

Curriculum newsletter Spring term 2026

Celebrating Our Spring Term Success!

What a wonderful and busy Spring term we have had at AHMAT! It has been a joy to see the children dive into their curriculum topics with such enthusiasm and curiosity. From the youngest learners in EYFS exploring the world of "Animal Crackers" to our Year 5 and 6 adventurers following "Shackleton's Journey," the school has been buzzing with discovery. Our term was further enriched by some truly fantastic whole-school events. During STEM week, the children channeled their inner inventors with to create fantastic and usable products using recycled materials. We also celebrated talent and culture through our Eisteddfodd competition, shared our incredible moves in the Dance Extravaganza, and ignited a love for literacy during World Book Day. Here is a look at the incredible progress made across our subjects this term:

Reading and Writing

Reading and writing remain at the heart of our curriculum. EYFS have made great strides in their phonics and have enjoyed writing sentences inspired by stories within their own book writing. Years 1 and 2 have also been enjoying writing their own stories inspired by their topic 'Frozen Kingdom'. The children have been working hard to develop strong foundations in handwriting and spelling.

In the upper years, children have been developing more sophisticated writing styles. Years 3 and 4 used *Jemmy Button* to write diary entries and letters, focusing on punctuating direct speech. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 explored Shackleton's adventures to draft magazine articles and balanced arguments, utilizing advanced punctuation like dashes and brackets.

Mathematics

It has been a term of building strong foundations and tackling new challenges in Maths. Our EYFS children have been busy mastering numbers to 10 and exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes in their environment. In Years 1 and 2, the focus moved to place value up to 50, addition and subtraction, and even the beginning of multiplication and division through equal groups.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have been working hard on more complex concepts. Years 3 and 4 have explored fractions, decimals, and the perimeters of shapes, while Years 5 and 6 have delved into algebra, ratio, and calculating the area of triangles and parallelograms. It's wonderful to see their growing confidence in using these skills to solve real-world problems!



Science

Our young scientists have been making fascinating discoveries! EYFS learned all about what pets and farm animals need to stay healthy, such as food, water, and shelter. Years 1 and 2 focused on the Arctic food chain and how living things provide for one another's needs. They learnt about animals that live in the Arctic Circle and how they have adapted to live there.

Further up the school, Years 3 and 4 have been investigating the human body, specifically the skeletal and digestive systems and the importance of dental health. Our oldest pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been looking toward the stars, learning about the movement of planets in our solar system and the rotation of the Earth to explain day and night. Their learning was brought to life by a visit to Winchester Science Centre for a rocket themed workshop!

History and Geography

This term took us on a journey through time and across the globe. EYFS compared life in India and China to their own and learned about the life of Amelia Earhart. Years 1 and 2 explored the fascinating culture of the Inuit people and located the Arctic Circle on a map. They learnt about the beautiful landscape of the Arctic and how humans can help to protect it.

Years 3 and 4 travelled to the vast continent of Africa. They learnt about famous human and physical features of Africa and about the diverse biomes of the continent. They also learnt about the Kingdom of Benin, learning about the Edo people and their amazing skills as craftspeople.

Finally, Years 5 and 6 followed Ernest Shackleton's 1911 mission to reach the South Pole, while also studying the unique physical features of Antarctica, such as glaciers and permafrost. They were delighted to hear first hand from Darren Edwards, a disabled adventurer, who had just returned from an expedition to Antarctica.



Arts

Creativity has flourished this term during our clay projects!

In our EYFS classes, the children celebrated Chinese New Year by crafting vibrant clay dragon eyes. This project was a wonderful introduction to working with 3D materials. Our youngest artists practiced their fine motor skills by rolling and manipulating the clay into spheres and coils, creating intricate textures to represent scales. The result was a collection of stunning, colourful eyes that really captured the spirit of the celebration!

