



ALDER COPPICE TIMES

ISSUE 13 - AUTUMN 2026



Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2026 - 2027.

These half-termly newsletters enable us to celebrate learning, special events and children's accomplishments.

We hope you enjoy sharing in our news highlights for what has already been a half-term packed full of learning and fun!

Our MacMillan Cake Bake was a big success, thank you to all those that baked, bought or donated to this wonderful charity.



Nursery Highlights

It has been such a happy start to our children's first half-term in Nursery. Our children have settled in so well and are happily enjoying their new environment. Our first half-term has been spent getting to know each other, exploring our new setting and making new friends. Our first mini project has been all about us! Titled 'Magical Me' the children have been busy exploring our families, what makes us special, our feelings, things we are good at and things we enjoy. In Phonics we have started with listening games to develop this tricky skill. We have played lots of games, sung Nursery rhymes and played listening games to tune our ears in. In Number Time we have practised our subitising skills (recognising an amount without counting) and sorting and exploring numbers 1,2 and 3.

We are finishing our half-term with an exciting Autumn walk to support our Autumn project which will be a fun end to our first half-term together.

Thank you so much for all your support settling the children in to Nursery.



Reception Highlights

We can't believe our first half-term together has already gone! It has flown by. The Reception children have settled wonderfully into school life. From their first day under the balloon arch to today the children have got used to full, busy days packed full of learning and fun. We have introduced some structured sessions like Phonics, Number Time, Mastering Number, handwriting, Big Book, Music and PSHE plus lots of child-initiated learning time. In Phonics the children have covered all of our single sounds and we are working hard learning how to blend words containing them. We are also working hard to learn how to write the graphemes too. In Number Time we have been building our subitising skills (recognising an amount without counting), explored numbers 0-5, representing numbers 0-5 using a 5 frame, comparing amounts using more/fewer and matching amounts to a digit. Our first project is called 'Magical Me!' and we have really enjoyed learning all about ourselves, our families, our feelings and what makes us special and different. We have shared some super books that have helped us explore this topic. We have also worked hard to be super bucket fillers! On Fridays we go into the hall to do sticky kids which is a physical session before we start PE after half-term. This is a highlight of the week! A huge thank you from the Reception team for all your amazing support settling our little learners into school life.



Year 1 Highlights

The children in Year 1 have transitioned well into their new class and have worked incredibly hard to learn all of our new classroom routines. Our timetable is full of exciting lessons, and the children are already showing a wonderful love for all the different areas of the curriculum!

In English, we have been using stories by Julia Donaldson to help us write in full sentences and applying our phonics skills. The children are working very hard to use their neatest handwriting.

In Maths, we have explored numbers to 20. The children have learnt that teen numbers are made up of "ten and a bit more" and have used lots of different concrete manipulatives to make and compare them.

In Science our focus has been on the seasons and the changes that happen in Autumn. We loved walking around our school grounds to spot signs of Autumn, finishing our trek with a delicious hot chocolate treat!

In Geography, we have been looking closely at our local area. The children learned to identify different human and physical features and even went on a local walk to see what they could find.

In Art, the children have practiced using pastels, paint, and pencils to develop their skills, using this knowledge to create beautiful artwork inspired by the artist Mary Webb.

Thank you for your continued support in helping the children transition so smoothly into Year 1!



Year 2 Highlights

The children in Year 2 have settled in well to their new classes and have worked so hard to learn all of our new classroom routines and get used to their Trackers. Our half-term has been jam-packed with learning across the curriculum and children have thrown themselves into so many learning opportunities!

In English, we have been working hard to write full and complete sentences – identifying where the *subject*, *verb* and *leftovers* are. We have also been working hard on our spellings!

In Maths, we have been looking at place value within 100. We have looked at the value of tens numbers and noticed that all multiples of 10 end in a zero. We have looked at partitioning numbers into tens and ones and have used resources such as base ten to support this.

In Science our focus has been life cycles, and we can now describe the life cycle of lots of different animals including a human, butterfly and a chicken. We have also learnt how we keep our bodies healthy. We loved seeing how our pulse rate changed after exercise on the playground!

In Geography, we have been learning all about the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We can name them from biggest to smallest using the song we have learnt and know lots of facts about each continent!

Thank you very much for your support in helping the children transition so well into Year 2!



WILD ZOOLOGICAL PARK VISIT – YEAR 2

Year 2 had a fabulous visit to Wild Zoological Park, linked to their Science learning on animals.

We even had a lovely email from a member of the public complementing our children on their manners:

‘Myself and a colleague supported a group of older people from Maywood retirement living scheme in Wombourne to Halfpenny green vineyards and the wild zoo on Tuesday 29th September during which a group of children from Alder Coppice were also visiting. What an absolute credit to the school and parents of these children, their behaviour was impeccable, polite and pleasant to our tenants, they all looked very smart in their uniforms. Also we would like to thank the teachers/volunteers who accompanied the children. We would like above all to thank the children for their wonderful company, truly a credit to the school.’

