



# AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## British Section

www.afnorth-is.com Twitter: @AFNORTH\_IS www.facebook.com/AFNORTHschool

**British.office@afnorth-is.com**

**17 November 2023**

Dear Parents,

We are incredibly proud of our children at AFNORTH and it has been a busy week. During the assemblies on Monday we celebrated **Diwali**. Our very own oracles; Pari and Shiv shared their knowledge, outfits and artefacts. It was lovely to hear and see their enthusiasm and pride of this celebration.



Classes have been busy elves working on their **Christmas Craft** for the Fayre. During Design and Technology and Art sessions children have developed and created individual masterpieces ready for the Craft stall.

Entries have been coming into the Office for the **Fayre Programme Front Cover Competition**. Don't forget that Monday is the last day for submissions. Thank you for all the donations for the Secret Room and Toy Shop, we will continue to accept these next week. To support the Café at the fayre we will welcome donations of cakes and cookies on Friday next week. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated. Our wonderful team of parents and staff have been working really hard behind the scenes to make this event possible. If you would like to **help and volunteer** on the day with the running of one of the school stalls / activities please contact the British Office next week.

### DATES TO NOTE

#### November

- 25 Christmas Fayre
- 29 **STAFF DAY - NO SCHOOL**

#### December

- 8 Sinterklaas Visit
- 11 Early Years Christmas Presentation
- 21 Christmas Lunch
- 22 Last Day of Term

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**  
Dec 22-Jan 5

#### January

- 8 Back to School

On Thursday we welcomed **Vice Admiral Hally**. He visited some of our classes and talked to children and staff and even make a pledge to Year2 to reduce his personal use of plastic when shopping! He was very interested to hear the views of our Student Council Reps about their experiences in moving to AFNORTH and life in The Netherlands/Germany. As we waved and 'piped him out', it was evident that he had taken onboard the wonderful things that we are doing at AFNORTH.



Please note that on Monday morning, we will be having a full practice emergency fire drill with a school evacuation. *Have a lovely weekend*



Well done to Pari who represented the School at the Remembrance Day Service at the Brunssum Commonwealth War Graves on Saturday 11th November.



Well done to Kilian who completed his initiation and is officially a Scout member of the Beavers group.



**Bucket Fillers**



*Maria Gabriella, Maja, Tomasz, David, Demir, Grace, Henry, Iwan, Naglis, Adi, Dylan, Isaac, Mario, Silvia, William, Pari, Sebastien, Kaan, Freya, Leo, Alena, Bade, Year 6*

# AFNORTH International School

Ferdinand Bolstraat 1  
6445 EE Brunssum  
The Netherlands



Brunssum, 16 November 2023

## Practice Emergency Fire drill with evacuation to JFC HQ

Dear Parents

Please be informed that the AFNORTH International School will, in cooperation with the JFC HQ, hold a practice emergency evacuation exercise. **The exercise will take place on Monday morning, 20 November.**

This exercise will start with a regular fire alarm and Phase I evacuation to the assembly points on school grounds. Phase I will be followed by Phase II, the evacuation to the JFC HQ. The phase II evacuation will end by returning to school. The children and staff should be back at school around 10.30 hours.

We would like to ask you to make sure your children are properly dressed on Monday, as we will walk from school to the base.

Those of you who are signed up to the ENS system will also receive a message via ENS on Monday.

Looking forward to a successful exercise

Directorate  
AFNORTH International School.

# Host Nation news

November 2023

## Sinterklaas in the Netherlands



On Saturday, November 18, 2023 Saint Nicholas, or as the Dutch people call him Sinterklaas, will arrive in the Netherlands with his helper Pieten. According to the Dutch tradition Sinterklaas travels from his country of residence Spain to the Netherlands with his steamboat 'Pakjesboot 12'.

The arrival of Sinterklaas is a huge happening in the Netherlands and is always broadcasted live on television and watched by nearly every child. In the past the event has even often been attended by the Dutch King Willem-Alexander and his wife Queen Maxima and their children.

