

At Oasis Aspinal we...

# Aspire, Aim high, Achieve



October 2021 | Issue 15



## Welcome!

### Dear Parents/Carers

**Thank you for your amazing support this half term! The children have settled back into school really well and have been working extremely hard.**

The children enjoyed the 'Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day' and have completed some lovely work. Year 1 enjoyed their day on the Balance bikes, we have had individual school photographs and Year 4 have started swimming at Wright Robinson swimming baths.

The building work is continuing, and we are hoping Year 5 and Year 6 will be in their new classrooms after October half term. Work will then commence on Year 2's new classroom. Daily updates are put onto the school Twitter and Facebook accounts (@oasisaspinal).

Please find the attendance information for each class to the right. Thank you for your continued support on this, we have had a huge 108 pupils with 100% attendance this half term. Children who have been absent relating to COVID are not counted as missing any days from school. Let's see if we can have even more next term!

A reminder Parents Evenings are on Tuesday 2nd (3:30pm-6pm) and Wednesday 3rd November (3:30pm-5:00pm). Year 1 only will have theirs on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th November. Please make sure you have booked your appointment on MCAS its incredibly important to attend to see how your child is getting on in school. It will also give you an opportunity to see the new classrooms!

A reminder we have also updated our school website ([www.oasisacademyaspinal.org](http://www.oasisacademyaspinal.org)). Please make sure you check MCAS as all letters will be attached to the app again this year.

**Have a lovely half term and we will see everyone back at school on Monday 1st November.**

### Miss Sweeting

## This half terms attendance

Nursery	84.8%
Reception	93.12%
Year 1	96.18%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	97.97%
Year 5	96.08%
Year 6	95.57%
Whole School	96.42%



### Contact us anytime at...



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**ASPIRE, AIM HIGH, ACHIEVE**

# Early Years Foundation stage

Welcome to all of our new children and their families, we are very pleased that you have joined us this year.

Thank you for embracing our arrival and home time systems – the safety of all of all children is our priority.

#### What a busy half term!

The children have settled so well and are relishing being very grown-up girls and boys, learning new routines and rising to the challenge of school expectations.

#### Homework, Reading Books, Key Words

**What a fantastic start!** Everybody has been working so hard at home – practicing their writing and beginning to learn their key words – keep it up!

#### Smile for a Mile

After the holidays we will be completing our annual fundraiser – that helps to provide equipment for our outdoor area. This year we are planning to buy gardening tools and plants for the children. We hope that each family will be able to support us with this.

#### Family Workshops

We will be welcoming you into our classroom to take part in our 'Family Workshop' sessions – the focus of the sessions will be Maths and Phonics. This will be an opportunity to share some activities with your children and give you a little taster of what and how the children learn in school – Look out for the dates!!!

#### Wellies and Indoor Shoes

Just a quick reminder - please send your child to school in their wellies each day – they should by now have a pair of indoor shoes ( Velcro) to change into at school – then we will send them home again in their wellies.

**Thank You for your continued support**  
Miss Bailey, Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Currie

Smile  
for a mile



# Year 1



**Wow, What an amazing start to Year 1! We could not be any prouder of our lovely class, they have blown us away with their hardworking attitude and grown-up behaviour.**

## English

In English we have studied a lovely book, 'Stardust' by Jean Willis. The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading and listening to this story and have produced some fantastic writing including a whole story with a variety of plot points. We have also studied the wonderful poem 'When I am by myself' by Eloise Greenfield we used the pattern and structure of the poem to write our own poems all about ourselves.

## Maths

In Maths we have focussed on numbers within 10 (ordering, sequencing, comparing and understanding the value) and addition and subtraction within 10 (partitioning using part-whole models, bar models and number lines to count forwards and backwards).

## Science

Our science unit this half term has been 'Our Senses'. The children have really enjoyed learning about and investigating their senses through food tasting, guessing the smells, making careful observations using their sense of sight, guessing the sound and exploring their sense of touch through a scavenger hunt.

