

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Assembly Changes – A Principal's view

Back in September 2023, we launched the use of our values badges and certificates. These have been extremely popular across the entire age range, and the feedback from parents and children has been overwhelmingly positive. However, in recent months, via the use of pupil voice collected during Mr King's Smart School Council meetings, we have established that some of our older children felt that it was time for a change. So, change we have....

Consultation with Years 4, 5 and 6 told us that they would enjoy longer play times on a Friday, but more importantly would enjoy celebrating different aspects of their education and learning. So, as a staff team we began discussions earlier this year to consider what personal 'character' traits we needed our children to demonstrate as they approach the important years heading towards the transition phase into secondary education. Ultimately we want them to become better learners showing increased levels of **motivation, self-belief and independence**. The pathway tabulation below clearly sets out what all of our awards are for, and who they are accessible to.

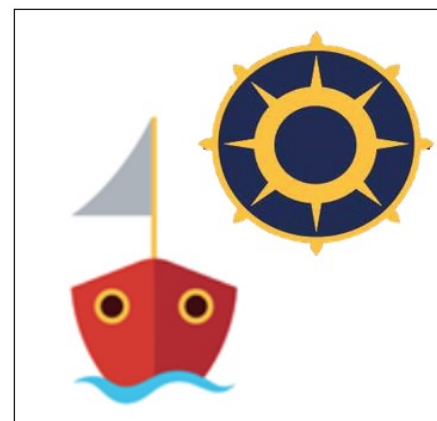
ARK certificate & badge Years 1,2,3	ARK certificate & badge Years 1,2,3	ARK certificate & badge Years 1,2,3
Aspiration Award A pupil actively demonstrates the desire to dream big, to be hopeful for the future and is ambitious to achieve great things	Respect Award A pupil actively demonstrates that they treat others the way they want to be treated, they treat their peers and staff with care and respect	Kindness Award A pupil actively demonstrates that they are nice to others, they are helpful, and they show a feeling of caring for others
Character Award badges Years 4,5,6	Character Award badges Year 4,5	Character Award badges Year 6
Bronze Award for Motivation A pupil actively demonstrates the desire to do things, to finish them successfully even when things can be difficult & challenging	Silver Award for Self-Belief A pupil actively demonstrates that they have the confidence and belief that they can be successful	Gold Award for Independence A pupil actively demonstrates that they able to make good decisions, solve difficult problems and take care of themselves

It is clear that our children across KS1 love their rewards; they tell us that they can't wait until they are in Year 3 to adorn their badges upon their school ties and jumpers. To that end, it has been decided that they will continue to receive our ARK certificates and badges in our Friday celebration assembly.

Each week, one class is selected across Years 4 to 6, and the teacher is asked to 'showcase' their class by focusing upon the themes for which gold, silver or bronze badges are awarded. To ensure fairness and accessibility to the awards, class teachers will distribute up to 6 awards each time, as they deliver, on average, six assemblies per year.

Every pupil has the chance to feature in the 'showcase'. It is entirely up to our teachers how they wish to present their class 'showcase' to the rest of the Academy, whether it be via video, pupil interviews, role-play, or a slide presentation — the options are endless, so it makes every Friday celebration assembly fresh and exciting. From all of us to all of you, Happy Easter!

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2024/25/26

Wednesday 23rd April '25

Summer term '25 begins

Tuesday 22nd July '25

Summer Term '25 ends

Wednesday 3rd Sept '25

Autumn term '25/26 begins

Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2024/25

Leadership at all levels within the Academies secures sustained improvement in the delivery of the curriculum

Across the Academies, outcomes for all pupils demonstrate a sustainable & improving trend

Continue to embed high quality teaching & learning, ensuring that assessment in all subjects informs curriculum delivery

Continue to embed a high standard of pupil welfare which promotes pupil independence and responsibility

Farewell & Thanks

After eight years of service we say farewell to Mr Barnett, who as a teaching assistant, has worked across many classes in the Academy. We thank him for his dedicated years of service, and for the help he has provided our pupils. We also say farewell to our Family Support Worker, Tracey Brookes who after two and half years in our Academies is now taking a career break. In her time spent with us, Tracey worked very closely with a large number of our families and was also part of our Senior Leadership Team. We wish her well for the future and thank her for the dedication and commitment that she gave to our pupils and their families.