The traditional feast is celebrated yearly on the 5th of December when Sinterklaas and his Pieten drop or bring presents for children at their homes. This is the eve before Sinterklaas' birthday. During the period before that celebration, children put their shoe at the fireplace or near an open window. With the shoe, the children leave a carrot or some hay for Sinterklaas' horse. Then the children sing a song for Sinterklaas and the next day they will hopefully find some candy or presents in their shoes.

*We are happy to announce that Sinterklaas will visit the elementary students of AFNORTH International School again this year and want to let you know that his visit will take place on **Friday, December 8** instead of December 1 (as previously mentioned in the newsletter regarding the clogs).*

The Pieten assist Sinterklaas in delivering presents and sweets to the children, but since the 1960's there has been a lot of discussion about the appearance of the traditional 'Zwarte Piet' (Black Pete). In recent years, the Pieten have been transformed into soot and chimney Pieten so that they are no longer seen as offensive. We will not include Zwarte Piet in our school, but we want to be proactive and inform you about the Dutch folklore with this newsletter.

Have a great Sinterklaas celebration!

Kind regards,

*Ms. Dyon Damen and Mr. Craig McMorland  
Host Nation Teachers - AFNORTH International School*



# Christmas & Thanksgiving Fayre



## Front Cover Competition for the Fayre Programme.

The drawing (seasonal...Christmas,  
Thanksgiving) should be completed  
on A4 paper.

*Children from Year 2/Grade 1*

### Information to include:

- AFNORTH School Fayre
- Saturday 25th November 2023
- 11am—2pm

*Name and class should be written on the back and  
submitted to the British Office no later than  
Monday 20th November*

# Christmas/Thanksgiving Fayre

25<sup>th</sup> November 1100-1400

## Can you help?

### Toy Shop



Have you been having a clear out of toys your child no longer plays with? We also welcome donations for the 'Toy Shop' this can include soft toys or games which are clean and in good condition.

### ALL DONATIONS

MUST BE NUT/PEANUT FREE

### Secret room



Always a favourite with the children, the Secret Room provides an opportunity for the children to choose, purchase and wrap gifts for their parents. For this, we need donations of small gifts for men and women such as candles, ornaments, toiletries etc(no razors)

### Tombola

We are looking for donations for the Tombola - this can include unopened tins, bottles, jars etc but is not restricted to foodstuffs - all we ask is that the items donated are unused and in date.



### Cafe



We will also have a Cafe again this year and would be very grateful for any delicious treats you would be willing to donate-cakes, sponges, tray bakes, loaf cakes, cup-cakes etc.

## THE SUCCESS OF THE DAY RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT & GOODWILL

If you would like to make any contributions, please send them directly to the British Office. Any items for the Cake Stall can be brought to the Office on the 24th November or on the morning of the Fayre.

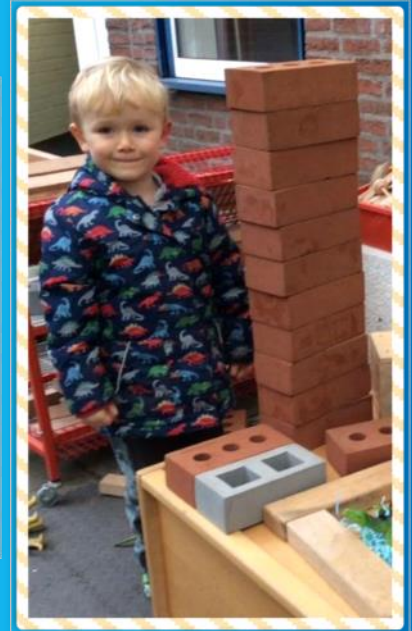
# Sunbeams

Sunbeams have been spending lots of time building muscle strength in our arms and hands, we call these activities pre-writing skills! We do story dough every week and work to create wonderful shapes and objects out of the dough. We used the story 'Hooray for Birds' as our inspiration and thought carefully about the different features needed for individual birds. Some had long bodies, others had short ones. Some had huge wings and others had pointy beaks! We are a creative little bunch and love the freedom of using the dough in a way that suits us.