## History

In History we have learned that we all have our own personal History. We have learned what the terms 'past', 'present' and 'future' mean. We have learned that photographs can be used as Historical evidence and we've created our own personal timelines.

## Geography

In our Geography unit we have explored our Oasis Global Country (South Africa). We've identified features and characteristics of the countries of the UK as well as exploring our country and local area.

So, as you can see, we've been busy bees! Thank you to those that are reading regularly at home and practising key words, little and often is definitely the best approach and **REALLY DOES MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.**

The children will be bringing home phonics packs to work through at home. There is no need to return the pack/ completed worksheets. These are for you to work through with your child, completing one or two activities/games each week. The children will also begin using 'Sumdog' and 'Reading Eggs' to support their learning after the holidays.

**Thank you for your continued support, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Cragg and Miss Stringer**



# Year 2

Well done to all of Y2 for working exceptionally hard in all areas of the curriculum this half term! It did initially take a little while for us all to adjust to our new classroom and surroundings, alongside the new curriculum and iPad usage. However, we have all worked hard and given it our all this half term, so Year 2 deserve a great, big marshmallow clap!

In Maths, we have built on our knowledge from Y1 and explored number and place value. We have revisited part-whole models and used lots of concrete manipulatives such as dienes rods, beads strings, tens and ones counters and multilink cubes to aid with our understanding. We have also enjoyed working with number lines, strengthening our less than and greater than knowledge and securing our mathematical vocabulary too.

In English, the children have enjoyed investigating the 'The Tear Thief' book and have conducted thorough explorations into writing a narrative. We have also built on our understanding of coordinating conjunctions, adjectives, inverted commas, question marks and exclamation marks. Similarly, the pupils have also improved their inference and retrieval skills when reading 'Mr Grumpy's Outing' and 'The Girls'.

In Geography, the children have been introduced to physical and human characteristics of the UK and have gained some knowledge of the continents of the World, including locating the UK and our Oasis Global focus on the map.

In History, we have investigated how to sequence events on a timeline in chronological order, alongside asking and answering questions about the past, based on artefacts found at our school and the local area.

In Science, the children have learnt about the importance of the basic needs for human and animal survival. Alongside enhancing our knowledge of the life cycle of human development and common milestones within each stage. We have also gained greater understanding of the importance of exercise on growth, repair, and development too.

It has been lovely getting to know each of the Y2 super stars this half term and we look forward to being part of their Y2 journey next term too. Thank you for your continued support and communication this half term. We hope that you all have a lovely break.

Miss Buckley, Miss Cairns and Miss Morrison

## Physical and human characteristics of the United Kingdom



# Year 3

What a wonderful first half term we have had! The children settled well into new routines and have impressed us with the effort they have been putting in.

In English, we have been focusing on the text *Jemmy Button*. The children enjoyed this text and wrote narratives based on *Jemmy's* journey. They challenge themselves and created some beautiful pieces of writing.

During maths, the children have been using what they already know to help them solve equations and word problems. They used strategies such as, one more and one less, near doubles and rounding numbers to help them calculate in the most efficient way. We continued to concentrate on place value and built on their number knowledge.

During science, our topic was Animals including Humans. We looked at the types of nutrition needed, learnt the scientific names for human bones and looked at how our muscles work.

