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Our Jaffle WINS Dog of the Year!!

Our school dog – Jaffle – was shortlisted by professional photographer Su Kaye alongside 57 other dogs to compete for the title of Dog of the Year. Parents, pupils, friends and families rallied together to vote for our beloved dachshund. The voting closed on 4th January, and on Tuesday we received the wonderful news that out of over 800 votes cast across all the dogs, both Jaffle and Bear, a Golden Retriever, were joint winners with 105 votes each. This means that Jaffle proudly shares the title of Dog of the Year!

Su mentioned that they have never experienced such an incredible response to the Dog of the Year competition and was particularly touched by the heartwarming comments written by parents and children about our one and only Jaffle.

As joint winner, the school has been awarded a large print of Jaffle's professional photoshoot, which we will proudly display in our school!

A huge thank you to all the parents, pupils, friends and families who voted for Jaffle. Your support means the world to us and to our wonderful school dog!

What our children said about Jaffle:

Child One: "Jaffle is the best reading buddy ever! He always listens to me and doesn't mind if I get words wrong."

Child Two: "I love seeing Jaffle at lunchtime. He makes me feel calm and happy, especially when I'm worried about stuff."

Child Three: "Reading to Jaffle has really helped me get better at reading. He just sits there and makes me feel like I'm doing really well."

Child Four: "Jaffle gives the best cuddles when you're sad. Hugging him is the best thing ever and always cheers me up."

Child Five: "I think Jaffle is amazing because he helps loads of children in our school. Everyone loves him and he's so gentle."

Child Six: "Jaffle is special because he listens to everyone. If you're reading or just need a friend, he's always there."

What our parents said about Jaffle:

Parent One: "Jaffle has made such a positive difference to my child's school experience. They look forward to reading sessions with him every week."

Parent Two: "Having Jaffle at school has been wonderful for our daughter's confidence. She talks about him all the time at home!"

Parent Three: "What a brilliant addition to the school. Jaffle provides comfort and support to so many children. We're so grateful he's there for them."

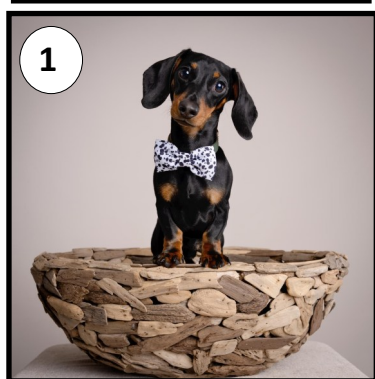
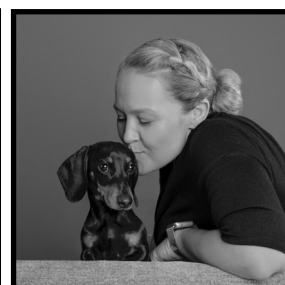
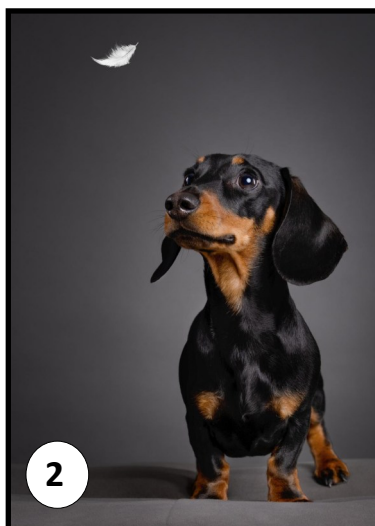
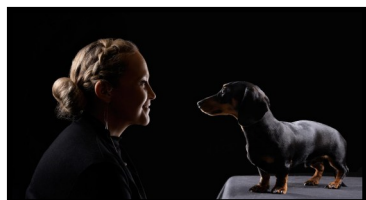
Jaffle's Dog of the Year Photo Selection!! – Fill in form

Or - go to this link:

[School Dog | Ashdon Primary Website](#)



I would now like the children to vote for their favourite photo of Jaffle so we can have Su Kaye photography print it for us and put this up in our school. The numbers of the photos you can choose are labelled. Please scan the QR code or click on the link and vote for your favourite photo!



HAPPINESS HEROES

We're delighted to announce that our classes have voted for their Happiness Heroes! These wonderful children were chosen by their peers for being kind, helpful and approachable – qualities that make our school community stronger.