# Reception

How do we develop gross and fine motor skills in Reception Class? Here are some of the activities from outdoors this week. Fine motor: we used tools and brushes and fingers to melt the ice igloos and free the trapped animals. Then we used construction materials to build them hospitals. Gross motor: we balanced along logs and tightropes to move around the wet garden. It was a swamp! We built a diving board, which we had to test for safety, to jump into



# Year 1

Year one have been exploring pattern this week. We begun by making a repeating pattern using just two colours and have then explored using more colours and even using different shapes or objects around the classroom.

At forest school this week we went on a leaf hunt to see how many different autumn colours we could find. We marked them in to leave crowns and necklaces.

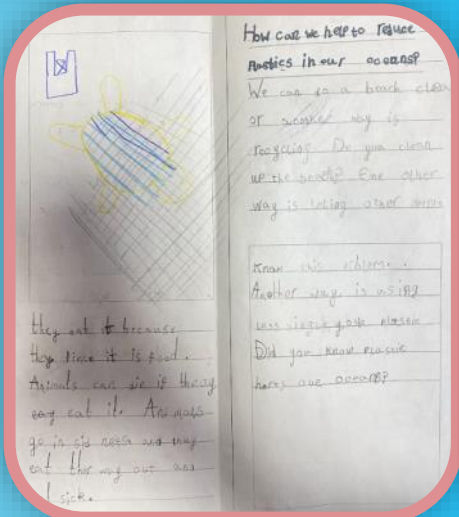
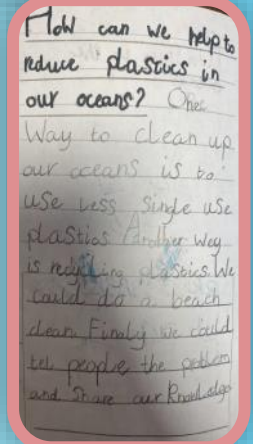
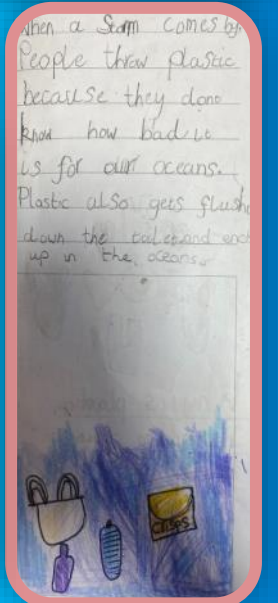
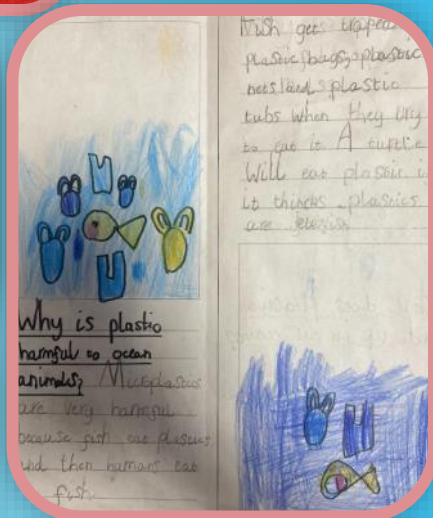
The children have also been learning how to use split pins to make joint moving parts together - they've been making the characters from the three little pigs. Watch out for the Big Bad Wolf!





