quoted by Alice 6C) and dance. APT-Rose and Bruno Mars, Thick Of It, Green Green Grass, F!EN, Bye Bye Bye, Mamushi and Gangnam style were the most popular songs. Mr Hollins and Mrs Kad did a great job in picking out the songs.



Halloween

THE SPOOKY CELEBRATION!

Reporter: Mija



What is it?

Halloween is celebrated on 31st October every year. People celebrate Halloween by going out for trick or treating. In Ireland, children get a different bag that isn't festive to go trick-or-treating and by the end of the jolly fun, they hopefully may get 2 or 3 full bags of candy.

Some people report that in Poland, there have been themed Halloween parties in bars and restaurants as well as costume parties for kids at schools. Every year, more and more children in Poland dress up in costumes for Halloween and travel from house to house trick-or-treating (cukierek albo psikus! in Polish).



What do you do?

Many adults and children dress up as witches, ghosts and zombies to go to fancy dress parties or go out trick-or-treating.



Christmas & New Year



Reporters: Shanaya, Swara, Saba and Hannah-Rose

As we know; both Christmas and New year are just around the corner!

Christmas is a Christian holy day that marks the birth of Jesus, who Christians believe was the son of God. Christmas is normally celebrated on the 25th December but Orthodox Christians celebrate it on the 7 of January.



The story of Jesus's birth (also known as the nativity) is often retold by children taking part in nativity plays. Christian church services include carol singing. Christmas dinners are also an important part of the celebrations. Families and friends will share food together, eating traditional foods, such as turkey, mince pies and Christmas puddings.

We get presents for Christmas because the 3 wise men brought gifts for baby Jesus due to this Christians re-act this by giving presents to each other.

Over the Christmas period, many Christian churches hold special services where children light candles stuck into oranges. These special candles are called Christingles



London is known worldwide for their full-on decorations for Christmas. At this time of year there are so many lights hung around London that some of the streets are brighter than the sky. Christmas is a celebration that is shared amongst many cultures and families across the globe.

Sadly, as soon as Christmas arrives, it will be vanished but not to worry, there's still next year and new year celebrations are here to keep us busy. When new year arrives, the streets are packed with people and tourists from all around the world.

Fun Facts about Christmas

Boxing Day is celebrated on 26th December and started in 1743 when traditionally workers would receive a “day after Christmas box”. The only day many workers would get off in Victorian times was Boxing Day and not Christmas.



Santa Clause is also known as Saint Nickolas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Saint Nick and Pelznickel. Santa has over 124 names in each language around the world!

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we wish you a lovely festive break.





Choir



Reporter: Shrinika



Choir is a fun club where you get to show how well your singing voices are and take part in dances and wonderful songs to sing. It takes place every Monday lunchtime in the Music and Drama room with Mrs Mansfield and Miss Carberry. We have a concert once a year and there we sing and dance to the beats of the marvellous music.

We are happy to announce that the choir children from Alexandra Primary School are going to be visiting Wembley to perform a few well known songs next term.

Read the Summer Edition of the Chronicle for an update. We hope to perform some songs for you in assembly too.



School Council

Reporters: Chiamanda and Saba



The purpose of School Council is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organising and carrying out school activities. The APS School Council is the voice of over 700 children.

What has the School Council been up to lately?

The School Council has been up to some things such as planning to add more sports and clubs to the school: cooking, baking, golf and perhaps bracelet making. They have also been discussing school dinners. Many children are keen for adding mozzarella sticks and more ice cream flavours, which we are sure will be delicious.

We asked the members of The School Council what else they might want to add for the school now and in the future. Let's see what they have to say for our school.

Shanaya reported, "We have been talking a lot about football pitch days as the younger children (year 3 & 4) think that they don't receive their allocated times."

Saba said, "My class are excited to improve school dinners and help children play fairly on the playground."

Aditi stated, "So far, we talked about what we enjoy doing, what are problems and what we should add in the school. We also talked about the school menu (what to remove and what are your favourites)."

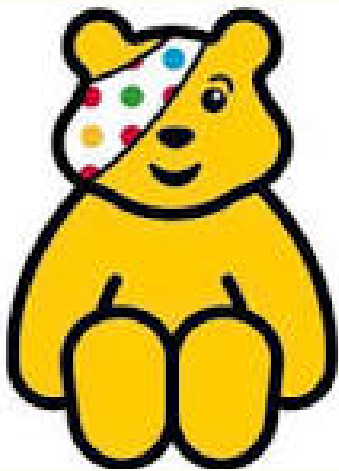
If you want to see changes, don't forget to tell your school council / class representative.

