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Dear families,

Sustainability week

Aligned with Abu Dhabi Sustainability week, together with our chosen EXPO theme of 'Sustainability', children at Aspen Heights had a week of learning focused on the environment, environmental sustainability and wildlife preservation.

Children from across the school, in English and Arabic classes presented their learning in a variety of ways. We were delighted with their confidence, collaboration and creativity!

Family workshop- Sustainability

Thank you to families who were able to attend the workshop after assembly today on sustainability. Miss Riley talked through some ways of becoming plastic free, and they all enjoyed a tour of our hydroponics greenhouse.

Family Fun Facts!

Once again we were delighted at the positive attendance at our community event- family fun facts! We all had fun, learned something new and spoke to someone we hadn't spoken to before.

Thank you for your support and well done to our Fun Facts winners 'The Overcomers'!

Aspen Toddlers

We are delighted that our Aspen toddler group started last Monday- it was really well supported and the children enjoyed socialising with others and playing with new toys. If you have a pre-school child, and would like to have the opportunity to meet other families and carers, and give your child the opportunity to play with other pre-school children, please come along at 1pm on Monday. You are welcome to bring a friend too!



Friends of Aspen Meeting- International day

Our next whole school community learning event is International day, scheduled for Thursday 20th February. Friends of Aspen would like many of you to be involved; you are all invited to an initial meeting/coffee morning on Thursday 23rd January after assembly.



Maths Week

Next week is Maths week and staff have prepared lots of engaging and challenging learning activities. Children are invited to wear their favourite number or shape on Thursday 23rd January.

Have a wonderful, restful weekend with your families and we look forward to seeing you all for another week of learning and fun at Aspen on Sunday at 7.45am.

Mrs Emma Shanahan, Principal



Teaching and Learning Update

It is only the second week of this half term and I have seen so much amazing learning already. This week when I have gone into classrooms, the children have been learning about how to save the environment, the Houbara bird and other things associated with sustainability. This has been great to see. It has also been brilliant to see the children getting immersed into their new stories and poems by learning them through 'Talk for Writing.'



A highlight of this week was the 'Family Fun Facts' event after school on Wednesday. It was great to see families there having fun together.

We are looking forward to another busy week of learning next week during mathematics week. Have a great weekend and see you then.

Miss Leanne Faulkner, Head of Teaching and Learning

Primary Update

What an enjoyable Sustainability Week it has been at Aspen. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about how to be more sustainable and they have been planting flowers, collecting plastic to reuse and recycle as well as learning all about how to protect the Houbara.



Our Family Fun Facts was also a fun event and many interesting facts were definitely revealed! Thank you to everyone who attended, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

During my learning walks this week, I saw some amazing phonics happening. The children are doing really well in learning different spelling rules across Key Stage 2 and can apply these to their writing. I also had the chance to teach Year 4 for Art and DT when we made dream catchers! The children had thought very carefully about their designs and were able to follow instructions accurately.

Keep being sustainable everyone! Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Laura Stevens
Head of Primary



Class	Attendance%	Late%
Oasis	66.67%	0%
FS1 Butterflies	84.66%	2.12%
FS1 Geckoes	83.77%	1.30%
FS1 Hedgehogs	85.71%	2.65%
FS1 Mice	84.78%	0.54%
FS2 Bulbuls	81.31%	2.02%
FS2 Doves	78.74%	2.42%
FS2 Ducks	77.17%	1.63%
FS2 Pipits	84.66%	3.41%
FS2 Sparrows	78.74%	0.97%
Y1 Foxes	85.35%	2.53%
Y1 Hares	89.44%	0.56%
Y1 Jerboa	84.66%	1.59%
Y1 Sandcast	77.78%	2.90%
Y2 Camels	77.27%	2.02%
Y2 Leopards	83.60%	4.76%
Y2 Oryx	80.95%	5.29%
Y3 Flamingos	81.29%	2.34%
Y3 Kingfishers	87.83%	1.59%
Y3 Ostrich	89.47%	1.17%
Y4 Falcons	88.33%	2.22%
Y4 Houbara	84.21%	2.92%
Y5 Hawksbills	88.30%	1.75%
Y5 Parrotfish	89.51%	1.23%
Y6 Dolphin	83.76%	5.13%
Y6 Seahorses	85.47%	0.85%
Y7 Mariyah	85.23%	6.82%
Y7 Saadiyat	75.27%	2.15%
Y8 Futaisi	100%	0%
Y8 Yas	85.47%	0.85%

Attendance

Well done to FS2 Hedgehogs, Year 1 Hares, Year 5 Parrotfish, and Year 8 Futaisi who had the best class attendance in their key stage for this week. An extra well done to Year 8 Futaisi who had 100% attendance, fantastic!

