



October



A message from Mrs Bower

Ms Paul is leaving us today with Mrs Smith returning from maternity leave after half term. I would like to thank Ms Paul for her hard work, kindness and commitment to the pupils and families of AJA. Ms Paul is well liked by the children and staff, and she has done a superb job this first half term helping the Year 3s to settle into their new class. We all wish Ms Paul well for the future.

Our very own CEO Mr Hughes is running the Snowdonia Marathon this Saturday to raise money for The Harmony Pledge. Please see below the crowdfunding link should you wish to contribute:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/antony-hughes-marathon-eryri?utm_term=jMMKGx27

Yesterday a letter went home to all pupils regarding a consultation for the proposed implementation of an Integrated Resource Unit for pupils with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. This would be placed in our current Inclusion Hub rooms to provide additional pupil places commissioned and funded by the Local Authority. If you have any questions or would like to comment on the proposal, then please contact the Director of Education for the Harmony Trust Ltd by writing to Miss J Hainsworth using Alvaston Junior Academy's address, or by email to info@theharmonytrust.org.

A reminder that Monday 4th November is an INSET day and we will next see you all on Tuesday 5th November. Have a wonderful half term!

A message from Mr Scott

October is well and truly here, bringing darker mornings, longer nights, and a chill in the air. The first half-term of the new school year has been fantastic, with big smiles from our children reflecting their happiness at being here. I'm thrilled to share the Times Tables Rockstars results from this half-term. I am always reminding my class to "play your 5 (minutes) a day," and I urge all of the children to try this at home too. A huge well done to the **Talented Turtles (4LT)** and the **Resilient Robins (6EW)** for logging the most time on Times Tables Rockstars. In Years 3 and 4, our top players are **Akar, Atal, and Ted**. In Years 5 and 6, congratulations to **Georgia, Zachary, and Macauley** for their outstanding efforts. We will continue our Times Tables Rockstars competition next half term. I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful break and any plans you may have.



Important Dates

Friday 25th October

Last day of term

Monday 4th November

INSET day

Academy closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th November

First day of term

Thursday 14th November

Diabetes Awareness Day

Harmony Pledge - Be A fundraiser

£1 wear blue

Friday 29th November

Year 5 visit to the Space Centre

Word of the Week

Tolerant

Attendance

This week's attendance

93.81%

Highest class attendance

99.35% Brilliant Bees

What's been happening this week?

Year 3



I'm sure all the teachers will be saying the same thing, but hasn't this first half term flown by? It doesn't seem five minutes since we started in September. At the risk of repeating myself, I want to say again how fantastic all your children have been. They have adapted to a new school and new ways of working extremely well. Now is the time for a well-earned break before we start learning again after half term with our new topics of The Stone Age and Light and Shadow. We are also looking forward to going to Derby Museum. On a sad note, Ms Paul is leaving us at the end of the week. She has done a great job helping Kind Koalas settle in and we wish her all the best. Mrs Smith will be returning after the holiday, and we look forward to welcoming her back to school. All the best.

Year 4



What an incredible first half term we have completed in Year 4 - where did that time go!? It certainly flies when we're having fun! This week, we finished our instruction writing on how to trap Medusa, showcasing the children's creativity. We also assembled our clarinets and started learning to play them properly, which has been incredibly exciting! In RE, we wrapped up our unit with the question - why is Jesus so inspiring to some people? The discussions were insightful and reflected our students' maturity. Looking ahead, next half term will see us exploring electricity and preparing for our own Eurovision contest. We also have an exciting school trip to look forward to! The Year 4 team are proud of our students' achievements this half term, and we eagerly anticipate continuing this journey with them in Autumn 2!

Year 5



We've reached the end of the first half term in Year 5! The children have worked SO hard this half term and are looking forward to a week of relaxation. For English we have been writing and performing poetry about Henry VIII and his wives. The poems and performances have been fantastic! In maths, we have been working on multiples and factors of numbers. Knowing times tables certainly helped with this, as it does with so much of Y5 maths. Maybe some extra times tables practice over half term if anyone is getting bored!? We completed our science topic on forces with an experiment to measure friction using toy cars. Great fun! To conclude our history topic, we answered the question 'Was Henry VIII a good king?' Ask the children what they thought! The Learning Log work was incredible! So many delicious Tudor cookies, and an Armada of Tudor ships! Thank you for supporting your children in completing this work. We hope you have an enjoyable and restful half term.

Year 6



It has been a fantastic first term filled with exciting learning experiences! The children have really embraced our electricity topic and have especially enjoyed building circuits and using Morse code to send secret messages. Our trip to Beaumanor Hall was another highlight, sparking inspiration for some impressive writing projects. Across Year 6, we also thoroughly enjoyed our Learning Log Showcase and were delighted by the effort put into this term's homework—thank you for your support! After a well-deserved half-term break, we look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready, on Tuesday 5th November, when we'll continue our fascinating study of World War II and start exploring our science unit on evolution and inheritance.