

AVALON TIMES



Autumn 2015

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Mrs. J Callaway

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Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2015 edition of the Avalon Times!

The Autumn term has been a busy and exciting one, with so many events and activities going on; far too many to mention in one newsletter!

The family ethos of our school and community spirit is strong and I am appreciative to the generosity of our staff, parents and children who rise to the challenge of every fund raising occasion, be that Children In Need, the Macmillan coffee morning or Operation Christmas child. All of which have been so well supported this term.

In October, Father John Bleazard from St Bridget's church led our harvest festival celebrations. Parents and friends of Avalon were very generous with their gifts of food that were very gratefully received by staff from the Charles Thompson Mission in Birkenhead.

We were also able to make a difference to children's lives further afield; the children donated money by wearing their own clothes for a day, which raised funds to buy First Aid supplies for children in Nepal, who had suffered after the terrible earthquake. Mrs Keenan was able to show the children how their fundraising had helped, when she returned from her visit to Nepal in October. We are looking forward to supporting the Nepal project further, through sponsorship of a child's education.

I hope you enjoy reading on to find out more about many of the other events and activities that have been going on this term!

As one term draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to wish each and every family a very happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

Mrs Callaway

**Autumn Term Winners
are**



**St. Andrew's Team with 1766
points. Well done children!**

House News



Each child from Reception to Year 6 are members of one of the four House Teams; St. Patrick, St. George, St. Andrew and St. David!

Each week, the children work hard to earn house Points and merit badges for their team.

PTA First Aid Day



Kevin Walker from www.firstaidandmore.co.uk came to school, courtesy of the PTA to teach the whole school about first aid. Following on from receiving our defibrillator, the children were shown how it works and even had lessons on CPR. Kevin had brought along a number of "Annie" training devices to show the children how they could potentially save a life. The younger members of our school found out about what happens when we dial 999 and simple things they could do in an emergency. At the end of the day, the children gathered together in the hall and talked through what they had done. It was a thoroughly worthwhile day and thank you to the PTA for making it all possible.



By Mr Ashton
Deputy Headteacher

Egyptian Gods & Goddesses

Year 4 have been finding out some fascinating facts about Egyptian Gods. Did you know that there were over 2000 deities, worshipped for more than 3000 years?

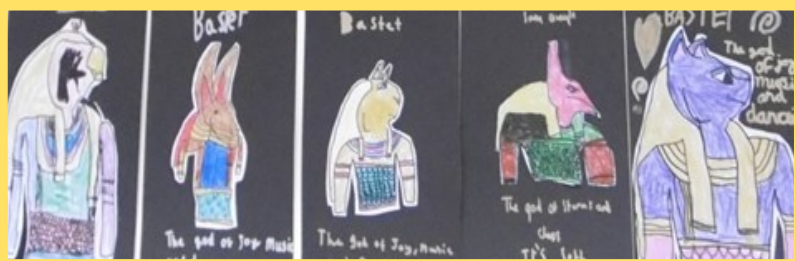


Land of the Pyramids!

By Miss Fletcher Year 4

Gods depicted with heads of animals were identification devices and represented their magical powers!

This term, Year 4 have taken part in an exciting Art/History project on the Egyptian Gods. After learning about them as part of a History lesson on Ancient Egyptians, an ideal opportunity arose for various Art links. Pupils selected an Egyptian god and practised drawing it within their sketchbooks, before making a final copy. After they were finished experimenting, we sketched the portrait of their chosen God on a piece of paper and outlined it with a black marker. We used wax crayons to create bold colours on the portrait then cut out the picture, leaving a clear white border. The portrait was glued onto a black piece of card which looked very effective alongside the white border and helped the picture to stand out! Afterwards, pupils used gold and silver pens to write the God's name in bold writing and we created a class display with our finished Egyptian God portraits! The pupils found this project informative, enjoyable and it helped to consolidate learning from the History lesson.



ECO Schools Energy Fortnight

The children in years 5 and 6 enjoyed a stimulating, fun and informative presentation by the educational team from Drax power station.

They learned about the generation of electricity using either coal or sustainable wood pellets (biomass).

Some children dressed up in safety gear and activated each stage in a model of the power station, culminating in lighting up a bulb. All children participated in the demonstration using actions for stages of the process as they were explained to them.



