



**Dedicated to delivering  
AMAZING LEARNING**

**Weekly Update**  
**Term 2.1, Wk 5 6th February 2020**

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Dear Families,

Another busy week of learning has flown by at Aspen Heights! We have had many visitors and families in school this week- it is always a wonderfully positive experience to see our school through fresh eyes.

### Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Keeping your children safe, and nurturing their wellbeing is our number one priority. We have established processes in our school to ensure this, and this week we hosted Andy Duffied, the ISP H&S Director, and Lisa Brown, ISP Head of Safeguarding, to conduct a detailed audit- carrying out site walks, interviewing staff and observing our processes in action. We look forward to their final report; the verbal feedback identified many strengths and much consistency in our processes across the school, and the areas of development will help us with our continued drive for improvement.

### Governors

Our school governors went back to school this week! Our meeting shared our new reading focus and strategies, and governors had the chance to visit classes and see learning in action! They were incredibly impressed with your wonderful children, and how much progress they are making in reading with our new whole class reading initiative. We will be inviting families into school during 'Book week' to take part in reading activities with their class- look out for more information in our family dates.

### Community events in FS

Families in FS have almost spent as much time in school as their children this week! We were delighted at the hugely positive response to the FS bedtime story event on Wednesday- 70% of FS families attended! Reading to your children at home is so beneficial to their development; we hope you found the session helpful.

We had many families attend the 'learning through play' workshop after assembly today. They also had the opportunity to spend time in class observing what they had learned. Thank you to the FS team for running these wonderful sessions.



### Open Morning every month Y1-Y8

This morning we held our first 'open morning- from 7.30-8.00 where families can 'drop in at drop off' and have the opportunity to look through their children's work alongside their child. These open mornings are held on the first thursday of each month- please check the family dates for the next one- we'd love to see more families attend before assembly.

### Friends of Aspen- International day- 20th February 2020

Plans are well underway for our International day celebrations on 20th February. Each class is learning about a country and will support families in putting together artefacts, information and food samples of their chosen country. We are still looking for representatives and support for 3 countries; UAE, Tunisia and Japan. Please contact Diana at drayyan@ahbs.ae or 0506633174 if you are able to support, or for contact details of the other class representatives.



### Half term holiday

School is closed for the mid-term break for next week. We hope children will be able to continue learning by completing some of the interesting projects in our whole class homework shared on the portal!

We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 16th February at 7.45am.  
Have an exciting half term holiday!

Mrs Emma Shanahan, Principal



We love a healthy birthday cake!





## Primary Update

Another fun-filled week at Aspen Heights!

I was extremely proud of Year 5 Parrotfish for independently carrying out their assembly and supporting one another. There was a fantastic innovative talk for writing story, Tanka poetry and Emerati artwork - well done!



I also enjoyed visiting our hydroponics greenhouse with Year 4 Falcons, they all got to plant a seed and we look forward to seeing how their lettuce and herbs turn out.

In Nursery this week, I spent time with Butterflies and Geckoes who are brilliant and retelling 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and can use preposition words such as 'under' and 'behind'. Well done FS for your successful bedtime reading event too. Year 2 Oryx learnt about art in the UK and recreated the artwork of the infamous 'Banksy', they used the Doodle Bug app and uploaded their work on the SeeSaw to peer assess - I really enjoyed this lesson.

I also enjoyed teaching Year 5 Hawksbill this week who were fantastic at innovating their traditional story and came up with brilliant ideas!

A very successful week, enjoy your week break and see you on 16th February!

Mrs Laura Stevens  
Head of Primary

Class	Attendance%	Late%
Oasis	76.67%	0%
FS1 Butterflies	87.27%	0.91%
FS1 Geckoes	89.77%	4.55%
FS1 Hedgehogs	83.56%	3.65%
FS1 Mice	86.50%	3.5%
FS2 Bulbuls	87.73%	1.82%
FS2 Doves	89.57%	3.48%
FS2 Ducks	87.83%	3.48%
FS2 Pipits	90.00%	2.27%
FS2 Sparrows	91.74%	2.17%
Y1 Foxes	90.91%	2.53%
Y1 Hares	94.71%	1.06%
Y1 Jerboa	87.73%	1.82%
Y1 Sandcast	86.96%	3.26%
Y2 Camels	95.00%	3.18%
Y2 Leopards	89.05%	2.38%
Y2 Oryx	95.24%	1.90%
Y3 Flamingos	92.40%	4.68%
Y3 Kingfishers	93.12%	4.23%
Y3 Ostrich	92.11%	1.58%
Y4 Falcons	89.00%	5.00%
Y4 Houbara	88.30%	5.85%
Y5 Hawksbills	94.74%	3.16%
Y5 Parrotfish	93.89%	5.00%
Y6 Dolphin	88.03%	4.27%
Y6 Seahorses	76.92%	1.54%
Y7 Mariyah	85.57%	7.22%
Y7 Saadiyat	76.92%	8.55%
Y8 Futaisi	94.44%	0%
Y8 Yas	83.50%	5.83%

