



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

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

British.office@afnorth-is.com

15 March 2024



LITTER HEROES

Dear Parents,

I was very proud of these Litter Heroes when I learned that they had spent time on their weekend cleaning up their community. What a wonderful example they set to others as they shared their story at Assembly on Monday.

On Thursday we welcomed Amanda Morning and Jeremy Grant from Defence Children's Services HQ to conduct the MOD Safety, Health, Environment and Fire (SHEF) audit. We are pleased to report that across all aspects of the report AFNORTH was in compliance with some exemplary practice noted.

This week Miss Robertson and Mrs Eaton Bell participated in cross school standardisation for Year 2 and Year 6. Sharing and discussing children's work supports teacher assessment judgements. On this occasion the group were joined by teachers from schools in England providing an opportunity to compare their pupils' writing with pupils in England.

A busy week ahead with Easter Bonnets, Easter Eggs, Waxworks and Spring Hunts. We hope many of you will be able to come along to the activities where you have been invited to join the class.

Have a lovely weekend



Bucket Fillers



Eliza, Erdem A., Hamish, Rosie, Thue, Grace, James J, Mete, Hazel, James B., John, Joris, Logan, Oscar, Lexi, Charles, Fernando, Freya

March

- 20 Easter Egg Competition Entries Due
- 21 Sunbeams to Year 2 Easter Bonnet Singalong
- 21 1300 Year 3 invite parents to join them making fossils.
- 21 1400 Year 6 invite their parents to Waxworks
- 22 1000 Y4-5 invite parents to Easter Maths and Spring Hunt.

March 25-April 5 SCHOOL CLOSED

April

- 17 1400 Dismissal
- 23 Children's/ Culture Day
- 26-27 Seussical the Musical

May

- 13-16 Y6 National Assessments

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY DRAWING CONTEST & CELEBRATIONS
THEME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

AFNORTH International School is organizing a Drawing Contest as part of the World Children's Day celebrations. All students of AFNORTH & JFCBS Community in the Elementary and Grade 6 are encouraged to take part in this event.

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Open to all Elementary and Grade 6 students & Children of JFCBS members
- Two Categories (Sunbeams-Year 3/Pre-K-Grade 2) and Year 4-6/Grade 3-6)
- A3 Size Paper should be used.
- One person with one drawing only
- Drawings should be submitted to the British Office no later than **15 April 2024**
- Name, Nationality, Section and Grade of the participant to be written on the back of the drawing. (The children of JFCBS members from other schools, please send your info & screenshot of the picture to british.office@afnorth-is.com)
- Winners announced at AFNORTH Children's Day Assembly on **April the 23rd (09:15)**

PRIZES IN BOTH CATEGORIES

- 1st: NINTENDO Switch Lite
- 2nd: JBL Wireless Bluetooth Speaker
- 3rd: JBL Wireless Bluetooth Headphone

FREE ROUND THE WORLD TOUR AT AFNORTH

The Children's Day has been celebrated by Türkiye since 1927 and was declared as "International Year of the Child" by United Nations in 1979.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Attendance This Week

Whole School 95%

Reception	93%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	96%
Year 4-5	95%
Year 6	95%



Decorate an Egg

2024



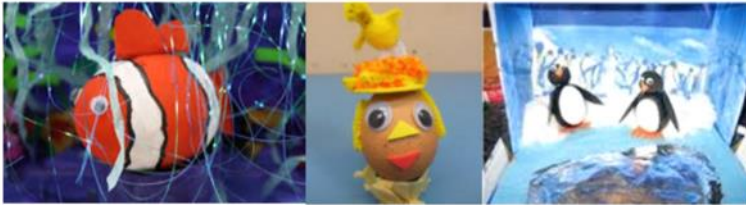
As part of our end of term celebrations we are inviting the children to demonstrate their imagination and creativity by taking part in the annual "Decorate an Egg" activity.

The children can choose which type of egg they decorate; it can be hard-boiled, blown or polystyrene. The egg can be decorated however you like. You might want to turn an egg into an animal, a character or just put a pattern on it.

Each child who participates will be entered into a lucky draw

The only rule is that names must be attached to the egg creation to enter the draw. So, get thinking and bring your creation to school on Wednesday 20th March.

We are looking forward to seeing all the "eggciting" creations!



AFNORTH PTO NEWS

THE PTO NEEDS YOU!

We are an international group that supports all 4 sections of the elementary school. There are 11 available positions with opportunities for leaders and volunteers. These positions secure the funds that we raised for your children and their school experience.

JUST SHOW UP!