Well done to Oasis Class and Year 8 Futaisi who had no late children at all.

Great effort and I'm sure the children will enjoy the 5 minutes extra playtime. Overall the attendance is still low, please make an extra effort to attend school every day.

Children that come to school every day, and on-time every day learn more and make better progress, and we at Aspen want to support our families with this.

Please see the attendance and punctuality table above.



Head of Secondary



We had a very wet start to the week this week, which was wonderful news for the UAE. Mr Bishop and our young geographers checked our school's meteorological instruments housed within our Stevenson Screen and discovered that we had 56.6mm of rainfall, which to put in to context is between 70-94% of the usual annual UAE rainfall (depending upon your source). The weather station is a wonderful resource at Aspen Heights which helps our children to link learning to the real world context.

On Wednesday we completed our very first harvest from the hydroponics greenhouse. This is a huge milestone for success in the development of the Secondary Department, as we have been working towards this since January 2019. I am pleased to say that we harvested 58 lettuces, 16 cucumbers and 5 courgettes. Members of our Student Council helped to distribute our freshly harvested produce during our 'Family fun facts' event for a charitable donation in return. We raised 250AED for Red Crescent. Thank you everybody for helping to make this possible.

Next week sees the start of our Term 2 ECA programme. We have some wonderful ECAs on offer for Secondary, please sign your child up to two ECAs as these greatly help to develop children's holistic skills.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone for another week of amazing learning at Aspen Heights British School.

Dr. Kate Plumb
Head of Secondary



NUMBER DAY

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2020

**COME AS YOUR
FAVOURITE NUMBER,
SHAPE OR
MATHEMATICAL
SYMBOL!**



Fun Facts Afternoon!



Nursery



After a very rainy weekend we have had a very busy week. We continued to look at Life Cycles through 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

This week was also sustainability week so we tried to learn as much about sustainability as possible.

In literacy, we looked at the story of 'The Messy Magpie'. Morris, the magpie tried to help clean up the park so we have been trying to clean up the rubbish on the playground and in the classroom, we have been using some recycling boxes too.

In mathematics, we learned about sorting different materials, we had to sort all our recyclables into plastic and paper. We will try to continue to do this in the classroom from now on.



We also got to plant some lovely flowers in the plant boxes at the front of the school, can you find our box? We had lots of fun planting the flowers and now we need to remember to look after them.

Next week we will be celebrating mathematics week. We will be making an extra effort to include mathematics into our activities and are looking forward to Number Day next Thursday where we can dress up as our favourite number, shape or mathematical symbol.



This week has been packed full of learning in FS2!

It has been sustainability week across the whole school which meant lots of learning about recycling, plants, animals and how to care for the environment. FS2 got involved by planting some beautiful flowers outside the school to make it look even more pretty!



We have been learning our story "Not Now Bernard", writing our own story maps and learning actions to help us with remembering it. We have made our own junk model monsters and have lots of fun sticking, painting, cutting and creating colourful monsters to be proud of.

In mathematics, we have begun to measure items around the classroom and playground using non standard units of measure such as our feet and Lego bricks.

