



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

www.afnorth-is.com Twitter: @AFNORTH_IS www.facebook.com/AFNORTHSchool

British.office@afnorth-is.com

24 November 2023

Dear Parents,

What a busy week! The evacuation exercise went very well on Monday with all the children following directions perfectly. Wednesday saw us finally return to swimming lessons. Thank you to Miss Forrest for making this possible. As part of their PE curriculum the children in Y3-6 will have a block of lessons of approximately 10 sessions. There was great excitement as Year 3 and Year 6 left school on Wednesday morning and on their return there were some lovely comments from the children including "I feel good about swimming now. I was a bit worried before because I can't swim. I progressed lots." and "I feel good because I don't know how to swim but I got to swim with the float. I now know how to swim and can teach my sister."

The remainder of the week has seen excitement increasing as we prepared for the Fayre: completing our class crafts and watching the school be transformed by all our wonderful elves. We have a wonderfully supportive parent community.

WE ARE NOW ALL READY AND VERY EXCITED FOR THE FAYRE AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SCHOOL TOMORROW FOR A FUN FAMILY TIME. (1100-1400)

Thank you for all your donations and support in making this event possible. Any raffle tickets that haven't been handed in can be brought in tomorrow.

Raffle tickets will also be available to buy on

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



Student Council presented Mrs Smees with flowers on her Special Birthday



Congratulations to our Christmas Programme Winners in the British Section



Bucket Fillers



Grace, Freya, William, Lexi, Norah, Alberto, Iwan, Henry, Naglis, Jan, Michal, Poyraz, Anders

AFNORTH Elementary PTO

BOOK Sale

2023

WEDNESDAY 13 DEC
FROM 9:00 - 14:00

Our December used book sale is coming up!
Donations are always needed! Send them
with your kids to the sale or place in the
donation totes in the elementary pods at any
time.

Many different genres, reading levels, &
languages available, from board books
through adult!

€0.50 each OR 3 books for €1



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*



Sunbeams

Our Super Sunbeams have continued to work their writing muscles this week with enormous box sized writing which everyone loved. They boxed housed our new apple, cherry and plum trees which also required some effort to plant in deep holes. More story dough to build our palm strength in the form of a 3 legged wonky donkey! We finished off with a challenging obstacle course race against our friends, tricky and such good fun!



Reception

What is Thinking Thursday? Reception Class children bring in an item of their choice that fits in with a theme. This week, the theme was favourite colours. We spend time in 2 groups to sit quietly, think about the theme, show other children what we have brought in and ask and answer questions. Parents volunteer to be 'family baker of the week' and bring in cakes or cookies that are shared. Thinking Thursday helps develop listening and talking skills and feeling part of a group.



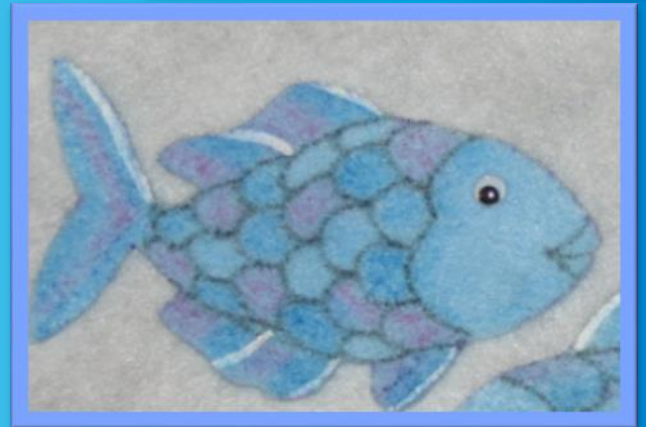
Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed a morning out in the local area. The children went to look at all the different shapes they could see on the houses - circle, square, triangle, rectangle. They spotted many 3D shapes too including cubes, cuboids, cylinders and even a pyramid! We also practiced how to safely cross the road using the rhyme "stop, look, listen and think"



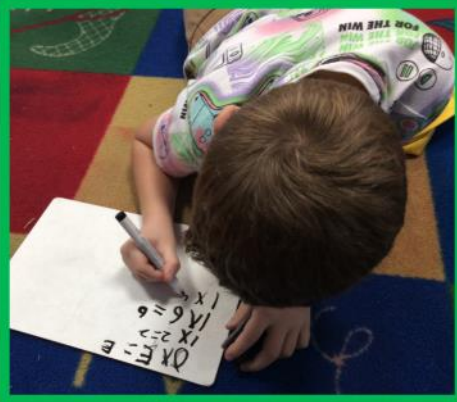
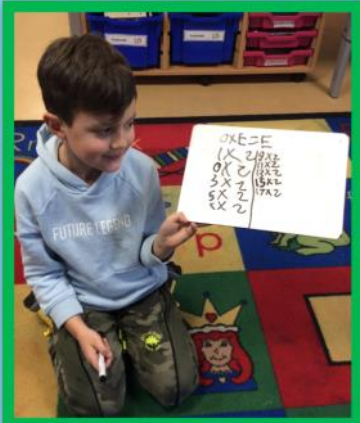
Year 2

