



# ALDER COPPICE TIMES

## Issue 9 - Spring 2026



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter where you can catch up with all the highlights so far this term.



On 16 January we were proud to show a group of visitors around school to see how we teach Maths at Alder Coppice.

We were visited by Sonia Kumar - MP for Dudley (making her third visit to Alder Coppice), as well as representatives from National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics and the Central Maths Hub.



Alder Coppice has engaged with Central Maths Hub for many years and continues to work closely with them.

Everyone was very impressed with what they saw – the teaching staff and children were amazing as always and did us proud. We also had some very thought provoking and useful discussions around Maths.

# Nursery Highlights

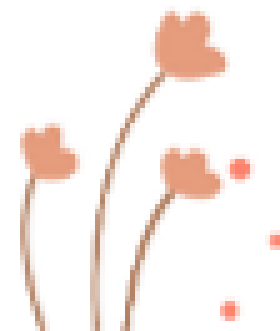
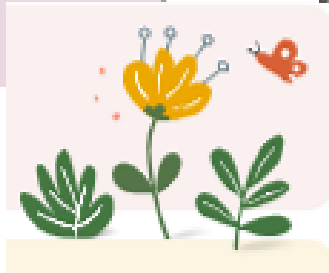
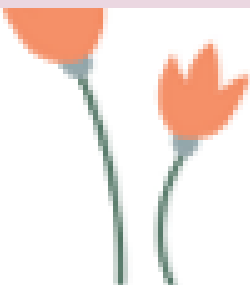
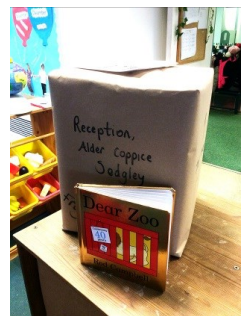
This half-term we have welcomed more fantastic little learners into Nursery who have settled so well into Nursery life. We also welcome Mrs Sherrred who has become a super addition to our Nursery team. We have started the year with some super learning all about winter. We have explored ice, played in the snow, made our own little snowy small world area and enjoyed playing outside in the wintery weather. We have been busy in Number Time exploring numbers 1, 2 and 3 becoming masters of those numbers. In Rhyme Time we have continued to share a lovely new rhyme a week. In phonics we have explored some more new phonemes and are working really hard on our blending skills ready for our reading journey. A favourite session of the week is 'squiggle while you wiggle' in the hall where we build our big muscles to help our fine motor skills. We are also doing a mini project on food! We have made fruit smoothies where we practised our cutting skills and crispy cakes where we explored melting. What a busy half-term!



# Reception Highlights

A very busy start to the Spring Term in Reception. Our busy little learners have a jam packed timetable now with days full of learning and fun. Our first little project was all about winter and the Arctic. We shared a great book called Dear Polar Bear which led our learning. We learnt all about the Arctic environment, animals that live there and compared it to our homes! We painted winter wonderland pictures, explored ice, played in the real snow, made a penguin world and a polar bear world and helped Big Bear write a list of things he needed to take to the Arctic with him. We had a very exciting start to one of our weeks when a box was delivered to Reception with a letter asking for help. There was an animal inside who we need to get back to his family. We have learnt about zoos, the jungle and under the sea but have not yet found his home.

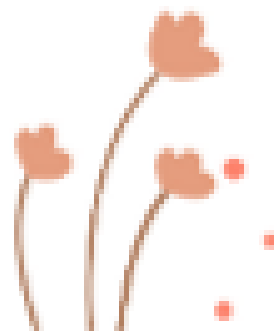
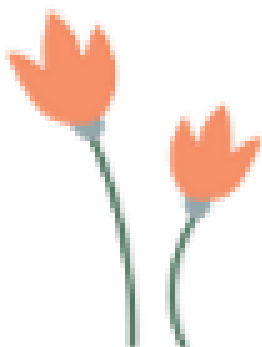
Our days are so busy now. In phonics we have learnt more tricky digraphs and do lots more writing now. In reading groups we are reading trickier books which we enjoy. In Number Time we have explored numbers 6,7 and 8 and have started our journey with addition. In Big Book we have shared some great texts that the children have loved. We are also working hard making sure our handwriting is perfect. A very busy start to our year!