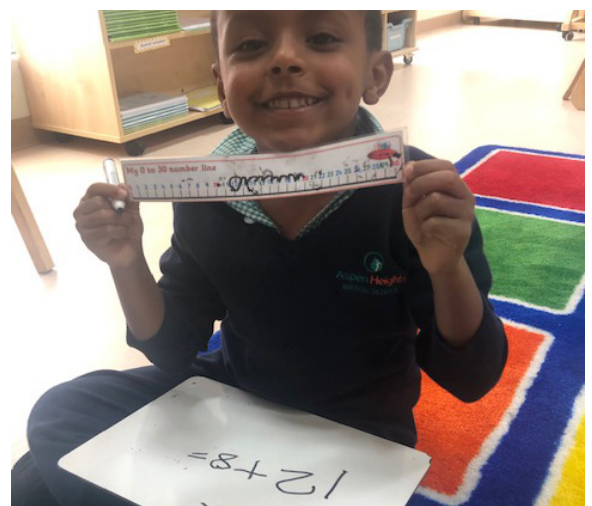
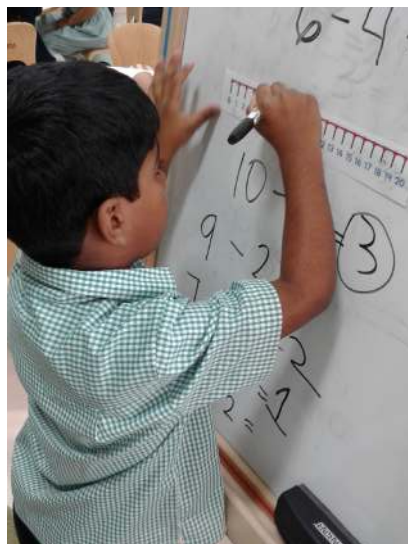


Year 1



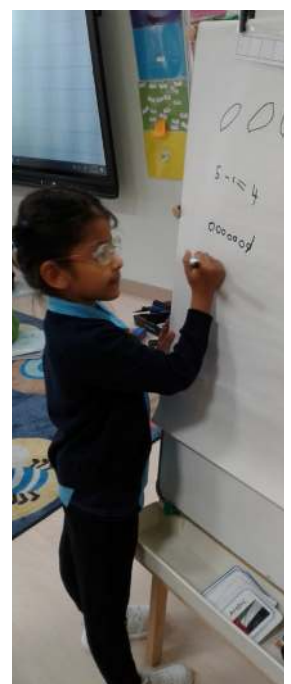
Year 1 have had another fantastic week of learning! This week there has been a whole school focus on Sustainability; we have enjoyed learning about the different ways we can care for our environment and exploring the ways that our actions have an impact. We have made a great start in looking after our environment by planting our own flowers and recycling clean plastic.

In English, we have been continuing our learning on instructions. We worked hard to innovate our class set and have had a go at writing our own instructions on how to make a jam sandwich. We did a great job at remembering our time conjunctions, imperative verbs and bullet points in a list. We are looking forward to continuing this learning next week.



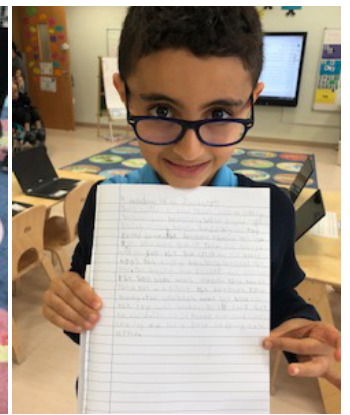
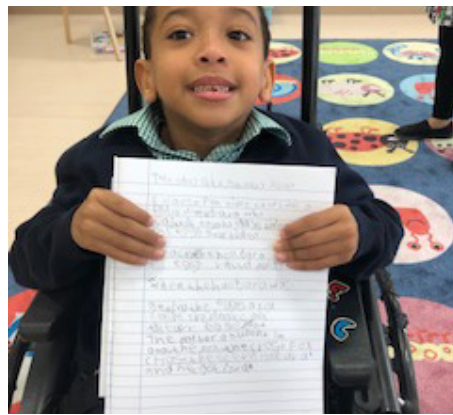
In mathematics, our focus has been addition and subtraction. We are moving on from using concrete objects and pictures and are becoming more confident in finding our answers using a number line.

We are continuing our learning of plants in science and have been amazing at labelling the different parts of a flower. We have even been talking about the important jobs that each part of the plant has. In addition to this, we have been keeping a close eye on the sunflowers we planted, making sure they have enough water and sunlight to help them grow.



We have had a fun week in year 2 this week. In English, we have been looking at the story 'On The Way Home' by Jill Murphy. We predicted what we thought the story was about from looking at the title and illustrations. We then looked at the new vocabulary and their definitions. After that we answered some comprehension questions about the story.

