

ALPHA NEWS

Friday 13th February 2026

Our week started with a joint trip to Tesco for Nursery and Reception. To support their 'Understanding the World' and cookery topics, the children created a shopping list and went on a shopping excursion to Tesco to buy a range of vegetables. During the cookery session, the children enhanced their spreading and cutting skills to make rather delicious vegetable faces. On Wednesday, our new minibus had a makeover with the Alpha branding...when it arrived back on Thursday, the U11 boys were the first to venture out in it. Today, the Year 6 children presented an informative assembly about the 'Magic, Myths and Mayhem of Numbers', exploring, amongst other things, the many superstitions about the number '13'. As it is Friday 13th, they even told us the word for someone who has a fear of the day and asked me if it could be my ninja word for the week...paraskevidekatriphobia! Today, we were also visited by Rollo and Sindy from Pets for Therapy. Rollo spent some time with our Year 5 children and our Year 6 Wellbeing Prefects in the Hall – in December, Rollo appeared in the Netflix film 'Christmas Goodbye' starring Helen Mirren and Kate Winslet, and the children certainly enjoyed spending time with the movie star. A big thank you goes to Ms Rasheed and the Catering Team for providing us with a delicious Valentine's Day themed lunch today. After half-term, we will return to brighter mornings and brighter evenings...and hopefully the weather will be that much warmer and drier. Whatever you have planned for the break, I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable one!

My Ninja Vocabulary words for this week are:

Rec to Year 2

Year 3 to Year 6

burst

superstitious



THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 23rd

Return from Half-Term
Alpha Book Fair Week

Tuesday 24th

Alpha's Chinese New Year Lunch
U9 Boys' Unihoc vs Buckingham Prep @ Middlesex Stadium

Thursday 26th

Years 3 to 6 Inter-House Cross Country @ Harrow Rec
No Year 5 and 6 After School Sports Club Today

Future Dates:

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day (Wear Pyjamas to School – Years 5 and 6 to bring in their Sports Kits for Games Afternoon)

Thursday 12th March

7:00pm – APA Parent and Staff Quiz Night

A NOTE...

Ms Karkanevatou Writes...

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the warm welcome I have received over the past two weeks. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the children and beginning to settle into life at Alpha.

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the classroom and seeing the enthusiasm and curiosity the children bring to their learning. I am very much looking forward to continuing to support them as the year progresses.

SAVE THE DATE

Get those thinking caps on! We will once again be hosting our APA Parent/Staff Quiz Night on **Thursday 12th March**. The event will be a wonderful opportunity to come together for an enjoyable evening of food, drink, merriment, head-scratching and (friendly) competitiveness!



SPORTS REPORT

Mr Holland Writes...

Yesterday, Thursday 12th February, our U11 boys enjoyed a very successful unihoc fixture against Buckingham Prep with both of our teams victorious! Our first team enjoyed an emphatic 7-0 victory thanks to five goals from Rishi and a goal each from Ananth and Kai. Kai switched teams with Elias at half time and also scored twice for our second team, after Elias had scored a hat trick for this team in the first half. The final result of this match was 5-1. It was therefore a very satisfying and rewarding afternoon's work despite the torrential rain. Each and every player in both teams genuinely gave their all, played excellently, and they should be proud of both their attitude and performance. This makes it all the more difficult to choose Player of the Match awards for this fixture but, on this occasion, these were awarded to Rishi, Elias, Rene and Kai. Well done everyone!



This week also saw another thrilling inter-house competition in the sport of handball that we have been playing in the after-school sports clubs this half term. Liverpool won the U9 tournament and Shrewsbury the U11 tournament. Bradfield played well and performed consistently in both. However, after the combined results of all the various matches in both tournaments were taken into consideration and the points totals/goal difference/head-to-head scores calculated, it was Shrewsbury who were crowned champions! Well done to all and, in particular, to Shrewsbury and their Sports Captains Rishi and Tyara.



CROSS COUNTRY

YEARS 3 – 6 ALPHA INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY EVENT - Thursday 26th February 2026

All pupils in Years 3 to Year 6 will take part in the Alpha Cross Country Event on the afternoon of Thursday 26th February 2026 - parents and spectators are welcome to attend. If you wish to do so, however, please note that you will be restricted to the 'viewing area' - I suggest you wrap up warm and wear wellington boots! Given the time of year, especially if it rains the few days prior to the event, the ground is usually muddy and wet (proper cross country conditions!), so studs or other suitable footwear/running shoes should be worn by the children when competing - I would not recommend wearing new/nice trainers as these are likely to be ruined by the end of the race!

