



# AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## British Section

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

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

**8 December 2023**



Thank you to Ms Damen for arranging a special visit from Sinterklaas today. Everyone was very excited to find their clogs filled this morning and also meeting Sinterklaas.

Dear Parents,

Another busy week of learning!

Despite the growing excitement that comes with the arrival of December the children are remaining focussed and producing some wonderful work. I have been very impressed with some Writing outcomes from across the school which the children have been proud to share with me.

The children and staff in the Early Years have been busy preparing for their show on Monday. Year 3-Year 6 were able to attend the dress rehearsal and were suitably impressed so I can't wait to be in audience on Monday! Year 6 wrote some lovely thank you letters to the children and I happened to be in Year 2 when theirs were delivered. Such an important skill being practised.

Thank you to the PTO who organised an evening of Holiday Fun last night. Everyone certainly enjoyed themselves. I was amazed at the time, focus, concentration and determination the children demonstrated when attempting to build a marshmallow tower using chopsticks....no easy feat!

During the next two weeks there are opportunities for parents to join your children in class so look out for more information from their teachers.

*Have a wonderful weekend and to our families who celebrate ... Happy Hanukkah*



Congratulations Sofia.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful design with us



Bucket Fillers



*Elsie, Rory, James, Mariateresa, Milian, Maria, Alice, Adi,*

*Oliver, Klara, William, Sebastien, Maddy, Mario*



# Elementary Student Council

## Thinking of Others

At this time of year celebrations of Thanksgiving and Harvest take place around the world. It is a time to reflect upon all that we have to be thankful for and think about others who are less fortunate.

In keeping with AIS tradition, we would like to once again support those in our community who may be struggling at this time.

During the weeks of Dec 11-18, we will hold our annual Food Drive Collection for the Limburg Food Bank; a local organisation providing food for over 700 families where there is a family member under 18.

<https://www.voedselbanklimburg-zuid.nl/>

Students may place their donations directly into the boxes by the front entrance. The following week a representative from Voedselbank will collect our donations.

You



help...



### Suggestions for donations-cans packets

canned meat/fish/fruit/vegetables, soups

pasta, rice, breakfast cereals, tea, coffee, sugar

Thank you in advance for your support in helping us to help others.

AFNORTH Elementary PTO

# BOOK Sale

2023

WEDNESDAY 13 DEC  
FROM 9:00 - 14:00

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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!

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€0.50 each OR 3 books for €1



# Story Character Holiday Card Collection

01—21 December

What holiday card would your favorite storybook characters send out this season?

Make a greeting card and show us your creativity:

- choose a story and characters that you love
- you can draw, paint, collage, or use any other materials
- include a message inside the card

How would your character express their winter holiday greetings?  
Who would they send it to?

Bring your card to the library to be displayed in our entry.

Please include your name/class so it can be returned.



library@afnorth-is.com

# Sunbeams

Our Super Sunbeams have been really excited this week, thinking about Sinterklaas and preparing for a visit from him and his Piets. We started by laying out our decorated clogs and were delighted to find they were full of delicious treats when we arrived in school the next morning. Then we couldn't believe our eyes when we met him in person! He was wearing fancy clothing and talked about how wonderful the Sunbeams were



# Reception

It has been a week of excitement in Reception Class! The Elf has played tricks on us, such as hiding our name cards, tipping our tables over, blocking off the toilet door and covering the classroom in toothpaste! We have to write to him to tell him how to be good.

Thankfully Elf has not touched our clogs. We put them out ready for Sinterklaas, hoping we were on the good list in his book. It turned out we were all good, except poor Elf!