We have been completing a range of fun activities in mathematics this week to help consolidate what we have learnt so far with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



We had a very exciting science lesson this week. The children chose a vegetable or herb that they would like to grow. We then went into the hydroponics greenhouse and the children put on their rubber gloves, picked one seed and planted it into rockwool. We will be observing our plants over the next four weeks and recording the changes to the seed in our plant diary.

As part of sustainability week in our topic lessons, we have been learning all about the houbara. We watched a video then wrote a short story about a houbara. We also planted some plants in the flower beds outside the main entrance to the school. Please come and have a look!

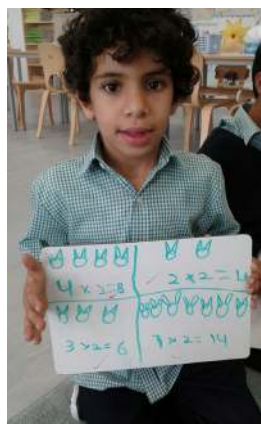


Year 3



Year 3 have continued our busy start to the new year with lots of exciting learning! This week, there has been learning throughout the school all about sustainability. In Year 3, we have been learning about the houbara, why it is endangered and what can be done to help.

In English, we have continued using Talk 4 Writing to learn a postcard. This has helped us to start innovating our own postcards from the UAE. We have been focusing in particular on writing in the past tense and using contractions in our writing.



In mathematics this week, we have been learning how to multiply using a range of methods, including repeated addition, arrays and number lines. We have also been working very hard on learning our times tables, particularly 2s, 5s and 10s.

As part of sustainability week, the children had the opportunity to plant flowers in the boxes in front of the school. We really enjoyed learning how to transfer a potted plant into the bigger planters.

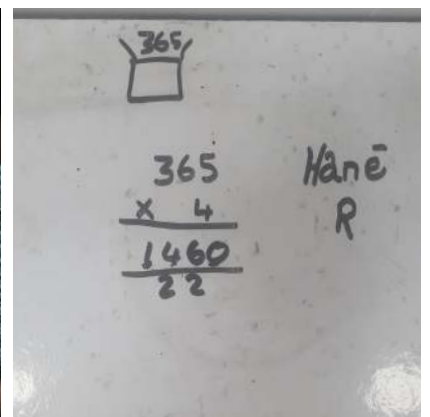
We hope all our Year 3 families have restful and pleasant weekend.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another fantastic week of learning. In English, we really enjoyed using the recent weather to help develop our descriptive writing. Many of us came up with a great paragraph about rainy experiences. We improved our ability to check over our work and add in further adjectives to help include more detail. We wrote about huge, heavy raindrops, large, deep puddles and loud, distressing thunder.

In mathematics, our focus was on calculations. We loved using 'Maths Duel' to practise our mental maths. It's a great challenge to try and beat your partner. Miss Mahony's group enjoyed the challenge of carrying when adding and are pleased with themselves for becoming more confident using the expanded column method. Miss Radford's group enjoyed solving word problems by drawing them and used technology to show their amazing learning.



In design and technology, we had a lot of fun exploring our creative side whilst making our dreamcatchers. We used our strength to beat the hole punch ready to thread the wool. Using the wool to weave a pattern wasn't the easiest but we were proud of the colourful result. Science had us salivating, watching chocolate melt and then solidify was interesting to observe but we were ready for an after school snack by the end of the lesson.

As part of sustainability week, we had the exciting opportunity to plant flowers at the front of our school. We really enjoyed getting our hands messy choosing and planting our own flower.

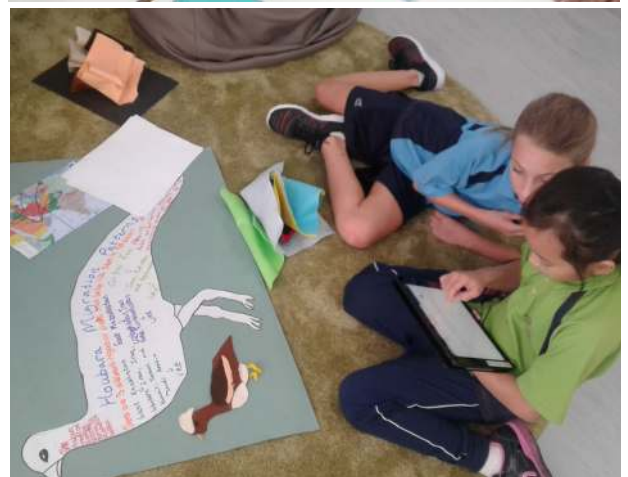


Year 5



This week in English we have explored traditional tales from the UAE. We have enjoyed learning about characters, settings and new vocabulary. We have chosen our favourite words and learnt their meanings so we can use them in our writing.