## Attendance

Well done to FS2 Sparrows, Year 2 Oryx, Year 4 Hawksbill, and Year 8 Futaisi who had the best class attendance in their key stage for this week.

Well done to Oasis Class and Year 8 Futaisi who had no late children this week.

Great effort and I'm sure the children will enjoy the 5 minutes extra playtime.

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



This week I have been excited to see the enthusiastic responses from our children when they returned from their visit to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Taking learning outside of the classroom is hugely beneficial for both pupils and teachers. The first-hand experiences of learning outside the classroom can help to make subjects more vivid and interesting for pupils and enhance their understanding. It can also contribute significantly to pupils' personal, social and emotional development. Thank you to all of our teachers who helped to make it an amazing learning day.

Looking ahead, on Thursday 20th February we will be celebrating the diversity of our community with 'International Day'. We hope to involve the entire community and therefore would like your help on the day. Each class has chosen a country, they will have a stall that they can decorate as well as performing a song or dance in the hall. If you have any spare time and would like to become involved please can you contact your child's form tutor or Ms Diana ([drayyan@ahbs.ae](mailto:drayyan@ahbs.ae)).

Year 7 Saadiyat - Ms Joubert [jjoubert@ahbs.ae](mailto:jjoubert@ahbs.ae)

Year 7 Maryah - Mr Bishop [sbishop@ahbs.ae](mailto:sbishop@ahbs.ae)

Year 8 Yas - Mrs Trznadel [mtrznadel@ahbs.ae](mailto:mtrznadel@ahbs.ae)

Year 8 Futaisi - Mr Ram [aram@ahbs.ae](mailto:aram@ahbs.ae)

Wishing all of our families a wonderful half term break and I look forward to hearing all about what you got up to when we return on Sunday 16th February.

Dr. Kate Plumb  
Head of Secondary





# Quran Competition



At the end of this week, all children from Year 1 to Year 8, native and non-native, participated in the first Qur'an competition this year. We were honored to give certificates to all the children who participated.

It was a proud moment for both our children and Islamic teachers to see all their hard work and effort put in memorizing Quranic Surahs pay off. The children participated in this competition with a lot of passion and competitive spirit among them.

We hope to participate again and win more titles in future competitions.

في نهاية هذا الأسبوع تم تكريم كل الطلاب من كل الصفوف من السنة الأولى إلى السنة الثامنة للعرب وغير العرب، الذين شاركوا في المسابقة الأولى للقرآن الكريم لهذا العام .

وذلك بتسليمهم شهادات تميز (للذين تجاوزوا المرحلة المحددة لهم ) و شهادات للمركز الأول و المركز الثاني و المركز الثالث و أيضا شهادات للمشاركة. حيث فرح الطلاب و معلمو التربية الإسلامية كثيرا بهذا التكريم إذ أنهم حصدوا ثمرات جهودهم و تعبهم من أجل حفظ السور القرآنية و الاجتهاد في المشاركة في هذه المسابقة بروح حماسية و تنافسية فيما بينهم. ونتطلع إن شاء الله لمشاركة أفضل و فائزين أكثر في المسابقة القادمة بإذن الله.





# Quran Competition







Good afternoon everyone!

The children have had a great week at school. They enjoyed planting their very own sunflower seeds this week and have been learning about the importance of caring for a plant with a water and sunlight each day to let it grow. They are very excited to take them home and continue the growing.

During mathematics, we have been focusing on positional language such as; on top, behind, under, inside and next to. When out and about over the break try to encourage your children to use this language when they are showing you something!



