



End of Summer Term Newsletter

Friday 21st July 2023



Neil's End of Term Words

As we reach the end of the academic year we are extremely proud of all of the children's achievements. We look back on all of the fun, excitement, learning and progress and feel very lucky to be part of such an amazing school. I would like to thank you all for being part of this and contributing in such a positive way. We wish our eight leavers the very best of luck and we will welcome eight new pupils in September. I hope you all have a happy and safe summer holiday and we look forward to seeing all of the children on Monday 4th September.

N. Ward

School's 60th Birthday - Ark Farm Visit

Amwell View School recently had the pleasure of a wonderful visit from Ark Farm as part of the Schools 60th Birthday celebrations. The day began with the arrival of the mobile farm, complete with an array of friendly animals including chickens, sheep, a pig, rabbits, goats, farm dogs and a donkey. The children eagerly gathered around to interact with the animals but patting, stroking, looking, feeding and on occasions holding the animals. The pupils had a fantastic time and the event provided such a memorable and enriching morning and development a love for animals.



Community Class Grand Opening



On Wednesday 26th April 2023 Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College officially opened their Community Classroom which is based in the village of Stanstead Abbots. Hertfordshire's County Councillor Terry Douris spent the morning with the Community Classroom students, school governors, school staff and other invited guests from the local community.

Amy Adams, Class Teacher, said "The new classroom is a wonderful facility. The pupils love the social 'American Diner', Art Studio and large Classroom space. The curriculum and activities we are able to access with the students within the community have included a visit to the residents of Willowthorpe Care Home and the completion of a five week block of fitness sessions at Anytime Fitness Hertford. Pupils take ownership of their new space and curriculum through cooking their own lunch, keeping the classroom clean and tidy, as well as being members of their local community."

Headteacher, Neil Ward, said "We continue to form links with local businesses and services to provide work related opportunities for our pupils. The Community Classroom enables our young people to develop important life and social skills which are needed for becoming members of the community when they leave school at the age of 19 years old."

Music and Sensory Week



This year we have chosen an Ibiza theme for music week. We embraced the party feel with different musical and colourful activities. Classes visited Class 4 to take part in a wonderful musical sensory party wearing t shirts they had decorated to reflect the theme. They experienced many of the elements of an Ibiza party with music provided by Florie using her Eye-gaze device to access Ibiza hits from YouTube. Pupils explored balloons, bubbles, inflatables, and foam to create a sensory experience. We were also lucky enough to have DJ Ricky Hall come in for a morning and provide us with our very own Ibiza disco. The music was very popular with the pupils and staff, and it was lovely to see everyone dancing together and having fun.

To give pupils a taste of a different style of music we also invited in a Bluegrass trio called 'Lunch Special' to play to the pupils. The trio consisted of banjo, guitar, and mandolin musicians. They delighted us with their accomplished performance and the pupils enjoyed accompanying their music by playing percussion and dancing.



Achievement Assemblies

"I love to new way of achievement assembly as there isn't as many parents there so the child can see that their parents have come, also once the child has received the award they can come up to parents and show them what they have got."

"I think it's so wonderful how the assembly is done... I would so love if they continued like this."

"I loved the achievement assembly! It was great to be able to see some of the things the kids are doing in class and it was lovely to hear everyone singing together."

"Thankyou for inviting us to the assembly. It was really lovely to share all the children's achievements and to see them all up dancing and enjoying themselves and having an achievement assembly just for their class I thought was a really nice idea. We are already looking forward to the next one!"

Paradise Wildlife Park

On Thursday 8th June, five classes from Amwell View visited Paradise Wildlife Park. This fantastic day was organised by *The Rotary Club* as part of the *Kids Day Out* event. Due to the lovely weather, a variety of animals were out and about enjoying the sun, which allowed the pupils to get an up and close look.



Class 4 Café



Class 4 have been running a café for fellow classes to attend. They have been making biscuits and cakes in their Food Technology lessons to offer to their peers in the café. So far they have chosen to make cakes flavoured with oranges, bananas and apples. Some pupils use Eye Gaze technology to decide what ingredients we need, while others use switches to operate the food mixers. All pupils use their senses to explore the ingredients and demonstrate preference and choices by smell, taste, touch and sight. When the café is open, Class 4 pupils take orders from the visiting class, using Big Mack switches and symbols to ask them what they would like. Other pupils decide upon the correct food item to give to the visitors, whilst others create an ambience by turning on music and lights. Visiting pupils are able to make choices with symbols, switches and the real objects to decide what they would like to eat.

Lisa Dillon, Class Teacher said *"This relaxed atmosphere allows our visiting pupils to try foods they may not usually eat, with one pupil eating a homemade cake for the first time!"*

Sports Day

On Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June, Amwell View hosted its annual Sports Day at Wodson Park, Ware. For the first time, the event was split over two morning sessions, allowing pupils to access the same fun and exciting activities but returning to school in time for lunch. Pupils arrived by school mini buses, along with the support from London Hire, and started proceedings by settling into the South Sports Hall. Pupils then participated in a range of field-based events including Scooters and Balance Bikes, Wiggle Balls, Boccia Blast, Archery, Bowling and the ever-popular High Jump. Our attention then moved onto the Track races, which varied in length and speed. Pupils could walk, run, jog or travel through obstacles to reach the finish line. Our thanks go to leaders from *St Mary's school*, *Care by Lily*, and volunteers *Andre*, *Sandra* and *Linda Harris* who helped on the mornings.



Autumn Term 1 2023

Term Dates Academic Year 2023-2024

- ◆ **Friday 1st September** INSET Staff Training Day
- ◆ **Monday 4th September** School Opens - Start of Autumn Term
- ◆ **Wednesday 20th September** Parent Consultation Evening 18.00-20.00
- ◆ **Wednesday 27th September** Upper School Harvest Festival 14.30
- ◆ **Wednesday 4th October** Lower School Harvest Festival 14.30
- ◆ **Friday 20th October** INSET Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)
- ◆ **Monday 23rd—Friday 27th October** Half Term
- ◆ **Monday 30th October** Occasional Day (School closed to pupils)
- ◆ **Tuesday 31st October** School opens to pupils

ACTION REQUIRED: Home/School Agreement June 2023

- ◆ Please read carefully the [Home/School Agreement](#) on the school website under Statutory / Statutory Policies and confirm you have read, understood and consent through Arbor > View student Profile > Consents. This can also be found under your Notices. (We have currently only had 48 out of 170 consents given.)

School Dinner Menus

- ◆ Please click on the following link for the new menus for September.
- ◆ <https://amwell.herts.sch.uk/parents-carers/school-meals>