# Year 1 Highlights



Year 1 have had a fabulous half-term! In English, we been using our writing skills to retell familiar stories. We learnt how to use time words at the start of a sentence, use adjectives and a conjunction 'and'. In Maths, we have looked at place value to 50. We learnt how to count in 10s, how to spot how many tens and ones there are in a number and how to use our knowledge to solve problems up to 50. In Geography, we enjoyed learning about the United Kingdom and the capital cities. In Art, we created our own abstract art inspired by Wassily Kandinsky. In RE, we been learning about how different religions welcome babies into their faith. We had a very busy half-term with our Shared Learning Experience, a yoga session, a visit from the nurses and a visit from WILD!



# Year 2 Highlights

## YEAR 2

What a great start Year 2 have made to the Spring Term.

In English, children have continued to put their skills into practice by creating some wonderful pieces of writing in the form of a retell and a letter. We have worked on sentence structure, adjectives, expanded noun phrases and introduced adverbs to make our writing more exciting!

In Maths, we have continued with building our strategies for addition and subtraction within 100. Pupils have been learning the strategies of adding to make a multiple of 10 and subtracting through a multiple of 10. We have started weekly arithmetic tests to recall prior learning and children have had lots of success with these!

In the wider curriculum, lots of learning has taken place! A highlight has been in our creative curriculum, where 2A have been completing Artwork based on David Hockney, as well as learning new vocabulary such as shade, tint and tone. 2C have focused on mechanics and have explored different moving vehicles, before designing, making and evaluating their own fire engine!



## YEAR 1 SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Year 1 enjoyed welcoming their grown-ups in for our second Shared Learning Experience. The children worked hard to show off their fabulous skills to create a piece of abstract art, thought like historians to sort old and new toys, solved lots of problems using their knowledge of place value and showed off their creativity to use adjectives to create and describe their own wild thing.

The children loved having their grown-ups as their learning partners once again.

Thank you to all those that were able to attend.



## YEAR 2 SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Year 2 loved welcoming their adults in for our second Shared Learning Experience. The children tried their best and enjoyed sharing their super skills to design and describe a house from the Three Little Pigs, they sorted statements about schools into Victorian and Modern Day, solved lots of problems using their Maths knowledge and showed off their Geographical skills when locating the seven continents around the world.

Thank you for taking the time to come into school and engage with the learning opportunities provided.



# Key Stage 1 Animal Encounter

Key Stage 1 had some exciting visitors from the Wild Zoological Park. The children were introduced to a snake, tarantula, rats and an owl and enjoyed learning lots of in-depth information about the animals' natural habitats, behaviours and conservations. The keepers were very passionate about the animals and knew lots of interesting information to tell the children. The children also got to touch a snakeskin and see the owl flying around the hall! It was amazing!

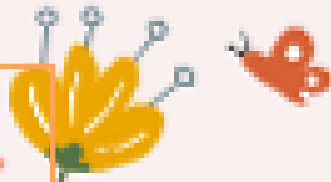
It was also lovely to welcome back one of the animal keepers, who was an ex-pupil from Alder Coppice - what a fabulous job to have.

A big thank you to the Wild team for sharing your knowledge with us.

Year 1 can't wait for their visit in the Summer!