In mathematics this week, we have revisited division and have practiced more challenging methods. We really enjoyed mathematics clinic on Thursday where we shared our work for the week with everyone. We were also excited to show off our mental maths skills.



We have been part of Sustainability Week this week through our conservation work around the Houbara and learning how to protect this species. We have also been part of creating a garden at the front of school, we planted many different flowers to attract wildlife. We linked our learning to computing through creating presentations and doing research on different topics.



Year 6

This week we have enjoyed having a whole school focus on Sustainability Week and reflecting on the many ways we care for our environment and exploring other ways we could have an impact. We had great fun planting our own flowers in our own designated flowerbeds. We also researched endangered species, particularly ones in the UAE such as the Houbara. We came up with ideas and solutions as to what we could do to prevent their extinction.

In English, we have focused on writing a recount. We thought carefully about chronology and time words as well as including additional detail to help our readers feel like they were there with the author. We have also begun our suspense story unit by looking at our key text and focusing on words that create suspense and tension and using these to create our own scary sentences.



In mathematics, we have focused on factors and multiples of numbers. This included finding common factors and common multiples of given numbers as well as coming up with a formula to find these.

Over this term we will be using Green Screen Technology to enhance our learning. Year 6 were very excited about this and excitedly explored the many features of the app. This will help them when deciding the overall appearance of their future projects.

In science, we have explored the Circulatory System; it's function and purpose. The children used research to help them design a presentation to explain it to an audience. They were able to decide how they wanted to present their findings.



Oasis Class



This week we have been settling in to our new classroom. We love our new classroom, it is helping us to develop our independence and to integrate more. We have settled in very well.

This week we have started the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have read the story and are beginning to retell it using picture cards. We have also been looking at the different types of foods he likes to eat and describe what they look like. Next week we will be tasting some of the different fruits.

On Wednesday we also took part in Sustainability & ECO week when we went to plant some flowers in the planters outside of school. Please ask the children to show you their plant as you come in to school. We remembered what we needed to do from when we planted our own seeds.

We look forward to seeing the children's pictures of how they recycle and reuse at home.



Year 7

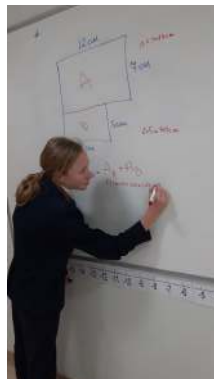


In Mathematics, we discussed some more unit conversions (also between imperial and metric). Then we revised all operations on decimals, units, perimeter and area. We finished the week with an assessment of these topics.

Some wonderful homework was received this week - great facts and information about the world famous UAE horse trainer, Ali Al Ameri. Well done to pupils who: submitted on time, used their own words and had a bibliography. This week we are reading *Black Beauty* in class and gaining a good understanding of how quickly chasing a 'hare' can result in great loss for the characters. Who was *Black Beauty's* brother?

Students are learning about Paint 3D in this week's computing lesson. Basic tools such as brushes, 2D shapes, 3D shapes, stickers, 2D and 2D text options, 3D scene effects, digital canvas, Magic Select, 3D view mode, history slider, and mixed reality empowers students to bring their creative ideas into the classroom with ease.

We have been learning how to talk about our families in French and how to introduce the names and ages of our brothers and sisters. We will practise our comprehension skills for homework to find out some information about two characters.



أما طلاب الصف السابع فقد درسوا درس "ضماير الرفع المنفصلة" حيث ميّزوا أنواع الضماير، ووظفوها في جمل مفيدة. كما قاموا بتصميم مجسم للطائرة سولار إمبلس 2 وتعرّفوا على مواصفاتها و ميّزاتها و الطاقة التي تعمل بها، ممّا ساهم في تعزيز مفهوم الاستدامة لدى الطلاب.

