

Address: Bartlow Road; Ashdon; Essex; CB10 2HB Tel: 01799584219 Email: admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – What a Brilliant Bunch!

This week, our Year 1 and some Year 2 pupils took on the Phonics Screening Check – and we couldn't be prouder of every single one of them.

The check is a short, one-to-one activity where children read 40 words aloud to their teacher. Some are real words, and some are made-up "alien words" designed to test whether children can use their phonics knowledge to decode unfamiliar combinations of letters. It's not something children can revise for in a traditional sense – it's simply a chance to show what they already know.

And show what they know, they absolutely did.

Watching our Year 1 children settle in, take a breath, and give it their very best was one of those moments that reminds you why we love this job. They were calm, focused, and – frankly – brilliant. The confidence they showed is a real testament to the hard work they put in throughout the year, as well as the fantastic support so many of you provide at home.

A huge well done to each and every one of them. We are incredibly proud.



Mars Class Get Creative in the Kitchen

Last week, Mars Class took on a fantastic Design and Technology challenge: designing and making their very own fruit kebabs!

The children worked through the full DT process – first thinking carefully about which fruits to choose and how to arrange them to create something colourful, balanced, and appealing. They considered textures, colours, and flavours before getting to the really exciting part: making their kebabs for real.

Watching the children work was a joy. They carefully used knives to prepare their fruit – an important skill in DT – before threading and assembling their kebabs with real focus and care. The results were genuinely impressive, with each kebab a little different, reflecting each child's own ideas and choices.

But perhaps the best moment came afterwards. As part of their evaluation – thinking about what they would change if they made their kebabs again – the children were encouraged to be brave and taste fruits they hadn't tried before. And brave they absolutely were! Faces scrunched in concentration, eyes wide with surprise, and more than a few very enthusiastic thumbs-ups as children discovered new favourites they hadn't expected to like.

This kind of honest reflection is such an important part of DT: not just making something, but tasting it critically, thinking about what worked well and what they might do differently next time. The children showed real maturity in evaluating their own work – and real courage in stepping outside their comfort zones.

Well done, Mars Class – you should be very proud of yourselves!



'DNA of a Strawberry'

On Monday afternoon, Saturn and Jupiter class were incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to take part in a STEM workshop. The free workshop was organised by Form the Future, a Cambridge-based initiative which aims to inspire and inform children and young people about STEM and STEM-based employment opportunities in the local area.

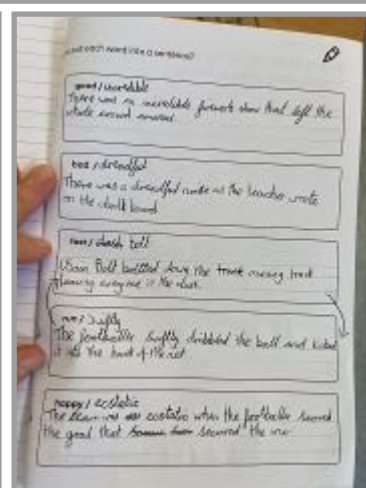
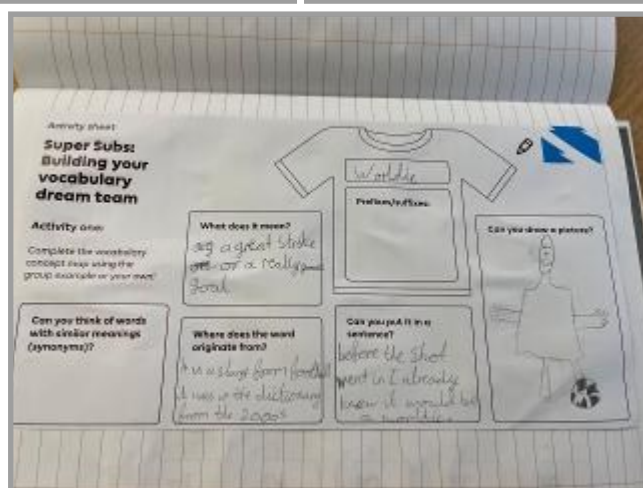
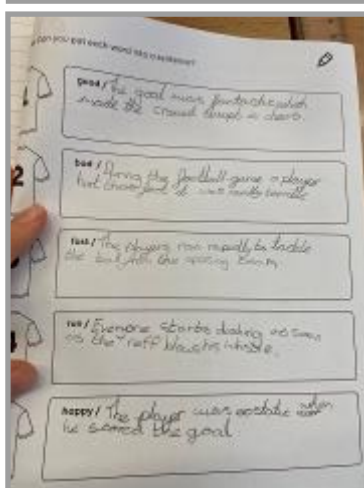
The children learnt about their bodies being made up of millions of cells, including skin cells, blood cells and muscle cells, and that these cells all do different jobs. One particularly amazing fact we learnt was that if you laid out the string of DNA from one person (from every cell in their body), it would cover the distance from Earth to the Sun and back 600 times!