Our Happiness Heroes have an important role to play. They'll be working to ensure our school remains a happy place where every child feels listened to, safe and calm. They'll also be supporting Mrs Johnson in bringing myHappyMind to life across the school.

We're incredibly proud of all the children who were voted for this special responsibility. Their commitment to looking after others shows the caring nature of our school community. Please do join us in congratulating them on this achievement. If your child has been selected as a Happiness Hero, they'll be coming home with more information about their role in the coming days.



Our Star Shone Bright in Beauty and the Beast

I had the absolute pleasure of attending the pantomime production of Beauty and the Beast at the Haverhill Arts Centre during the holidays, and I couldn't have been more proud to watch one of our own pupils, Autumn Anderson, take the stage in the role of Lumiere.

Written and directed by Dan Schuman, this classic pantomime was everything you could want from a Christmas show – traditional, fun-filled, and brimming with wonderful songs. The production moved along at a terrific pace, keeping audiences of all ages thoroughly entertained with plenty of laughs and memorable musical moments.

The real highlight for me was seeing Autumn shine in her role. To watch one of our pupils perform with such confidence and skill on a professional stage was truly heart-warming. The entire cast demonstrated incredible talent, and the young performers from The Lisa Mason School of Dance added even more energy to the show.

We couldn't be prouder to have had one of our own pupils as part of this fantastic production. Well done, Autumn!



STARS OF THE WEEK!

Every Friday, we celebrate the wonderful achievements and qualities of our pupils through our Star of the Week awards. These special certificates recognise children who have demonstrated exceptional effort, kindness, perseverance, or progress in their learning.

This week's stars have been chosen for a variety of reasons – from showing remarkable improvement in their reading, to displaying outstanding friendship skills, or tackling challenging maths problems with determination. Some have been recognised for their helpful attitude around the classroom, whilst others have shown creativity in their writing or bravery in trying something new.

Each child's achievement is unique and valuable, and we're incredibly proud of all our stars. The joy on their faces when receiving their certificates reminds us why celebrating individual successes, both big and small, is so important in building confidence and encouraging a positive approach to learning.

Congratulations to all of this week's stars – you should be very proud of yourselves!



Mars Class Curriculum Overview—Spring Term

Mathematics:

- ✓ Count, read and write numbers to 10/20/100 in numerals.
- ✓ Count in multiples of twos, fives and tens, count objects and actions.
- ✓ Use the language of: equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least.
- ✓ Link a numeral with its cardinal number value.
- ✓ Compare, describe and solve practical problems for: mass/weight [for example, heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than].
- ✓ Compare and contrast size, height and length.
- ✓ Addition and Subtraction, number bonds and problem solving.
- ✓ Sequence events in chronological order using language [for example, before and after, next, first, today, yesterday, tomorrow, morning, afternoon and evening]
- ✓ Recognise and use language relating to dates, including days of the week, weeks, months and years.
- ✓ Recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.
- ✓ Use money in role play.
- ✓ Copy, continue and create patterns.
- ✓ Sort, group and share objects.
- ✓ Solve problems of multiplication and division.
- ✓ Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.
- ✓ Recognise and name common 2-D and 3-D shapes, including: 2-D shapes [for example, rectangles (including squares), circles and triangles]; 3-D shapes [for example, cuboids (including cubes), pyramids and spheres].
- ✓ describe position, direction and movement, including whole, half, quarter and three-quarter turns.

English:

- ✓ Information Texts
- ✓ Stories to make you look, think and talk
- ✓ Letters and Postcards
- ✓ Humorous poems
- ✓ Traditional tales and fables

Key Texts:

- ✓ The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
- ✓ The Owl and the Night by Sinead Gaffney
- ✓ Night Animals by Susan Meredith
- ✓ Through the Magic Mirror by Anthony Browne
- ✓ Max the Brave by Ed Vere
- ✓ Peep Inside Night-Time by Anna Milbourne
- ✓ Bedtime for Monsters by Ed Vere
- ✓ Chicken's Bad Dream by Ruth Merttens
- ✓ Max at Night by Ed Vere
- ✓ Here Comes Mr Postmouse by Marianne Dubuc
- ✓ Dear Postman by Ruth Merttens
- ✓ [Dad and the Cat and the Tree](#) by Kit Wright Poem from youtube.com
- ✓ [Shaun's Shorts](#) by John Foster
- ✓ Tell Me A Dragon by Jackie Morris
- ✓ The Dragon Machine by Helen Ward

Music:

