



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

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

British.office@afnorth-is.com

01 March 2024

Dear Parents,

Another busy week across the school with children achieving goals in lots of ways: reading, science investigations, maths problems, writing. It is always wonderful to see their pride when they share these achievements.

Student Council have been busy during their lunch breaks this week. The Events group are planning a Movie Night, the Playground group are thinking about ways to reinforce playground expectations, the Cafeteria group have written a letter to Sodexo staff requesting a meeting and the Recycling group are arranging for Clean up Heroes.

Plans are underway for Culture Day and the committee would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in helping them prepare this wonderful event. They are especially keen to hear from you if you are willing to share a talent/skill which represents your culture. Please get in touch with the office and we will forward your message to Madame Williams.

March

- 4 Class Picture Day
- 4 Scholastic Book Orders Due
- 4 1630 PTO Meeting
- 6 Year 2 Fundraiser Shop
- 12 Class Reps Meeting- DATE CHANGE
- 15 Arnhem Bake Sale

**March 22-April 5
SCHOOL CLOSED**

April

- 23 Children's/ Culture Day

May

- 13-16 Y6 National Assessments

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Have a lovely weekend



Super swimmers receive rewards for their success, perseverance, determination and commitment

Attendance This Week

Whole School 95%

Reception	93%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	96%
Year 4-5	95%
Year 6	95%



Bucket Fillers



Daniel, Killian, Simon, Alice, Joseph, Maria, Grace, Jekope, Agatka, Naglis, Matthew, Javier, John, Joris, Lilla, Alexander, Charles, Fernando, Maddy, Mario, Sebastien, Silvia, William



PTO are excited to host our first Read-a-thon in the month of March! Your child should be bringing home a signup flyer with their classroom code, if not follow this link instead: <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/323738393930>

The PTO will receive 80% of the funds raised, and 100% of that goes back to our students and school!

If you have questions, reach out to us at afnorth.is.es.pto@gmail.com



Reading is a passport to countless adventures



Defence Children Services

Building 183
Trenchard Lines
UPAVON
Pewsey
SN9 6BE

Tel: 01980 618710
E-mail: RC-DCS-HQ-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Monday 4th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Absence During Term Time

I am writing to introduce myself as your Education Welfare Officer for Defence Children’s Services. My role is to support schools, pupils, and parents to ensure attendance is maximised in school. I offer informal support to Service Personnel and entitled MOD civilians who have been identified as requiring early intervention.

The role of The Education Welfare Officer is to replicate where practicably possible the formal Education Welfare Process for children and young people who have been identified as Persistent Absentees (below 90% as outlined by The Department for Education). However, we are fully aware that being part of the MOD can have its challenges for families especially due to living overseas.

We understand that there may be occasions when a child might be absent from school – for example, if unwell. We also understand on occasions there may be compassionate or exceptional circumstances for an absence to be authorised such as Post Operational Leave. However, we request other absences should be kept to a minimum and parents should avoid taking children out of school during term-time to go on a holiday.

Please also refer to your child’s school attendance policy along with JSP 342 Education of Service Children & young people and JSP 760 Tri-Service Regulations for Leave and Other Types of Absence.

Please be aware if the absence request is not authorised by the school and the absence is still taken, this will remain unauthorised. If leave is granted but your child remains absent for longer than agreed, then this extra time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

If leave of absence is taken and children are off school further for additional reasons this also impacts attendance. The diagram below highlights for you lost learning from absences over an academic year. Please be aware if your child’s attendance is below 90%, they may fall under the radar of the Education Welfare Officer who supports school with their military family’s attendance matters. As per the DfE the guidance outlines attendance between **96 – 100% is deemed as good**. 90% attendance may sound good however over your child’s academic career this equates to a year and a half of lost learning.