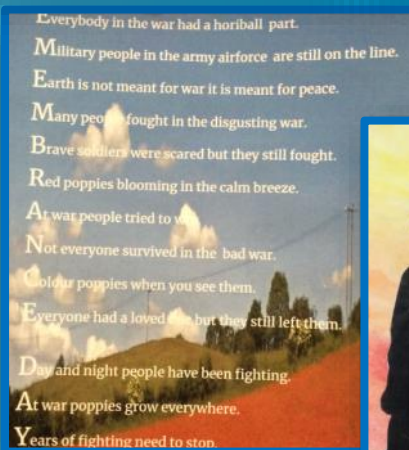
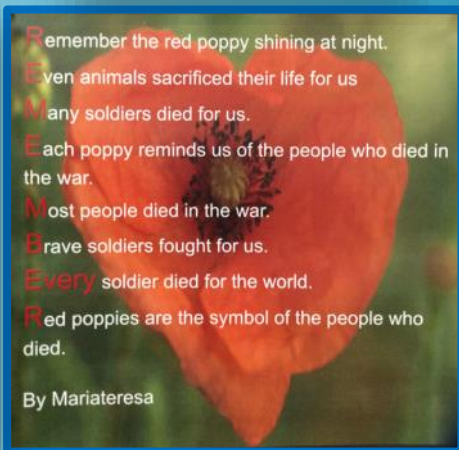
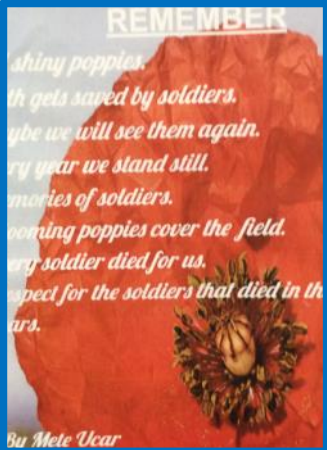
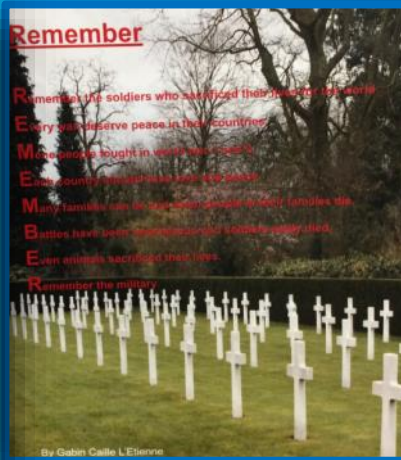
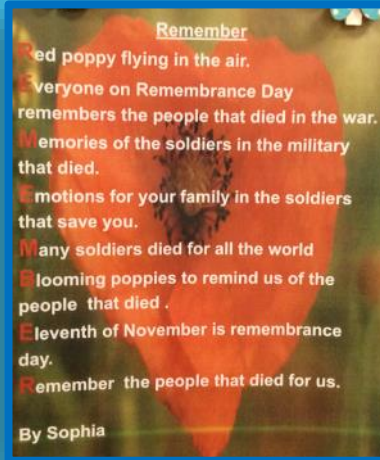
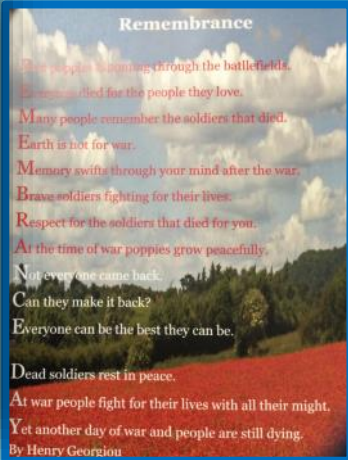
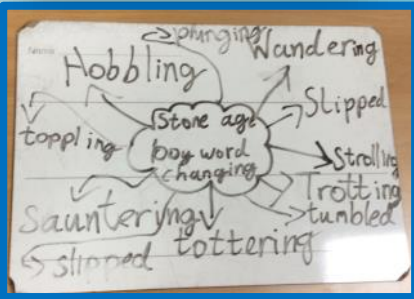
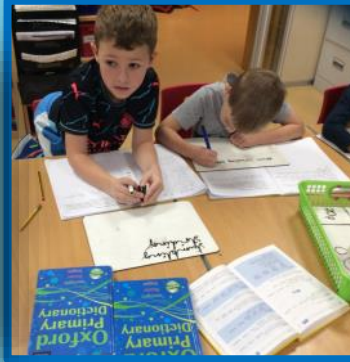
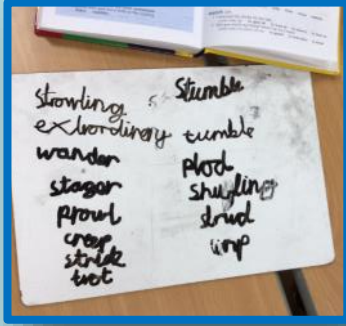
# Year 2

This week, Year 2 has been working so hard on an environmental problem. We have been looking at plastic pollution in our oceans. We have produced amazing leaflets to help us spread the knowledge that we have. We know that knowledge is powerful when it is spread to others. We have been focussing on shape and pattern in our math work this week.



