

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Welcome to Bulletin 5

Local area school trips – A Principal's view

At Raleigh and Admirals Academies, we are always looking for ways to enrich our curriculum and provide our pupils with meaningful learning experiences. One of the ways we do this is by organising school trips to the local area, which have many benefits for our children and our community. Here are some of the reasons why these trips are valuable and important;

Pride about knowing your heritage: Our local area has a rich and diverse history, culture, and natural environment that we can learn from and appreciate. By visiting places such as the Thetford Forest, the Ancient House Museum, the Guildhall, and the Burrell Collection, our pupils can discover more about their heritage and feel proud of where they come from. They can also develop a sense of belonging and identity, as well as respect and curiosity for other cultures and perspectives. Within the National Curriculum we have to cover localism and we have written and prepared curriculum units that focus specifically on the immediate local area.

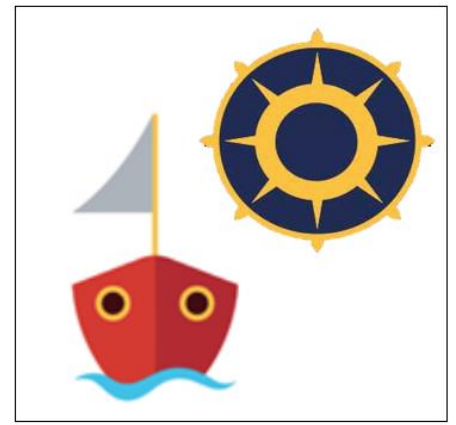


Cost-effectiveness: School trips to the local area are also more affordable and accessible than trips to faraway destinations. We can save on travel costs, accommodation, and entrance fees, and use the money for other educational resources or activities. We can also make use of the free or discounted offers that many local attractions provide for schools and groups. This way, we can ensure that all our pupils have equal opportunities to participate and enjoy the trips, regardless of their financial background or circumstances. Inclusion is very important to us.

Impact on outcomes: School trips to the local area are not only fun and exciting, but also beneficial for our pupils' academic and personal development. They can enhance their knowledge and understanding of various subjects, such as history, geography, science, art, and literacy, by seeing and experiencing them in real-life contexts. They can also improve their skills and attitudes, such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and confidence, by engaging in different activities and challenges. Furthermore, they can foster their well-being and happiness, by spending time outdoors, with friends and classmates, creating positive memories.

To conclude: As you can see, school trips to the local area are a great way to enrich our curriculum and provide our pupils with meaningful learning experiences. We trust that you share our enthusiasm and support for these trips.

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2023/24

Wednesday 20th December

3pm, Autumn Term '23 ends

Thursday 4th January '24

Spring Term begins for pupils

19th to 23rd February '24

Spring Half Term '24

Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2023/24

Leadership within the Academy secures sustained improvement in all areas

Across the Academy, pupil outcomes demonstrate a sustainable improving trend

Improve teaching, learning and assessment in order to secure good and better rates of progress for all pupils

Embed a high standard of personal development, behaviour and welfare

Welcome!!!



We are pleased to welcome Mr. Smith as a permanent member of our staff team. Mr. Smith takes on responsibility for teaching Nimrod class in Year 4, and he has already been working with the children for a number of weeks. Mr. Smith is from Norwich, is Cricket fan and enjoys travelling.

Year 5 Careers experience

Our wonderful Year 5 children were lucky enough to take part in 'Theftford Manufacturing Day'. The pupils were given two guided tours around Warren Services premises where they experienced a variety of activities where work was being undertaken on balconies for high-rise buildings, and glass fronts for tractor driver cabs.



During the experience, the pupils also visited the Charles Burrell Centre for a careers information session from West Suffolk College. To the end of the day, the children listened and watched a presentation from Baxter Pharmacy Services. The children had a great experience; facilitators commented that our children's behaviour was exemplary, and they all received 'goody bags' at the end of the day. Well done to all who attended.



Key Stage 1 Orienteering Event

Before half term, some of Year 1 and Year 2 travelled across Theftford to the Redcastle Family School for an orienteering event. The children, divided into groups, used their spatial awareness and map skills to navigate around the school to solve a selection of questions and challenges.



The groups worked extremely well together, showing perseverance and teamwork. Some children even demonstrated their leadership skills to direct their groups to the next destination. The children really enjoyed the event which involved many Theftford schools, and the skills practised and demonstrated were shared by all. Raleigh were fantastic role models and demonstrated our ARK values throughout. Well done to all children involved!



Community work in Reception class

This half-term our children in Reception have enjoyed exploring their Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) learning theme 'All About Me'. Alongside learning more about themselves, their family and their friends, they also explored their local community.



The children spoke about the people in their community that help them, one of which being Police Officers. The children loved having a visit from some Police Officers from Norfolk Constabulary. The children were able to ask questions to learn more about how Police Officers help to keep us safe, got to explore and try on some of the uniform and equipment, and even got to radio-in



to Police Control!