By Mrs Ham
Science Specialist



Our thanks go to Mr Billington for introducing the topic and the Drax team.



Year 3

Alternative Fairy Tales

Year 3 have been studying fairy tales this half-term and they have worked on lots of alternative versions of classical fairy tales.

For our class assembly the children really wanted to perform some of the fairy tales they had worked on. There were so many to choose from, but in the end they decided upon *Rafunzel*, *Goldilocks and the three Bullfrogs* and Little *Late Riding Hood*.

Year three then went on to create some of their own alternative versions of well known fairy tales. Lots of planning work ensued around the characters, the plot, the setting and how their fairy tale ending was going to work out—would it be a happy ending or not? There were some very interesting villains and heroines too. The children all worked extremely hard and particularly enjoyed performing in front of the school.



By Mrs Brew
Year 3



MATHS CHALLENGES

By Mr Ashton

Deputy Headteacher

Following a review of our Maths Curriculum, to fit in with the National Curriculum 2014 changes, we have introduced lots of fun maths challenges to enable children to use and apply the maths skills that they are taught, in different contexts. Here is an example of one below!

Year 5 children have been exploring shape and using reasoning skills. They were given 5 cubes and put them together, following a few simple rules: the cubes had to be together face-to-face and they must not be toppling over. They then “paint” the faces that could be seen. They were given the challenge “Can you find ways of arranging 5 cubes so that a) you need as little paint as possible and b) you need as much paint as possible? They then had to find different arrangements that displayed different numbers of faces.

Finally, they had to draw their creations on their triangular spotty paper. Part of the investigation looked at whether it was easier to count the faces as part of the drawing or by holding the shape and the children became very good at coming up with methods for counting effectively. The challenge involved a lot of creative thinking and reasoning!



“If we make an “L” shape, we should be able to move the bottom cube to any point in the model and it won’t affect the number of faces”.

In the end, after their investigations, the children realised that with 5 cubes, they could only create shapes which had 20 or 22 visible faces. Using their paper, they created excellent drawings of their models. Well done Year 5!



Staying Safe On Line!

By Mrs. Ellsmoor
Computing Specialist



Year 2 children gained their protector badges by learning not to reveal their personal information when using online technology. They also learned that people on line may not be who they say they are and that they must tell an adult if they ever get that 'uh oh' feeling.

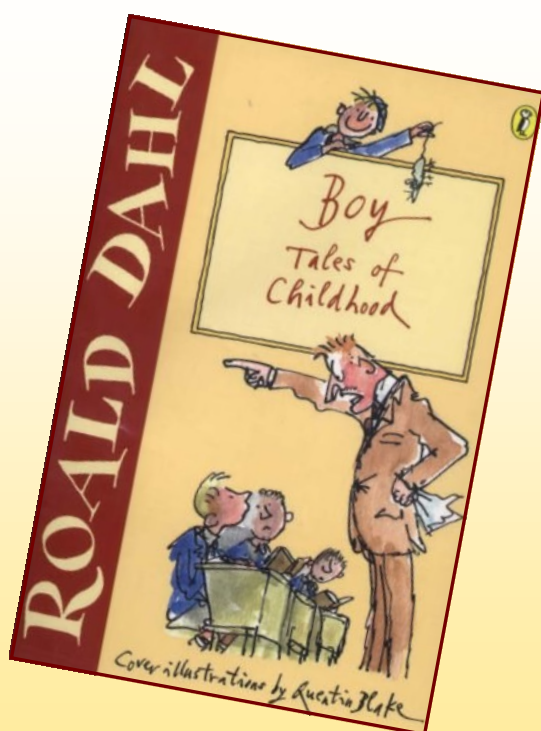
Through group discussions and games Year 2 have joined the whole school approach to Internet Safety.

From Nursery children, with Smarties the Penguin, learning how important it is to ask for help from an adult when on line to Year 6 who learn to use technology respectfully and responsibly. They learn to think before posting on line, so they can leave a positive digital footprint.