This week Year 2 has started our new narrative unit of the Rainbow Fish. We have been getting to know the text through drama, through different word types and sentence types used and through practising using the suffixes 'less' and 'ful'



Year 3

It has been an exciting week in Year 3 continuing to work on our Stone Age to Iron Age topic. We have looked at the site of Skara Brae in Scotland. We were intrigued by how they made their houses, what they looked like and why they were abandoned. In English we have worked on describing a setting in a story, thinking about how we can use our senses as a stimulus for this. The children investigated adding and multiplying odd and even numbers in maths to see if there was a rule they could figure out. We also continue to work hard on using Bar Models to help support our mathematical thinking. Sometimes working out what to do in a word problem is trickier than the calculation itself. Finally we had some very helpful expert sewers who helped out each other while working on our craft for the Christmas and Thanks Giving Fayre.



Year 4-5

"In Year 4/5, we have enjoyed being very creative in different projects. We had a special grade level event and made tie-dye patterns on white t-shirts. We put elastic bands on the t-shirts to create unique patterns with the coloured dyes - stripy, bullseye, spiral and random dots. Have a look at some of our colourful, vibrant designs!



Year 6

This week in Science we have been preparing to start our topic of Evolution and Inheritance. We started by sharing photographs of us and our families to recognise similar traits. We then looked at the vocabulary for this topic and then working in groups, we matched the definitions to the words and pictures. This created lots of discussion and debate. Finally, we had a thought about how we would like humans to evolve which led to some very interesting responses!!!!



I would like to see humans evolve to be more kind so you would be friends without a fuss or just because of a reason that is not necessary so there would be no wars.
-Lexi



I would like to see humans evolve gills and wings so we can fly and swim underwater.
By Sebastien

I would like to evolve thicker skin so we aren't cold in winter and a light in the head for when it is dark.
-William

I would like to see humans evolve eyesight like cats because then we can see in the dark.
-Lexi

I would like humans to evolve ~~to~~ wolf-like ears and a tail so we can see when people are happy and ears so we can hear danger.
Julia

I would like humans to evolve wings and gills so that I don't need to be in a vehicle for ever.
-Fernando

I would like to see humans evolve into gorillas so that I could swing from trees, be super fast, and have extreme strength.
-William

I don't want humans to evolve.
Why?
Because I like the way that we are.
Silvia

I would like to see humans evolve wings so we can fly.
Viki

I would like to see humans evolve fins. I would like this because I would like to swim faster.
Madalynn

I would want to see humans to evolve to the point of omnipotence so we could truly be at the top of the food chain.
Charles

Year 6

We are happy to be able to offer the children the opportunity for swimming lessons with the school again. Some of the children were nervous about the thought of this at first, but once there they managed very well indeed and seemed to have a great time! Thanks must go to Mrs Forrest for overseeing and leading our session.

Some comments:

It was fun and well organised - Silvia

It was fun because I love swimming - Elena

It was great to swim with our friends! Mario



Thanks must go to our American section friends for arranging the Thanksgiving lunch opportunity. What a wonderful occasion this was! There was a fantastic turnout and a huge array of delicious food! Thank you to those of you who managed to contribute towards this by coming along and/or contributing a dish. A really wonderful event.

Comments from the children:

It was delicious! - William

There was a wide selection of food - some I had never tried before but enjoyed trying today! - Maddy

I really liked it because the food was good and our parents could come in! - Freya

It was fun because we could be with our parents, try different foods from Thanksgiving, and share with our friends from other sections. - Mario

Macy's Day Parade

We finished our day with another international collaboration opportunity where Mrs Watts shared a story about a Thanksgiving tradition called Macy's Day parade. We created our own balloon characters and took part in our own parade through the school. Oh, what fun! Thank you, Mrs Watts



LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is now €3.75



Week 48 27-11 t/m 01-12-2023

MONDAY

Soy Bites , Mashed Potato, Beans in Tomato Sauce	1, 3, 4
Pork Sausage	3, 5
Mashed Potato	1
Beans in Tomato Sauce	3

TUESDAY

Mushroom Ragout, Rice, Carrots	1, 2, 3, 4
Chicken Ragout	1, 2, 3, 6
Rice	3
Carrots	

WEDNESDAY

No School Today



THURSDAY

Pasta, Tomato Vegetable Sauce, Snack Tomato	3, 4
Pasta	3
Bolognese Sauce	3, 10
Snack Tomato	

FRIDAY

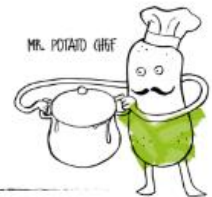
Empanada, Fries, Peas	1, 2, 3, 4, 9
Fish Filet or Hot Dog Sausage	2, 3, 5, 7
Fries	
Peas	9
Tartar Sauce	2, 3

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](#)

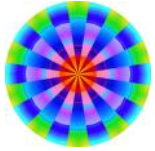
Children/Families who do not wish to purchase a lunch may bring a packed lunch from home.





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 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. permitted. 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