



Principal's Message

Key dates coming up:

- Inclusion Coffee Afternoon - Wednesday 1st May at 2:30pm
- Parent Coffee Afternoon - Wednesday 8th May at 2:30pm
- Year 6 SATs Week - W/B 13th May
- Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop - Tuesday 21st May at 2:30pm
- Reception Parents Phonics Workshop - Wednesday 22nd May at 2:30pm
- Sports for School sponsored event with paralympian Sean Rose - Thursday 23rd May
- Half-term holiday - Monday 27th May - Monday 3rd June
- All children return to school on Tuesday 4th June

Dear Parents

We have had a wonderful first two weeks back following the Easter Holidays. Your children have returned to school with really positive attitudes, looking smart in their uniforms and ready to do some fantastic learning.

We continue to be really proud of the way the vast majority of our pupils behave in and around school and to recognise this we have recently relaunched our reward system to ensure that we regularly and consistently celebrate positive behaviour. We will be focusing on Dojos for positive behaviour and House Points for excellent work, and there will be an opportunity for you to find out more about how you can be involved during our next Parent Coffee Afternoon on Wednesday 8th May. We do hope you will be able to join us.

I am delighted to share feedback from our recent parent survey when 95% of you said that your child was happy at school, 90% said that your child feels safe, and 96% of you said that your child was learning and making progress at Atlas.

Amongst other things, you told us that communication between home and school was good, that we focus on improving children's reading skills, there are excellent after school clubs, and that our staff are kind and supportive.

You also said that you want us to continue to focus on making sure that we open doors on time at the start and end of the day, to review the homework we give our to our pupils, and to extend the number of visits we offer to our pupils. Over the course of the coming weeks we will share more information on what we will be doing as a result of this feedback. Thank you for your continued support for your children and our school - it is always greatly appreciated.

Peter Sturgess
Principal

Messages from the office

Our School Business Manager, Mrs. Catherine Mitchell, is very sadly leaving our school at the end of this week. Mrs. Mitchell has worked at Atlas for 12 years and has shown dedicated service to our pupils and families throughout this time. I know that you will want to join us in thanking Mrs. Mitchell for her outstanding commitment to our school community, and to wish her every possible success and happiness in the future.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Sarah Middleton will be the new Operations Manager at Atlas. Mrs. Middleton has extensive experience in this respect and we are delighted that she is joining the Atlas family. Mrs. Middleton will be based in the School Office and she looks forward to meeting you all over the coming days and weeks.

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Community activities, events and Visits

- FS2 children visited Cannon hall farm where they had a lovely day exploring and seeing lots of animals including lots of new arrivals.
- Many Year 1 parents came into school to learn more about the phonics screening check in June. They saw children take part in a speed sound lesson, and then had the chance to work together to complete phonics activities.
- Y3 have started their swimming lessons which children are really enjoying.
- Year 4 were really excited to have a visit from the With Me in Mind team who ran workshops with both classes to explore how our brains work, and about the importance of sleep. Both Arneb and Alnilam classes began their latest music instrumental lessons last week and really looking forward to learning to play the ukulele and the clarinet.
- Y6 went on a trip to crucial crew last half term! They learnt about road safety, water safety, fire safety, the procedures for getting busses to secondary schools as well as covering important topics like county lines and knife crime. The children took a lot away from it and became much more knowledgeable of the risks and dangers out there and how to avoid them.

Safety Updates

Excitingly, our year 5 and 6 students are taking part in a research project lead by Dr Charlotte Bagnall at the University of Manchester and the University of Dundee. Details of the project have been sent out to parents of the children involved.

The project will look at transition support and well being for students, measuring children's emotional wellbeing whilst moving from primary school to secondary school. We will receive feedback from the study which will help us, as a school, to better understand how our pupils feel about Y6 to Y7 transition, and to provide them with the best support possible at what could be a difficult time in their school life. For more information on this project, visit: <https://www.p-s-wells.org/>



SEND Updates

What a fantastic start to the new term it has been. We are so proud of how all the pupils has transition back after a half term. It has been lovely walking around school and looking in pupils books to see the wonderful learning they have been doing. A big thank you to all the parents who attended parents evening and were able to participate in discussions around your child's Support Plan. If you were unable to make this, speak to your class teacher or myself for an update. If you have any further questions, Mrs Graham is available to speak with- please contact the school office to arrange a call back or meeting.

The next Inclusion Coffee Session is Tuesday 23rd April from 2:30pm.

Useful Links:

Doncaster Local Offer:

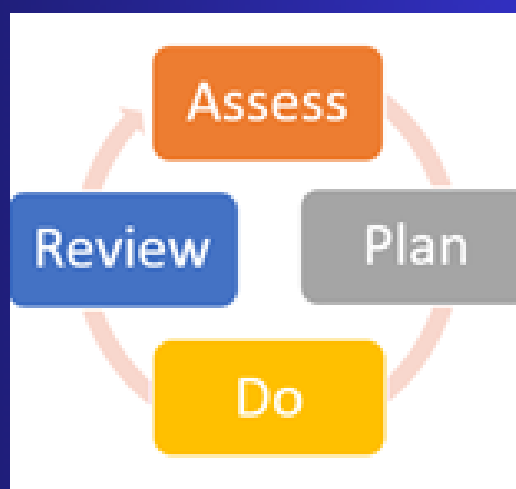
<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/local-offer-send>

Doncaster SENDIAS Team:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/sendias>

Doncaster SEN Team:

Telephone: 01302 737210 or 737211 or 737296
or 737209 Email: sen@doncaster.gov.uk



Support for Parents

At Atlas, we want to work with all families as a team to always achieve the best for your child whether that is socially, emotionally or academically.