I understand this can be confusing and the Education Welfare Team is here to support and help navigate you as a family through your child’s learning journey with all attendance related matters and can offer both formal and informal support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly for advice or guidance on the email below or contact The Education Welfare Team group mailbox: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely

J Kelly

Jane Kelly | Education Welfare Officer (ROW)

Email: jane.kelly239@mod.gov.uk

Direct line: +443001616669

Group email: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

Attendance	Days absent	Lost learning hours
100%	0	0
98%	4	20
96%	7.5	37.5
94%	11	55
92%	15	75
90%	19	95
86%	28	140
80%	39	195

AFNORTH International School

Ferdinand Bolstraat 1
6445 EE Brunssum
The Netherlands



1 March 2024

Information letter: Fifth Disease

Dear Parents

Please be informed that we have a few confirmed cases of "Fifth Disease" within our school. This disease, which manifests itself through little red spots or red cheeks and sometimes a fever/temperature, mainly occurs with younger children. The spots may spread out over the body but will disappear again after approximately a week. Sometimes they may reappear shortly in the following weeks. The children will often not feel sick from the disease.

Children who show symptoms of Fifth Disease but do not feel sick, can continue to come to school. The contamination time can range from one to three weeks prior to the symptoms showing. Adults with Fifth Disease that do not feel sick can continue to come to school.

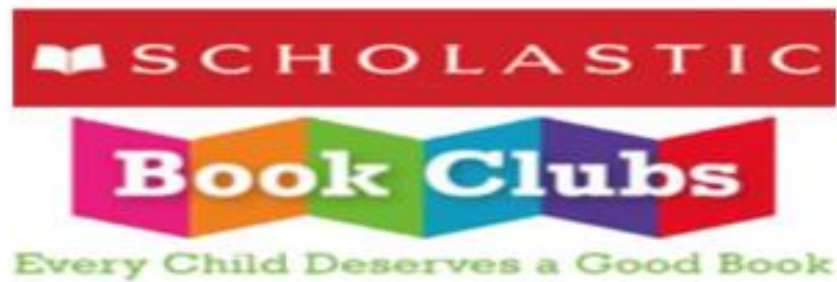
Adults who have had Fifth Disease as a child are immune and cannot get the disease again.

For pregnant women it is advised to contact the family doctor.

The disease is a virus settling in the throat of a person/child. Being in the vicinity of a person carrying the virus may be contagious. Sneezing and coughing can spread the virus. Not everybody is susceptible though.

Use paper towels or paper handkerchief when sneezing or coughing. Or use the elbow to sneeze and/or cough in. Discard of the handkerchief. Wash your hands. Remind children to cover their mouth when sneezing/coughing.

Mr. R. Bindels
Assistant Director



Don't forget you still have time to place an order through our Scholastic Book Club!

You can place an order and pay securely online. **Please submit all orders by Monday 4th March**

How to order –

- Use the following link to browse what is on offer and to order your books – **PLEASE ENSURE YOU SELECT THE SCHOLASTIC UK SITE**

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/afcent-international/digital-book-club>

- Payment will be in GBP rather than euros
- The delivery address will be automatically filled in and the books will be delivered to Afnorth School for FREE and sent home with your children- **If you would like them for gifts please let us know at the email address below and we will ensure your order gets to you without your child's knowledge.**
- Every order will earn FREE books for the British Section to have in school for the children to enjoy.

If you have any problems or questions, please use the contact email below.

Contact email: **ukscholastic@afnorth-is.com**



AFNorth PTO

Month of the Military Child

Spiritwear Orders

To order, please fill out the form online

<https://forms.gle/16japR1WRwvHmCbb7>



Now accepting
Paypal
& card payments



Any questions or prefer to pay cash?
Contact: AFNorthspiritwear@gmail.com

Orders due by March 4



Sunbeams

This week the pet shop opened in our outdoor area and our Super Sunbeams have not missed the opportunity to get involved. They have loved looking for potential pets to adopt and learned that they need an adoption certificate and payment in order to take home a furry friend. The children extended this interest to think about pet aftercare including food that their pet would need and even vaccinations to ensure their pet was healthy. The children relished the chance to not only be customers but also to 'work' in the pet shop, thinking carefully about the cost of a pet and ensuring all paperwork was completed properly. As employees and owners go, our Super Sunbeams are the best!