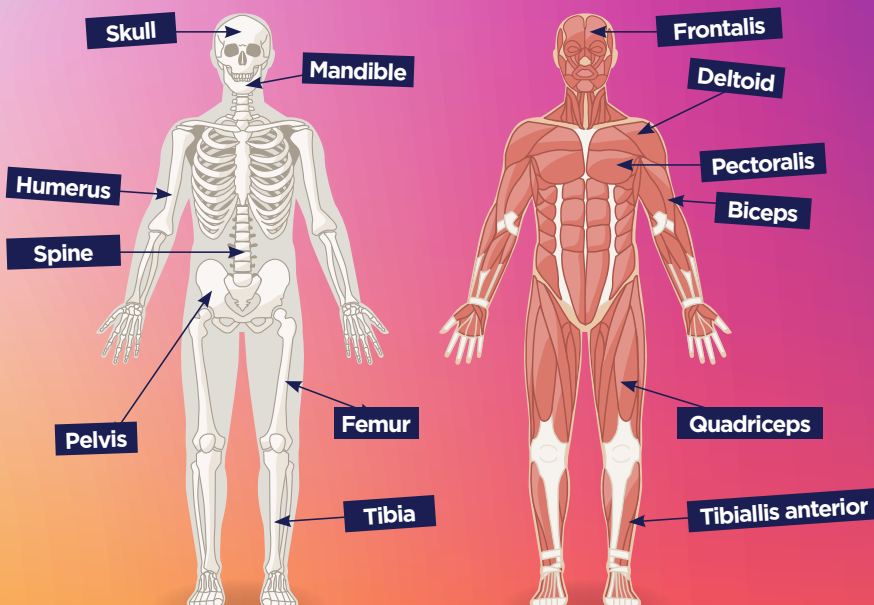
In History, we have been learning about our local area. We concentrated on how the area has developed since the Victoria era. Studying historical maps, local census, and pictures to help understand the changes.

Thank you for supporting your children with their home learning and reading activities this half term. Remember to keep an eye on Class Dojo for up-to-date news on our class story.

Miss Clayton & Mrs Robinson

## Science Topic: Animals including Humans

### Skeletons and Muscles



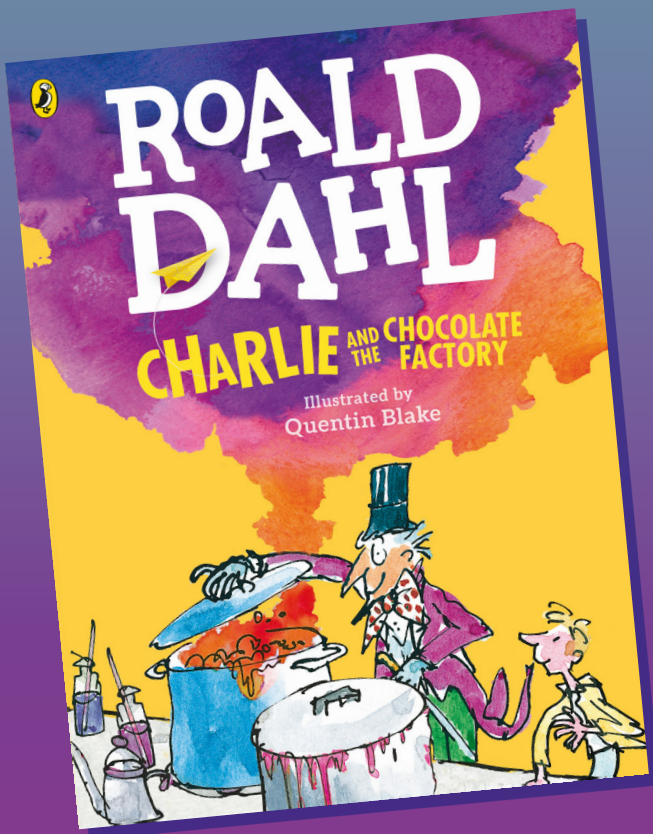
### Food groups



### Animal diets



# Year 4



**What a fantastic start everyone has had in Year 4!! They have all be stuck into their work and shown huge improvements already within the past 7 weeks.**

In Maths, we have begun by looking at place value and shown an improvement in solving number and practical problems. Toward the end of the half-term, we have looked at solving addition and subtraction problems. Children have been adding and subtracting numbers with up to 4 digits using the formal written method of columnar addition and subtraction.

In English this term Year 4 never ceases to amaze me. We started off the term by reading the book Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dhal. All the children have been engaged and shown an interest toward the book and the content. As a class, we wrote a narrative all about Charlie and the adventure he goes on. The writing that the children have produced is just outstanding – pushing their learning to the maximum!