The Life of Roald Dahl

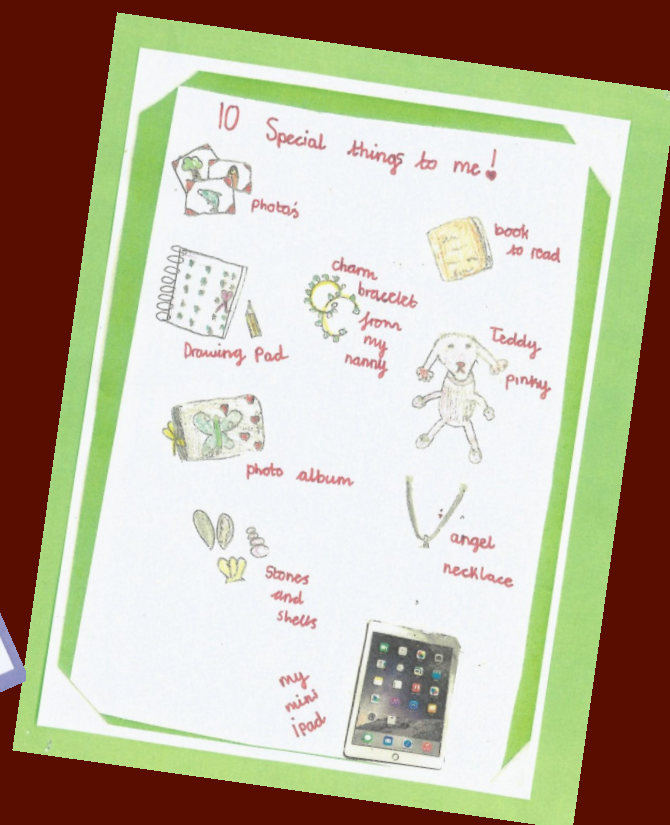
By Mrs Kililiku

Year 6



This term Year 6 have enjoyed learning about the life of Roald Dahl, through reading parts of his book; Boy. When he first went to boarding school at the age of 9, he took with him his precious 'Tuck Box'. Year 6 children have been imagining what their own 'Tuck Boxes' would contain and following up with some creative writing pieces.

What top ten items would you choose?



'Tuck Boxes' by Freya Entwistle and Erin Smales

Nursery News



Rosepetals have been enjoying lots of messy weighing activities



We have been learning all about our bodies. We made special glasses to go on our looking and listening walk!



Rosebuds have been finding out about Diwali. They have created tea light holders, made beautiful Rangoli patterns, made some musical patterns and even created their own dark dens with welcoming shining lights!



Where is the jungle?

Pre-School children have been following a Jungle Theme this term. They helped to bring a little bit of the jungle into their room by creating lots of different art and craft work and a role play area! The children showed a great deal of interest in the topic and it led to lots and lots of questions which they wanted to find out about.



Who lives in the jungle?

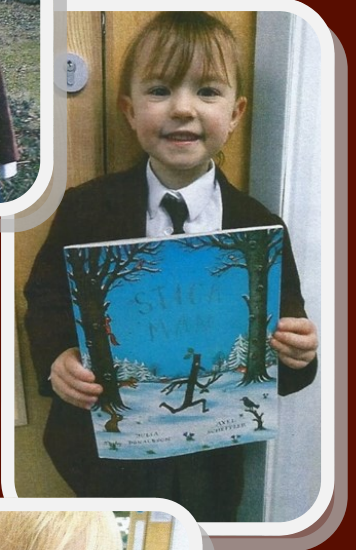
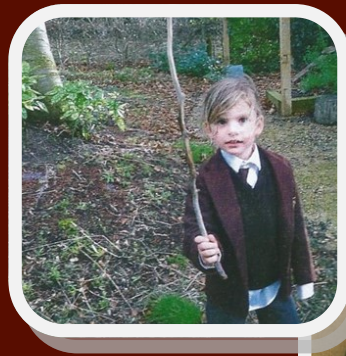


Reception

In the run up to Christmas, Reception have been busy creating their own Stick Man characters, based on the story by Julia Donaldson. Following the high winds of late, the children found many fallen branches in the Early Years Garden. Some were too long or too short, too thick or too thin; but eventually they all found a perfect stick and created their own Stick Man characters to retell the story, back in school to each other!