Alongside learning about the people in the community that help us, the children in Reception also set themselves a project to become people in the community that help others.

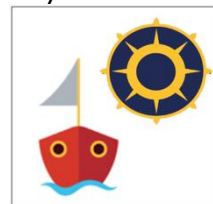


After being inspired by a video message from Steph from Thetford Foodbank, telling us about how the Foodbank helps people in our community, and how we could help, the children (and their kind parents) set out to collect lots of



things to donate. The children were so proud of how much we collected, and we hope it helps lots of people in our local community!

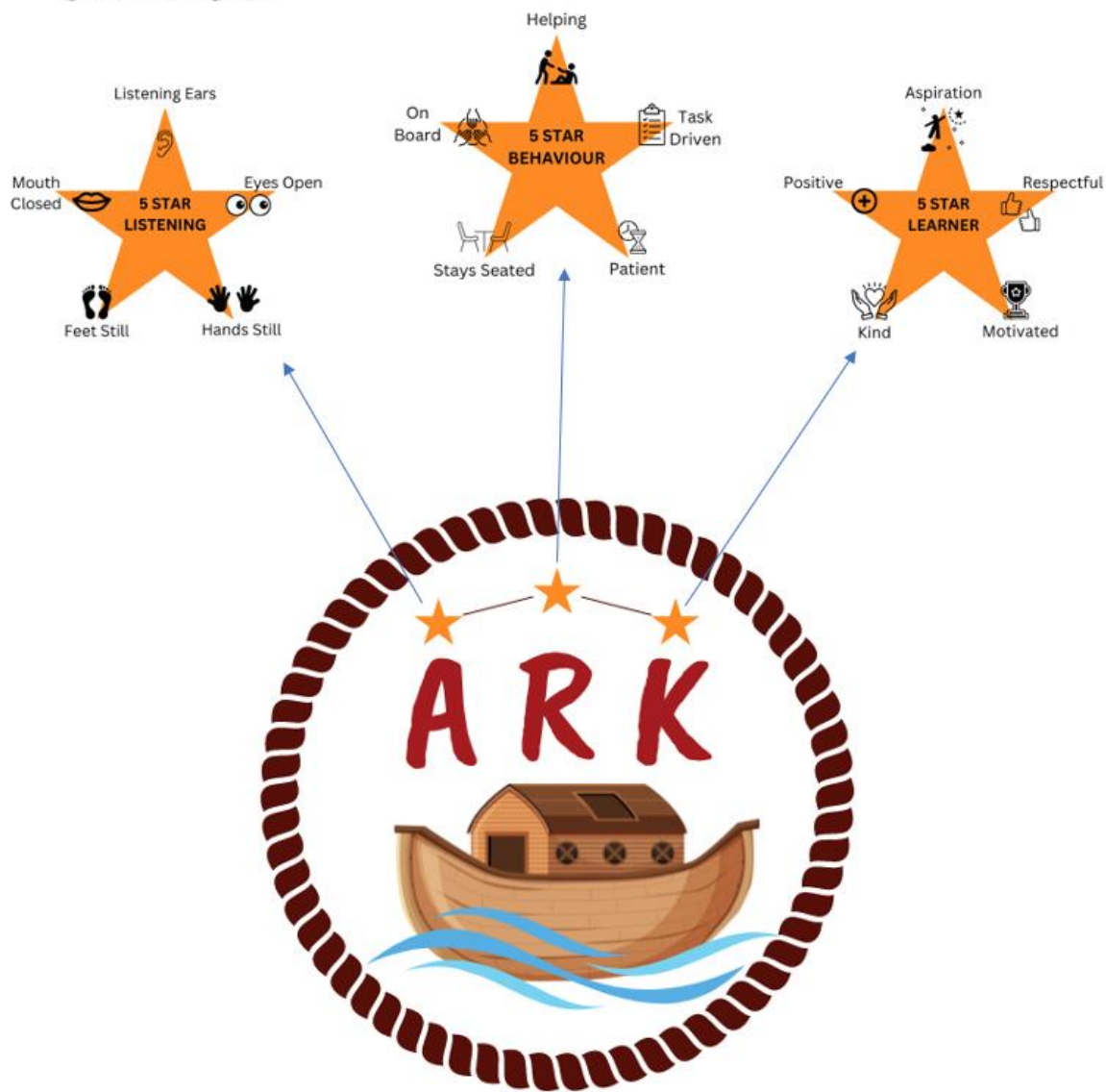
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reminder for parents: Teaching and Learning at Raleigh and Admirals

Our teachers have recently been reviewing our teaching and learning policy which will ensure that teacher lead approaches in our classrooms are the same for all of our pupils. In addition to our ARK values, we have now introduced the next phase of our guiding principles that will further support our learners to navigate their way through their learning.

We support our learners to benefit from great teaching. Our guiding principles of great learning are:



As needed, all adults whether they are teaching or supporting learning will be able to refer to our guiding principles of 5-star learning, 5-star listening and 5-star behaviour. Children will be rewarded for demonstrating the characteristics of great learning, listening and behaviour!