Curriculum Time



Reception Farm Visit

This half-term Reception has been exploring 'Growing and Changing' within the Primary Knowledge Curriculum. To engage and immerse the children in their learning, they took a trip to South Angle Farm. They had a fantastic day expanding their knowledge of animals with the help of farmer guides while enjoying a range of opportunities such as holding, stroking, and feeding various animals. The children had a wonderful time and continued to talk fondly of the trip for weeks to follow. The children were able to use these key experiences to apply to their learning back at school, including demonstrating a greater understanding of animals and their young when drawing life cycles, and a fantastic ability to discuss adjectives to describe the animals in their writing. For many of our Reception children this was their first big school trip, and for some this was their first trip to a farm. We are so thrilled to be able to provide the children with amazing learning experiences, as well as seeing core memories being made at the same time! Miss Cousins



Family First Magazine – get your free copy here!!

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue2-25>

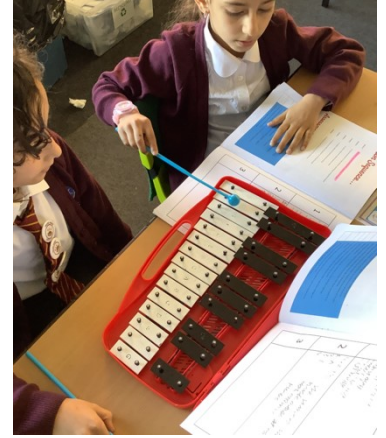


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Year 3 History & Music

This half term, Year 3 has been getting creative with their learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children have explored the different artefacts that were left behind from these historical time periods and have attempted their own replicas. The children have used watercolours to paint Anglo-Saxon shoulder clasps with interlocking designs. They also created replicas of the 'illuminated letters' created by the monks using lots of colours and intricate details.



In music this half term, Year 3 has been creating class performances related to Greek Myths. They have explored tuned and untuned percussion to express different moods and atmospheres in the stories. The children have taken a particular interest in demonstrating the dark, gloomy moods throughout these stories. The ensemble pieces created in the classes have been extremely well rehearsed and create an excellent build of tension! Mrs Crickitt and Mrs Corbyn

The Railway Children - Theatre Production

We welcomed M&M Theatrical Productions back to our academy with their enchanting performance of *The Railway Children*! The show was filled with exciting scenes, vibrant backdrops, and even a moving train that captivated everyone's attention. The atmosphere in the hall was electric, filled with laughter and applause as the children were transported into this delightful tale. Following the performance, the cast shared with us that we were the best audience they had performed to in a long time, which fills us with immense pride.



Sporting Events – Rugby & Lacrosse

This half term, we have been extremely busy across the academies, taking part in various sporting events in and out of school. Year 5 and 6 children travelled to the local Thetford Rugby Club, where they participated in a series of coached activities before transitioning into a competitive tournament. This involved many other local schools from Thetford and the children showcased brilliant teamwork and skill. They achieved a deserved 2nd-place finish!



In the academies, the children took part in a virtual lacrosse event, where they were able to score points towards a whole school average to compete against other schools in the county. The event was very successful allowing children the opportunity to take part in a sport which is not widely explored by children. Mrs Corbyn



Year 5 Poetry and Cookery

Year 5 students had the opportunity to collaborate in small groups to bake honey cupcakes and pitta bread. They learned about leavened and unleavened bread, as well as the process of flour production. Additionally, they explored the origins of honey, its collection methods, and its various uses. The students thoroughly enjoyed all stages of the cooking process, including measuring ingredients, mixing, kneading, baking, and cleaning up. After the cakes and bread had cooled, the students spent time tasting and evaluating their finished products. Last week, Year 5 delivered a poetry presentation to a full audience. The poems, which had been studied throughout the year in Reading lessons, included a mix of classic and modern works. The highlight of the presentation was a clear, loud, and uplifting recital of Rudyard Kipling's 'If'. The students overcame their nerves to deliver a performance they can be proud of. Ms Wilsoncroft



The following article by Mr. Harris currently appears on the Third Space Learning website



Admirals Academy
Chris Harris, Deputy Principal

“This Innovative Voice AI Approach Is A Cost-Effective Alternative To Traditional Tutoring.”