What a wonderful email to receive – well done Year 2.



Year 3 Highlights

It has been a wonderful start to the Autumn Term, and we are so proud of how the children have settled into their learning and embraced the new challenges of being in Key Stage 2.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents to our Maths Shared Learning Experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed working alongside you and sharing their mathematical learning. Thank you for taking the time to join us and support their learning!

In Science, we have been exploring food and nutrition. The children have developed a greater understanding of the importance of a balanced diet and have started to think more carefully about the foods they eat and how to interpret food labels.

In Design Technology, 3C have been exploring shell structures and have designed and created their own chocolate box. 3A have this to look forward to after half-term!

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value up to 1,000 and practising adding and subtracting multiples of 10, including when crossing hundreds.

In English, we have been strengthening our grammar skills and developing our understanding of the Stone Age through our class text, *Stone Age Boy*. The children have enjoyed exploring the text, investigating clues about life in the past and building their historical vocabulary and knowledge.

It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence across the curriculum. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting half-term of learning together!



STONE AGE VISIT

YEAR 3

What a fantastic day we had exploring the Stone Age! The children had a brilliant time immersing themselves in life during this period of history. They worked together to build dens, developed their understanding of the historical timeline and discovered how people used flint to make weapons and tools.

It was wonderful to see the children getting hands-on with their learning, asking questions and putting their historical knowledge into practice. They showed great teamwork, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day!

A huge well done to everyone for making it such a memorable experience!



Year 4 Highlights

In Year 4 it has been a busy and exciting time of learning, with lots of opportunities to develop new knowledge and skills across the curriculum. In English, we have been exploring *The Midnight Fox*, developing our reading skills and thinking carefully about the characters, setting and events in the story. We have also been working on our GPV (Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary) skills, learning how to make our writing more accurate, interesting and effective. While in Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and learning how the position of a digit affects its value. We have also been learning to round numbers to the nearest 10,000, using our understanding of place value to decide which way a number should be rounded.

In Science, we have been learning all about the digestive system. We have explored the journey food takes through our bodies and the important roles played by different organs along the way. We have enjoyed finding out how our bodies break down food and absorb the nutrients we need. In addition, in Computing, we have been learning about what the internet is and how it works. We have explored the different parts that make up the internet and developed our understanding of how information can travel between devices. It has been wonderful to see the children building their knowledge, asking thoughtful questions and developing their skills across all these areas. We look forward to continuing this learning and seeing where their curiosity takes them next!



THINKTANK VISIT

YEAR 4

Year 4 had a wonderful visit to the Think Tank in Birmingham and were able to learn all about different scientific aspects as well as discovering about Space! It was a truly exciting day!



Year 5 Highlights

It has been a busy half-term, but the children have adapted to the new routines and settled into Year 5. They are becoming increasingly confident when sharing their ideas in lessons and are keen to ask questions to develop their understanding.

In English, the children have started reading *The Nowhere Emporium* and are enjoying finding out what happens in each new chapter. They have been working on developing their sentence structure in order to develop the interest for the reader when describing. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value and learning to identify, measure and compare angles. They have approached problem-solving tasks positively and have enjoyed putting their knowledge into practice through practical activities.

In Science, the children have been learning about space and the different elements of our solar system. This has provided plenty of opportunities for discussion and further exploration. In Art and Design Technology, the children have been developing their creative and problem-solving skills. They have worked collaboratively to design and construct their own products, with a focus on both the design process and the finished outcome. Our new PSHE scheme has provided lots of opportunities to develop oracy skills when sharing ideas.

It has also been good to see so many children taking part in extra-curricular clubs and making the most of the opportunities available to them.



BRIGHT FOR SIGHT WORKSHOP

Year 5 had a wonderful morning with our visitors from the Beacon Centre for the Blind, where the children learned about how visual impairments can affect everyday tasks. The children used the Braille alphabet to solve puzzles, used their senses to identify different coins and wore special glasses that demonstrated what vision can be like for people with different visual conditions.

A huge thank you to everyone who wore their brightest colours to support our Bright for Sight focus, and for your kind donations towards this amazing charity.



Year 6 Highlights

Year 6 have had a very busy half-term with lots of exciting events! Firstly, they were a credit to the school by organising the Macmillan Bake Sale for Key Stage 2. This was so successful and they raised a lot of money for Macmillan.

In October, the Year 6 had a taste of Secondary School life as we had a fun and exciting visit to Beacon Hill Academy. During the day the children took part in a DT workshop, where they made their own keyrings and a Food workshop, where they made (and ate) their own pizzas. They had a great day!

Year 6's curriculum has been both exciting and different to other year groups. In Science, they have learnt all about the Circulatory System and even watched a dissection of a real pig's heart. They also made some informative posters about the dangers of smoking on the human body. In Computing, they have learnt about how search engines work, how results are selected and how to refine their own search terms. The excitement hasn't stopped there as in English, the children have been reading *The Storm Keeper's Island* and have learnt how to use figurative language in their writing. In Maths, the children have recapped their knowledge of adding and subtracting fractions, as well as practising their daily 5 in 5 and unseen problems.