Students this week in Visual Arts continued their investigation of Tim Burton, the famous movie director and artist. As we moved forward with our Self Portrait unit the children were introduced to a selected group of art works that exemplified the Elements and Principles of design through a created gallery experience.

In Science this week, we have used our 'working scientifically' skills to determine which indicator is the best for determining if a substance is an acid or an alkaline.

In Humanities, we have been continuing our work on Weather and Climate. This has coincided nicely with the rainfall we have been having recently. The students have been recording the rainfall and AHBS received 56.2 mm of rain over the four days from 9th to 13th January.



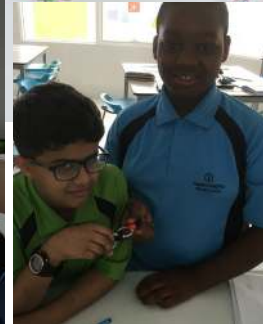
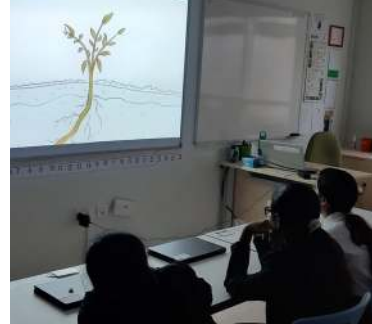
Year 8

This week in Mathematics, we discovered how to use balance method to solve equations. Then we revised algebra (simplifying, expanding and factorising expressions, solving equations). We finished the week with the assessment of these topics.

In English, we predicted and now know that Mary Lennox is a major character and the main character in *The Secret Garden*. As we continue reading we will discover her flaws, fatal flaws and strengths through her relationships with other characters, her new environment and her own thoughts (internal monologue). The Yorkshire accent and dialect has been very tricky, however, we are fortunate to have a class member from the North of England who gives us super audio input - thank you Alex! Homework this week has been varied. An important focus for all pupils is to be original and use their own words.

In Computing, students are learning about Paint 3D. Basic tools such as brushes, 2D shapes, 3D shapes, stickers, 2D and 2D text options, 3D scene effects, digital canvas, Magic Select, 3D view mode, history slider, and mixed reality empowers students to bring their creative ideas into the classroom with ease.

We have extended our knowledge of "la famille" in French, and we are now able to write a paragraph introducing ourselves and family members. Lots of practice is needed this week to continue building on this new learning.



أما طلاب الصف الثامن، فقد درسوا درس "ضمان الرفع المنفصلة و المتصلة" حيث ميزوا أنواع الضمان و بينوا موقعها الإعرابي، ووظفوها في جملة مفيدة. كما قاموا بإعداد لوحات جدارية حول الطائرة سولار إمبلس 2 موضحين مواصفاتها وميزاتها والطاقة التي تعمل بها، مما ساهم في تعزيز مفهوم الاستدامة لدى الطلاب.



Students this week in Visual Arts continued their investigation of symbolism and identity through the study of Frida Kahlo. We discuss the ideas behind symbolism through her work as we created a gallery experience of artworks that exemplified the Elements and Principles of design.

In Science, this week we have been looking at chemical equations. We have written the word equations and challenged ourselves to write the symbol equations before trying to balance the number of atoms in the reactants and products. A challenging week!

In Geography, we are continuing our study of China and have been comparing and contrasting the cultural identity of the people of China with our own cultures. We will move on to look at a fun unit of work called 'Panda Diplomacy' next week.



PE

This week we have continued with our games unit in PE. Nursery, FS2 and Key Stage 1 have been building on the throwing, catching and bouncing skills learnt last week with the key focus still on accuracy and co-ordination but trying to add control to their skill set. We have encouraged some of the students to try and start to move with the ball whilst keeping it under control.

Last week, Key Stages 2 and 3 created their own games using a set success criteria. This week they have explained and demonstrated their games and ideas to their peers who have in turn have all had the opportunity to play each others games. The students assessed the games created by their peers using the success criteria as guidelines.

