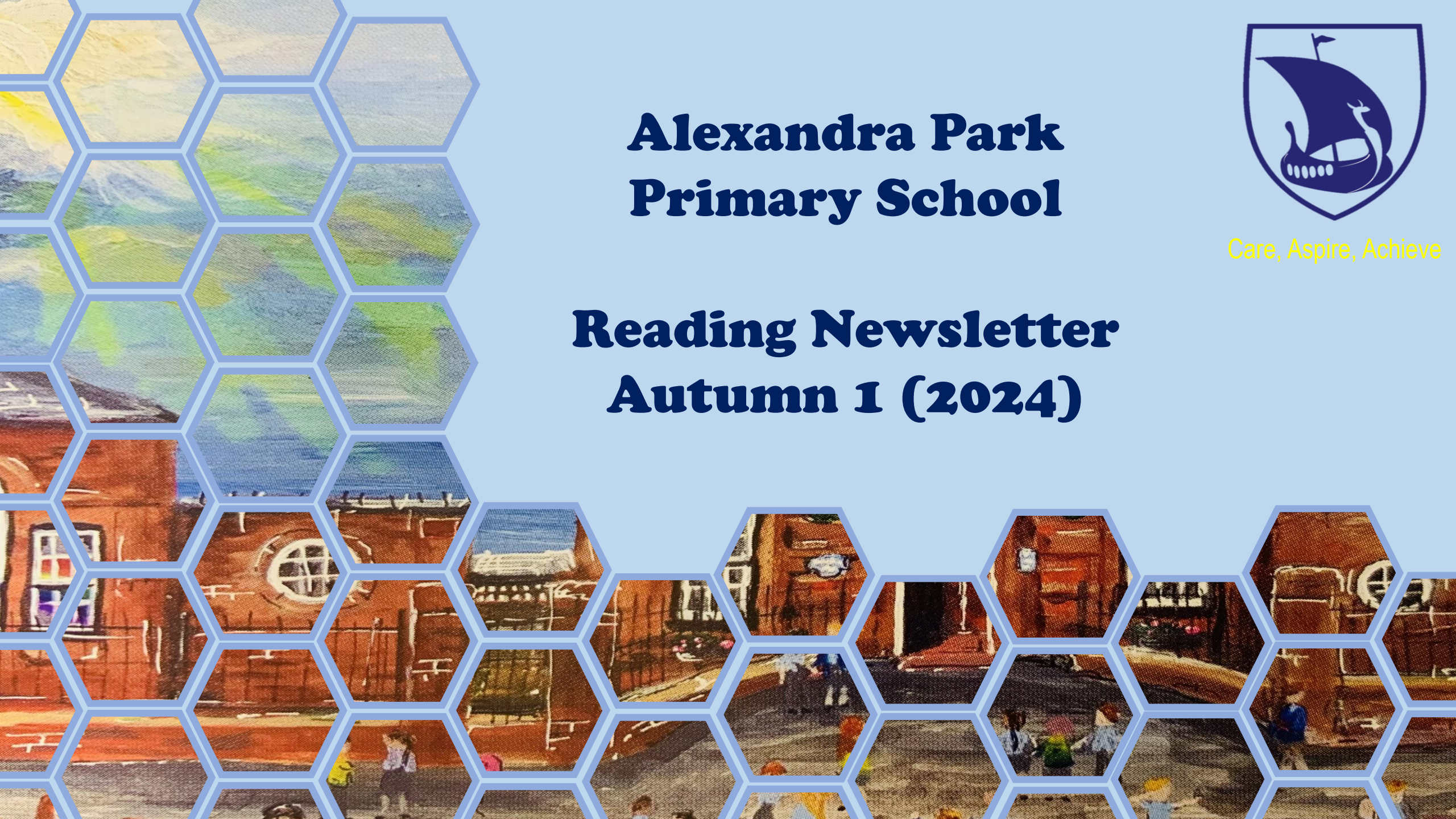




Care, Aspire, Achieve

Alexandra Park Primary School

Reading Newsletter Autumn 1 (2024)



Summer Reading Challenge

We were delighted that so many children read 6 books from the library during the summer and it was great to see how proud they were of their certificates and themselves! A love of reading is one of the greatest gifts a child can have.