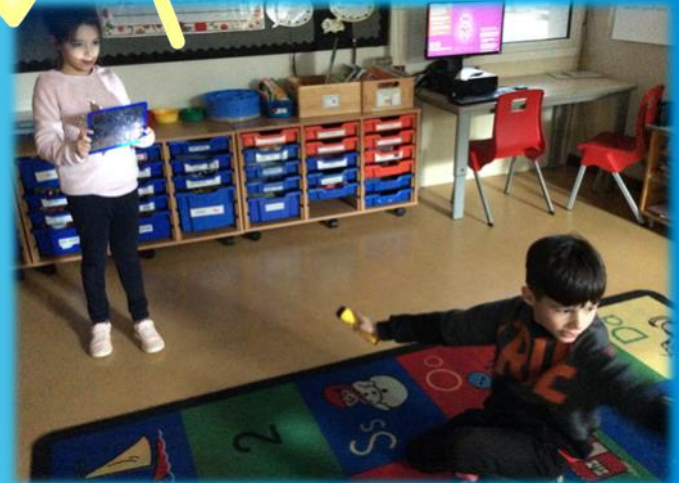
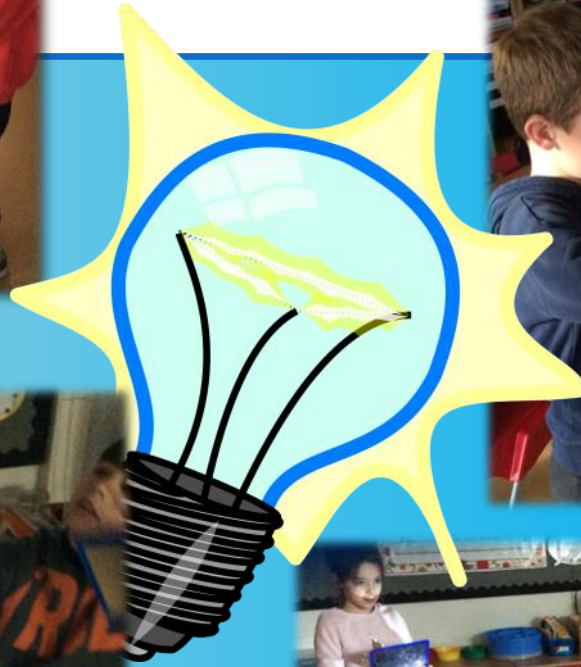
# Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy week perfecting their Christmas show ready for all the parents to come and see on Monday. They have been learning lines to say, songs to sing and where and when to stand. The show is really looking quite fantastic and they can't wait to show you. They have also been learning about estimation in maths - learning to use the clues they can see to find the missing number. And of course they all put their clogs out for Sinterklaas and got lots of delicious treats. The children loved meeting Sinterklaas too.



# Year 3

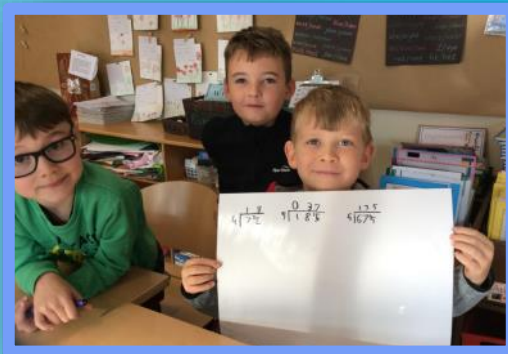
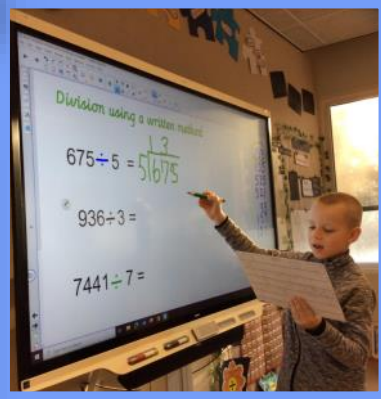
This week we have continued our work on the Science of Light. The children were looking at sources of light, how light travels and is reflected. They discussed how this links to being safe during the darker months of the year. Thinking about what things are on our bags, coats and bikes that help us to be seen. When using mirrors they thought about how the light travels and is reflected making it move from one surface to another. We have also been using our manipulatives in maths to think about dividing larger numbers using flexible partitioning. We are noticing how knowing our multiplication tables and the fact families really help us with this.