*If the children wish to practise/train in preparation for this event over half term, I would highly recommend running a lap or two of the far field at Harrow Recreation Ground (the field with the cricket pavilion in the top left-hand corner as you look on from the car park (Address/Postcode: HA1 1PB). The distance the children will run on the day will be between 1 - 1.75km depending on their age and they should focus on stamina and trying to pace themselves! Happy training!

N.B. More detailed information, including exact timings and car parking arrangements, will be circulated on our return after half term, but the event is due to commence at approximately 2:00pm.

***PLEASE NOTE DUE TO OUR CROSS COUNTRY EVENT TAKING PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON, THERE WILL BE NO YEAR 5/6 AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS CLUB ON 26th FEBRUARY.**

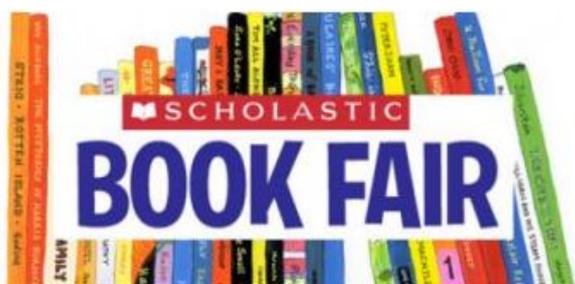
MEET OUR LIBRARIANS

The Librarians Write...

Between 8:15 and 8:30am on Monday mornings, we invite you to the library, via the Hindes Road gate, to pick out a book you would like to read. The session is available from Years 1 to 6. Children can come to the library by themselves, or Years 1 and 2 can be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

We will be in the Library to scan out books. We will also be available to provide recommendations and to search for any books they, or you, cannot find on the shelf. We are looking forward to seeing visitors to the Library on Monday 23rd February – a great way to start off Alpha's Book Fair Week.

ALPHA BOOK FAIR



We will be holding our annual Book Fair during the week after half-term, from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February. The timetable for you to visit the Book Fair was sent in separate correspondence to parents and with well-over 200 titles from which to choose, there will be something available for everyone. Check out the details of our Book Fair Competition at the end of this newsletter.

RADICAL RAINFORESTS

During the past week, the Year 4 classroom has been transformed into a lush canopy of creativity! Our Year 4 students have completed their independent research projects on the rainforest and the results are truly spectacular. Throughout the rainforest unit, the children have taken full ownership of their learning. They dived deep into the different layers of the forest, investigated endangered species and discovered the vital role these ecosystems play in our planet's health.



INTERNATIONAL PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Eva and Orson Write...

Over the last few weeks, Year 6 have been taking part in an exciting international performance project of Pride and Prejudice alongside schools in the USA, Ghana and India. We practised our lines and worked through the script with Mrs Lehane, which really helped us to improve. We performed several scenes via Zoom, building our confidence and learning how to work together as a team. After each performance, we spent time talking about the script and the characters with our international peers, which helped us understand the story even more.

Mrs Still worked incredibly hard to create our costumes and they looked amazing! Wearing the costumes really helped us to get into character. Some of our scenes were even filmed professionally for a documentary about Jane Austen, which made us feel very special.

We had so much fun, and the project really helped us to become better performers and even better team members than before.



PETS AS THERAPY

Rollo the Dog, and Sindy, from Pets as Therapy visited us today to spend some time with our Wellbeing Prefects and Year 5 students.



VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH

Today, Ms Rasheed and her Team treated us to a wonderful, and very tasty, Valentine's Day lunch.



ALPHA BOOK FAIR COMPETITION

ALPHA BOOK FAIR WEEK
23rd – 27th FEBRUARY 2026

This year, Alpha Preparatory turns 130 Years old. To make this momentous occasion, we are asking children to design a book cover around the theme:

‘Alpha’

Children should be as creative as they wish and covers can be both fictional and non-fictional.

Will your book cover showcase the adventures of one of our staff members? Or Will your book provide information about the history of the school, or will a mystery take place on Hindes Road? Let your imagination run wild!

Open to All Children from Nursery to Year 6

Remember to include a title, author and short tagline.

On the back of your entry, please provide the following:

Your name

Your year group

Your House

Deadline: Monday 23rd February – hand your art work to your Form Teacher.

Winners to be announced on Tuesday 24th February!