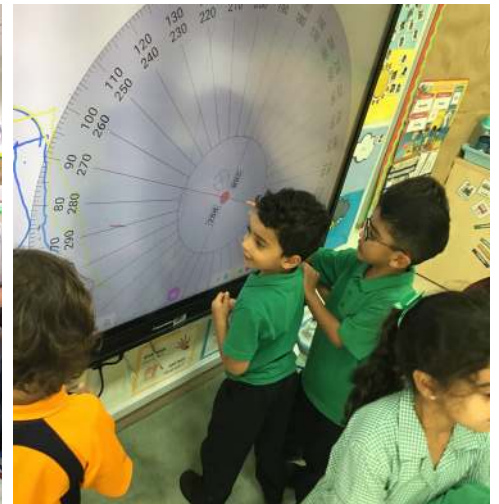
During Literacy the children had a great time reading along with the story whilst joining in to feed our caterpillar box with all of the foods from the story!

The children had so much fun at the Pajama day! It was very amusing for them to see their friends dressed in their pajamas too! We had a lovely time sharing our story time with some of you.

Thank you so much to all the parents who attended our 'Learning through play' workshop. It was great to see the support from you all and we hope that everyone was able to gain a little more understanding into the Early Years education. Please let your class teacher know some of your feedback from this workshop!



This week has been another exciting week filled with pajamas and workshops. What a great way to start the mid term break. We got to come to school in our pajamas!!!! That was the best day, we just had to roll out of bed and come to school, how amazing! It was so great to have all the moms and dads come and listen to a story being read, as story time is such an important part of our lives. It is always so special to share quality time with the learners and parents. Thank you to everyone who came.



Another thank you to those who came to the EYFS workshop where we hope you learnt exactly what we do here in FS, and how our play time is the most important aspect of our day in terms of learning. We wish you all a good and restful mid term break. We can't wait to hear what you got up to, when we come back. See you soon!



# Year 1



We have had another great week in Year 1 and have been working very hard! In mathematics, we have been learning all about measuring. First, we compared the sizes of different objects, putting them in order from shortest to tallest/longest. Then, we measured things using non-standard measurements, such as our hands and feet! Finally, we have been learning how to measure using cubes.

In English, we have continued our learning on Jack and the Beanstalk. We started the week by sequencing pictures of the story and writing sentences to match. Then, we innovated the class story map to create our own version and came up with some wonderful ideas. We have been practicing re-telling our own story with our friends. Some of us have been creative and made our own characters and beanstalks. You can see them on display in our classrooms.



In science, we have been looking at the differences between fruit and vegetables. We made a prediction about what we might find inside them and then opened them up to see if we were right. We noticed that some have seeds and some do not. We really enjoyed our investigation!

This week, we have also been looking forward to International Day. We learnt all about the country that we will be celebrating and have been talking about the similarities and differences that we have noticed. We have been lucky to explore some of the special things we might find there and have even had a go at creating the flag for our chosen country. We are very excited about celebrating further in the coming weeks!

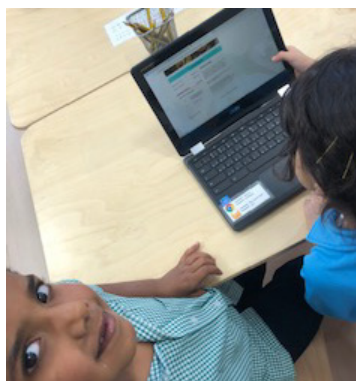




# Year 2

This week in mathematics, we have been learning all about measure. We have used a range of equipment to measure length, weight and even capacity which we have really enjoyed, we loved measuring each others heights! We then worked on comparing our measurements using the equals, greater than and less than signs.

In English this week, we have continued to learn the story 'On the Way Home' and we are now very good with our actions. We have had lots of fun innovating the story and creating our own versions. We changed lots of different parts of the story to make it our own like the characters, the lies which were told, the injury and the settings. We loved sharing our own stories with all our friends!



During science, we went to the hydroponics greenhouse to observe any changes to our seeds and recorded it in our plant diary. We were amazed to see how some of them have grown!

In topic, this week we have been learning about our selected country in preparation for 'International Day'. We have learnt about their flag, capital city, clothes, culture, food and dress. As a class we have decided which food we are going to make and we have made a shopping list of items we need to buy when we go on our trip to Carrefour.

We really enjoyed playing the maths games year 6 made as part of Maths Week last week, it was lovely to play with the older children and to show them our maths skills.