# Year 3

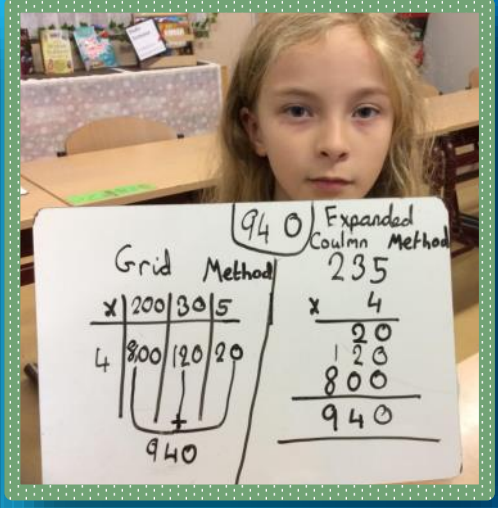
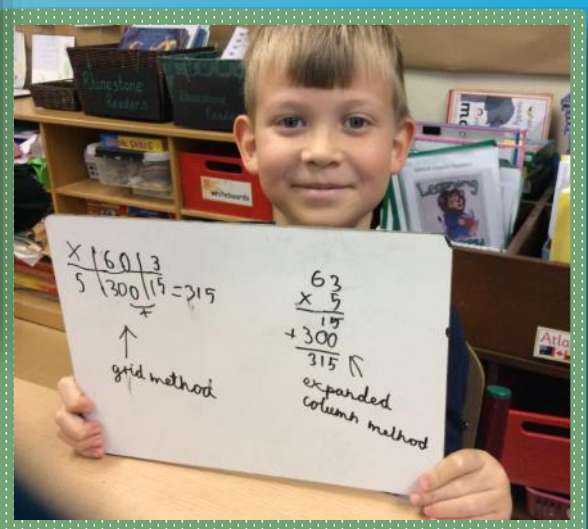
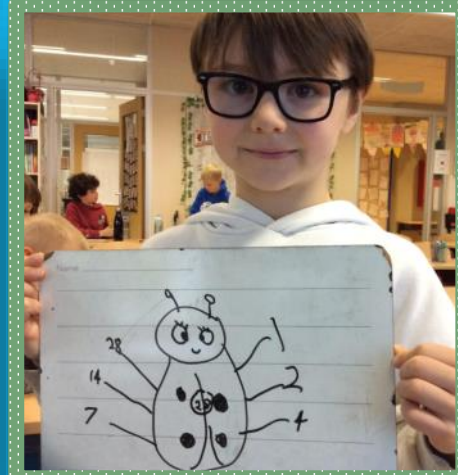
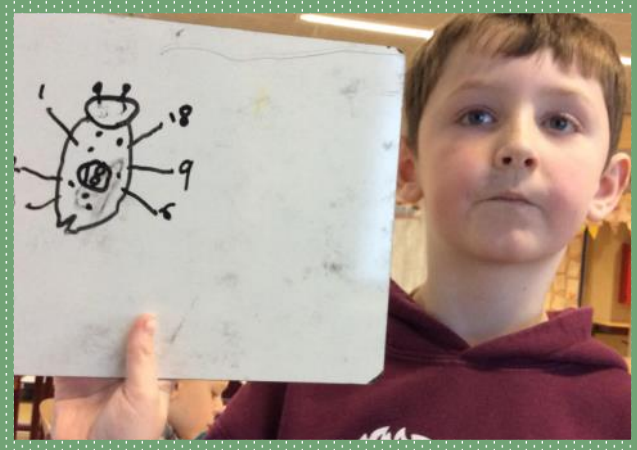
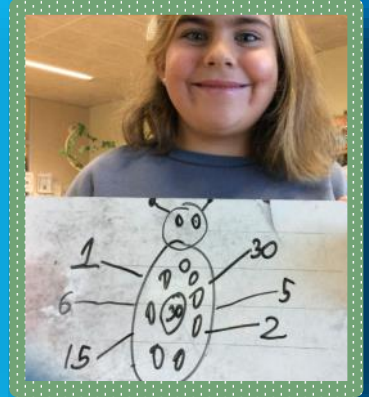
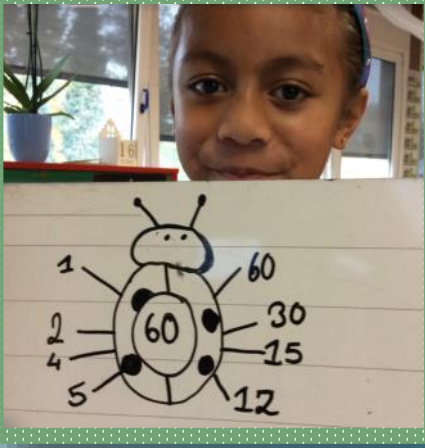
Year 3 have worked hard on Google classroom to complete their wonderful Remembrance Poems and to present them with thought and care. They have learnt how to choose appropriate fonts, colours and images to match the work that they are doing. We are practising using the keyboard but sometimes we test the adults typing skills with our dictation speed. We are working on our new history topic Stone Age, Iron Age, Bronze Age and our new writing unit links to this. The children have been great at thinking about word choices and used thesauruses and dictionaries to help them. As well as thinking about the prefixes un, dis and mis. In maths we continue to work hard on multiplication and division using arrays and other methods as seen on our knowledge organisers.