100 Book Challenge

Following the huge success of last year, we are pleased to relaunch the 100 Book Challenge in Key Stage Two – with a few changes!

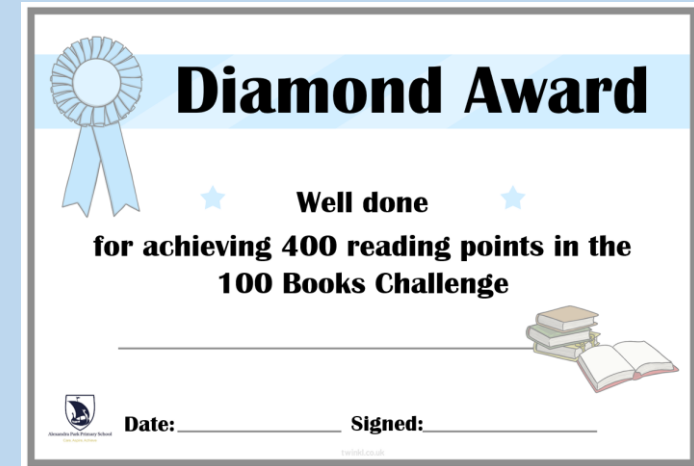
The children will continue to read the top 100 recommended books for their year group. Within each section, there is a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to celebrate a range of authors, themes and text types. Each class will collaborate and work towards reading all 100 books throughout the year.

New for 2024!

- **Book reviews** – children will complete more book reviews this year to help recommend books to each other around school. They will share these in class and as part of our reading curriculum.
- **Reading Certificates** – children will receive points for the books they read and work towards their different awards, which will be celebrated in assembly.

A 'Book Review' form with the school logo and a stack of books icon. It includes fields for 'Title' and 'Author (s)'. Below these are five empty star boxes for rating. A 'Genre' section lists various categories with checkboxes: Mystery, Legend, Fantasy, Biography, Fable, Fairy Tale, Poetry, Myth, Information, Historical Fiction, Autobiography, Humour, Science Fiction, and Sport. There is a 'Summary of the book:' section with a small robot icon and a line for drawing. Below that is a section for 'This book made me feel _____ because _____'. At the bottom, there is a 'Connect' section with a question: 'Is this book similar to something you have read before? If so, in what way?' and a space for an answer.

Reading for pleasure...



Reading Ambassadors

We are proud to have our new Reading Ambassadors in post, who are going to share their passion with the school community this year. Already, they have taken part in their first reading council meeting, putting forward some excellent ideas around how to develop children's love of reading. They have participated in training on how to help other children select books from the library and are keen to put that into practice at lunchtimes.

We are excited to work together this year to develop a wider reading for pleasure culture and help all children see themselves as readers!



Quotes from our Ambassadors

"One of my favourite authors is Neill Cameron - who is the author of Mega Robo Bros. Graphic novels are really good for motivating children to read."

"I would recommend The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner."

"I love reading books about mysteries and ones that include humour."



"Reading is so special because you can learn lots of new things."

"My favourite author currently is Tom Fletcher."

Reading Ambassadors – visit to Simply Books

Following our reading council meeting, the Reading Ambassadors visited Simply Books in Bramhall for leadership training and developing reading engagement in their classes. They conducted class surveys on book genres and worked together as a team to discuss and purchase a range of books for our class and school library. They considered the reading interests of their peers and curriculum topics. Furthermore, they also wanted to expose them to new authors and styles of writing. It was exciting sharing these books back in school!