This terms focus has been 'Who am I and Who am I Becoming?'. This has allowed us to explore who we are, where we are from and understanding ourselves on a deeper level. Year 4 have shown maturity, understanding and interest throughout all our lessons, such as, geography, history, PSHE, art and more.

I would like to thank all parents for their support and hope that you continue to engage and support your children with their home reading and homework throughout the year. If you have any further questions, please feel free leave a message on Class Dojo or catch at the gate before or after school. I look forward to talking to you all at parents evening next half term.

Thanks  
Miss Dale and Miss Turner



# Year 5



Welcome back to what we hope will be a normal school year and I feel grateful that we have had a fairly normal start back to this school year. We have had a very successful first half term and it has been lovely to see all the children back and diving straight into the new school year!

As you have heard, we have started a brand-new curriculum which focusses largely around the use of our I pads for educational purposes. The children have shown amazing perseverance and focus getting to grips with all the technical tricks and uses for uploading their work, which you can always ask to see and access at home!

In English, we have been studying a fictional book which explores the story of a new boy in the class who is a refugee. Our reading texts have also allowed us to explore and discuss more vocabulary and understanding around this topic and the children have shown a great deal of empathy and understanding for our character 'Ahmet'. They have learnt to use a range of grammar such as speech marks, subordinate clauses and brackets to improve their writing and descriptions.

In maths, we have spent time focussing on the understand and place value of decimals- exploring tenths and hundredths. The children have learnt to use their existing knowledge and understanding (like counting in 20s) to help them count in decimal steps.

The most exciting thing by far this half term in Year 5 though, is that all the children have begun their music lessons with Mr Robinson from Manchester music service, and they have starting learning to play a brass instrument- either trumpet or trombone! The children have loved these lessons so far and get excited every week when Wednesday comes around.

We have learnt so much more through art, PE, science, religious studies, PSHE, history and geography! You can always ask your child to share and show you on their Ipad and I look forward to seeing many of you at parents evening after half term!

It has been a great first half term back and I am enjoying getting to know your child. Enjoy the well- earned break and I look forward to next half term!

