



King Athelstan Weekly Digest Issue 15 - Thursday 21st December 2023

Dear Families,

On behalf of the whole staff team, a huge thank you for all the thoughtful messages, cards and gifts that families have sent in. They really are unexpected but much appreciated. As well as being the last day of term today, we have had the momentous burial of our Coronation Time Capsule. It would have been buried at the end of the summer, however we had a few technical issues (mainly too many



things for the size of the capsule as we were a bit over-ambitious!). Our JLT performed the ceremony beautifully. Inside are laminated posters from each class about the Coronation and life in 2023, including portraits of the King, fashion, music and technology. There is a letter to the future, a photo of the whole staff, a Digest (of course) and even a school sweatshirt! It is buried in



the grass outside the school office windows for the King Athelstan family of the future.

Achieving for Children (AfC) have asked us to share this link with school families. It is a survey asking for your requirements, in relation to wraparound childcare, to support the council planning for September 2024. Please click on [this link](#) or the QR code on the right:



Have a lovely, relaxing break over Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year from the whole staff team. Thank you all for your support throughout 2023.

Emily Newton, Headteacher

Year 1 Design & Technology

From Ms Hosseinian, D&T Lead:

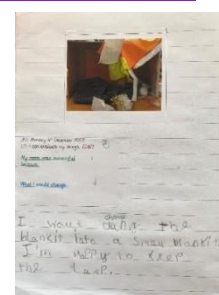
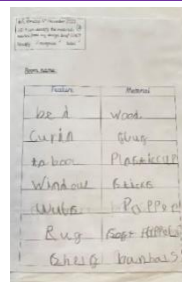
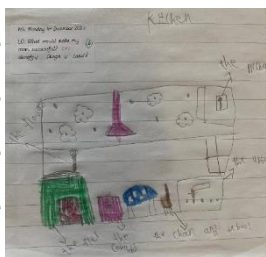
What fantastic D&T sessions Y1 have had this term! Our project was to create a room and we dedicated an entire week to fully

immerse ourselves in understanding and executing all the important D&T steps necessary to achieving excellence. We started off by doing some research on what would make a successful room. We thought about the different rooms in a home and what features each room needed to make sure that the people using them could feel comfortable and have all the things that were purposeful.

Once we decided what room we were going to build, we then designed it and labelled the features. During this process we discovered that bedrooms might look completely different to one another, however they all had the same basic features.

The next step was for us to plan the materials that we would use to make these features, such as the lolly sticks for the lamp stands

and cotton balls to fill the cushions and pillows with. Then it was time for us to make the room! We followed the design as well as the plan and we did our best to use what was available to create the room. Once we had completed this part of our project, we evaluated it and discussed what was great about our rooms and what we would like to change in order to make them better. Here are two of our finished rooms, which look wonderful.



Amazon Wish List

Thank you so much to everyone who has been kind enough to purchase items from our Wish List this year - it is very much appreciated. We will make a new list for the New Year! The link is: <https://amzn.eu/hcy87Hz>. There is, of course, **no obligation to buy anything**.



Year 6 Winter Poem

Year 6 children wrote individual winter poems, and then worked in groups to collate ideas. The Y6 teachers went through their ideas and came up with verses for a 'good versus bad' winter vocabulary poem! Riley Class were responsible for 'Beautiful' winter, Kahlo Class for 'Ugly' winter!

Beautiful winter

white and crisp

snowflakes always falling

like a cluster of crystal jewels

if only I could preserve it

Forgiving winter

enchanting and beautiful

caring for nature

like a polar bear nurturing her cubs

if only I could watch forever

Mesmerising winter

unique and elegant

resting nearby

like a fox in its hole

if only it could awake

Delicate winter

calm and composed

snow finding its way down

like a soft quilt

if only it could be eternal

Sparkling winter

idyllic and frosty

blowing upon me

like a white sheet on the ground

if only I could be enveloped

Palatial winter

mystical and pure

a frozen kingdom of wonder

its glory befitting its ruler

if only we could have that power

Ugly winter

dreary and grey

remorseless snowflakes plummeting

in jagged blades of ice

if only it would never come back

Malevolent winter

bitter and foreboding

trapping the land in a cage of frost

like a prison of darkness

if only I could escape

Dreary winter

barbaric and unforgiving

creeping behind you with claws of death

like a graveyard of ice-cold tombs

if only there could be awakening light

Unsettling winter

ominous and eerie

skeletal spindly fingers clutching at doorframes

like sharp, gnarled nails,

if only it would end

Bleak winter

cadaverous and dead

storms raging upon me

as bitter as pain

if only there could be light

Dungeon-dark winter

bewitching and tainted

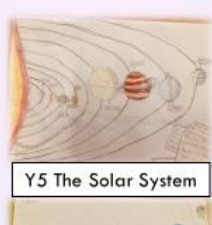
a witch's castle of cruelty

its evil draining all our hopes and spirits

if only I could escape this tragedy

Thinker's Project Autumn 2023

We had an amazing Thinker's Project Exhibition this term, with over 120 submitted pieces of work from across the school. Well done to all the children who worked hard and brought in their entry. We had all sorts, from writing and drawings/pictures to 3D models and videos! Mrs Bennett counted up the works, and announced that the class with the most entries was Dali with 18, closely followed by Mehretu with 15 and Kahlo with 13. We hope many families were able to come along to see how wonderful the hall looked, but if not, here is a taste of the exhibition:



Some visitors commented: "Excellent work! So many ideas of the kids. Brilliant creations and thinking."
 "I loved it - I want to see more!" "Loved seeing all the hard work and effort put it by the children".
 "Amazing work King Athelstan!"