Curriculum time – Active Science

During the past half-term, some classes have been gaining knowledge about 'The Human Body' in their science lessons. The learning focus has been about how we eat and then digest food. In Year 4, our learning journey started with the teeth and ended with how our bodies extract the good things we need from the food we eat, to how we get rid of the undigested food we don't need!

So, to make this a memorable experience for the children, we asked them to become biologists and conduct an experiment to show what happens when food reaches our stomachs. For the experiment they used plastic freezer bags as the stomach, added three crackers (broken into small pieces to show how the teeth work) as food, then added Coca-Cola to represent stomach acid.

Once the mixture had been swilled about, we then cut a small hole in one corner of the bag and poured the liquid into a container to show how the small intestine extracts nutrients from digested food. Finally, we cut a larger hole in the other corner of the bag, and squeezed the contents into another container, to show how undigested food is removed from our bodies via the large intestine.

As our curriculum is sequential, our Year 2 have also been having great fun in their science lessons where they too have been learning at a simplistic level how our bodies digest food.



Their practical approach to learning saw them using a pair of tights, biscuits, bananas and water. The children were able to model how the digestive system works, which of course caused much surprise and fascination.





Year 3 Flexible Curriculum Week



At the end of the last half term, our Year 3 children had a very exciting time in school for their flexible curriculum week. The first day consisted of researching, designing and making a felt key ring using skills such as sewing, cutting and gluing – learning and using these skills is an important part of our Design and Technology Curriculum and it made for a great day which was fun and exciting!

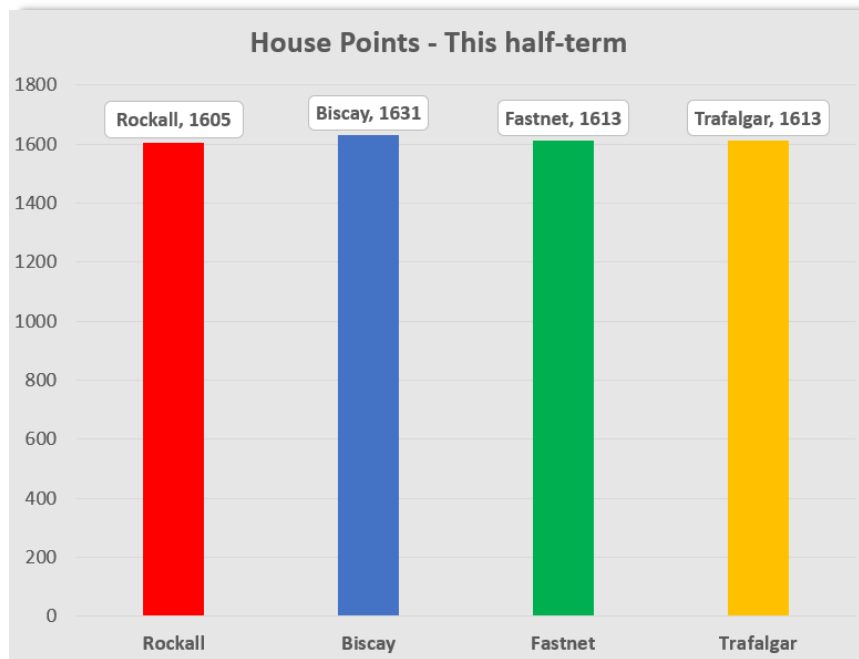


The children took part in other activities across the week which included making a Diwali lamp out of clay and tasting some French foods. It wasn't all just fun though, we used the time to make sure that the pupils were secure with the knowledge they have learnt across the half term so that they are ready to build on this in Autumn 2.



House Points – The Grand totals after Autumn 1

Raleigh & Admirals, combined



December Diary Dates

| Date & Time | Event |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fri 1 Dec, 2.00-2.45pm | Christmas Craft Afternoon (parents) |
| Fri 8 Dec, 1.00-3.00pm | Nursery Open Afternoon |
| Mon 11 Dec, 2.30-2.45pm | Christmas Presentation, Y4 - carols & readings |
| Tues 12 Dec, 9.00am | Christmas Production, Y1 |
| Tues 12 Dec, 11.00pm | Christmas Production, Nursery |
| Tues 12 Dec, 2.00am | Christmas Production, Y2 |
| Wed 13 Dec, 1.45pm TBC | Christmas Production, Y3 - play |
| Thurs 14 Dec, 2.00pm | Christmas Production, Reception |
| Mon 18 Dec, 12.15-1.00pm | Christmas Dinner (RAL) |
| Mon 18 Dec, all day | Admirals Glow-in the dark dodgeball day |
| Tues 19 Dec, 1.00-3.00pm | Christmas Disco and parties (PM) |
| Wed 20 Dec, 12.15-1.00pm | Christmas Dinner (ADM), Christmas Jumper Day (ALL) |
| Thurs 4 th Jan 2024 | Spring term '24 begins for all pupils |