Spring Festival performance & Topic Link 'Africa'. High notes, low notes, range in between, learning actions and words: DOH, RE, ME, FAR, SO, LA, TE, DOH
Retelling an African story using musical sounds (untuned & tuned percussion)

Science:

They will explore, name, discuss and raise and answer questions about everyday materials so that they become familiar with the names of materials and properties such as: hard/soft; stretchy/stiff; shiny/dull; rough/smooth; bendy/not bendy; waterproof/not waterproof; absorbent/not absorbent; opaque/transparent. The children will explore, test, play with and experiment with a range of materials to decide and comment on the suitability of materials for different purposes e.g. materials for clothes for different weather and floating and sinking in the water tray.
Seasonal change observations whilst on Safari

Geography:

'My World and Me'
The oceans and continents
Where is the UK?
Hot and cold climates
Physical and human geographical features in aerial photos and seen on Safari

History:

Toys
Understand the concept of 'past'.
Notice changes in their own lives (toys they used to play with and toys they play with now).
Develop interest in and an understanding of the lives of significant adults eg parents and grandparents

P.E:

Dance and gymnastics.

R.E:

Easter and the importance of the cross in Christianity

R.S.H.E:

The importance of exercise.
Healthy eating including 'eating the rainbow'
Road safety (reinforced on mobile library visits and on Safari)

Art:

Drawing using chalk and charcoal
Study Andy Goldsworthy's art works and using these to inspire their own works of art using natural materials

D&T:

Shadow puppets.
Explore making shadow shapes.
How to change shadows by changing angles and distance from the light source.
Creating puppets using cutting skills and exploring the use of levers and different materials

Computing:

Using computers and developing skills for this.
Using age appropriate software to enhance learning.
Develop familiarity and confidence in using hardware.

Mercury Class Curriculum Overview Spring Term

Mathematics:

Adding and Subtracting, Written Methods for Addition and Subtraction, Fractions, Coordinates, Measurement, Multiplication and Division methods, Decimals, Geometry, Time

Pupils will strengthen their mathematical fluency and problem-solving skills, developing efficient calculation methods and applying their understanding to real-life contexts.

English:

Poetry/Biography, Reports/Persuasive Writing, Stories & Fables from India

Children will explore a variety of text types, developing their reading comprehension and writing skills. They will learn to write persuasively, analyse different genres, and engage with stories from diverse cultures.

Science:

Animals including humans, Plants

Pupils will explore the characteristics of living things, learning about animal classifications, life cycles, and human health. They will also investigate plant growth, structure, and the conditions plants need to thrive through hands-on experiments.

Geography:

Our Amazing World Maps and Plans

Children will develop their understanding of the world's physical and human features, exploring different continents and environments. They will build essential map-reading skills and learn to create their own plans and maps.

History:

Travel and Transport through Time The Lives of Kings and Queens

Pupils will investigate how transport has evolved over time, from early inventions to modern travel. They will also explore the lives of significant monarchs and their impact on British history.

P.E:

Dance, Yoga and Gym

Children will develop their physical coordination, creativity, and performance skills through dance, yoga and gym, learning to express ideas and emotions through movement whilst working collaboratively.

R.E:

How do Christians belong to their faith family? How do Jewish people celebrate Passover (Pesach)?

Pupils will learn about the practices and beliefs of different faiths, exploring Christian community and worship, and understanding the significance of Passover in the Jewish tradition.

R.S.H.E:

Citizenship Safety and the changing body

Children will learn about their role in the community, rights and responsibilities, and how to be active citizens. They will also develop understanding of personal safety and the changes that occur as they grow.

Art:

Travel Where I live

Pupils will create artwork inspired by journeys and different places, exploring various artistic techniques. They will also develop observational skills by studying and representing their local environment.

D&T:

Build a vehicle

Children will design, make, and evaluate their own moving vehicles, developing practical skills in construction, problem-solving, and understanding how mechanisms work.

Computing:

Unit 3 - Computing Systems and Networks 2: Word processing Unit 4 - New Programming 2: Option 1: Make Code OR Option 2: Scratch Jr

Pupils will develop their word processing skills, learning to format text and create documents. They will also explore programming concepts through visual coding platforms, creating their own interactive projects.