Admission to Reception in 2024

Applications are open for any children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 who are due to start Reception Class in September 2024. Please submit your application by Monday 15th January 2024 by visiting: [eAdmissions Website](https://www.kingathelstanprimaryschool.co.uk/eAdmissionsWebsite).

Singing Assembly

Mr Thomas, our Music teacher, hosted a Christmas singing assembly today, attended by the whole school, including Nursery! It was lovely to hear the fabulous Choir again, and everyone joined in with lots of favourite songs. A special mention to singing soloists Ava, Lula, Violet and Electra, and to specialist 'It's Christmas' shouter Max! For a taster of the assembly, look on Google Classroom.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2024

Monday 8	INSET Day - children not in school
Tuesday 9	Children return for spring term
Tuesday 9	Morning reading groups recommence
Friday 12	First Y5 Swimming lesson- please consent/pay/volunteer on ParentPay
Friday 12	Forest School resumes
Monday 15	Spring clubs start this week

FEBRUARY 2024

Thursday 1	Y6 Junior Citizen trip
Wednesday 7	Da Vinci Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 7	EYFS Museum - in Nursery & Reception classrooms
Mon 12 - Fri 16	Half Term

PCSA

The PCSA has confirmed that the final total raised from the Festive Fair is a whopping £5 071. Well done to everyone involved! The next event was the Bingo Night on 14th December, hosted by Nana Babs, which was great fun and raised a further £262 for the school. In 2024 the PCSA has plans for many more great events:



- **19th January - Year 1 & 2 Disco** This will be from 15:30 - 17:00 at St John's Parish Hall on Grove Lane. Tickets are a suggested donation of £5 per child to help us cover costs but this event is less for fundraising and a lot more as a fun event for the kids, so if £5 is too much then please still feel welcome for your child to join. Either way you can [register/pay HERE](#)
- **24th January - PCSA AGM** This will be at 20:00 at the Spring Grove pub. This is an important meeting where any new members can be voted in, old ones voted out, ideas and suggestions shared. A separate letter will be sent about it in the new year.
- **1st February - Gig Night!!** At the Fighting Cocks, Old London Road. A great night of live music. The best bit, the bands all have parents in and our very own music teacher, Mr Thomas, is going to kick off the night for us. Tickets will be £8pp and the night is open to all. [Ticket link](#)

Pupil News

A special mention to Ava in Riley Class who has made a short film which has just been selected and will be screened in a couple of international film festivals in America! Ava and Lula wrote the screenplay based on one of Aesop's fables as a moral tale about teamwork. Ava arranged for her film crew to go on location in King Athelstan's MUGA, and it looks fabulous. Ava feels that the argument she depicted may not be suitable for some of the very young learners at school, but she is very proud to share it with her contemporaries. You can view the film, called 'Own Goal' here: <https://youtu.be/2fpTo4rjjwc>. Well done, Ava – we are all proud of you!

Community Messages

In this section of the Digest we include information received from other agencies. We are not promoting these items, but include them in good faith as they may be of interest to King Athelstan families:

KOOSA Kids are running their **Frosty Fantasyland** activity programme at King Athelstan from 2-5th January 2024. The cost is just £25.50 per child for a standard day (10.00am to 4.00pm)! Visit www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club for more information or call 01276 21884. Bookings are now open.



FUEL: Holiday Activity and Food programme - Winter 2023



AfC is responsible for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme across Kingston and Richmond. Our HAF is called FUEL and it provides free activities and food for children who are receiving benefit-related free school meals (not universal free

school meals). Each eligible child has their own unique FUEL booking code. Contact school if you do not have your child's code. Bookings for the FUEL winter holiday programme are now live, please book places here via the [website](#). In addition, Hampton Youth Project will be getting into the Christmas spirit and celebrating the holiday across two weeks. As well as the usual activities, young people aged 9-16 will be able to attend two fantastic trips:

Trip 1: Gravity Max Wandsworth - Go Karting, Darts and Bowling

Trip 2: Ice Skating @ Hampton Court Palace

Please note, while the trips are heavily subsidised there is a small cost for the trips of £3 or £5.

If you would like more information please contact [Justin Johnson](#).

FUEL: St Mary's Ukrainian Christmas Holiday Programme

St Mary's Supplementary School has secured FUEL permission to run a special Christmas holiday week for Ukrainian pupils aged 5-16. It will be held at St Richards in Ham from 2-6 January 9.30am-4.30pm. Please sign up on the [form here](#), which is in English and Ukrainian. More information in both languages is [here](#). St Mary's will also be offering a GCSE booster group each afternoon for older children.



Samaritans

The Samaritans are there, day or night, for anyone who's struggling to cope, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure. Samaritans is not only for the moment of crisis, they're taking action to prevent the crisis. They give people ways to cope and the skills to be there for others. And they encourage, promote and celebrate those moments of connection between people that can save lives. They offer listening and support to people and communities in times of need. You can call for free, from any phone, at any time on **116 123**.

Mental Health Crisis Line

This helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **0800 028 8000**. The Mental Health Crisis Line offers emotional support and advice to people who are affected by urgent mental health issues, at any time of the day or night. It is open to everyone: both children and adults of all ages, and to people who haven't previously accessed mental health services. More information about the mental health crisis line and other crisis services (including what to do if you are deaf or hard of hearing) can be found here: <https://www.swlstg.nhs.uk/patients-carers/crisis-support/mental-health-support-line>