# Year 3 Highlights



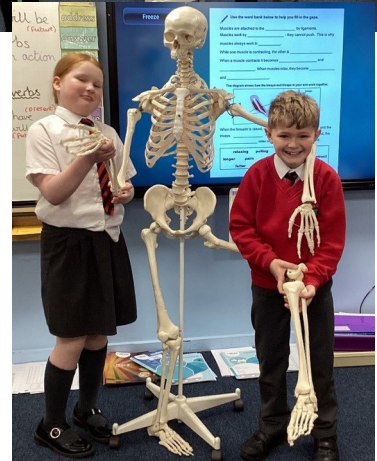
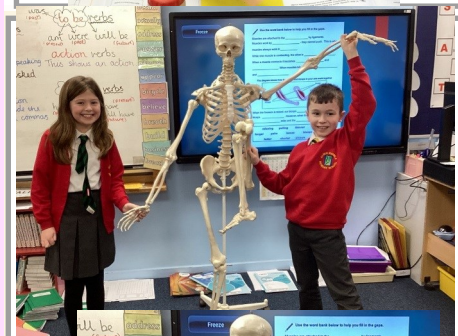
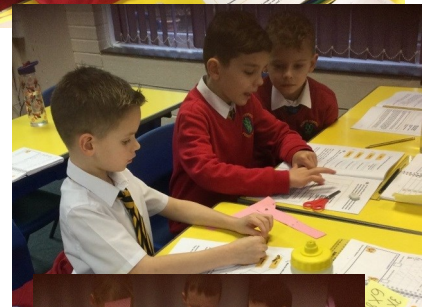
What a brilliant start to the Spring Term!

Year 3 have been busy writing a portal story in English based off our class text *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. They have included key features of story writing such as punctuating direct speech and adding character/setting descriptions. The children have tried really hard to up-level their descriptive vocabulary when using expanded noun phrases and as a result, they have created some quality pieces of writing, well done Year 3!

In Maths, Year 3 have now completed all the mental strategies for addition and subtraction, which include partitioning, adjusting, redistributing and finding the difference. The children have impressed by discussing when each strategy would be used based on what the addends are and, in subtraction, if a minuend and subtrahend are close together or not. Keep practising these strategies, Year 3, and we look forward to teaching you the column algorithm!

In Music, the children have been enjoying learning how to play the recorder. They have mastered their finger positions and how to correctly blow into the recorder. Their recorder unit will continue after half term as we build up to learning a whole song on the recorder!

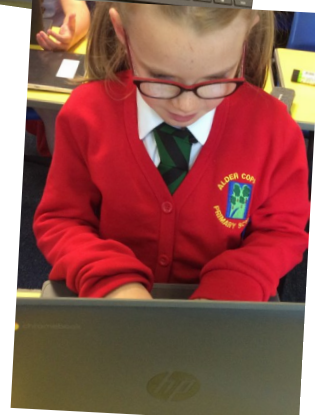
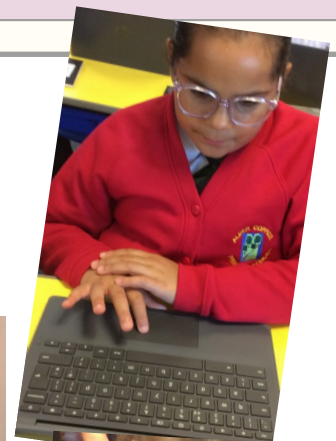
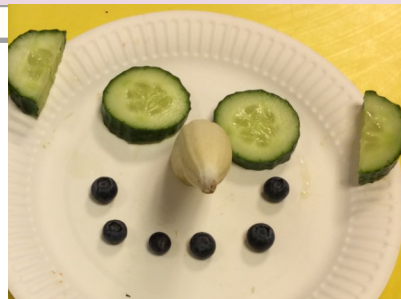
In Science, the children have been learning all about skeletons and muscles. They have learnt the functions of the human skeleton and what types of muscles we have in our body and how they work together. In the images below, the children proved their understanding about how muscles connect to bones by making their own models using elastic bands and card.



# Year 4 Highlights

What a fantastic half-term it has been in Year 4! The children have shown great enthusiasm, creativity, and curiosity across all areas of learning, and we are very proud of everything they have achieved. In English, the children have been writing a setting description based on *Alice in Wonderland*. They worked hard to include lots of key Year 4 writing features, such as expanded noun phrases, descriptive language, and a range of sentence structures, to help bring their settings to life.