WHAT DOES THE PTO DO?

While you might know the PTO from our fun events, such as our back to school bash, fall fun run, and holiday parties, we actually support a lot of programs that our name is not on. Every year we fund the Spelling Bee, Math Olympiads, the School Musical, the Story teller, and so much more! Anytime your child's section cannot fund or support a project, the teacher's have an opportunity to ask us for help.

<p>UPCOMING MEETINGS</p> <p>April 8th *Board Nominations*</p> <p>May 6th *Voting*</p> <p>June 3rd</p>	<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Book Sales March 20th</p> <p>Yearbook Sales begin April 18th</p> <p>Readathon ends March 31st</p>	<p>Reminders!</p> <p>Meetings are held at 16:30 in the AFNorth Library Conference room located on the 2nd floor</p>
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CONTACT: AFNORTH.IS.ES.PTO@GMAIL.COM FOR QUESTIONS

Thursday 21st March,

Sunbeams, Reception, Year 1 and 2 will join with the US and CDN classes for an Easter Singalong where we hope the Easter Bunny will make an appearance!

We encourage all the children to wear their special Easter Bonnet which they can create at home.

Sunbeams/Reception parents are invited to a "Stay and Make" session during that week where the children can create their bonnet.



Year 4-5
are doing
fantastic!



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

COOL FOR SCHOOL
Have fun learning together

Looking for Maths and English activities to enhance your child's learning?

Our learning boxes are designed by educational experts and provide games and activities linked to key National Curriculum objectives.

All the activities are quick and easy to set up, fun to play and all the resources you need are included in your box.
Visit our website to view our full range of boxes, designed for children in Reception to Year 3.

For 25% off your first box use the code CFS25 at the checkout
www.coolforschoollearning.co.uk

Telephone - 07874 255203

AFNORTH ELEMENTARY PTO

USED BOOK SALE

Wednesday, 20 March
09:00 - 14:00

AFNORTH Elementary PTO

We need your help at the Used Book Sale!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Reading is a passport
to countless adventures

Sunbeams

One of the prime areas of learning in Early Years is to develop our communication and language skills. The ability to speak and listen to others and to contribute to the learning is the foundation of any sort of learning and a vital part of our daily sessions. We develop this in lots of different ways, but most of all we build this skill when we play, sharing conversations whilst we explore our favourite toys! Our Super Sunbeams have been working very hard on explaining our ideas and thoughts to others and ensuring they understand. We extended this understanding even further during our Thinking Thursday sessions to ask questions starting with 'why, where, what and how'.



Reception

Reception Class has been finding out about Easter traditions in Europe. They have hidden plastic eggs for their friends to find, collected eggs in Easter baskets, made dough gardens, found Easter pictures to colour and read clues left by the Easter Bunny to find a golden egg.



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed another busy week. They began by writing their innovated versions of the Gruffalo story. It was wonderful looking at how much progress they have all made with their writing so far this year. In Maths we have been exploring volume and capacity - a great topic to explore at bath time with a variety of containers! The children have learnt the story 'We're going on a Bear hunt' and begun making our own class story 'We're going on an (Easter) Bunny hunt!' At forest school we enjoyed the sunshine and spent some time listening to see what we could hear - there were many birds. We ended the week with a visit from Dr Tiffany who is a dentist and helped us all learn about looking after our teeth.



Oh went The band
 hroo The deep Wood
 The gomilla to The
 bard sum and hav tee
 in te in dieh jretopho
 oh tenore ciehndy
 you but no I am
 fav jeh tee wi fa
 haatelo.



A team boalluo
 was a raibaolluo
 It has raloas fais
 and raloas on her
 nees and his
 ear rinx stars on
 her fias and
 a purple dghm on
 hel noas.



Oh went the maos
 to the dipdarwoods the
 talga sei the maos and
 the maos look good.
 and the talga sed to th
 maos Rarm to my tip
 for haos and the maos
 sed to the talga is rails
 you but no

Oh went the share for the deep
 dark maos. a hodgehog got the
 share and the share wood
 good. We at you giving you
 snake



Year 3

There was great excitement on Wednesday as on our way to Forest School, we spotted a toad! it created an extraordinary amount of chat, about where it had come from and where it may be going. Once we got to Forest School we were looking for different types of soils and rocks we could find.

In English, we finished our story starter for our Stone Troll story. In Maths, we have been focusing on our 3s, 4s, and 8 times tables. For science we investigated different types of soils and have begun to code using scratch in computing.