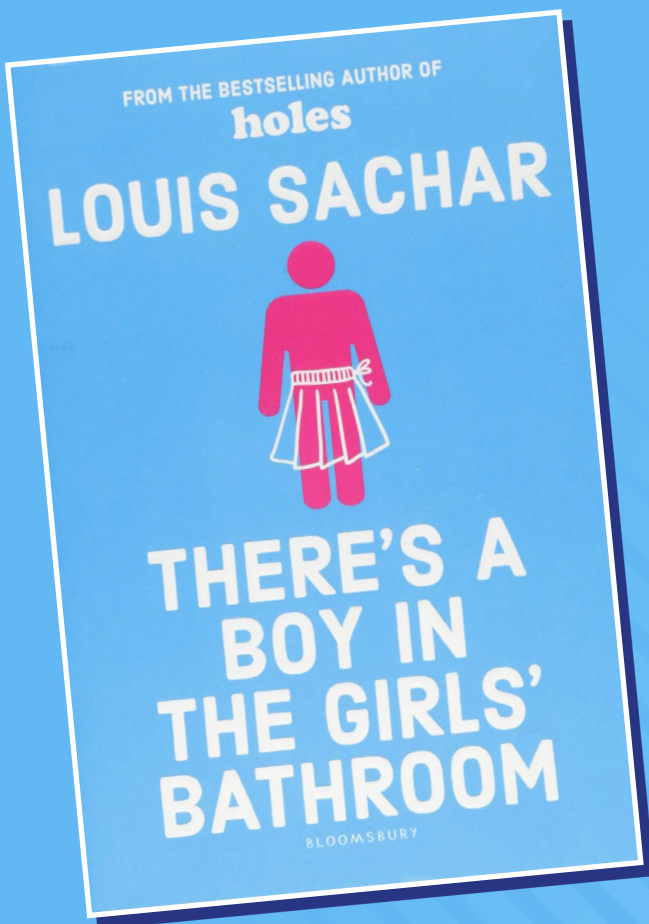
Miss Hughes and Mrs Dale



# YEAR 6

**What a wonderful start to the year! Year 6 have been a pleasure to teach.**

The children have enjoyed the English text we have studied this half term. There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom by Louis Sachar tells the story of a troubled boy's journey to become a better person and believe in himself. The children used their inference skills to deduce how the character, Bradley, is feeling throughout the text and what messages lie behind his behaviour. Finally, they used their studies of the text to write a narrative from the perspective of another character – his close friend Jeff Fishskin. The children have also studied the poem 'Beautiful Ambition' by Karl Nova. They used the poem for inspiration to write their own poetry about the positives and negatives of achieving their goals.



In maths, we have been developing our knowledge of place value to explore larger numbers, using the skills we developed in Year 5 to deepen our understanding. We have also been looking at addition and subtraction and mental strategies to solve equations. The children have been tackling lots of reasoning and problem-solving questions. It has been great to see the children working so hard in maths.

This half term we have been geographers and historians. The children have been introduced to the Oasis Global focus 'Who am I and who am I becoming?'. Children explored the physical and human characteristics of the UK and compared them to those of Africa. We have explored the history that has created the multi-cultural Britain we live in today including why migration is an important part of history. It was brilliant to see everyone engaged and making connections with history and geography across different areas of the curriculum.

The class have been super scientists this half term. We have studied the different parts of the circulatory system and the journey of a red blood cell. The children applied this knowledge to thinking about the impact of life choices on the heart such as diet and exercise. Finally, we explored the work of Christiaan Barnard and the first heart transplant.

In other areas of the curriculum, we have been looking at E safety and coding in our computing lessons. In our personal development lessons, we have continued the theme 'Who am I and who am I becoming?', thinking about which of the Oasis 9 Habits we are great at and those we need to develop. The children have really enjoyed music this half term – they have studied rhythm and notation and how we can create music to express ourselves.

**We are all looking forward to continuing this great start after the half-term break. Enjoy your holiday Year 6.**

Miss Webster and Mrs Myatt







# Community MATTERS

## World Mental Health Day

On Monday 11th October we all wore something yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. Wellbeing and good mental health are fundamental aspects of our PSHE curriculum. Children learn how to build self-confidence and develop resilience skills; and also learn how to access support if they need it.

## Aspinal Pledge

We have assigned each class a half term Home Learning Project that they can enjoy with the family, which will help them to achieve the Aspinal Pledge.

- EYFS: Build a Den
- Year 1: Grandparent Interview
- Year 2: Learn to Skip
- Year 3: Gorton Heritage Trail
- Year 4: Manchester History
- Year 5: History Heroes
- Year 6: 20 Countries

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Ifeoma Onyefulu is an award-winning author who has written many books for children including *A is for Africa and Emeka's Gift*. She joined Years 3 and 4 via a live Zoom meeting crafting stories based on their own personal histories.

Donovan Christopher is an inspiring poet. He explored Black History through the eyes of early pioneers, and engaged the pupils in wordplay through rap, rhythm, and rhyme. He worked with Years 5 and 6 via a live Zoom session.



## Pupil Voice at OA Aspinal

We have already appointed 12 Wellbeing Champions who help to ensure that Playtime runs as smoothly as possible. They help to ensure games are played fairly, communicate with staff, and look out for anyone who is alone or no feeling their best. There are lots more roles to fill in the coming weeks, each with different responsibilities.

Academy MP's	Mini SLT	Wellbeing Champions	Physical Health Champions	9 Habit Champions
Academy MP's are elected by their classmates to represent their year group in meetings with SLT.	The mini SLT apply in writing for their position in Year 6. They assist the SLT and are linked to specific areas of the Academy Development Plan.	Wellbeing Champions ensure that everyone is healthy and happy both in class and outdoors.	Physical Champions are volunteers who take on the role of sports captains and play leaders.	9 Habit Champions are pupils who embody our 9 Habit Characteristics. They lead by example and are role models for others.