# Year 3



It has been an exciting and busy week in Year 3. Our focus this week in assembly was knowing who helps us in our community. We thought about who we could help and how we could do so.

We have been doing our hot writes in English this week. Each of the children chose a place to write a postcard from. We were focusing on writing in the correct tense, using contractions and thinking of interesting synonyms to make our meaning clearer.

In mathematics, we have been learning all about fractions. We found the fractions of shapes and amounts using different resources. We learned that fractions are equal amounts of a whole and that some fractions are equivalent.



We had an amazing time on our trip to the Abu Dhabi Science Festival. It was so much fun learning about science by taking part in the different STEAM activities!

We're very excited for International Day after the half term break. Y3 Flamingos are learning about Oman, Y3 Kingfisher are looking at Brazil and Y3 Ostrich are finding out about the Netherlands. We look forward to all our families joining us on the day.





# Year 4

It's been an incredible week to end the half term in Year 4!

In English, we loved coming up with new characters for a description. Many of us used characters from other stories we had read but some of us created our own character. We are all slowly gaining confidence in using the boxing up method to plan a text. The vocabulary some children included to spark the readers imagination was fantastic.

In mathematics, we had a successful week in both classes. Miss Mahony's group were experts in finding the properties of shapes. We loved using angle eaters (or pacmans) to hunt for right angles around the classroom. We also enjoyed the practical work to identify lines of symmetry, using string made it easy to spot. Miss Radfords group quickly grasped finding the perimeter of rectangles and applied this knowledge to problem solving perimeter problems.



In science, we completed an escape room challenge. It was so much fun but tricky at times to crack the code, as it tested all our knowledge on solids, liquids, gases and the water cycle. It was fantastic to see the artwork non native students produced; we were amazed by their progress when attempting to replicate Quentin Blake's style. This week was also our first trip to the hydroponics garden. Luckily, we got to do some planting and can't wait to see how it begins to grow after the holidays.



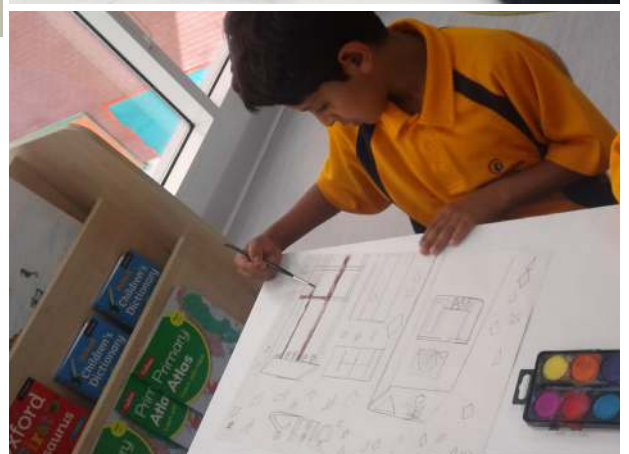
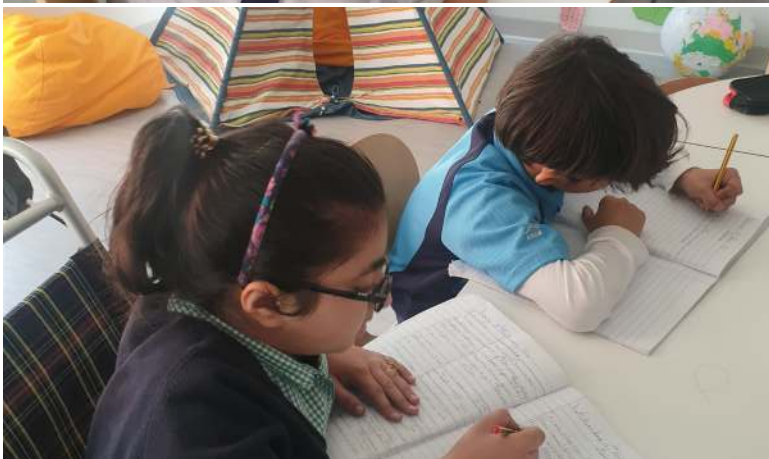


# Year 5

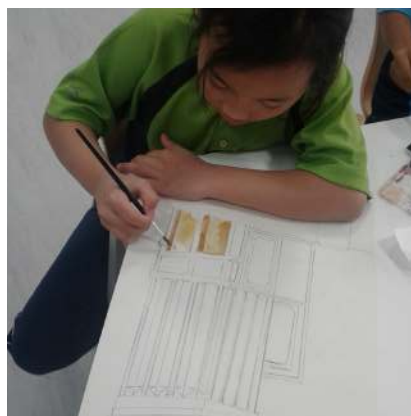


This week in English, we have written our own traditional tales and have read them out in class. We have focused on how we, as writers, can create suspense and intrigue for the reader. After half term we will create e-books of our tales and share them with a younger class for everyone to enjoy!

