



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

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

British.office@afnorth-is.com

22 March 2024



Well done to our musicians this week who shared their talents in assemblies.

April

- 8 School Reopens
- 15-19 Month of the Military Child Spirit Week
- 17 1400 Dismissal
- 23 Children's/ Culture Day
- 26-27 Seussical the Musical

May

- 13-16 Y6 National Assessments

Dear Parents,

With Easter bonnets and Treasure Hunts, we finish the term with a Spring in our step, as another busy, action-packed term comes to a close!

It was lovely to see so many of you at school this week whether you were making bonnets, participating in Easter Maths, creating fossils from salt-dough or visiting the Year 6 Waxworks. Thank you for all your support.

The Waxworks gave us an opportunity to find out all about famous people from the past; artists, nurses, explorers, inventors, politicians to name but a few. Thank you to Year 6, you have all worked incredibly hard and this was reflected in your excellent presentations and display work

April is designated as the "Month of The Military Child". This is a time to recognise military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the wonderful opportunities and experiences that come with being dependent children of military members serving overseas. Our children face some big challenges due to frequent house and school moves and also parent deployments. We will hold Spirit Week during the week of April 15th to recognise their strength and incredible resilience.

We wish you all a wonderfully restful and peaceful break and look forward to welcoming you all back for the Summer Term on Monday 8th April.

There was some very impressive computer programming in Year 1 who shared their own computer games.



Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Attendance This Week

Reception	92%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	95%
Year 4-5	95%
Year 6	95%



Bucket Fillers



James Brown, Joan, Lydia, Lainey, Tomasz, Veronika, Santi, Gabin, Joshua, Klara, Michal, Rory, Teo, Year 6

Easter Egg Decorating Competition!



And the winners are...



The Robotics Group
solving programming challenges.

Easter bonnet parade and sing-a-long





MON 4/15 ... have traveled the world!
WEAR A TRAVEL LOCATION SHIRT

TUES 4/16 ... can fit in no matter where they are!
WEAR CAMO to blend in or **SPARKLES** to stand out

WED 4/17 ... can be anything they choose to be!
DRESS FOR A CAREER

THURS 4/18 ... have their own style!
WEAR something FANCY or something **COMFY**

FRI 4/19 ... are **AMAZING!**
WEAR PURPLE for **PURPLE UP DAY**

WHAT'S INSIDE



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b4UHSiTQgBIrq8Euco-e6MznYtuRQs9f/view?usp=sharing>



- EASTER MESSAGE
- NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS
- CULTURAL INFORMATION
- YUMMY FOR YOUR TUMMY
- LINGUISTIC CHALLENGES
- EASTER ACTIVITIES

Sunbeams

Our Super Sunbeams have had a week filled with Easter joy! We were joined by our wonderful parents throughout the first 3 days to create amazing Easter bonnets. We glued, stuck, cut, tweaked and added as many fabulous things as our hats could squeeze on top of them! It was such a treat to see so many parents joining in for this lovely challenge. We wore our hats with pride to the Easter singalong and were rewarded with a visit and some scrummy chocolate from the Easter bunny. We rounded off our week by making delicious crispy nests to enjoy before lunch. What a week, what a term! Next stop...SUMMER!



Reception

Reception Class children were feeling the joys of spring! We decided to have an adventure and go for a snack at the picnic tables. We also explored the area, finding a ladybird, daffodils, tulips, daisies and even a bee. We decorated the ground with chalk in spring colours and played team games. Some children voted it 'The best day ever!'



Year 1

Year one have enjoyed learning to use clay this week. We have been rolling it into different shapes and using various techniques to create an Easter bunny egg cup! In maths the children have been exploring capacity and measuring the capacity of various items. The children have loved using the app scratch junior to learn how to write simple computer algorithms to make their character



Year 2

This week we have completing our final write-up of this unit of work. We have written our own version of Little Red Riding Hood. We have really enjoyed ourselves thinking of new characters and spending time improving our ideas to finish our writing. The children are really looking forward to reading and sharing them as they have taken a copy home today. Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy reading our stories.



Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf

It was a sunny day and Little Red Riding Hood was walking through the forest. She was carrying a basket full of cakes for her grandmother. She saw a wolf in the distance and she was very scared. She ran as fast as she could but the wolf was faster. She was caught and the wolf ate her up.

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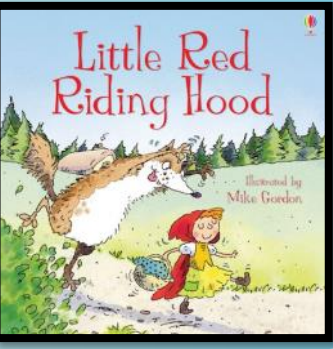
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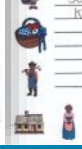
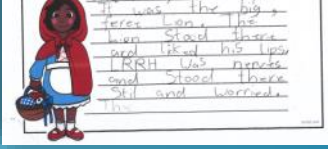
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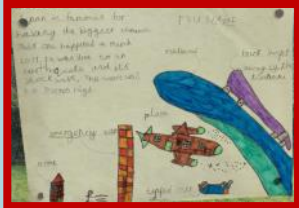
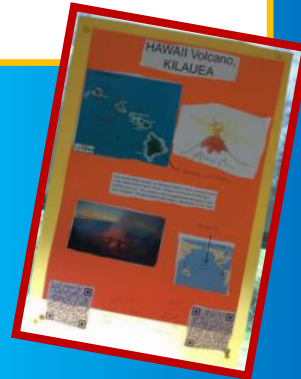
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Year 3

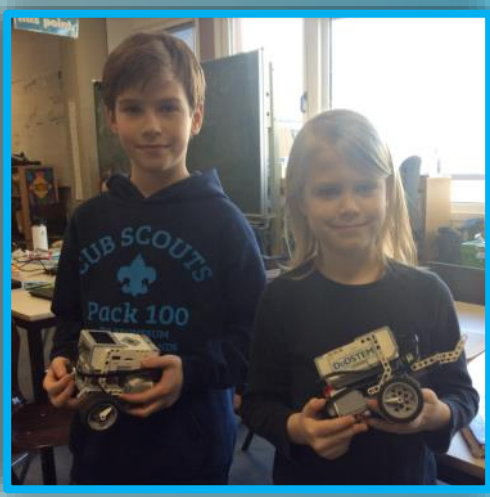
What a busy week! We have been learning about writing instructions and how they are set out using subheadings and bullet points. In maths it has all been about money, adding and converting from pounds to pence. We have continued to learn about rocks and soils and learned about earthquakes. There was great excitement about continuing to learn about scratch and how to include the loop function. We also had a great time looking at each other's volcano and earthquake homework, thank you parents for all your hard work too!



Year 4-5

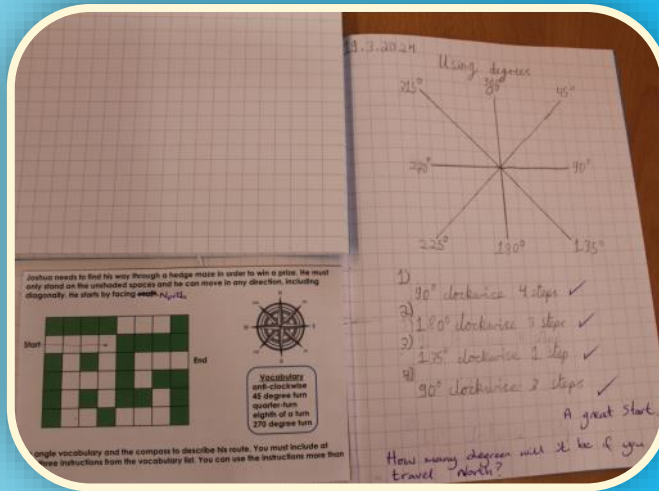
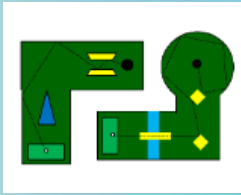
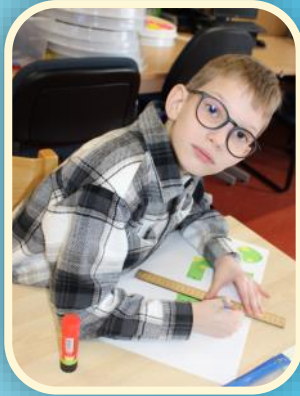
"It has been a busy week in Y4/5! Some of us decorated eggs for the egg competition - they were very unique! I (Maria Sofia) was so excited because I hadn't done this before and I was very happy to win a prize.