SECONDARY TASTER MORNING – YEAR 6

Year 6 had a fantastic morning learning about secondary school life during a taster morning organised by Beacon Hill Academy.

They were welcomed by Principal Mr Dharmi and Assistant Principal Mr Mahey before getting a feel for the school and its different buildings and departments.

The children then experienced working in one of the Design Technology rooms, including the opportunity to work a pillar drill. During food technology, they took responsibility from start to finish for creating a pizza bread, including using the ovens and washing up and cleaning their work stations!





KEY STAGE 2 ACCELERATED READER TOP 10



3A Top 10		3C Top 10	
Reuben	24,991	Eleanor	21,718
James N	21,046	Freddie	16,549
Oliver	8,809	Tabitha	13,184
Finley	6,200	Cole	10,455
Molly	4,811	George	8,276
Jacob	3,667	Skyla	7,464
Riley-Paige	3,603	Ada	6,154
Nancy	3,107	Allessa	6,102
Ella	2,956	Luna	5,058
Sehej	1,090	Mia	3,701

4A Top 10		4C Top 10	
George	103, 313	Aria	242, 983
Penelope	80, 623	Dexter	72, 558
Lola	54,285	Evie	64, 057
Arthur	41, 866	Orla	37, 101
Evelyn	38,406	Harry A	35, 864
Mason	25, 134	Jennifer	32, 998
Avarnah	23, 166	Aurora	26, 521
Charlie G	22, 585	Lucy	22, 052
Mia	14,823	Florence	18, 646
Makadi	13,836	Edward	17, 593



KEY STAGE 2 ACCELERATED READER TOP 10



5A Top 10		5C Top 10	
Hughie H	296,746	Harriet	220,863
Elliot	190,858	Leo	133,086
Brody	80,477	Elliot	86,164
Beatrice	68,155	Ethan	66,677
Freddie	50,272	Oliver	65,514
Olivia	28,451	Sahib	52,854
Nahla	10,507	Clara	51,749
Hughie M	7,718	Spencer-Rai	50,606
Harley	7,708	Evie	46,465
Oliver	6,831	Sehaj	39,077

6A Top 10		6C Top 10	
Zachary	132,280	Isabella E	264,801
Eliza	99,803	Liam	121,411
Jenson J	95,000	Emily D	100,531
Maisy	62,751	Alfie	85,479
Max	58,593	Rhen	53,347
Georgia H	35,987	Isabella R	47,079
Georgia T	29,669	Oliver	44,785
Hanika	17,094	Brooke	35,898
Kaci	14,171	Felicity	30,021
Jack B	13,932	Jacob F	23,096



TIMES TABLES TOP 10



Results for: 1.9.26 – 9.10.26

3A Top 10		3C Top 10	
Finley	2,461	Katie	7,640
James N	2,082	Luna	3,253
Sonny	891	Mia	2,565
Oliver	827	Cole	1,437
Lucas	701	Areesh	1,242
Calayah	648	Harlow	1,107
Reuben	636	Nishan	1,068
Nancy	563	Tabitha	873
Harrison	438	Freddie	525
Ella-Rose	381	Eleanor	490

4A Top 10		4C Top 10	
Mason	4,759	Aurora	40,300
George	1,643	Jennifer	14,683
Evan	1,059	Dexter	6,344
Avarnah	957	Florence	4,794
Charlie G	525	Lucy	3,884
Aria	489	Harry	2,698
Arthur	409	Xavier	2,302
Thomas	336	Orla	1,619
Kavia	309	Aarvi	857
Cheya	285	Willow	647

Key Stage 2 Attendance Premier League Results as at 16.10.26

OVERALL ATTENDANCE			LATES
	% attendance		Number of lates
1st	3C	99%	2
1st	4A	99%	1
1st	6C	99%	0
2nd	5C	97%	2
3rd	5A	95%	3
4th	4C	94%	2
4th	3A	94%	2
5th	6A	93%	1

MACMILLAN CAKE BAKE!



HARVEST TIME!



A great big thank you to all who have donated to our Harvest collection. Black Country Foodbank were thrilled to receive your donations in what are difficult times for many.

Well done especially to our Charity Ambassadors who helped to sort, organise and stack the donations ready for the Foodbank collection.

Wishing you a safe and happy half-term. We return to School on Tuesday 3 November.

This is a message from West Midlands Police about Halloween and Bonfire Night.

We want everyone to have an enjoyable Halloween and Bonfire Night this October half term. This letter is to provide you with useful advice to keep you, your child, and your community safe.

On the run up to half-term, your child might get a visit from one of our local officers visiting their school to deliver important messages about how to stay safe around fireworks and keep themselves safe in the darker nights.

To help start that conversation with your child about personal safety, stranger danger, and antisocial behaviour School Officer PC Smith has created a short video for you to watch with your child. Watch here:

<https://youtu.be/hyIRME6G9hU>