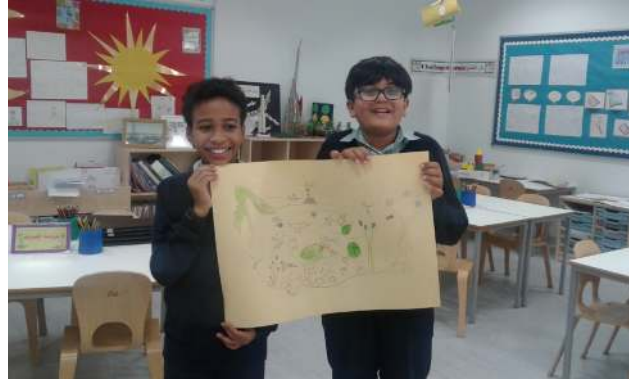
Swimming

It's been another busy week at the Aspen pool. Shared focus and lesson objectives have been a continuation of front crawl and backstroke. We continue to see more and more students who rely on swimming aids gain more and more confidence in the water and we have had more this week removing armbands and swimming without them. It's always a massive achievement to meet this milestone and is something we celebrate in the Aspen PE department with pride.

Swim Team practice will recommence next week, week commencing 19/01/2020 when the ECA programme starts again. Letters will be sent out this week to those who are invited to join the swim squad this term.



Arabic



على أنغام حبات المطر التي تتناثر في كل مكان، والتي تحمل بشرى الخير و البهجة في النفوس، نستقبل أسبوعا جديدا مليئا بالعطاء و النشاط في العمل لتحقيق الأمل.

فقد تعرف طلاب الروضة على حرف جديد وهو الخاء كما تعرفوا على قصة الحرف .

وتناقشوا في الصف على أحداثها وشخصياتها وأجابوا على الأسئلة المتعلقة بها. كما و تعرفوا أيضا على كلمات تحتوي على حرف الخاء بعد ذلك قاموا بأنشطة مسلية وممتعة كعمل فردي أو ضمن مجموعات.

واستمتع طلاب السنة الأولى هذا الأسبوع مع قصة الأسد و الفأر وأحداثها الشيقة وعبروا عنها بالحركات و أعادوا سرد أحداثها بطريقتهم . أما طلاب السنة الثانية فقد تعرفوا على حرف الذال بأصواته القصيرة والطويلة من خلال قصة ذهب كما تعرفوا على المقطع الساكن من خلال الأنشطة الفعالة والمفيدة.

و تعلم طلاب السنة الثالثة قصة جديدة وشيقة وهي "بيت وسط العاصفة" كما تعلموا التمييز بين اللام الشمسية والقمرية وسط بيئة تعليمية مكللة بالمتعة والتشويق.

ومن خلال قصة "في غابة العجائب " تفاعل طلاب الصف الرابع بشكل ممتع وعبروا عن مفهومهم للسعادة وحددوا كل ما يجعلهم سعداء من خلال الحوار و تبادل الأفكار فيما بينهم ,

كما استمتع طلاب السنة الخامسة بدراسة قصة " شهيد الإمارات الأول" واكتساب مهارات تفسير المفردات الجديدة والتفاعل مع أسبوع الاستدامة في جو مكلل بالأنشطة الفعالة والممتعة.

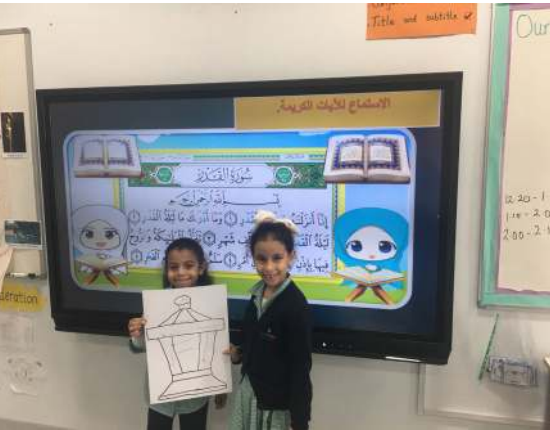
أما بالنسبة لطلاب السنة السادسة فقد راجعوا أنواع الخبر من خلال أنشطة فردية و جماعية متنوعة و تقييم مهاراتهم السابقة، أما طلاب الصف السابع فقد درسوا خلال هذا الأسبوع درس نحو بعنوان " تركيب العطف " حيث استطاع الطلاب التعرف على أركان تركيب العطف من معطوف ومعطوف عليه وحروف العطف ودلالة ومعنى كل حرف من حروف العطف، كما تمكّن الطلاب من توظيف و تركيب العطف في كتاباتهم وتوظيفها كأداة من أدوات الربط .