In mathematics this week, we have enjoyed learning all about fractions. We have looked at numerators and denominators and have compared, ordered and simplified them. We used practical resources to help us see how big or small different fractions are. We completed an investigation and shared our findings with our friends.



In science, we tested our question 'What temperature will cause evaporation to happen faster?'. We used a range of places to store our solution and we also noticed that the places with higher temperatures meant that the liquid in the solution dissolved faster.

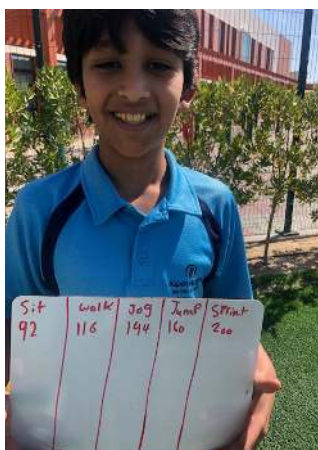
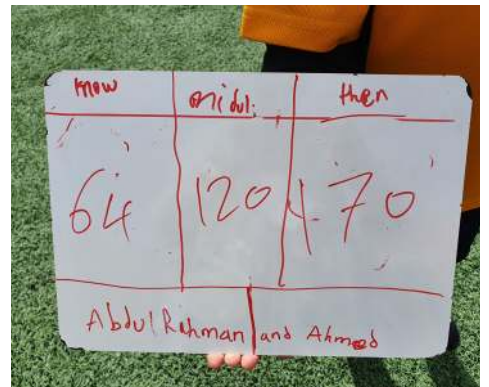




# Year 6

This week started with an incredible visit to The Grand Mosque. The children had a guided tour and found out some amazing facts, for example Allah has more than one name. They also visited the Mosque Library where they shared Arabic books.

In science, we put our hypotheses to the test! We wanted to find out the effect exercise has on our heart rate. The children planned their own investigation and ways of collecting and recording data and conducted their investigation. Ask your child what they found out and what their results showed!



In mathematics, the children have been enjoying a range of mathematical concepts; calculating using Roman Numerals and solving real life problems with negative numbers.

In English, we have begun pulling together all our learning in this unit. We are starting to write our own suspense stories using the key text as a model. To support our planning and writing process, we broke the story down into a beginning, middle and an end. The children had lots of fun using words, phrases and techniques to build the suspense in their stories.

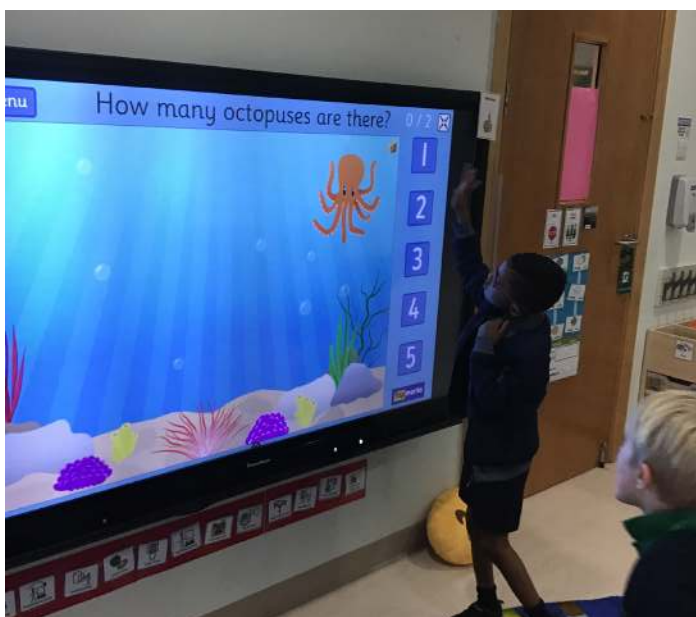




# Oasis Class



This week we have been working a lot on fine motor activities for improving pencil grasp. We have been struggling a lot with pencil grip in the past. To help us with pencil grip, we started with some play dough activities, chalk writing while standing, coloured vegetables using crayons and then finally put into practise what we learnt by tracing numbers 0-10 during number formation. Pencil grip is a difficult task for us but our wonderful teachers and therapists assisted us a lot help to finish our task. We will continue doing more fine motor activities during sensory play and circle time to improve our pencil grip.