Linking to their "Frozen Kingdom" topic, Year 1 and 2 students sculpted impressive clay bears and walruses. The children focused on the anatomy of these Arctic animals, learning how to mold and shape the clay to create realistic forms. They took great pride in detailing the tusks of the walruses and the thick fur of the bears, demonstrating a growing confidence in their ability to translate a 2D idea into a 3D masterpiece.

Our Year 3 and 4 students took a trip "Down in Africa" through their art, designing and creating clay masks inspired by traditional Edo craftsmanship. This project introduced the vital technical skills of "slipping and scoring." By scratching the surface of the clay and using a liquid slip, the children learned how to securely join different parts together, ensuring their bold facial features and decorations stayed firmly in place.

In years 5 and 6, the children produced truly stunning 3D wolf sculptures. This was a sophisticated project that required a high level of patience and precision to create sturdy, freestanding figures. The final outcomes were a testament to their hard work and artistic maturity and we love how unique and expressive each of the finished wolves is.

Computing

Digital skills are a key part of our curriculum and this term our pupils completed a range of projects, with pupils in ks1 learning everything from digital painting to create work inspired by the artist David Hockney. Years 3 and 4 used programme skills to code symmetrical patterns in Scratch, this was a challenging project that required them to apply their knowledge of shapes and angles to provide the correct algorithm for their sprite. Years 5 and 6 have become experts at using spreadsheets to interpret data about Antarctica. They learned to input, analyse and interpret data about climate.



Physical Education

Energy levels have been high in P.E. this term! A major highlight was our 'Dancing Through the Decades' project, where children explored iconic movements and music from different eras. It was wonderful to see their hard work and creativity culminate in our annual Dance Extravaganza, where every year group performed with incredible confidence and rhythm. Alongside our dancing, we were thrilled to introduce Volleyball as a new 'net and wall' game. The children have thoroughly enjoyed mastering this fast-paced sport, showing great teamwork while developing their serving, volleying, and spatial awareness on the court.

RE

In Religious Education, we have explored the diverse faiths within our community. This term, children in KS1 have learned about Judaism and children in KS2 learnt about Islam. All children also learnt about the Christian celebration of Easter, reflecting on themes of belief, prophethood, and the "good news" of the Easter story.

Music

In Music, voices have been raised in song and rhythm. Years 1 and 2 practiced their pitch and posture as they sang a song about an arctic whale. They also tried their hands at some Inuit throat singing. Years 3 and 4 explored the "call and response" techniques of African music and were delighted to take part in a vibrant African drumming workshop. Years 5 and 6 were inspired by the orchestral works of composer Vivaldi as they explored his piece 'winter'. They listen to the ways that Vivaldi created a image of icicles, snow storms and swirling winds.



Design and technology

Our D&T projects this term have been a masterclass in invention! Our youngest learners in EYFS turned their hands to baking, carefully measuring and mixing ingredients to create delicious dog biscuits. In Key Stage 1, the children became engineers, researching and building snow ploughs to tackle the icy conditions of their "Frozen Kingdom" topic.

In Lower Key Stage 2, the classrooms were buzzing with excitement as students built Safari Vehicles. These weren't just static models; the children learned how to incorporate a motor circuit to make their vehicles move, bringing their "Down in Africa" topic to life. Finally, in Upper Key Stage 2, the children explored the complex world of mechanical movement. They designed and built cam-mechanised toys, learning how to convert rotary motion into linear motion to create moving characters. Across all year groups, the children showed wonderful problem-solving and engineering skills.



Trips and Enrichment: Bringing Learning to Life

EYFS: Fun on the Farm Our youngest learners in EYFS had a fantastic time visiting Waltham Place Farm. It was a joy to see their faces light up as they were shown around the farm and introduced to the different animals. The children learned first-hand about the responsibilities of a farmer, discovering how to care for the animals and what they need to stay happy and healthy. This hands-on experience provided a wonderful foundation for their "Animal Crackers" topic.