أما طلاب الصف الثامن فقد درسوا خلال هذا الأسبوع درس نحو " المبني للمجهول" واستطاعوا التمييز بين الفعل المبني للمعلوم والفعل المبني للمجهول، وكيفية بناء الجملة للمجهول .





بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
كما تعودنا على كل جديد من خلال أنشطتنا المتنوعة والهادفة للمستويات المختلفة لطلابنا، فقد اندمجت مادة التربية الإسلامية هذا الأسبوع في بعض حصصها مع المواد الأخرى في أسبوع الاستدامة، وتوعية أبنائنا الطلاب على كيفية الحفاظ على البيئة، وإعادة تدوير بعض المواد وسرد بعض الآيات والأحاديث التي تُشير إلى الحفاظ على البيئة من خلال دروس التربية الإسلامية، وأنشطتها المتنوعة التي تقوم على التفكير الناقد والاستنتاج والتحليل. وقد درس طلاب الصف الأول درس: كن نافعاً أينما كنت، وطلاب الصف الثاني درس: رسولنا في رعاية جده، وطلاب الصف الثالث درس: سورة القدر، وطلاب الصف الرابع درس: سورة الليل أما طلاب الصف الخامس درسوا السنن الرواتب والصف السادس سورة عبس، والصف السابع درس الصبر واليقين (سورة السجدة) والصف الثامن درس بشارة ومواساة.

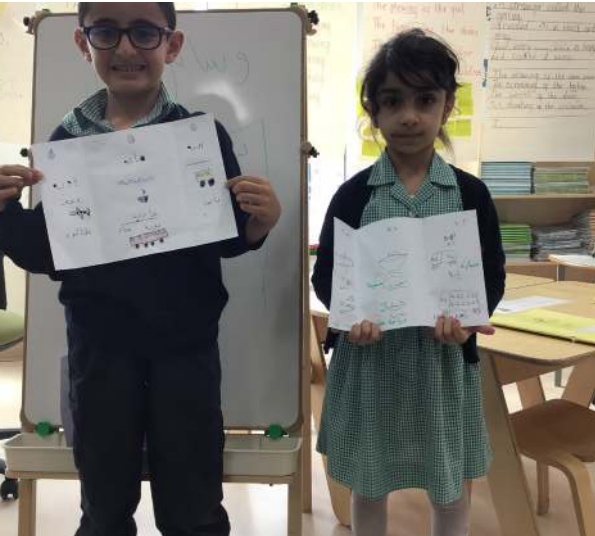


Social Studies



هذا الأسبوع تعرف طلابنا على الموضوعات التي سوف يتم تناولها هذا الفصل الدراسي ، كما بدء الطلاب أولى موضوعاتهم حسب المرحلة الدراسية التالية حيث ميز طلاب الصف الثاني بين وسائل النقل (البرية والبحرية والجوية) في حين قام طلاب الصف الثالث على التعرف على مصادر المياه في دولة الإمارات (المياه السطحية) ، اما طلاب الصف الرابع فقد اعتمدوا على بعض المهارات الجغرافية مثل مهارة تحديد الجهات. وفيما يخص الصف الخامس فقد ناقشوا أسباب النمو السكاني في دولة الإمارات ، كما قام طلاب الصف السادس في تحديد الموقع الجغرافي لدول الخليج العربي.

وفيما يخص المرحلة الثانوية فقد قام طلاب الصف السابع في استنتاج الموقع الجغرافي لقارة اسيا أما طلاب الصف الثامن فقد تعرفوا على مفهوم نظم المعلومات الجغرافية وأهميته .



Music



Music notation systems are one of the most important elements in music; they are as important to music as writing systems are to speech. It is important for students to read music because it will help students understand music better. As students learn to read music more, they will also improve their playing skills accordingly. With their ability to read music, they can also compose their own songs.

As part of the curriculum, we study Arabic music, which is the music of the Arab World with all its different music styles and genres. Arabic countries have many styles of music and also many dialects; each country has its own traditional music.