# Year 4-5

"In Maths, we have been learning about different written methods for multiplication with bigger numbers. I liked the column method because it was easier to understand. We were also learning about factors and factor pairs. Look at our photos to find out more - our factor bugs!"

Written by Anders



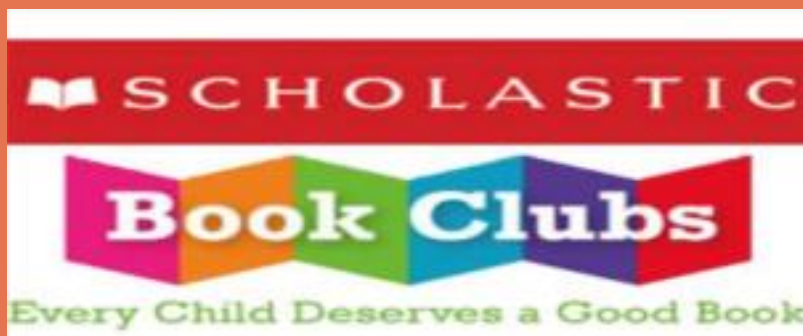
# Year 6

What a busy week we have had! We welcomed Vice Admiral Hally to the British Section where he visited Year 6 in class. They were in the process of enjoying Humanities where they were answering the question: 'Where are we?'. We made a model to demonstrate where the continent of Europe actually extends to - North, South, East and West, and then turned our hand at cartography - drawing the continents of the world freehand before moving onto Europe and then the Netherlands. We also researched and identified the push/pull factors of this area of the Netherlands. What pulled people to come and live here, what may have pushed them out?



# Bucket Fillers





**Welcome to the Afnorth British Section Scholastic Book Club.**

**Thank you to everyone who has previously ordered from our Scholastic Book Club. With your continued support we will be able to purchase more books for Afnorth British Section.**

**Please have a look through the next online Book Club full of great books to inspire your children and help us earn many more free books for our school.**

### **A reminder of how a Book Club works?**

Afnorth British Section have set up a new Book Club via Scholastic Books website.

We will be running an online only ordering Book Club and will share our unique Scholastic website address for you to place your order directly.

Please have a look through the wonderful range of books available.

You can then place an order and pay securely online.

The Book Club organiser Lorraine Guthrie will keep check of your orders via our website.