Key Stage 1: Exploring Inuit Culture. Years 1 and 2 embarked on an inspiring trip to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums in Oxford. The highlight of the day was a specialized workshop on the Inuit way of life. The children were absolutely delighted to see authentic historical artifacts, including traditional snow goggles, harpoons, and even raincoats cleverly lined with seal intestines! Seeing these items in person truly helped them appreciate the resourcefulness and ingenuity of people living in the "Frozen Kingdom."

Upper Key Stage 2: Rocket Science in Winchester Our Year 5 and 6 adventurers headed to the Winchester Science Centre for an out-of-this-world experience! Linked to their science work on Earth and Space, the children participated in a thrilling rocket-themed workshop. They explored the physics behind space travel and the challenges faced by explorers like Shackleton, but with a modern, galactic twist. It was a day full of "lightbulb moments" that ignited a passion for physics and engineering in our oldest pupils.



STEM week, World Book Day and more...

Waste to Wow: Turning Yesterday's News into Useful Designs

This term we held our STEM Week. During the week the children stepped into the shoes of engineers to transform everyday waste into functional products. By viewing waste as a valuable resource, the children developed awareness of environmental issues and explored solutions using structural science.

Newspaper Roll Chairs:

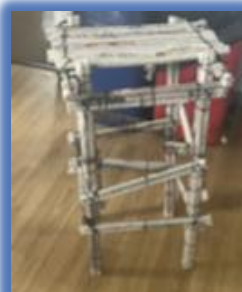
Pupils in key stage 2 explored the principles of compression and tension by rolling reclaimed newspapers into tight, dense "logs." By experimenting with different joining techniques and structural frameworks, they created sturdy seating that was strong enough to actually sit on! This proved to the children that even the flimsiest material can become strong through smart design.

Egg Box Clay Bowls:

Pupils in KS2 explore ways to recycle egg boxes. By breaking down the cardboard cartons and reforming them into a versatile pulp, children learned about material properties and stability. These handcrafted bowls demonstrate how we can reshape discarded resources into purposeful, aesthetic objects.

Sock puppets:

Our youngest engineers in EYFS brought a touch of magic to the week by re-purposing old socks into Storytelling Puppets. Using a variety of reclaimed materials—such as milk bottle lids for eyes and fabric scraps for hair—the children practiced fine motor skills and creative problem-solving. These puppets aren't just toys; they are tools for communication, allowing our pupils to breathe new life into "rubbish" and use their creations to weave imaginative stories.



World Book Day: Our school was transformed into a world of imagination for World Book Day! Taking inspiration from the whimsical worlds of Roald Dahl and the enchanting rhymes of Julia Donaldson, the children became authors and illustrators themselves. They worked with great focus to create their very own storybooks, channeling the creativity of these beloved authors. It was wonderful to see their unique characters and plots come to life, fostering a deep love for literacy and storytelling across all year groups.



Eisteddfod: Bravery and Brilliantly Spoken Word The Eisteddfod competition provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their performance skills and confidence. Every child took on the challenge of learning a poem by heart and performing it to their class. We were incredibly proud of how brave the children were to stand up and share their recitations with others. From these class heats, performers were selected to represent our school in a final competition at Cox Green School. Our finalists put on truly memorable and impressive performances, representing the school with poise and talent.



Dance Extravaganza: The Dance Extravaganza was once again a highlight of the school calendar—a truly joyful event that brought the spirit of different decades to life through movement. The energy in the room was electric as each year group showcased their routines. We hope that the parents and families who attended enjoyed the show as much as the children enjoyed performing. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the hard work, coordination, and team spirit the children poured into their rehearsals throughout the term.



It has been a fantastic Spring term, and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, creativity, and curiosity our children have shown in every subject. We would like to extend a thank you to all our parents and carers for your unwavering support and encouragement. Whether it was helping with lines for the Eisteddfod or cheering from the sidelines at the Dance Extravaganza, your involvement makes our school community the vibrant and successful place it is.