We will continue to share further links and resources with you where support on a multitude of issues can be found.

This month, we want to tell you about 'Parent Kind' - a website providing lots of information about schools to parents. Here is a link giving additional guidance on behaviour and attendance:

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/understanding-education/about-schools/behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=By%20law%2C%20parents%20are%20responsible%20for%20ensuring%20all,is%20a%20valid%20reason%20such%20as%20serious%20illness%29>.

Parentkind
Bringing together home & school

Curriculum Highlights



NURSERY

Nursery had fun making crispy buns for Easter. Our topic was growing and changing, we enjoyed growing cress seeds.

YEAR 3

In year three we studied flowering plants as part of our Science topic, plants. We enjoyed dissecting and discussing parts of plants that help with pollination. We also really enjoyed learning to tell the time, we can now read time to the nearest minute and hour.



We looked at a flowering plant and discussed the functioning parts; this helped us understand pollination



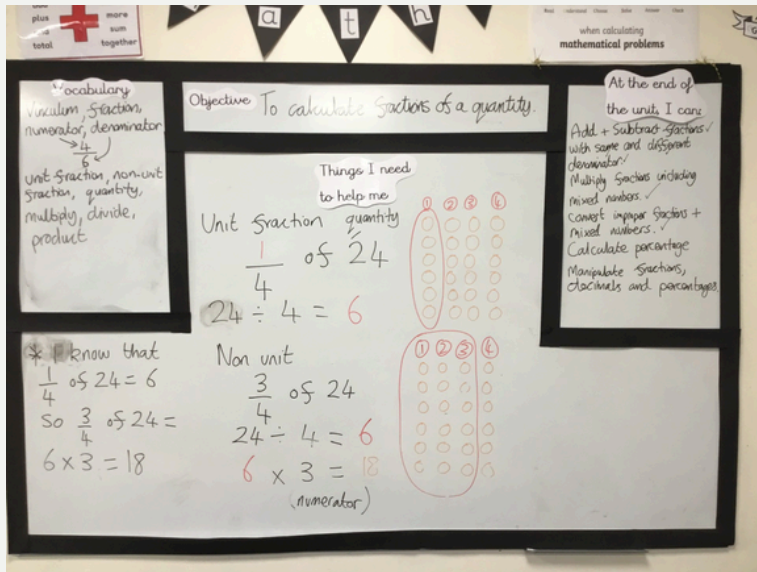
YEAR 5

In Geography, we have been learning all about New Zealand and the Maori. The Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. We even created our own 'Haka' dance to celebrate their heritage.

Our learning
is hands-on
and
exciting!...



Our classrooms
supports
children to learn
and remember
more...



We focus on
rich,
connected
knowledge
across
subjects...

Monday 22nd April, 2024

Who are the Maori?

Do Now

1. NZ is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean = F ✓
2. Wellington is the capital city = T ✓
3. NZ created The Haka = T ✓
4. Mt. Cook is in NZ = T ✓
5. NZ is famous for sandy beaches = F ✓

Task

Who are the Maori people? How did the British explorers affect them?

The Maori people are indigenous people of New Zealand because they were the first people to live there. They come from Polynesia on boats and lived there for 100 years! The Maori people wanted to live peacefully and nobody bothered them. Today, the New Zealand rugby team does the Haka dance as a tradition they do as a sign of respect.

When British explorers arrived at New Zealand, they sold guns to them for pigs and potatoes. The Maori people started attacking each other tribes. The British explorers also brought diseases to the Maori people which also led to countless deaths. They wanted to live simple lives and the British bothered them.

Behaviour



It's been another great half term here at Atlas for behaviour, with lots of positives. Our new red and yellow card system, along with our lunchtime rewards, continue to create a safe and fun environment at break and lunchtime and Mr Wilson has organised some fantastic activities for our children to get involved with now that the weather is starting to pick up.

We have also now launched our new reward system to celebrate all of the wonderful learning attitudes and behaviours that we see across school on a daily basis and deserve recognition. The way we use Class Dojo is changing slightly so please make sure you have access to the app so that you can keep up to date with and celebrate your child's success at home. If you don't have access, please see you child's teacher and they will be able to assist with this.

Watch out for our upcoming Coffee Afternoon where you can find out a little bit more about how we are supporting our children to succeed.



Attendance

Attendance Ladder



We have seen a decline in school attendance from to 94%, lets try to work together to get ATLAS back where they belong, at the top!

It's important to understand that when children attend school regularly, and on time, they are more likely to do well but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community. It also helps prepare children for life beyond school.

We want to support all children to attend school. It is really important that you make contact with the school regarding absence at the earliest opportunity and ensure your child attends regularly and on time (lateness is never a positive)!