# Year 4-5

"In Host Nation, we decorated our clogs for Sinterklaas and we played with puzzles and fun mystery games. We have learned lots about this Dutch tradition. On Friday, Sinterklaas visited our classroom and filled our clogs with treats. He also gave us a generous gift of a Christmas tree for our class and we decorated it! In Maths, we have been working on multiplication and division. We tried out the short division method to solve some tricky division questions. It was a great challenge!"  
Written by Hazel and Jan



# Year 6

Year 6 continue to impress their teachers every day of the week. One session this week saw the children using their knowledge and skills from humanities where they used their research about the Limburg region to write first drafts of persuasive leaflets for people to come and visit.

We were also lucky to be invited to see the Early Years in their dress rehearsal of 'Snowman at Sunset'. We were truly impressed by the costumes, staging, singing, dancing and telling of the story! Well done and thank you to all involved!



Dear Children and Staff, on the  
I am extremely  
grateful for the kind invitations to your  
spectacular performance you put on  
for us. From the script to the acting  
to the beautiful singing, you should  
be very proud. I was scared but excited  
when you pulled out those snow balls  
and started throwing them. Sadly, I  
was at the back so I couldn't catch  
one - but that might be a good thing.  
All of you did a great job. From  
the snowmen to the sun to the little  
kids, I really enjoyed it. I hope to  
see another play by you  
in one day.  
Miss Williams (Year 6)



Dear Children and Staff, thank you for  
wonderful show yesterday! We loved it  
I especially liked how you made  
everybody laugh with the snowballs!  
I loved all of your singing and your  
speeches. I also loved your snowmen  
and you making a snowman! (I wish  
I could do that!).  
Once again, many thanks. Everyone  
should be proud of themselves. I got  
the sun's message of working together  
you taught me how to do that.  
Have a wonderful Christmas!  
Pari (Year 6).



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



#### BINGE WATCHING



With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

#### PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

#### ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 5+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

#### ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.



### ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



### TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



### ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Clary Sullivan is an online safety researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written and presented to parents' professional organisations for the Australian government concerning internet use and watching behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://helpcenter.disneyplus.com/articles/content-ages-12-14-16-18-21-and-21-plus>, <https://www.disney.com/parents/articles/content-ages-12-14-16-18-21-and-21-plus>, <https://www.disney.com/parents/articles/content-ages-12-14-16-18-21-and-21-plus>, <https://www.disney.com/parents/articles/content-ages-12-14-16-18-21-and-21-plus>

# LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is now €3.75



Week 50 11-12 t/m 15-12-2023

MONDAY

Veggie Pie, Mashed Potato, Peas & Mint, Gravy	1, 2, 3, 9
Beef Pie	1, 2, 3, 10
Mashed Potato	1, 3
Peas & Mint	9
Gravy	3

TUESDAY

Tomato Sauce with Soy, Macaroni, Snack Tomato	3, 4
Tomato Sauce with Ratatouille	1, 2, 3, 5
Pork Sausage	3, 5
Macaroni	3
Snack Tomato	

WEDNESDAY

Veggie Balls, Baked Potato, Cauliflower, Pepper Sauce	1, 2, 3, 4
Chicken Schnitzel	1, 2, 3, 6
Baked Potato	3
Cauliflower	1, 3
Pepper Sauce	3



THURSDAY

Sweet & Sour Omelet, Rice, Atjar Salad	1, 2, 3, 9
Chicken Filet Sweet & Sour	3, 6, 9
Rice	3
Atjar Salad	3

FRIDAY

Veggie Sausage, Fries, Carrots	1, 2, 3, 4
Fish Filet or Hot Dog Sausage	2, 3, 5, 7
Fries	
Carrots	
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



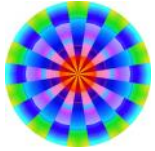
Looking for suggestions for your child's lunchbox...

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



# 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. 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