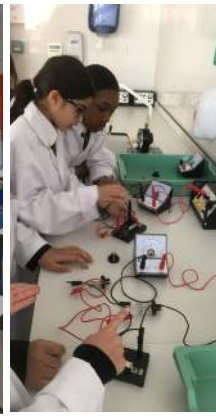
# Year 7



This week in Science we have started to study 'Electricity'. We have discovered the different effects of current when a circuit is made in series or parallel and we linked this to the brightness of the bulbs.

In Mathematics, we have discovered and used equivalency of fractions, decimals and percentages. Then we worked on finding the percentage of the given amount. We also started revising for the test on fractions, decimals and percentages. The test on those topics will be on the first week back after the half term.

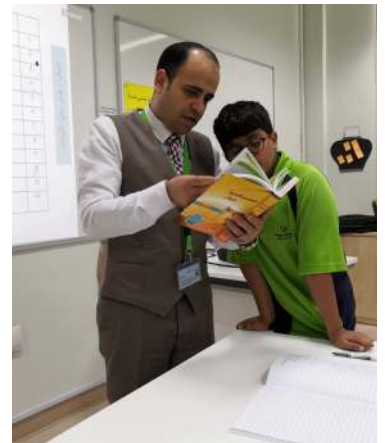
In our French lesson, we completed our half-term assessment. We were assessed on our learning so far this term. It is important that we reflect on our performance and review our assessment in the next lesson. We also revised our numbers and had fun with numbers in a group activity.



أما طلاب الصف السابع فقد قاموا بدراسة قصيدة "أخلاق كريمة" حيث قاموا بتفسير مفردات الدرس موظفين المعجم الورقي، كما قاموا بشرح أبيات القصيدة و تحليل أفكارها الرئيسة باستخدام استراتيجيات تفاعلية بناءة.

Practice, practice, practice! That's how we get better in Art as in any other subject. This week we have been focusing on our techniques of drawing and understanding value and the relationship with portraiture.

In Humanities, we have been studying floods and flooding and looking at the causes and consequences of this. We have now finished our work studying Weather and Climate and will move on to History after the half term break.



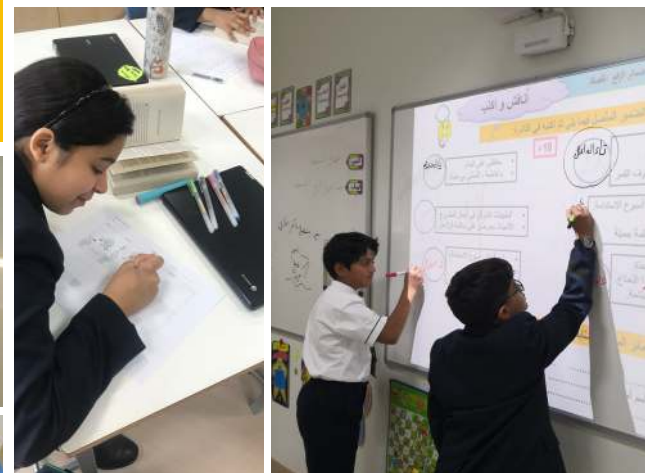


# Year 8

This week in Science we have looked at how the speed of light changes in different media and how this changed the behaviour of the light ray. We have linked this phenomenon of 'Refraction' to the real world by visiting the swimming pool and seeing how objects underwater appear closer than they actually are. We have also studied the eye and seen how refraction can be helpful to those of us who wear spectacles.

In Mathematics, we revised graphs. Students should now be able to interpret the conversion, distance - time and line graphs. They should also be able to construct those graphs and use them to solve real life problems (like money conversion, finding the speed).

Practice, practice, practice! That's how we get better in Art as in any other subject. This week we have been focusing on our techniques of drawing and understanding value and the relationship with portraiture. In addition, connecting this to student understanding of symbolism.