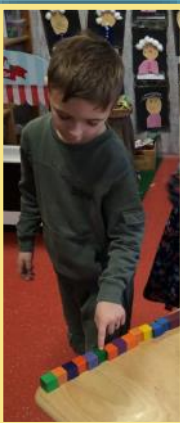
Reception

What are the Characteristics of Effective Learning in Reception? These are part of the Foundation Stage curriculum and consist of 'Playing And Exploring', 'Active Learning' and 'Creating And Thinking Critically'. The children are expected to use the skills that they have been taught, to guide and extend their own independent learning. How much knowledge and how many skills can you see the children using in these photographs?




Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about length and height this week. We have been using mathematical languages to compare items and identify the longest, shortest or tallest items. We then moved on to non-standard measure and investigated the size of many items in our classroom. We measured them using cubes and paper clips! We have also been writing questions we would like to ask the Gruffalo. Some of the children had a turn as being the Gruffalo and answering many of the questions. There are some very imaginative children in Year 1!




Year 2

This week, Year 2, has been learning all about biographies. We have been using Sir David Attenborough as our topic. We have done some amazing art work around this too and used it on our biographies. Year 2 has worked very hard to use varied sentence starters and conjunctions to make more complex sentences.



Early Life

Sir David Attenborough was born in 1926 in Leicester England. From when he was born he knew that he loved animals nature and the circling Earth around him. David lived on a university campus because his dad was a teacher at the university. David loved to ride his bike to find animals fossils and nature. David once got a dried scorpion from his friend and then he decided to be a naturalist. He loved to study and read lots of books so he could learn more.





Early Life

Sir David Attenborough was born in 1926 in Leicester England. He lived at the university of Cambridge because his Dad worked there. David Attenborough was fascinated by animals and never spent when he was little. David read lots and lots of books about animals and nature so he could learn about them. David liked to go into his garden to look at trees.

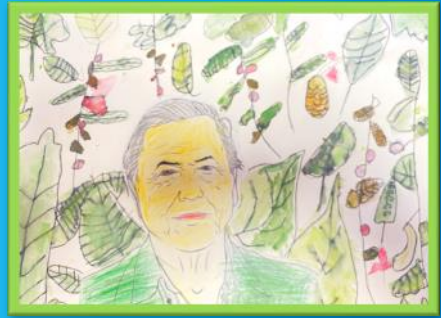
Career

When he came to his 16th birthday he was told he had to go to University of Cambridge to be read up more about animals. David studied Zoology and geology. Shortly after this David became a broadcaster on the TV. He talked about animals and showed them to people could see them too. David got the animals from the Zoo so people could see them too. David showed the world and showed them how to take care of them.

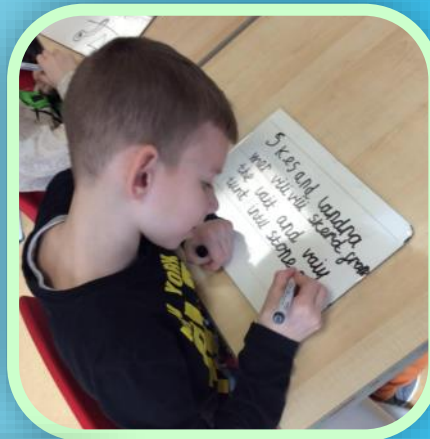
Career

Many years later David studied geology and zoology. He studied in at a university of Cambridge. After that he became a broadcaster and brought animals to the studio so he could film them. David traveled the Earth so he could find animals in their natural habitats. This was the famous show called Wildlife on TV. David went to Africa, the Falkland Islands and many other places around the Earth because he wanted to see animals in their habitat.