In Maths, we have been focusing on rounding numbers and learning how to read and plot co-ordinates. The children have also been working hard on the January Challenge on *TT Rockstars*, showing great determination and enthusiasm to improve their times tables skills. In Computing, the children have been busy developing their coding skills using *Turtle Academy*. They learned how to write simple programs using commands to control the turtle, creating shapes and patterns on screen. This has helped them build confidence in logical thinking, problem-solving, and debugging their work - and they had lots of fun experimenting with different designs! As part of our learning about healthy living, the children explored food preparation skills. They learned about hygiene and safety in the kitchen, as well as the importance of a balanced diet. Everyone enjoyed the hands-on experience, practising basic preparation techniques and discussing where food comes from and how it helps keep our bodies healthy. In Art, we delved into the colourful world of pop art by studying the famous artist, *Andy Warhol*. The children explored his bold use of colour and repetition and created their own pop-art-inspired pieces. Their artwork was vibrant, expressive, and full of personality - just like Warhol's!

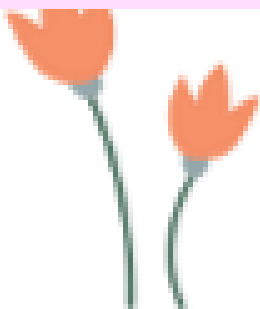


# Year 5 Highlights

This half-term has been filled with enthusiasm, fun, and a huge amount of effort from all the children. They have thrown themselves into every activity with positive attitudes, showing real resilience and curiosity in their learning.

One of the highlights has definitely been our muddy Orienteering Day. Using mapping and navigation skills, the children worked together to find their way around, problem-solving as they went. There were muddy boots, rosy cheeks, and plenty of laughter, but most importantly, lots of smiling faces and determination as they embraced being outdoors and learning in a hands-on, adventurous way.

In the classroom, the children have also been incredibly busy. In Design and Technology, they loved baking bread and learning about the process from start to finish. In Art they have created beautiful pointillism paintings with great care and creativity. Alongside this, there has been lots of hard work in Maths and English, where the children have been developing key skills. We are very proud of all they have achieved this half-term.



# Year 6 Highlights

Year 6 have continued to work hard as they build up their Key Stage 2 Tests in May. During Maths lessons they have learnt all about ratio and proportion and have built upon their learning about angles in Year 5, including using their knowledge of both angles and properties of shapes to solve some tricky problems. During English lessons they have been working hard to develop their Grammar Knowledge, with a particular focus upon tenses.

In Music, the sound of Calypso has brought the sunshine of the West Indies to the grey skies of Sedgley. The children have been using untuned percussion and glockenspiels to accompany "Calypso Soly Leve". During Computing, they have been exploring what can be achieved with Microsoft Excel, using both formulae and functions to complete calculations.

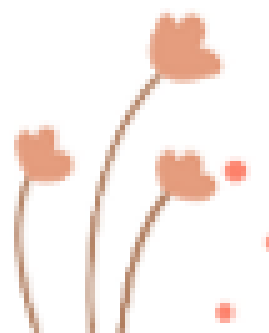
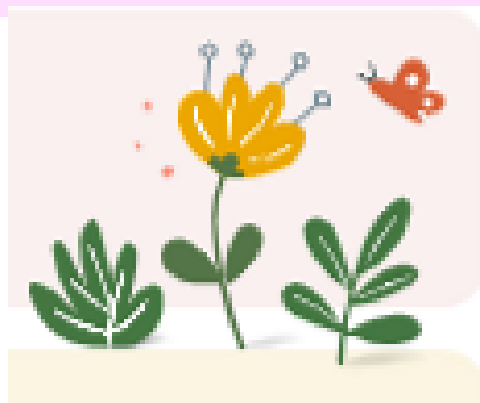
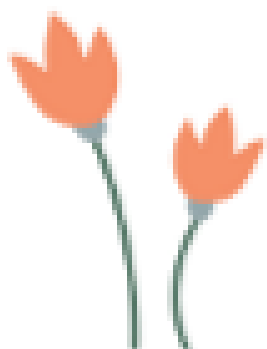
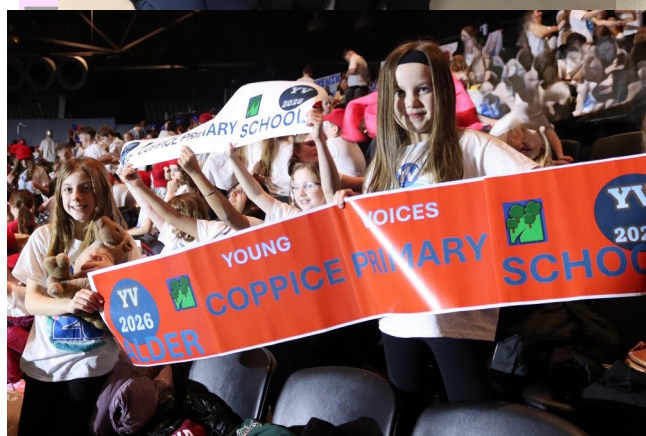
During Science, their Biology focus has looked at the classification of living things; both animals and plants and the work of Carl Linnaeus, who helped to formulate the modern day classification system used by botanists and zoologists today. The children have enjoyed exploring how faith is expressed in different ways; listening to music, exploring art and even participating in some drama. Well done, Year 6.



