

January 2024 |

## Spring Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all very well. We have had an exciting 2 weeks at Aspire with learning on coding and computational thinking continuing, a careers fair for some of our secondary students and a visit from the Home Office in primary.

In our weekly skills builder sessions this half term, we have been developing our speaking skills. It has been excellent to see students applying this learning when attending events and workshops and speaking confidently to and asking questions of unfamiliar adults. We also held our first Aspire Pupil Parliament meeting this week with students from primary and secondary coming together to discuss and vote on decisions affecting our whole school, such as the expected behaviours students should demonstrate in their classrooms, where they would like to go for reward trips and what we could use the space in the playground at Coombe for, following removal of the zip wire. Students had lots of great ideas so literally watch this space!

Thank you for speaking to primary teachers this week at Parents Evening. It was lovely to see some of you face-to-face but I hope that whatever method you used to 'meet' teachers it was a useful update on the progress that your child or young person is making. Thank you for completing our parent/carer survey during the conversation. We will use your feedback to action improvements as well as celebrating the successes of working in partnership with you to support our young people. If you were unable to attend for any reason, we will follow up with you to reschedule your appointment.

As always, if you have any questions or comments you would like to share about the content of this newsletter, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or with another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Please be reminded that we break up for half term on Friday 9th February (full day) and students return on Tuesday 20th February due to a staff training day on Monday 19th.

Wishing you a happy and healthy few weeks ahead.

Best wishes,

Abi McIvor, **Head Teacher**, [Abigail.mcivor@horizoncare.co.uk](mailto:Abigail.mcivor@horizoncare.co.uk)



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*Using a maths programme to develop numeracy skills.*



*Sensory Play - exploring cornflour mixed with water.*



*Sensory play...*



*Our pre-verbal students are developing their language skills by sorting pictures into 'reading' and 'eating' whilst answering the question 'What is the boy/girl doing?'*



*Sensory play...*



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### The Home Office Workshop

This week, Aspire Learning took part in an interactive workshop with a number of people from the Home Office.



The Home office is a major employer in Croydon (where our school is based) and the representatives spoke briefly about the different jobs the Home Office employees do throughout the UK. They answered questions about their roles and also allowed the children to try out and try on items from their uniforms. Young people who wanted to were also able to have a go at using a fingerprinting kit - which was both messy and fun in equal measures.

The children at Aspire interacted with their visitors really well and enjoyed seeing the range of jobs that Home Office employees are involved in doing.



## Home Office



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### PE Photo Gallery...



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### Safer Internet Day

# Safer Internet Day 2024

# Tuesday 6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](http://saferinternetday.org.uk)

At Aspire Learning pupils will take part in assembly celebrations and learning based around the theme **'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence, and navigating change online'**.

### Who are the trusted adults you could talk to about things online?

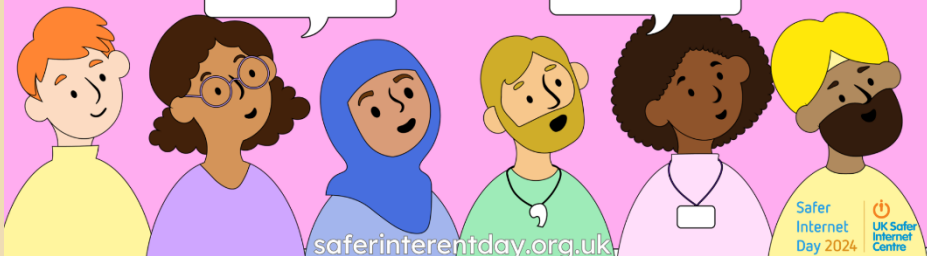
Parents or carers

Auntie and Uncle

Teacher and teaching assistant

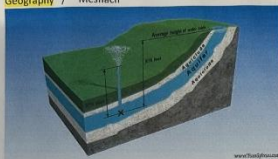
Sports club leader

Grandparents



## Denmark Hall Work of the Week

Geography / Meshach



Date: 30.01.2024

**Learning Intent:**

To be able to learn about water scarcity in Ogallala, the Great Plains in the USA.

**Key words:**

aquifer, fossil water, water scarcity, physical water scarcity, economic water scarcity, infrastructure, challenges, water pumps, breadbasket, farming, impact

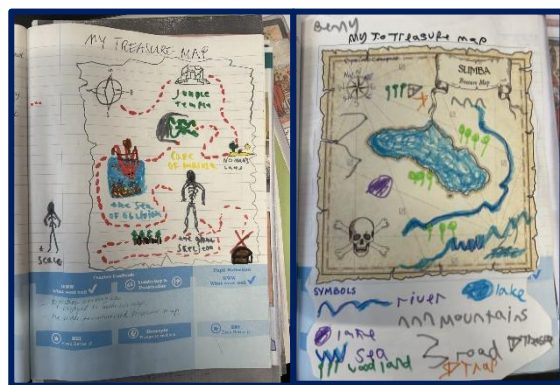
**Aquifer ... CONTAINS UNDERGROUND WATER WHICH CAN BE USED BY FARMERS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF CROPS, Like soybeans and corn.**

**Question:**

1. Sequence the problems farmers face in Ogallala and put them in order. The aquifer has been intensively used by farmers. It means that the aquifer is running almost empty.
2. Ogallala aquifer will run out in 20 years. It means that farmers will face farming problems, and fail to produce crops.
3. As a result towns will be deserted and there will not be farming.
4. Ogallala aquifer is a breadbasket for all farmers but the reality is that if farmers will continue intensive use of water from the Ogallala aquifer then they will fail to produce crops for the market and export.

**www:** I have learned about the problem with shortage of water in the Ogallala aquifer in the Great Plains, USA.

Amazing Geography work from Meshach. He was awarded 'Worker of the Week' today!



Humanities Lesson - Students learning about maps and the meaning of symbols, great work effort from Brandon and Benny.



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### IMPORTANT UPDATES

- Please note the contact number for Aspire Learning School Office: **0204 501 4941**



For further information and resources for parent/carers linked to Safer Internet Day, please visit the following website: [United Kingdom - Safer Internet Day](https://www.saferinternetday.org/in-your-country/united-kingdom)

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/in-your-country/united-kingdom>

### IMPORTANT DATES



**Safer Internet Day** - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**End of Spring Term 1** - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (full school day)

**Half Term Holiday** - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Inset Day** - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (no students)

**Start of Spring Term 2** (students return) - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024



**Dependable**



**Collaborative**



**Compassionate**



**Inspiring**