Music:

Spring Festival performance & Topic Link 'Down Under'. Retelling an Aboriginal story using musical sounds (untuned & tuned percussion) Spring Festival performance & Topic Link 'Africa'. High notes, low notes, range in between, learning actions and words: DOH, RE, ME, FAR, SO, LA, TE, DOH. Retelling an African story using musical sounds (untuned & tuned percussion)

Children will develop their musical skills through performing, composing, and listening activities. They will explore music from different cultures, learn musical notation, and use percussion instruments to create their own storytelling compositions.

Saturn Class Curriculum Overview Spring Term

Mathematics:

Adding and Subtracting, Written Methods for Addition and Subtraction, Fractions, Coordinates, Measurement, Multiplication and Division methods, Decimals, Geometry, Time

Pupils will strengthen their mathematical fluency and problem-solving skills, developing efficient calculation methods and applying their understanding to real-life contexts.

English:

Poetry/Biography, Reports/Persuasive Writing, Stories & Fables from India

Children will explore a variety of text types, developing their reading comprehension and writing skills. They will learn to write persuasively, analyse different genres, and engage with stories from diverse cultures.

Science:

Animals including Humans, Living Things & their Habitats

Pupils will investigate how living things are classified and explore the human body, including nutrition, circulation, and life cycles. They will develop their scientific enquiry skills through practical investigations.

Geography:

Our European Neighbours

Children will study the physical and human geography of European countries, comparing landscapes, climates, and cultures whilst developing their map skills and geographical vocabulary.

History:

The Tudors

Pupils will explore this significant period in British history, learning about Tudor monarchs, daily life, religion, and the lasting impact of the Tudor era on modern Britain.

P.E:

Dance and Gymnastics

Children will develop their physical coordination, creativity, and performance skills through dance, learning to express ideas and emotions through movement whilst working collaboratively.

R.E:

What do Muslims Believe about God? How do People make Moral Decisions?

Pupils will explore Islamic beliefs and practices, developing respect for different faiths. They will also consider ethical dilemmas and how people use different frameworks to make moral choices.

R.S.H.E:

Health & Wellbeing, Safety

Children will learn about maintaining physical and mental health, building positive relationships, and keeping themselves safe both online and in the wider world.

French:

School Days, Birthday Celebrations

Pupils will develop their language skills through practical topics, learning vocabulary and phrases related to school life and celebrations whilst exploring French culture.

Art:

Drawing, Painting (Seurat, pointillism), 3-D Modelling (famous European Landmarks)

Children will study the work of famous artists and develop their own techniques, experimenting with different media and creating both 2-D and 3-D artwork inspired by European art and architecture.

D&T:

Building a Wooden Picture Frame

Pupils will design and construct their own picture frames, developing practical skills in measuring, cutting, joining materials, and evaluating their finished products.

Computing:

Journey inside a Computer, Data Handling - Investigating Weather

Children will learn how computers work internally and develop their data handling skills by collecting, organising, and interpreting weather data using appropriate software.

Music:

Spring Festival performance. Topic link – 'A Tour of Europe' and a link to Tudor & Renaissance music. Learning to play the Recorder – letter names of notes through to actual notation.

Revising Doh, Re, Me etc., looking at how the notes fit into spaces & lines – what are the notes called? Learn about the piano & its history. Develop an understanding of how you use your right hand to play notes in the treble clef & find them on a keyboard.

Saturn Class Story:

'The Boy at the Back of the Class'

This touching novel will form the basis for class discussions about empathy, friendship, and the refugee experience, supporting pupils' understanding of important social issues.

Jupiter Class Curriculum Overview - Spring Term

Mathematics:

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages; Coordinates and Position and Direction; Area and Perimeter; Volume and Capacity; Statistics and Data Handling; Ratio and Proportion

Pupils will deepen their mathematical understanding by working with increasingly complex concepts. They will develop fluency in converting between fractions, decimals and percentages, solve problems involving measurement and space, and interpret data. Children will apply their reasoning skills to real-world contexts and multi-step problems.

English:

- Narrative (fiction) unit: Street Child by Bernie Doherty
- Information texts (non-fiction): Kings and Queens by Tony Robinson
- Poems on a theme: I am unique - Being Me: Poems About Thoughts, Worries and Feelings by Liz Brownlee
- Migration (non-fiction) - Reports and recount writing: Migration by Mike Unwin and Jenni Desmond; Migrations – Open Hearts, Open Borders by Various Authors; Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

Children will explore a rich variety of texts, developing their comprehension and analytical skills. They will engage with historical fiction, non-fiction texts, and poetry that encourages self-reflection. Through studying migration narratives, pupils will develop empathy and understanding of diverse experiences whilst enhancing their writing across different genres.