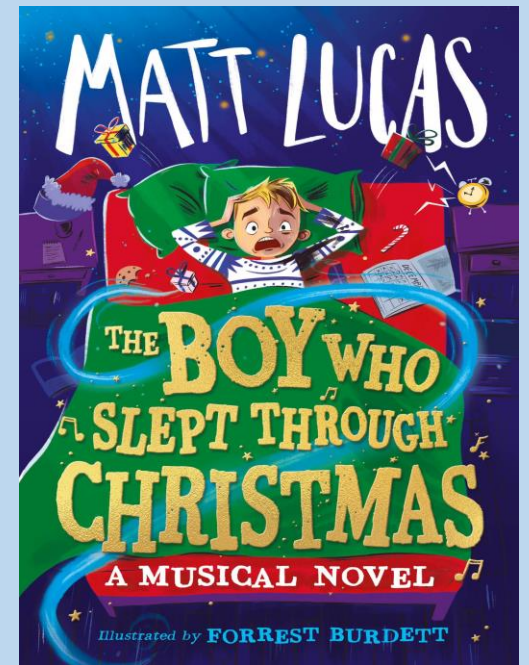
Library Visits

This half term, we have enjoyed visits to our local library in Edgeley. The Reading Ambassadors went first, learnt all about the Dewey Decimal System for storing books and then selected texts for their classes linked to curriculum areas. Following this, our EYFS and KS1 classes enjoyed visiting the library, where they took part in Storytime sessions, played games from books, learnt about fiction/non fictions texts and had a chance to select books to loan out as a class. The children had a great experience and we are looking forward to returning in the spring term.



Matt Lucas

During this half term, our Reading Ambassadors visited Cheadle Hulme Primary School to enjoy an exclusive reading with Matt Lucas. This was an opportunity to celebrate the launch of his book, 'The boy who slept through Christmas' in paperback. We learnt about his life, his favourite hobbies and sang songs together. We are going to share his book back in school and use it as part of our library displays.



Christmas Reading

During advent, it has been lovely to see some of our older children reading Christmas stories to the EYFS/KS1 classes as part of their whole class story time. Merry Christmas, everyone.



Advent Reading

Also during advent, the children have enjoyed their daily stories from their reading advent calendar. From the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series, the children have learnt about inspirational figures from the past and present. They are now excited that they have these books in class as part of their library to re-read in the new year and enjoy over and over again!



Examples include:

Nelson Mandela
Frida Kahlo
Neil Armstrong
Amelia Earhart
Martin Luther King
Elton John
Marie Curie



Parents

Stay and Read...



It was great to see so many of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents join us for our 'Stay and Read' sessions this half term. The children really do love you joining them and returned to class with a huge smile. Thank you!

Key Stage One...

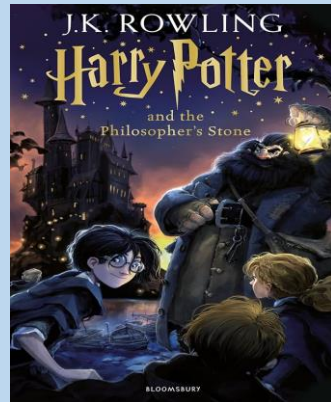
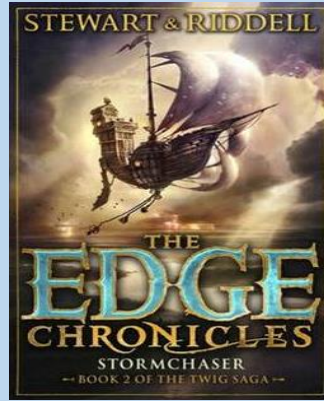
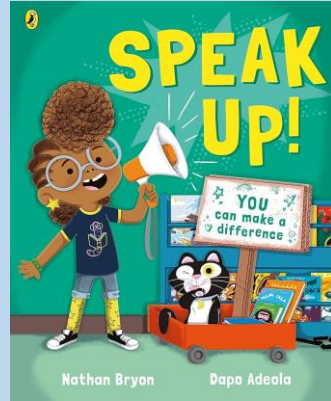
Guest readers

Key Stage Two...



Miss Geci-Dempsey

Growing up, I loved reading the Harry Potter series. My favourite book at the minute is Speak Up as it teaches an important message about making a difference and showing individual liberty (British Values).



Mr Comer

As I love art, growing up I enjoyed books with interesting illustrations. One of my favourite book series was the 'Edge Chronicles' by Paul Stewart because it's where I discovered my favourite children's book illustrator: Chris Riddell. I love reading with my own daughter now and we read lots of books every night! Our favourite one at the moment is 'My Pet Star'.