Children In Need

Reporters:

Jeevika, Ariana and Olivija

Children in need is an official charity of the BBC . It raises money for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. The charity's aim is to improve the lives of thousands of children by ensuring that their childhood is safe, happy and secure. They want to give every child the chance to reach their full potential in life. This year BBC raised £39.2m and in previous years they have raised even more.



Children in Need at APS this year was filled with fun, as there were so many amazing activities to do: bracelet making, skittle sorting and playing football with the one and only Pudsey! But how did this all start?



Well, on Christmas Day, 1927, people saw the very first BBC radio broadcast appeal for children raising more than £1,300 (around £70,000 in today's money) for four children's charities in the UK!

Alexandra Primary school donated more than £500. We had mufti day, which was fun. Sanvi from 6SC said "It was so fun and the sports leaders of year 6 went down to KS1 and had good fun dancing with them too." Ansheka also quotes " At lunch time the sports leaders held games for KS2 to play in, my favourite was the bracelet making one".

Reading Corner

Reporters: Navya and Eliza



Starting with book recommendations:

You could read books that are informative known as non-fiction books. There are some non-fiction books that can help you in topics you are learning now or perhaps in the future: All About Romans, All About Victorians or more books about History and Geography.

Fiction books that I recommend are: The Secret Garden. It is an adventure book about a little girl getting adopted; she is quite eccentric and she finds a secret garden.

Next is There's a Boy In The Girls' Bathroom. There is a boy called Bradley Chalkers, who is ignored and hated by his classmates including the teachers. Then there is a new student called Jeff Fishkins who tried to be friends with Bradley but he wasn't very keen on opening up. A counsellor named Carla changes Bradley's life by becoming his first friend and giving him a chance to express his feelings so he could finally feel like he wasn't a monster.

Welcome to the reading corner!
Here you can find book recommendations, book reviews, book jokes and more.

Book Reviews

Arya 3M: 'Little Red Riding Hood because the wolf chases her.'

Shashwat 5H: 'Bunny Vs Monkey. I like it because I like reading comics!'

Eliza 6C: 'I like Harry Potter because it's an adventurous story.'

Aisha 5H: 'I like Black Beauty because I love it and it's really nice.'

Durva 5H: 'I like Harry Potter because it's nice.'

Tishayah 5H: 'I like Dork Diaries because it's really interesting.'

Sami 6C: 'Varjak Paw Cats are really cool.'

Disha 5H: 'Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets because I like thriller books.'

Baani 5H: 'I like Dork Diaries because they make me laugh and know about life in older school years.'

Rabia 6SC: 'Non-fiction books and all of The Amulet because it is amazing and full of action.'

Aadhya 5H: 'I like Horrid Henry because the main character is hilarious.'

Mahirah 3C: 'I like The Diary of a Wimpy Kid because it's funny.'

Riyanshi 3C: 'The Frozen Unicorn because it is a funny book.'

Christa 4C: 'Cinnamoroll Book with a nice Cinnamoroll.'

Olivia 4C: 'Matilda because I love it when she gets her power.'

Aishu 3C: 'I like Tiddler because it's really full of adventure and fun to read.'

Anuhya 3B: 'I like The Enchanted Magic Wood.'

Ava 3B: 'I like Dogman because it's hilarious.'

Thoon 3B: 'I really like Cat Kid.'

Shloka 3B: 'I like Tom Gates.'

Ayusha 4B: 'I like The Secret Kitten because it's mysterious.'

Thank you for reading this part. I hope it helps you to find new books and enjoy the next part of the newspaper.



Victorian Trip

Reporter: Chiamanda



This term, Year 6 went on a trip to the Milestones Museum that featured the life that you'd be living if you lived in the Victorian times. The trip showed us: a Victorian classroom, a Victorian street, Victorian houses, real Victorian shops that you could interact with and even Victorian vehicles. All these things were also educational, interesting and fun.

Did you know that...

1. The first postal system called 'The Penny Post' was introduced in 1840. Letters could be paid for using the first ever postage stamp called 'Penny Black'. Christmas cards were printed in Britain in 1843

and were sent to others using this postal system. Queen Victoria was the first person shown on a stamp.