“Admirals Academy is thrilled to be at the forefront of using Third Space Learning’s AI voice tutoring. This innovative one-to-one maths tutoring solution offers a cost-effective alternative to traditional one-to-one tutoring. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and their engagement and focus are clearly evident. We look forward to observing the impact over the next few weeks.”

About Admirals Academy

Phase: Primary

Location: Norfolk

Size: 229

Trust name: Eastern Multi-Academy Trust

8 out of 10 schools in this trust have used Third Space Learning

Intervention details

Year group:

Year 6

Intervention goal:

Accelerate progress

Improve SATs scores

AI voice tutoring

Key features:

Diagnostic assessments

SATs revision

In September 2023, as part of the EMAT funded initiative, we identified 10 children in Year 6 at Admirals Academy that may benefit from additional online one-to-one intervention in mathematics.

All ten children took the initial diagnostic test and then worked on a personalised programme of online one-to-one maths tutoring sessions.

We recorded children’s initial standardised score for KS2 mathematics prior to the intervention and then again after one term of the intervention.

We then made a comparison with children who did not take part in the intervention but were at a similar starting point for standardised score (92-96) to quantify any impact.

Our analysis showed that one-to-one maths tutoring from Third Space Learners added an average of 3.7 additional standardised score points, 2 more than those who did not receive the intervention.

	# of children	Range of starting standardised score	Average standardised score Sep 23	Average standardised score Jan 23	Average increase
Third Space Learning children	10	91-96	94.3	98.0	3.7
Non-Third Space Learning Children	11	92-96	93.3	95.0	1.7

In spring 2024, we decided to try Third Space Learning’s new AI voice tutor, Skye, as a way of offering this same high impact intervention for an even more affordable price.

We’re thrilled to be at the forefront of using Third Space Learning’s AI voice tutoring. This innovative one-to-one maths tutoring solution offers a more cost-effective alternative to traditional one-to-one tutoring.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and their engagement and focus are clearly evident. We look forward to observing the impact over the next few weeks.

Provisional calendar dates for Summer term 2, 2024/25

Event date	Summer Term 2 24/25 PROVISIONAL Event Diary & Additional Notes
2.6.25	Year 4 Multiplication Check begins (MTC)
9.6.25	Year 1 Phonics Screening
13.6.25	International Day of Welcome – Open event for parents, 2.15pm – 3.00pm
23.6.25	Year 2 SATs week
24.6.25	Raleigh EYFS Sports Day, timings tbc
25.6.25	Raleigh KS1 & Admirals Sports Day - timings tbc
30.6.25	Reserve date for Sports Day (if Wednesday 25 th June postponed)
7.7.25	Year 6 full transition week to new schools
7.7.25	Transition information: Parents and pupils will be informed in writing of new classes for September 2025/26
9.7.25	Transition morning: Pupils will spend the morning (9.00am – 12.15pm) with their new class teachers for 25/26. However, due to logistics this may not necessarily happen in their new classrooms.
10.7.25	Transition day: Pupils will spend the day (8.40am – 3.00pm) with their new teachers for '25/26. However, due to logistics this may not necessarily happen in their new classrooms.
8.7.25	KS2 SATs results published to schools
14.7.25	Academy Fete: Held on the Admirals playground, 2.00 to 4.00pm
16.7.25	Year 6 Residential
21.7.25	Reception & Year 1 Classroom parties. Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes. Party runs from 1.30 – 2.45pm
21.7.25	Year 2 'Moving on' Party. Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes. Party runs from 1.30 – 2.45pm
21.7.25	End of Year Disco: Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes Year 6 Disco 1.15 – 1.50pm, All Admirals pupils 1.50pm – 2.50pm
22.7.25	Year 2 'moving on' assembly. Held in the Raleigh Hall. Doors open to parents at 8.45am, begins at 9.00am. The hall can accommodate 2 adults per child
22.7.25	Year 6 leavers assembly Held at the 'Church on the Way'. Doors open to parents at 10.45am, begins at 11.00am. The venue can accommodate 2 adults per child
22.7.25	End of year assembly. Begins at 2pm, for pupils and staff only 3pm Academies close for the Summer Holidays
22.7.25	End of Year reports distributed to parents
3.9.25	Start of Autumn term '25/26 for pupils