Science:

Living Things and Their Habitats

Pupils will investigate how living things are classified into groups and explore the characteristics of different organisms. They will study life cycles, adaptations to environments, and the relationships between plants, animals and their habitats through practical investigations and research.

Geography:

Economic Activity and Natural Resources

Children will explore how natural resources are distributed and used around the world. They will investigate different types of economic activity, trade, and sustainability, developing an understanding of how human activity impacts the environment and how resources are managed.

History:

The Victorians - what was life like for a Victorian child?

Pupils will investigate daily life during the Victorian era, comparing the experiences of rich and poor children. They will explore education, work, home life and social conditions, using a range of historical sources to understand this significant period of British history.

P.E:

Dance and Hockey

Children will develop their physical skills, coordination and teamwork through two contrasting activities. In dance, they will explore creative expression and choreography, whilst in hockey they will learn tactical awareness, ball control and the importance of rules and fair play.

R.E:

Philosophy - Why should we be good? What do the great philosophers teach about the meaning of life? Theology - What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?

Pupils will engage with philosophical questions about morality, purpose and meaning, exploring the views of great thinkers. They will also investigate Christian beliefs about the resurrection and its significance to faith, worship and daily life.

R.S.H.E:

Health and Wellbeing (including the importance of rest, embracing failure and healthy eating)

Children will learn about maintaining physical and mental health through balanced lifestyles. They will explore the value of rest and sleep, develop resilience by understanding that failure is part of learning, and make informed choices about nutrition and wellbeing.

French:

Clothes

Pupils will expand their vocabulary and conversational skills by learning to describe clothing and what people wear. They will practise using colours, adjectives and opinions in French, whilst developing confidence in speaking and listening.

Art:

Prints and Textiles: William Morris

Children will study the distinctive designs of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement. They will experiment with printing techniques and textile design, creating their own pattern work inspired by natural forms and repeating motifs.

D&T:

Building an electric vehicle; Make a slipper

Pupils will apply their understanding of electrical circuits and mechanisms to design and construct a working vehicle. They will also develop practical skills in pattern-making and textiles by designing and creating a slipper, evaluating materials and construction methods.

Computing:

Data Handling: Big Data; Skills Showcase: Inventing a Product

Children will explore how large amounts of data are collected, stored and used in the modern world. They will develop their computational thinking by designing an innovative product, bringing together their digital skills in research, design, presentation and problem-solving.

Music:

Spring Festival performance. How music has been used in relation to dance from medieval to contemporary. Performing our own compositions as a class orchestra – 'Waltz'. Study of key features of Grade 1 Music Theory – notation in treble & bass clef, Simple time signatures, Major keys & scales, Terms & signs, Composing a piece for the class 'orchestra' to play together using the above skills

Attendance Winners of the Autumn Term!



Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's academic success and personal development. Each day at school offers unique learning opportunities, social interactions and experiences that cannot be replicated at home. When children attend consistently, they build strong relationships with teachers and peers, develop essential life skills and maintain the momentum needed to master complex concepts.

Missing school, even occasionally, can create gaps in learning that compound over time. Children who attend regularly achieve better grades, develop confidence and stay engaged with their education. Beyond academics, school provides a structured environment where children learn vital social skills and teamwork abilities.

Congratulations to Saturn Class for having the highest attendance last week! As our attendance winners, they will enjoy an extra 10 minutes of playtime as a reward for their excellent commitment to being in school every day.

We encourage all families to prioritise school attendance and to contact us early if challenges arise. Together, we can ensure every child has the best possible chance to thrive and reach their full potential.

Jupiter Class: 97.86%

Saturn Class: 97%

Mercury Class: 85%

Mars Class: 80%

Important Dates, Events and REMINDERS:

- * **Monday 12th January - Welcome back Mrs Collins!!**
- * **Thursday 15th January - Census day**
- * **Thursday 15th January - Toddler and Parent Play Group @ 09:00-10:00**
- * **Friday 23rd January - Para-Athlete Event!**
- * **Thursday 12th February - End of Spring Term 1**
- * **Friday 13th February - Non-pupil Day**

Pawsome Reader of the Week

Well done to this week's Pawsome Reader for their brilliant reading sessions with Jaffle! You read with wonderful expression and confidence, and Jaffle loved listening to every story. Keep up the fantastic work!



*Love:
Jaffle xxix*