Year 3

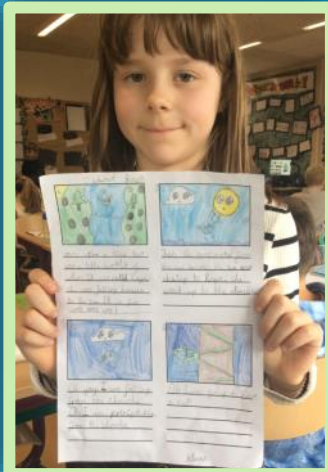
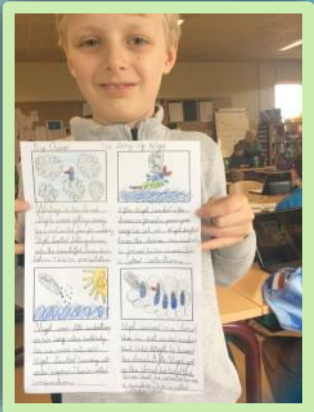
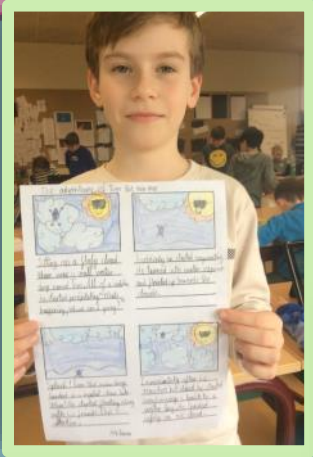
This week Year 3 have been busy learning about the story of the Stone Troll from Iceland. We have begun to develop ideas about the setting and what the trolls may look like. He also did some hot seating about what it was like to be a troll living in a dark cave and only being allowed out at night! We have continued to learn about rocks and layers within the earth, ending with a tasty way of looking at the earth's crust! We also had a visit from the dentists from GK to talk about our teeth.



Year 4-5

"In PE, we are learning tennis skills. We have been doing practice activities to help us get better at controlling the ball and hitting it with our rackets. We are getting more confident at this and it's really fun!

We have been learning about the water cycle in Science. We made diagrams of the four stages using scientific vocabulary like evaporation and condensation. We also made a water cycle in a jar to see how it works! Then we used our knowledge to create a comic strip about our own imaginary water droplet that goes on a water cycle journey. Everyone did great work with their pictures and writing!" **Reported by Adi and Rory**



Year 6

We had a fun grammar session where we wrote sentences using embedded relative clauses. It was an active session which involved us singing and dancing; checking punctuation through 'karate punctuation', and 'finding the jam' (relative clauses) for our 'sandwiches' (independent clauses)! The challenge will be for us to use at least one example of this type of sentence structure when we are writing our biographies for our waxworks event.



Bucket Fillers

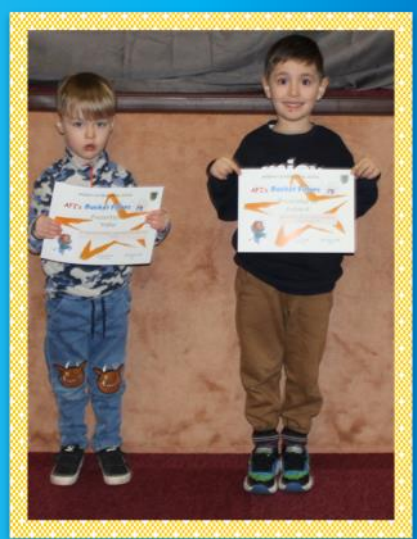


Linked to the book "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" by Carol McCloud our Bucket Filler Award recognises positive behaviours e.g. kindness, respect, responsibility, resilience as well as hard work and achievement.

Everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds our good thoughts and feelings. When our buckets are full, we feel happy and when our buckets are empty, we feel sad.

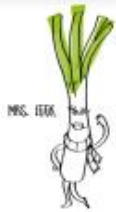
Our actions and words can either fill a bucket or dip into it. We fill buckets when we do and say things that are kind, considerate, caring, and respectful. But if we are inconsiderate or disrespectful, we dip into buckets and remove those good feelings.

[Click here for the story.](#)



LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is €3.75



Week 10 04-03 tm 08-03-2024

MONDAY

Veggie Roll, Baked Potato, Carrots	1, 2, 3, 4
"German Menu"	
Pork Sausage	3, 5
Baked Potato	
Carrots	
Onion Sauce	3

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Pasta with Tomato Vegetable Sauce	3, 4
"Italian Menu"	
Pasta & Basil	3
Carbonara	1, 2, 3, 5
Snack Tomato	

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

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



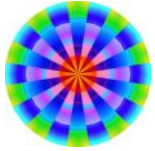
Looking for suggestions for your child's lunchbox...

<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 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