Year 4 visit to Lackford Lakes

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent Year 4 trip to Lackford Lakes! This exciting outing not only served as a wonderful adventure but also consolidated our learning on the classification of plants and animals, as well as the fascinating field of Ecology.

Our enthusiastic pupils embarked on an exploration of the environment, engaging in hands-on activities that involved hunting for invertebrates in ponds, under logs, and amongst the bushes. Each discovery was met with excitement as students observed the captivating diversity of life thriving in its natural habitat. Mr Smith



Year 6 Art – William Morris

Our Year 6 pupils have recently undertaken an Art topic focusing upon the work of artist William Morris. The children have been learning about the art movement, fine art, and different printing styles—both mechanical and hand printing. Our children designed a floral printing block, and by using reduction printing, created their own William Morris inspired pieces. Mrs Wright



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TOMAS 🎤 🎸 🥁

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- Performed at Latitude & Glastonbury Festival
- Can play guitar behind head

JOSIAH 🎸 🎹 🥁

- Multi-instrumentalist
- RSL Grade 8
- BBC 'Artist to Watch'
- Tutor since 2020
- Minecrafter since 2010



**ENJOY
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Both Tomas and Josiah are based in our Academies on a Tuesday and Thursday, and whilst they are very busy there are a few spaces left. Please sign up online if you are interested !!

Parent Communication Policy

In order to assist parents with their day-to-day correspondence and communication with our Academies, our Academy Councillors (Governors) have adopted the attached Parent Communications Policy. The Policy carefully outlines the necessary actions that parents need to follow so that we can meet your expectations regarding methods of contact and engagement, such as the best time to speak with teachers and other staff, or the way to book appointments to meet stakeholders. [Parent Communication Policy](#)

Car Parking



Following a number of 'near misses' in and around our **'STAFF CAR PARK'**, I have been forced to put in place a 'ban' on parents using the 'parking spaces' at the beginning and end of the day. Our site team are currently on duty at these times in order to restrict access to this **'private land'**, only allowing blue badge holders (priority given to those badges in place for children) and other visitors such as those driving pupil taxis or those parents collecting children with predetermined safeguarding arrangements in place. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in this matter. Mr Sadler

Year 1 visit to Wells-next-to-the-Sea

This week, year 1 had an amazing opportunity to take their learning outside onto the beach! We have been learning about the U.K. in our Primary knowledge Curriculum Geography lessons. Visiting the coast allowed the children to see a different landscape and compare it to Thetford. Our trip started with what seemed like a very long coach journey. Once we arrived, we were excited to get started. We went straight to the beach. To see the children's excited faces as they ran along the beach in the sand was wonderful. The children collected shells, seaweed, stones and anything they could



find to create fantastic artwork on the beach. In the afternoon, we explored the beautiful coastal pinewoods. The children started this with a bug hunt. We found many bugs, but the biggest excitement was finding a millipede. After our bug hunt, the children created model bugs out of clay and the natural resources in the woods. The children had a brilliant day. In their words, "It was the best day ever!" Mrs Bishop.



Year 2 Thetford Heritage Project

This half term, Year 2 has continued to connect with local history through the Thetford Heritage Project, particularly with Allan Minns and his work on the river. The children visited the Guildhall, where they participated in exciting hands-on activities that helped them understand environmental issues and the importance of preserving nature. They had the opportunity to create a system that filtered dirty river



water to see who could make the cleanest water – it was very close! The children also visited Butten Island, where they had the challenge of spotting different wildlife. Miss McDougall