# YOUNG VOICES CHOIR



The Choir had been rehearsing for months in readiness for the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham. The children involved enjoyed the experience of singing with over 6,000 other children from schools that came from all over the country to take part in the largest children's choir. Thank you to all the parents that came to support this exciting event, we had a super singing time!



## YEAR 4 SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Year 4 enjoyed their Maths Shared Learning Experience, with a fantastic turn out from their grown-ups!

They had a lot of fun working through Place Value problems with Mrs Podmore; composing and representing 4 digit numbers using Gattengo charts, Dienes equipment and counters. They practised their Times Table facts with Mr Lawrence, and revisited some mental strategies for multiplication that help them to be efficient Mathematicians. Finally, they solved Fractions problems with Mrs Bown, utilising key fractions knowledge to solve real-life problems with excellent representations alongside their answers.



# PREMIER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE

This is our Key Stage 2 Premier League attendance up to the week ending 2 February.

Place	Class	Points	Position in Chart	Movement
<b>1st</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Stay top</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>stay 2nd</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>5C</b>	<b>7</b>	↓	<b>1st - 3rd</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>3C</b>	<b>6</b>	↓	<b>2nd - 4th</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>6</b>	↓	<b>3rd - 4th</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>6C</b>	<b>6</b>	↓	<b>2nd - 4th</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>6A</b>	<b>5</b>	↓	<b>4th - 5th</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>4C</b>	<b>3</b>	↓	<b>4th - 6th</b>

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION! Fantastic Fundraisers

Emily and Darcey in Year 6 who have been recognised by the Midlands Air Ambulance for their fundraising. Selling toys and games, the girls have raised money for the charity which depends completely upon charitable donations to operate. A huge well done and thank you for supporting such a vital charity!



## Reading Star Champions!

Hugo (Year 1) has won Reading Star Champion at Sedgley Library. (He read the most books in Sedgley for the year).

The library carried out a presentation where he collected a medal, a certificate and a gift from Brockwood Animal Sanctuary to sponsor an animal with a free annual pass included.

Well done Hugo - what a fabulous achievement. He is now passing on his enthusiasm to his little sister, Margot, who won runner up in the mini-reading challenge!



## HALF-TERM FUN



**NHS**  
Black Country Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

Join us for...

# GAME & CHILL

Join the Reflexions team for a fun day where children, young people and families can enjoy their favourite board games together – a chance to make friends, connect and share laughs in a relaxed, supportive space.

Parents to accompany children under 13 years old



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

 **12:00 - 3:00**

 **Here4Youth 1 Castle Street  
Dudley DY1 1LA**



*Happy Half-Term  
Everyone.*

*School starts  
back on  
Monday 23  
February 2026*

For additional information or brief sign up form to register your attendance, please email [bchft.reflexions@nhs.net](mailto:bchft.reflexions@nhs.net) or feel free to pop in!