أما طلاب الصف الثامن فقد درسوا قصة "القول ما قالت حذام" وتعرفوا على أحداث القصة وحلّوها وفق عناصرها الفنيّة ولخصّوا القصة مستنتجين أهمّ القيم الهادفة من القصة.



In our French lesson, we completed our half-term assessment. We were assessed on our learning so far this term. It is important that we reflect on our performance and review our assessment in the next lesson.

In Humanities this week, we have continued our work on the One-child Policy and have looked at population pyramids. We will continue this after half-term.





## PE

This week we have continued with our games unit in PE. Nursery, FS2 and Key Stage 1 have been continuing with key skills and concentrating on basketball. We have focused on putting our dribbling and shooting skills together. Key Stage 2 have also continued with their basketball unit with the focus this week being passing the ball with some control and experimenting with different types of passes.

## Swimming

It's been another busy week at the Aspen pool. FS2 continue to enjoy their swimming time and the students have been working hard to put their faces in the water and blow bubbles which is the start of learning to breathe. We have been trying to keep our faces in the water and blow bubbles for counts of 3.

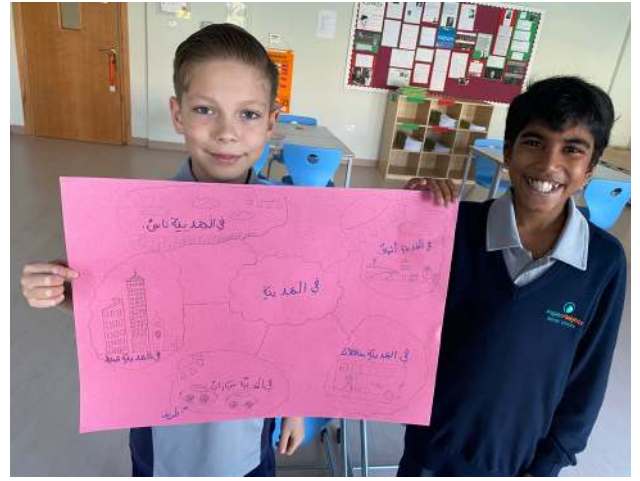
Shared focus and lesson objectives for the rest of the school have been a continuation of front crawl and backstroke. Again we have had more students removing armbands and swimming unaided for the first time. It's always a massive achievement to meet this milestone and is something we always celebrate in the Aspen PE department with pride.

Swim Team practice continues with some amazing progress already being made. Years 2, 3 and 4 practice is during ECA on Mondays and Years 5,6,7 and 8 during ECA on a Tuesday. We will be preparing students for galas and competition and look forward to creating a strong squad.





# Arabic



ها قد أوشك النصف الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني على الإنتهاء حاملا في طياته ذكريات جميلة و مثيرة عن الأجواء التعليمية الرائعة التي عاشها طلاب آسبن خلال حصص اللغة العربية التي تهدف إلى تطوير المهارات المختلفة للطلاب.

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

و تناقشوا في الصف في أحداثها وشخصياتها ثم أجابوا على الأسئلة المتعلقة بها. كما و تعرفوا أيضاً على كلمات تحتوي على حرف الراء بعد ذلك قاموا بأنشطة مسلية وممتعة كعمل فردي أو ضمن مجموعات.

وتعرف طلاب الصف الأول على كلمات جديدة تحتوي حرف الألف و حرف القاف وكتبوها بخط جميل على أقنعة شخصيات القصة.

أما طلاب السنة الثانية فقد درسوا قصة “ فصيح وصديقه البلبل” و تعرفوا على أشكال حرف الصاد بأصواته القصيرة والطويلة كما تعرفوا على المقطع الساكن من خلال الأنشطة الفعالة.

قام طلاب السنة الثالثة بتوظيف المفردات الجديدة من قصة "خويلد والبطاطا" في جملٍ مفيدة ومن ثم في فقرة مع مراعاة معايير الكتابة.

واصل طلاب الصف الرابع مهارة تحليل الشخصية وفهمها من خلال أنشطة متنوعة صنفوا من خلالها أفعال وأقوال شخصيات قصة الزهرة العجيبة.

و قام طلاب السنة الخامسة بالتركيز على ما يتوجب فعله تجاه كبار السن وتوظيف المفردات الجديدة في جملٍ وفقراتٍ. أما بالنسبة لطلاب السنة السادسة فقد درسوا قصة “شجرة التفاح” من خلال أنشطة فردية و جماعية متنوعة كما قرؤوا قصصاً ممتعة مشوقة ثم حللوا القصة مستخرجين أقوال وأفعال الشخصيات.