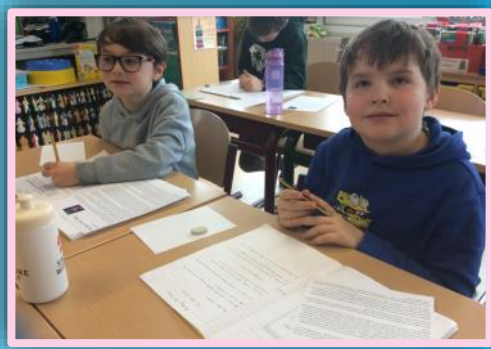


Year 4-5

" In coding, we are using the Scratch program and we had a challenge to make a Maths quiz with times tables questions. We need to have a backdrop, sprite, sound and questions. It was a little bit hard at first because some of us were using it for the first time. After we explored it more, it got easier. It is a fun challenge!

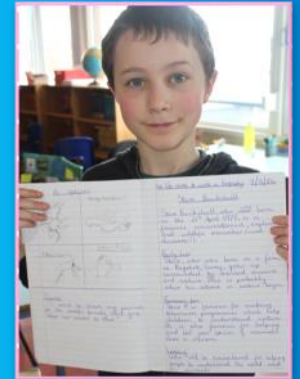
In English, we have read our new model text story - The King of the Fishes. We found out the meanings of some tricky words in sentences e.g. the waves stilled, silvery voice, winter winds whip through the house. We also learned new vocabulary about the different parts of a river and are creating collage posters to show the information. Look out in our next news to see our colourful, interesting posters!"

reported by Jan and Michal



Year 6

Year 6 have come to the end of their biography writing unit and can be seen here in the photographs making their final copies in their best presentation, after editing and assessing with their peers. These will then form part of their presentations for their 'waxworks, living museum' next week which Year 6 parents are invited to attend. The children have been really motivated to complete these to a very high standard and are excited about the prospect of sharing next week. Well done, Year 6!



"The English curriculum needs to provide opportunities for pupils to write frequently for a range of purposes and audiences. Pupils also need to be taught how to plan, draft and revise their work, to reflect on the choices they make as writers, and to draw on the increasingly complex models they study and encounter in their reading."

(Extract from: 'Telling The Story: English Education Subject Report, March 2024)

Year 6

We celebrated British Science week by exploring the topic of light with some fun and interesting investigations! This included how light travels from a light source to how light enters the eye!



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.](#)



Host Nation news

March 2024

We would like to send out this reminder:

***4th and 5th Grade project:
'The Host Nation ducks
explore the Netherlands'***

Inspired by the book
'The orange duck explores the Netherlands',
4th and 5th Grade students are invited
to submit a request to take a small rubber duck
with them on a trip through the Netherlands.

The Host Nation teachers would like to receive
1 or more photos from the trip to create a wall
of photos with the HN rubber duckies and
to evaluate with the students in class.

You can send pictures to
hostnation@afnorth-is.com

Kind regards,

*Ms. Dyon Damen
Mrs. Gina Lavere
(substitute for Mr. Craig McMorland)*

Host Nation Teachers



LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is €3.75



Week 12 18-03 to 22-03-2024

MONDAY

Veggie Pie, Mashed Potato, Retro Vegetables	1, 2, 3
Beef & Pork Meat Ball	3, 5, 10
Mashed Potato	1
Retro Vegetables	
Pepper Sauce	1, 3

TUESDAY

Veggie Macaroni Dish, Snack Tomato, Rocket Salad	3, 4
Macaroni	3
Ham & Cheese Sauce	1, 2, 3, 5, 9
Rocket Salad	
Snack Tomato	

WEDNESDAY

Veggie Balls, Baked Potato, Corn-Carrot Salad	3, 4
Chicken Schnitzel	1, 2, 3, 6
Baked Potato	
Corn-Carrot Salad	
Stroganoff Sauce	1, 3



THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Veggie Snack, Fries, Carrots	1, 2, 3, 4, 8
Fish Nuggets or Hot Dog Sausage	2, 3, 5, 7
Fries	
Carrots	
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>

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



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

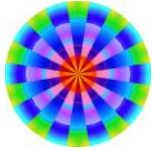
Group email: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

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



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:

- bereavement or serious illness of relatives.
- medical needs where treatment is required in the Home Country.
- 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:

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

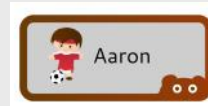
During periods of inclement weather please wait inside the main entrance (in the well area under the stairs or when this area is in use please wait outside the British Office). Staff will collect/deliver the children to you. There is no need to sign in

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