By Mrs Parkins

Reception

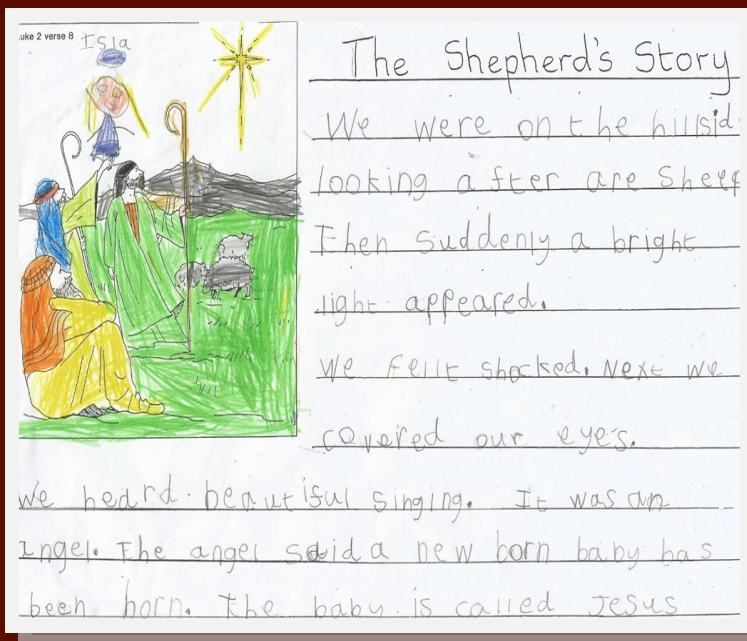


Year 1

Year 1 have been thinking about the Christmas story and imagining that they were shepherd on the hillside who were visited by the angels.

They wrote about what happened that night and how they felt.

By Miss Roper





By Vandana Vinayagam

Year 2 Remembrance Day

Friday 4th December
 L.O. Visiting the War Memorial.
 Year Two visited the War memorial. When we saw the War Memorial it was massive also tall. We walked to the War Memorial which is in West Kirby on the highest hill. It is high because everyone can see it. First we searched for my name we found out that girls did some nursing jobs for people that were injured. We visited on Wednesday the eleventh of November. After that we wrote our dad's name down mine wasn't there so I just wrote a name. As time went by we tried to sketch the War Memorial. It was very hard. We also sketched a poppy wreath. I felt really sad but also a bit excited. We also visited the garden. It was pretty. During our trip it was very windy.

An excellent account of our visit



ISA Swimming Gala

By Mr Ashton
Deputy Headteacher



A fantastic afternoon of swimming was on display at the Independent Schools Association's Northern Area Swimming Gala. It is a wonderful event; not to mention incredibly competitive. This was the third time that Avalon had entered this competition and having won the overall trophy for their age group in the previous two years, the pressure was on for the team to maintain their success. We took three Y6 children; Lehna Davies, Freya Entwistle and Calum Kilpatrick all of whom were lucky enough to be invited to London to compete for the Northern Team in the national finals at the Olympic pool. However, it was clear that the competition was much stronger than it had been in previous years. The opening race was the U12 boys freestyle and, Calum managed to finish a creditable 7th out of the 24 boys who competed in that stroke. Meanwhile in the U12 girls freestyle, Lehna was just pipped into 3rd place by six hundredths of a second. However, her time was still very excellent, almost 3 seconds ahead of the 5th place swimmer meaning that Lehna would be invited to swim down in London as part of the prestigious 4 x 50 relay. Lehna then finished in a fantastic 3rd place in the breaststroke whilst Calum placed 8th in his very competitive breaststroke race. Calum and Freya were swimming in the backstroke and needed to win their respective races. In an incredibly fast race with one boy winning by nearly 5 seconds, Calum finished 3rd but it was, unfortunately not enough to ensure that he would be joining Lehna in London. Freya finished first in the first heat of the backstroke and was left with an agonising wait watching the second heat. She needn't have worried as her winning time was almost 7 seconds faster than the girl in 2nd place, meaning Freya and Lehna were off to London! Well done to all the children who took part; I am incredibly proud of them all and I look forward to more children experiencing this superb event in the next few years.

A 'Barney' Infant Christmas!



A Christmas Tree

Nativity

We were treated to a gem of a performance from our youngest children at Avalon. Forty eight little stars took part in retelling the Christmas Nativity story for us through an array of superb action songs and verse.

There were a few nervous moments at the start, but a reassuring wave from the audience helped our excited two to four year olds rise to the challenge! They took to the stage and delighted everyone, bringing the magic of Christmas into our hearts.

Of course, performances like this do not simply happen. They are the result of dedication and effort both from staff, parents and the children! Many, many thanks to all those involved.