2. Queen Victoria was born on the 24th May 1819 in Kensington Palace. She was the daughter of the Duke of Kent.
3. In 1870 it became compulsory for all primary aged children to attend school. However it was not free and poor families were unable to afford it. Parents had to wait until 1891 which was when school became free to all. Some families were not happy about this, as it meant young workers who had been earning would now not be making money for their family.

Cost Of Living Crisis

Prices are hiking up in the UK! Due to inflation in the UK, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war and less supply of food the cost of things is higher than ever. The UK cost of living crisis has changed from October 2020 to November 2024 where prices have increased up to 24%! Since 2021, prices are no longer cheap and is making life harder because there a small amount of jobs and a big amount of taxes.



Our old Conservative Prime Minister – Rishi Sunak – had to raise lots of prices and now our current Prime Minister – Keir Starmer – is trying to fix the problems. One of this issues is that lots of people are having to live on the streets. Hopefully, politicians can work on this crisis so that it does not become worse. These price rises effect low-income families the most, which is unfair.

Reporters: Rabia, Thanuj and Hetal



Here are some opinions from some APS children. ‘Ever since this happened, my parents have been finding things harder.

Luckily, we get through it together and stay happy. One child reports that, ‘With my sibling having a medical condition, we have tended to buy cheaper produce so we can afford for his treatment, bills and feeding the family.’

Did you know that a McDonalds burger in 2020 was 99p, but now, in 2024, the cost is now £1.39. If you were buying a cucumber in ASDA two years ago, it would have been 89p whereas now it is £1.09. Supermarkets are trying to keep their prices as low as possible.

War in the Middle East



As some of you might know, there have been massive wars going on around the world. This article will focus on the war in Palestine and Israel. In Palestine, more than 85,000 people have been killed by the bombing while in Israel, 9,150 people have been killed. It has been a horrible experience for everyone, especially for those who have lost their lives, family members or homes. There has been so much damage on buildings, roads, schools and hospitals.

What are the causes?

The cause of this war has been going on for many years and one of the big causes is over the two sides not agreeing on land and whether they should share Jerusalem - a holy city by Abrahamic religions such as Islam and Christianity. Many people support different sides of the argument but one thing is the same, we all want the war to end in peace and harmony. Do we really want the world to be in chaos and disorder?

Reporters: Gargi, Alina, T'Shayah, Amar and Jayden

On Tuesday, November the 26th 2024, Israel fired its biggest simultaneous attack on Beirut. Many of them were launched in Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital. The Israel military have issued evacuations for over 20 locations in Beirut, urging citizens to keep a distance of at least 500 meters. These strikes have been described as the most destructive attack of this conflict so far, as there were just 10 explosions in a small amount of time.

The international community, which also includes the European Union and the United Nations, have urged Israel to find a resolution to this conflict and stop it, once and for all. Unfortunately, some of Israel's officials have been arguing and have said that the agreement could be a missed opportunity to completely remove Hezbollah.

These big impacts have been very severe, with many buildings being damaged and people being injured. Hospitals in Beirut have been crowded with many injured civilians and are massively in need of medical supplies.

Like what was said before, the international community have been trying to help and this time they have been calling for assistance to aid Beirut's citizens to ensure their safety and to support the affected population.

Hurricane Milton

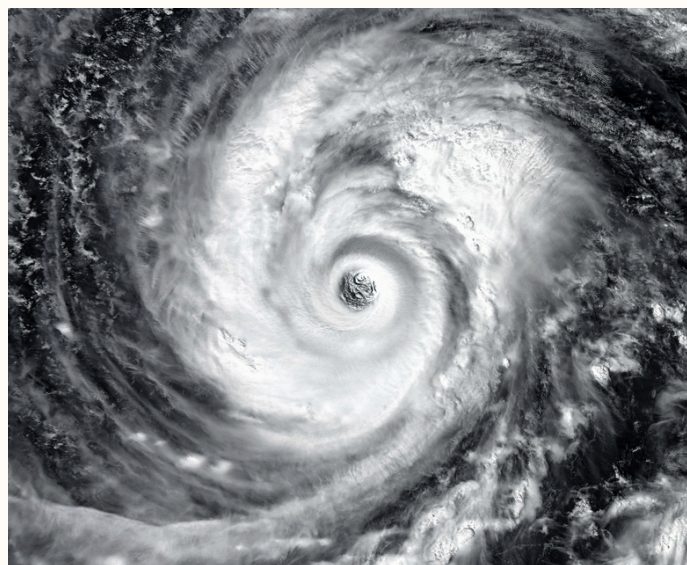
Reporters: Milosz, Pawanjot and Shashwat



In October 2024, a category 5 hurricane struck the USA. It was named Milton and destroyed hundreds of homes in Florida. This destructive hurricane was so large that it was able to be spotted from space on satellite imagery.

