



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

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

British.office@afnorth-is.com

22 December 2023



What a treat we had at Assembly on Monday!

Oliver played for the whole of KS2 and then he further impressed Year 6 an additional session. Fantastic progress in such a short time Oliver! You should be VERY proud of yourself.

Dear Parents,

It has been such a lovely final week of term and today was extra special with Lunch and the Sing-a-long before the children left for the buses and a well-earned holiday! Thank you for joining us for the Christmas lunch...we hope you enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by our cafeteria staff.

Wednesday we welcomed parents to Year 2's Art Gallery, Year 3's Measuring Class and Year 4-5's Roman Museum. The children were delighted to have you "in their world" and to share their culminating learning activities with you.

At the end of a long but productive term I would like to pass on my thanks for all your support. It has been a pleasure to watch the children flourish and to see the creativity which staff employ to develop the children's learning in fun and memorable ways.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season with family and friends and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Thank you for all your generous support for the AFNORTH Food Drive. Representatives from Limburg Voedselbank were very appreciative of the many donations.

As this year's nominated charity we were also able to present them with €500 from the Christmas Fayre.



Well Done to the girls from Sole Mates Club who achieved their 5k run last Saturday!



Bucket Fillers



*Sofia, Henry, Agatka, Thue, Veronika, Jekope,
Year4-5, Bade, Leo, Silvia*

Sunbeams

Sunbeams have continued their jolly Christmas crafts this week with more festive snacks of reindeer sandwiches with lovely pretzel antlers! We then made beautiful crowns ready for our Christmas party, every jewel was used and we dazzled the following day! Our favourite game was pass the treasure chest at the party and musical chairs. We decorated delicious gingerbread to celebrate Artur's 4th birthday and then finished the week off with a scrummy Christmas lunch with families. What a first term this has been, our children have blown us away with their personalities, enthusiasm and joy. We can't wait for some new friends to join in the fun in 2024!



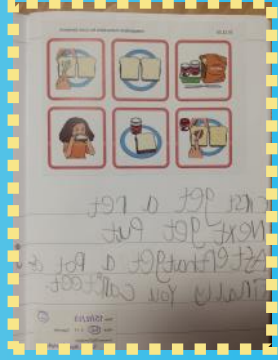
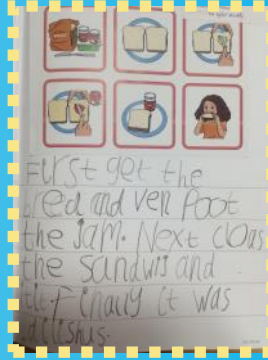
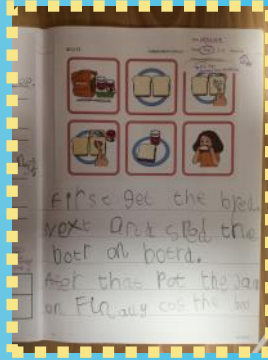
Reception

Reception Class joined with Sunbeams for a wonderful Christmas party on Tuesday. We played lots of games including Musical Bumps and Musical Statues, Sleeping Bunnies, Pass-the-Snowball, Bounce the Balloons and Musical Chairs. The children won lots of prizes! Thanks to the parents, we enjoyed an extensive party buffet too!



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed the last week of term, its been busy but lots of fun. They began the week with their final piece of writing for the term, its fantastic so see the progress they have all made. We have been making Christmas cards for our families - the children have been very creative. As part of our RE curriculum we have found out about the traditional story of Christmas which Christians celebrate at this time of year. We also had a wonderful party with the Year 2 children, there were many fun games and lots of yummy food.



Year 2

This week we had a wonderful art gallery in Year 2. We have been working so very hard on producing our beautiful art work and our stories. Yesterday we showcased these in our very own Art Gallery. I am extremely proud of the art work and writing the class has produced and I know they felt a huge sense of pride in what they have accomplished.



Year 3

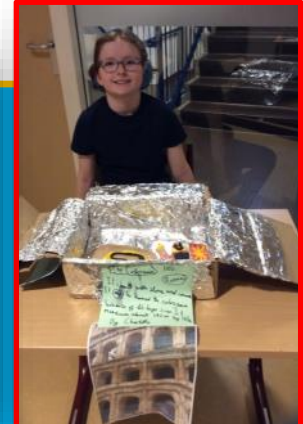
We have had a lovely final week of term. The children have worked on poetry using the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. We have looked at syllables and changed things to fit in with themes we enjoy, we then Published them on the computers. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who were able to join us for our measuring activity, we'll continue to work with measurement after the break. We had a lovely swim on Wednesday, lots of jumping in and walking on water! Merry Christmas and Happy Happy Holidays to all.



Year 4-5

Yesterday we had our Year 4/5 Roman Museum because we have been learning about the Roman Empire. We created very interesting artefacts and structures out of lots of different materials from home. We also wrote a museum fact card about what we had made. All the parents learned interesting facts about Roman Times and they even asked us questions too! Rory enjoyed giving fun facts about the Roman shield and Anders's spear was very realistic! It was a very busy museum and we really enjoyed seeing all our visitors. We think the parents and teachers are very proud of us!

Written by Rory and Anders



Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon of international collaboration where they completed activities with Skittles and candy canes in science. We made Christmas designs with Skittles and then poured warm water over them to observe what would happen. We were wowed by the interesting designs! We also placed candy canes into warm water, vinegar and cold water and, after predicting what we thought would happen, observed and watched closely. The children worked together and mixed and mingled with ease. A fun afternoon was had by all!



Year 6

This week for P.S.H.E, Year 6 discussed the value of identity and how every person is unique with their own special qualities. The children created a kenning poem about their own identity and we now have a lovely display in our classroom!





Bucket Fillers



Oliver was also a Bucket Filler but he must have been playing piano to Year 6 when the pictures were taken.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parceling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Alford designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and parents is a priority.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Story Character Holiday Card Collection

01—21 December

Thank you for all the holiday cheer and joy!



library@afnorth-is.com

Host Nation news

December 2023

Over the past two weeks students have been learning about typical Dutch Christmas and New Years Eve traditions in Host Nation.

Students created Christmas cards with a Dutch wish written on it or were involved in creating ornaments with their own family and/or cultural Christmas / New Years tradition to create an International Christmas Tree.

We learned a lot from each other!

Christmas pickle

Matching PJ's

Gourmet (table grill)

Italian Tombola

Korean Barbecue

Elf on the Shelf

Presents

Christmas movies

Stockings

Roast dinner

New Year

Traditional games



Ms. Dyon Damen
Ms. Gina Lavere
Host Nation Teachers



LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is €3.75

We have not received the menu for Jan 8-12. As soon as it is published we will send this to you via email.



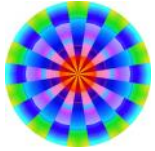
Looking for suggestions for your child's lunchbox...

<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 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.

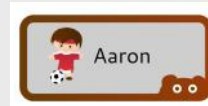
During periods of inclement weather please wait inside the main entrance (in the well area under the stairs or when this area is in use please wait outside the British Office). Staff will collect/deliver the children to you. There is no need to sign in

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