



# Austin Farm Academy Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents/carers,

What a cold, wet end to another busy week, we started in sunshine and finished with warm waterproof coats!

The children in Foundation, Year 3 and Year 6 have enjoyed their Bikeability training and are all more confident when riding bikes: in the hall, on the playground and on the roads.

Mrs Brokenshire and I have participated in whole class reading lessons in all Key Stage Two classes over the past week, these 'reading for meaning' lessons are taught three mornings a week starting at 9.00am. We saw poetry, non-fiction and fiction lessons and I am pleased to report that all children were engaged in their texts, expanding their vocabulary and answering questions to show they understood what they had read. Our creative teachers have been using a variety of strategies including drama, performance and imagery to help the children with their understanding. I particularly enjoyed acting like seven-ton ballerinas, ill-tempered dogs, Romulus slaying his brother and melting, creeping lava!

This week, the SLT finalised our three values for Austin Farm: We are...proud, resilient and respectful. We will promote these values in everything we do. In the next few weeks, our new website will be up and running; we will hold school council elections and the children will be proudly telling (and showing) you what these values look like in all aspects of school life. If you have any comments regarding these, please contact me via the school office.

I hope you have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

*R Baptiste*

## What's been happening in our school this week.....

Foundation - have been creating scenes from 'We are going on a bear hunt' using mixed media including paint, wax crayons and oil pastels. We are all working hard on holding pencils with the correct grip and continuing to learn our sounds. We have been speeding around the hall on balance bikes and learning to slow down and stop using our breaks. We have also explored lots of ways of counting to 3, including counting sounds.

Year 1 - have been learning about animal groups; for one of our continuous provision activities this week, we worked in groups to use sorting hoops to group mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. This led to some super discussions where we were able to put our oracy skills to work.

Year 2 - have started a new design technology unit; we were thinking about where our food comes from. We looked at what grows above and below the ground and enjoyed singing 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'

Year 3 - have begun to write information texts about our imaginary animals, during English lessons. We have been using adverbs to say 'how' something is happening which is helping to make our writing even more interesting to the reader.

Year 4 - were discussing in science how to set up a fair test investigation to observe which drink causes the most tooth decay. The children have chosen Coke, Diet Coke, Energy drink, Milk, orange juice and water. The children have predicted which they think will decay the teeth most. Instead of teeth, we will be using hard boiled eggs. Watch this space for the results!

Year 5 - have been writing our own beach adventure/expedition in English, adding numbers up to 100,000 in maths and designing an experiment to test materials for a packed lunch bag in science.

Year 6 - have completed the Bikeability course. We have enjoyed practising our skills and by the end of the week, ALL children are confident and able enough to ride on the pavements including crossing busy roads. A huge well done to everyone!

## A big well done to our learners of the week:

Year 1: L.Grayson  
Year 2: Z. Sheridan-Aston  
Year 3: M.Scott  
Year 4: J.Curran  
Year 5: B.Weir  
Year 6: E. Moloney

The Attendance award goes to

**YEAR 1**  
**97%**

Fantastic effort everyone, good job!!!

## Dates to remember.....

- Cauliflowers cards artwork needs to be returned by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to enable for Christmas delivery.
- Healthy smiles will be in on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, thank you for your returned consent forms.
- EYFS open day visits on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9.45am or 2.00pm for anyone starting school in September 2023, please call 01752 705367 or email the office on mailbox@austinfarmacademy.com to book a place. Please pass on these details on to anyone you know who doesn't currently have a child at Austin Farm and will be starting school next year.

## Notice board:

PE kit: we have noticed some non-school uniform PE kits creeping in, please send your child in wearing a blue t-shirt and black or navy-blue shorts on their PE days. Earrings should not be worn on PE days, however if they are, the children must be able to remove them and put them back in by themselves.

If you haven't ordered your Tempest photos online, please bring in the order form before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to ensure free delivery back to school.