The books will be delivered to Afnorth School for FREE and sent home with your children. If your orders are for Christmas gifts please get in touch with Lorraine and she will arrange a way for the order to be collected without your child's knowledge.

Every order will earn FREE books for the British Section to have in school for the children to enjoy. Please have a browse through the website and place your orders using the following: <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/afcent-international/digital-book-club>

Closing date for these book club orders is **November 13th 2023**

Contact email for Lorraine Guthrie: [ukscholastic@afnorth-is.com](mailto:ukscholastic@afnorth-is.com)

# LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is now €3.75



Week 47 20-11 t/m 24-11-2023

MONDAY

Omelet , Italian Rice , Coleslaw, Tomato Sauce	1, 2, 3, 9
"Italian Menu"	
Omelet with Tomato Sauce	1, 2, 3
Italian Rice with Onions & Peas	3, 9
Coleslaw	

TUESDAY

Soy Roti, Curry Beans	3, 4
"Surinamese Menu"	
Crispy Chicken	3, 4, 6
Roti (Savoury Pancake)	3
Curry Beans	3

WEDNESDAY

Pasta, Tomato Vegetable Sauce	3, 4
"Italian Menu"	
Pasta & Basil	3
Beef Ragout	3, 10
Snack Tomato	

THURSDAY

Vegetable Stew, Couscous, Pita Bread	1, 2, 3, 4
"Moroccan Menu"	
Moroccan Meat Balls	2, 3, 4, 10
Couscous	3
Pita Bread	1, 3
Yoghurt Garlic Sauce	1, 2, 3

FRIDAY

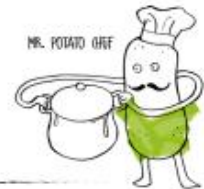
Veggie Burger, Fries, Peas	1,2,3,4,8,9
"UK Menu"	
Fish Filet or Hot Dog Sausage	2, 3, 5, 7
Fries	
Peas	9
Tartar Sauce	2, 3

LISTED PRODUCTS AND DISHES CAN CONTAIN TRACES OF ALLERGENS.

- 1 = milk
- 2 = egg
- 3 = gluten
- 4 = soy
- 5 = pork
- 6 = chicken
- 7 = fish
- 8 = sesame
- 9 = peas
- 10 = beef



All meals are nut free



Looking for suggestions for your child's lunchbox...

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>



## Christmas Lunch

We invite all staff members, students, parents and family to join our special AIS Christmas luncheon which will be served by Sodexo in the cafeteria of the school on Thursday 21 December

**Stuffed Turkey Roulade**  
**Potato Gratin Cranberry Sauce Carrots & Peas**  
**Christmas Coupe Custard Forest Fruit Trifle**

**There will also be a vegetarian option**

**Christmas Lunch tickets must be pre-purchased before Thursday December 7th**

**Elementary Child's Lunch €4.25**

**Adult Lunch €4.75**

Google sign up form [Christmas Lunch](#)

Children/Families who do not wish to purchase a lunch may bring a packed lunch from home.





# Coaching Workshop Taster Session Created For spouses by spouses

Join us for a FREE positive psychology coaching taster workshop, run by Shona Johnston and Verity Duncan, both qualified coaches from the British Community

## When and Where:

Thurs 16th Nov 10am-11.30am at the Brit Cafe

OR

Wed 22nd Nov 6pm-7.30pm at JFCBS Chapel

## In this practical workshop, you will:

- ✓ Explore your needs, strengths and values.
- ✓ Figure out your passions.
- ✓ Make goals towards what's most important to you.

Bring a  
notebook and  
an open mind

Tea and Coffee provided

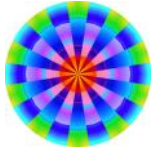


For more information and to register your  
interest please scan the QR code



# Attendance

It is really important that we work together to do all we can to prioritise children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers. The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as school has returned to normal following Covid restrictions we have been instructed to adhere strictly to school policy.



Our attendance target is 96%. To achieve this a child should have less than 7 days absence across the school year. Our current whole school attendance is 95.42%.