The highest wind speed was reported to be 120mph, which brought down power lines and even ripped the roof off of a sports stadium.

Some of the damage included flooding, power loss to 3 million homes and businesses and sadly the loss of 14 lives.



American Election

Reporters: By Zainab, Hetal and Mehali

The 2024 American election was held on Tuesday November 5th 2024. In the presidential election, voters choose their president and vice president. A vice president is the second highest official in the US government. Every four years, citizens cast their votes for electors, who then elect the president based on the popular vote in each state. The election is democratic, which means that everyone in the state's views are heard.

In the USA there are two political parties - the Democrats and the Republicans. People who want to have the chance to become a president put themselves forward and each party choose their nominee through a process of voting.

What's an Election?

An election is when people vote to choose leaders or make decisions. The person with the most votes wins. A candidate is a person who is being looked at or considered for a job, position, award or other opportunities.

How does the US election work?

In the US election, people first vote in primaries to choose candidates. Then, parties pick their official candidate. On Election Day, voters choose a candidate, but they are really voting for electors who will pick the president.



Who were the main candidates?

Democrat - Kamala Harris - (aged 60 years old!) was the 49th Vice President when ex-president Joe Biden announced he will not do the 2025 - 2029 campaign and immediately gave her his blessings for her to run.

Republican - Donald Trump (aged 78) was the 45th President and after winning the election, he will be the 47th President when it is 2025. He lost in 2020 and is very controversial. There was even an assassination attempt in the Summer.

After the results were in, it was Donald Trump, who won the election by 312-226. Many Taylor Swift fans were worried that she would not be able to perform in the USA after Trump's win as she spoke out against him. Currently, he has taken no action against her. The world is curious to see how President Trump will spend his time as leader of the USA.

Year 6 Residential

Reporters: Thanuj, Sanvi and Ansheka

At the end of September, Year 6 travelled to Kent for their residential: some children stayed overnight and others just travelled for the day. Even if they didn't stay overnight they left with smiles on their faces and had lots of fun. We came to school over an hour earlier than regular time and then travelled for over one hour to Bushcraft in Kent, which is a place where there are campfires, tents and fun activities. When Year 6 arrived at the destination, they went inside a shelter because of the unexpected rain. Some children had said that they were so warm because in the middle of the shelter, there was a hot, flaming campfire. There were many snacks including oranges and biscuits. Then in groups, we built shelters using sticks and leaves! The lunch was absolutely delicious: veggie burgers with ketchup, cheese and on top of that, corn on the cob. Many said that was absolutely scrumptious and made them want to eat several more burgers! Later on, the children played splat, which is a type of game that involves 4 or more people. After that, they made sharp pegs that are used to hold tents. The Year 6's made them using some cylindrical wood pieces from trees, then made a sharp pointy edge like a pencil tip.



The children who were only staying for the day went back home. Excitement filled the air with the overnight children as they could not wait to find out who they would be sharing a tent with. Those children who stayed overnight stayed in massive tents, which protected them all night long and kept them warm and safe. We were not afraid as we knew the crew would be on patrol all night. In my personal opinion, my favourite part was when we made our own campfire and we cooked smores on it.

Interviews

Rabia, 6SC: When we went to Bushcraft, I was shocked by the heavy rain and I really enjoyed the biscuits. I also liked the burgers but the thing I liked the most is when we were carving wood to make it into a peg. I stayed for the day and after that had fun at school while others stayed for a day and the next afternoon.

Jeevika in 6SC reported that, "The residential was amazing and I thought it was a wonderful experience and I wish to go there again"

Eliza in 6C, said, "The activity day we had at school was so much fun. We used a lot of creativity. We all enjoyed making our own games."

Sanvi, aged 10, said this, "The residential was wonderful and I had a very good time and I was never bored due to the constant activities that we got to do such as games and survival skills."