The second part of the workshop involved the children being led step-by-step through an experiment in which they extracted DNA from strawberries. They were incredibly excited to wear Scientific goggles and loved seeing the 'cloud' of DNA appear from the strawberry mixture in their test tube. They were even allowed to take a small test-tube of strawberry DNA home with them, to remember the



Premier League Live Lesson

On Tuesday morning, Jupiter class took part in a Premier League Primary Stars online live lesson, which was based on combining sport and vocabulary. We heard from different sports stars, including professional rugby and football players, about how communication and vocabulary is important within sport, as well as in their daily life. The children then had a go at creating their own vocabulary 'dream team' by selecting synonyms and using these in their own sentences. We also got a shout-out during the workshop, which was rather exciting!





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Ashdon Primary School

SPORTSDAY!

Tuesday 16th June

We are delighted to invite you to our annual Sports Day on Tuesday 16th June on the big school field. Pupils will compete across a range of events representing their houses:

Oak, Elm and Ash.

Schedule

- Morning session (pupils only): Field events
- Afternoon session (parents welcome): Track events
- Friday's celebration assembly: Winning house announcement

Afternoon session – parent information

Gates open at 13:30. Please bring your own garden chairs. Parents are seated on the right-hand side of the field along the track; pupils will be seated with their classes on the left.

We ask that parents remain in the designated seating area throughout. Please keep toddlers with you at all times. The event is expected to conclude at approximately 15:00, after which normal collection procedures apply. Please note that the school site is a no-smoking zone.

What to bring

Please ensure your child comes with a sun hat, a water bottle, and sunscreen already applied if warm weather is forecast.

Photography

You are welcome to photograph your own child. Please do not share images containing other children on social media, and do respect the privacy wishes of all families.

We look forward to a wonderful afternoon celebrating

Attendance Winners of the Week!



Regular school attendance is vital for your child's academic success and personal development. Each day offers unique learning opportunities and social interactions that cannot be replicated at home. Consistent attendance helps children build relationships, develop essential skills and maintain learning momentum.

We understand children become genuinely unwell and will of course report such absences fairly. However, minor ailments like sniffles are not always a reason to miss school, and we encourage attendance wherever possible.

Missing school creates learning gaps that compound over time. Children who attend regularly achieve better grades, develop confidence and stay engaged with their education.

Congratulations to Mars Class for having the highest attendance last week!

They will enjoy an extra 10 minutes of playtime as a reward.

Jupiter Class: 98.81%

Saturn Class: 98.21%

Mercury Class: 97.62%

Mars Class: 100%

Important Dates, Events and REMINDERS:

- ✓ **Tuesday 16th June - Sports Day (parents to join pm - see above)**
- ✓ **Thursday 18th June - Year 6 Crucial Crew**
- ✓ **Friday 19th June - Year 2 and Year 6 Sleepover at school**
- ✓ **Saturday 20th June - Maypole dancing at Hadstock Fete**
- ✓ **Monday 6th July - Year 6 out at Airhop all day**
- ✓ **Tuesday 14th July - End of Year Performance @ 14:00 and 18:00**
- ✓ **Friday 17th July @ 09:15 - Leavers' Assembly**
- ✓ **Friday 17th July - Year 6 School Sleepover**