## Reporting Absence

### Unplanned Absence e.g. your child is unable to attend due to ill health

Parents must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by 0900 or as soon as practically possible. Parents should email [british.office@afnorth-is.com](mailto:british.office@afnorth-is.com) or call 045 5278241 to report an unplanned absence. Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence.

## Leave in Term Time

We recognise the challenges our parents face when living overseas. However, regular attendance at school is vital in helping children to achieve their full potential and get the best possible start in life.

### Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Headteachers may not grant leave of absence to pupils during term time unless they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. Examples of 'exceptional circumstances' include:

- a. bereavement or serious illness of relatives.
- b. medical needs where treatment is required in the Home Country.
- c. where delivery of the Defence Mission by service parents employed in specific roles impacts on the ability to observe standard leave patterns.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances, current attendance figure, and relevant context behind the request. The headteacher may choose to discuss a request with their local Assistant Chief Education Officer (ACEO); however, a leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

Valid reasons for authorised absence include:

- a. Illness and medical/dental appointments.
- b. Religious observance - where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong.
- c. Post Operational Leave.

# REMINDERS

## Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Times

### Reception -Year6

School Day 0900-1530

Drop off from 0845.

**Please note there is no supervision prior to this time.**

Pick Up at Main Gate

Reception/Year 1 1525 Year 2-6 1530



## NO NUTS

We have a number of children with a nut allergy and we therefore ask for no nuts or products containing nuts to be brought into the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

## WATER BOTTLES



Children are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle to school every day and to keep hydrated during lessons. The children have access to chilled water fountains to top up their bottles. Children should take their bottle home each night to be washed. Cans and bottles of carbonated drinks, including energy drinks, are not permitted in school.

## END OF THE DAY CHANGES

If you are making changes to your child's routine e.g. Parent Pick Up rather than the bus we request that these changes are sent via email to:

TO: british.office@afnorth-is.com

CC: class teacher

CC: firstname.lastname@afnorth-is.com (teacher)

**These changes should be made before 1000**

## Sunbeams

Session 0900-1200

Drop off from 0855

Pick up at 1200

Location for Drop Off and Pick Up is at the Flagpoles.

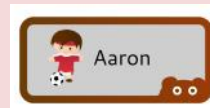
During periods of inclement weather please wait inside the main entrance (in the well area under the stairs or when this area is in use please wait outside the British Office). Staff will collect/deliver the children to you. There is no need to sign in

**EDC Pick Up 1500 or 1525**-Children will be brought to the gate.

Times and locations are related to supervision and to avoid congestion outside of Sunbeams.

## LABEL LABEL LABEL

Please assist us in preventing items being lost or misplaced by labelling your child's belongings e.g. items of clothing, footwear, bags, packed lunch boxes/containers. Please also impress on your child that they



## PE SHOES (Y2-Y6)

Please ensure your child has a separate pair of shoes for PE/Gym lessons with Coach Guest. Shoes should have non-marking soles.



## PERSONAL ITEMS

Children should NOT be bringing anything to school other than essential items or requested by the teacher to support their learning. Please ensure unnecessary items do not slip into bags e.g. toys, pokemon cards.

# AFNORTH Calendar 2023-2024

## Autumn Term

August 21 School Opens

September 6 1400 Dismissal

September 18 STAFF DAY-NO SCHOOL for Children

**October 23 to October 27 SCHOOL CLOSED**

October 30 School Opens

November 1-2 1230 Dismissals (Parent Conferences)

November 29 STAFF DAY NO SCHOOL for Children

**December 22-January 5 SCHOOL CLOSED**

## Spring Term

January 8 School Opens

January 24 1400 Dismissal

January 29 STAFF DAY-NO SCHOOL for Children

**February 12-February 16 SCHOOL CLOSED**

February 19 School Opens

**March 25-April 5 SCHOOL CLOSED**

## Summer Term

April 8 School Opens

April 17 1400 Dismissal

May 9 STAFF DAY NO SCHOOL for Children

May 20 SCHOOL CLOSED

June 21 LAST DAY 1230 Dismissal