On Monday, John and Mihnea took part in a Robotics challenge, coding a Lego robot to complete missions and earn points. They got to compete with other children from around the world. They have worked hard in this club and had a fun morning! On Thursday, we visited the Y6/Gr 5 Waxworks and enjoyed finding out about the lives of lots of different people. Today, the class did a Spring Hunt and lots of parents came to join us. We had to follow clues to make a word and then came back to class for some Easter Maths and a delicious treat! It was lots of fun!" **Reported by Logan and Maria Sofia**



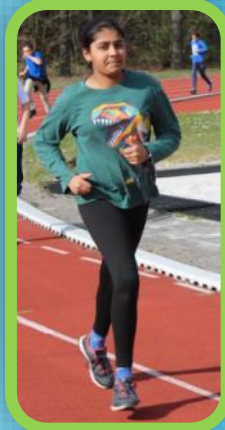
Year 5 Maths

Year 5 Maths this week has focused on Angles. We have been identifying, classifying and comparing acute, obtuse, right angles and reflex angles. To extend our understanding, we were set the challenge to design a mini golf course. We had to think about the line the ball would follow, using angles to bounce off the walls. Each course had to have a variety of obstacles and at least 1 of each type of angle. Our next task is to accurately measure the angles!



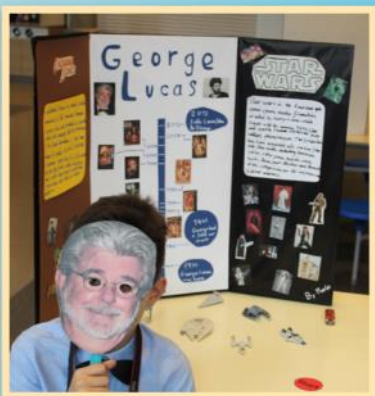
Year 6

We enjoyed a spring 'warm-up' in PE with a quick run around the tracks, before coming inside for a fast-paced and fun team game of two-ball football! Coach Guest made sure we played fairly and took into account our other team members too. Next, we will be learning some hockey skills!



Year 6

Thank you to all who supported their children in being able to take part in yet another amazing and successful Afnorth school waxworks! Here are some photographs of this wonderful event. Well done to ALL in Year 6! We are so very proud of you!



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 15 08-04 t/m 12-04-2024

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

Empanada, Baked Potato, Beetroot 2, 3, 4, 9

Fish Burger 1, 3, 4, 7, 8

Baked Potato

Beetroot 3

THURSDAY

Pasta, Tomato Vegetable Sauce, Snack Tomato 3, 4

Pasta 3

Bolognaise Sauce 3, 10

Snack Tomato

FRIDAY

Veggie Snack, Fries, Peas 1, 2, 3, 4, 9

Fried Fish 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>

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

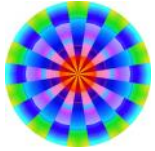
Group email: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

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:

- 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.

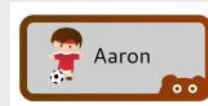
During periods of inclement weather please wait inside the main entrance (in the well area under the stairs or when this area is in use please wait outside the British Office). Staff will collect/deliver the children to you. There is no need to sign in

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