

Alt Bridge School

Head teacher's Newsletter
December 2024



National Autistic Society
Autism Specialist Award 2023



Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of our first term at Alt Bridge and what a busy one it has been! Christmas has been in full swing here at Alt Bridge over the past week and we have enjoyed our Christmas dinners, Christmas jumper days, choir singing and grotto visit at Alder Hey, Christmas productions at Shakespeare North Playhouse, the Christmas form room decorating competition and silent discos!

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents in for our end-of-term celebration assemblies and to enjoy hearing about the achievements of so many students. This term, we identified 4 very special Christmas card designs which we had designed by students and professionally made in order to send to our community partners. The four winners received prizes for their efforts in assemblies.

In 2025, we have many things to look forward to and I am looking forward, as always, to seeing how each of our students continue to progress at Alt Bridge. To all of our families of year 7 students and other recent newcomers, we hope that you have enjoyed working with us this term to help your child settle in.

I would like to wish all families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! We look forward to seeing all of our students return in 2025.

Best wishes,

Mrs Menagh
Head teacher

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

We ask that all parents and carers support school with our mobile phone policy by ensuring that students ***leave mobile phones at home*** when they board transport to school. Only students who are independent travellers would be expected to bring phones to school and these must be handed into our office on arrival.

SOME KEY DATES COMING UP

DECEMBER 2024

Friday 20th December – LAST DAY OF TERM – Students finish at 1pm

JANUARY 2025

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – FIRST DAY back for students

School Dog



As many of our families will know, at Alt Bridge, we recognise the value that animals can bring by reducing anxieties and supporting engagement for many of our learners.

Roxy, our latest Alt Bridge pet, will be joining us on occasion to greet our learners and hopefully bring a smile or two.

Roxy's visits are fully supervised, and risk assessed. If parents or carers do have any questions, please do contact us in school.

Artsmark Gold Award!

Pupils and staff at Alt Bridge School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Gold Artsmark Award.

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It transforms teaching through creativity, empowering

teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum, and is proven to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

To achieve their Artsmark Award, Alt Bridge School had to develop their arts and cultural provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Over two years, Alt Bridge School received professional support through an immersive learning programme from Artsmark's delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, who are world-renowned leaders in creative pedagogy and cultural placemaking.

"All pupils can access a consistent and diverse range of arts and cultural provision through work with local arts and cultural organisations, in school, and on visits outside the classroom, which leads to newly developed showcasing throughout school." The Artsmark Assessor commended Alt Bridge School on the 29th November 2024.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Recent Kindness Champions

Each week, students nominate others for Kindness awards. Our Kindness Champions for this week and last week are;

Olivia from 10.3

'For being such a kind and caring friend when her friend was upset'

Gerard from 8.1

'Gerard has shown great kindness and respect this week to all members of staff and pupils'

Riley from 9.6

'walked past another pupil in another class and showed great concern for him when he was upset.'

Miss Godfrey

'Kelly Godfrey as she is extremely kind and patient to all of the children 7.3 and always has a lovely smile on her face'

Mrs Yates

'She always goes above and beyond to support our students and is always offering support, even working through breaks and lunches. She continually checks in on those who need it too. She's a super star!'

Bradley from Pegasus class

'Bradley for being a good friend. Bradley has helped support Dan Kelly today'

Bradley Broadwell

'For tremendous courtesy towards others'

Santa Dash



Our students and staff were out in full-on Christmas mode for our Santa Dash last week which was organised by Mr Lamb. Good fun and exercise was had by all.

STAY CONNECTED

Would you like to know more about how your child is getting on academically and socially? Look no further!

Parents and carers have a wealth of information available to them on how their child is getting on in school. We send out letters, newsletters and information via **ParentApp** and we also use **SeeSaw** and **Epraise**. Both of these systems can be accessed by parents and carers.

SeeSaw will show you your child's work in school and comments by teachers. Each student's learning journal is available online. The link to log onto SeeSaw is via our website;

Epraise is our behaviour for learning system and we give students merits and demerits for behaviour for learning. You will be able to communicate directly with staff via Epraise as well and catch up on how they are getting on in school. The link to log onto Epraise is via our website;

Safeguarding Team

The ***Designated Safeguarding Leader for the school is Miss Richards*** (Assistant Head teacher). We also have five other members of staff who are trained to the level of Designated Safeguarding Leaders;

Mrs Rodgers – Assistant Head teacher
Miss Pritchard – Pupil Welfare Coordinator
Mr Randall – Assistant Head teacher
Miss Townson – Learning Mentor
Miss Freeman – Learning Mentor

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child who attends Alt Bridge, please report them to one of the DSLs above. You can also contact Knowsley Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub on **0151 443 2600**.

Please note if you believe a child, young person or adult at immediate risk, you should contact the police urgently, CALL 999 EMERGENCY.