أما طلاب الصف السابع فقد قاموا بدراسة قصيدة " أخلاق كريمة " حيث قاموا بتفسير مفردات الدرس موظفين المعجم الورقي ، كما قاموا بشرح أبيات القصيدة و تحليل أفكارها الرئيسية باستخدام استراتيجيات تفاعلية بناءة.

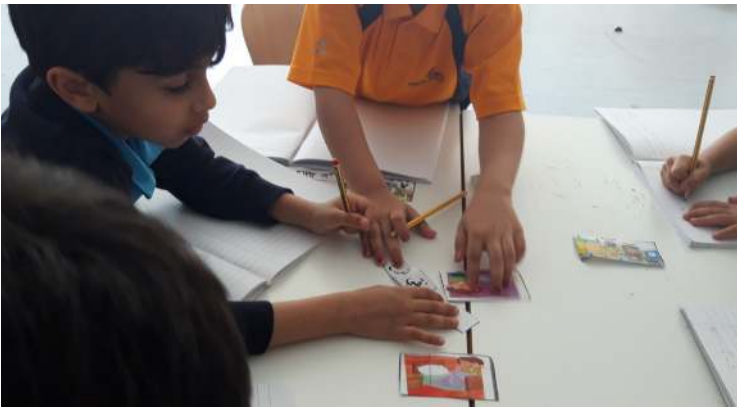
أما طلاب الصف الثامن فقد درسوا قصة " القول ما قالت حذام" و تعرفوا على أحداث القصة و حللوا وفق عناصرها الفنيّة و لخصوا القصة مستنتجين أهم القيم الهادفة من القصة.







بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
كما تعودنا في مادة التربية الإسلامية على الأنشطة الهادفة، فهذا الأسبوع مليء بالنشاطات التي اكتسب منها طلابنا خبرات جديدة تنفعهم في حياتهم اليومية، وتعاملاتهم مع الآخرين في بيئتهم المحيطة، فنحن دائماً وأبداً نهدف إلى تطبيق الطالب ما تعلمه في حياته اليومية لتكون دروسنا هادفة تؤثر بالإيجاب في تكوين شخصية طلابنا. وقد درس طلاب الصف الأول درس: الله ربي، وطلاب الصف الثاني: المسلم في عون أخيه، وطلاب الصف الثالث درس: الأمانة، وطلاب الصف الرابع درس: صفات المؤمن والصف الخامس صلاة الجماعة والصف السادس آداب ركوب وسائل النقل والصف السابع المؤمن بين الشكر والصبر والصف الثامن الاعتدال في الإنفاق .







هذا الأسبوع تعددت الأنشطة والاستراتيجيات التي استخدمت لتحقيق الأهداف المحددة لكل مرحلة حيث تتبع طلاب الصف الثاني عن نشأة الشيخ زايد الوالد في حين ميز طلاب الصف الثالث بين الطاقة المتجددة والطاقة الغير متجددة أما طلاب الصف الرابع فقد استطاعوا التمييز بين دلالات الألوان على الخريطة , كما قام طلاب الصف الخامس باستكمال الأنشطة الاقتصادية في دولة الإمارات، وفيما يخص طلاب الصف السادس فقد تعرفوا على أهداف وإنجازات مجلس التعاون الخليجي .

وفيما يخص المرحلة الثانوية فقد طبق طلاب الصف السابع والثامن العديد من المهارات الجغرافية حيث قام طلاب الصف السابع بتحديد الموقع الجغرافي لقارة آسيا في حين تشارك طلاب الصف الثامن في تحليل بعض النصوص للتعرف على مظاهر العصر البرونزي وظهور الواحات .





# Music



In music this week, we learned about the recorder. It is a woodwind musical instrument that was popular as early as the 14th century. It produces a soft, flute-like sound. Compared to other instruments, the recorder is relatively easy to play, making it a great first instrument for kids or novice musicians. They come in many different colors and sizes to fit you. Recorders are a good stepping stone to harder blowing instruments that are held vertically, such as oboe or clarinet.

The keyboard is an interesting instrument which students enjoy playing. Keyboard keys are also significantly lighter than piano keys, which may make them easier for a beginner, especially a student who hasn't yet built up the finger strength to be effective on a larger instrument.

