



Alameda Middle School

Ambitious ■ Motivated ■ Confident to Soar

Year 6 Newsletter February 2026

Earlier this half term we were delighted to welcome author Murray Fisher to Alameda for a special presentation with the Year 6 pupils, where he introduced his exciting new book, *Underlings – The Spark Engine*.

During his presentation, Murray gave a fascinating insight into how he created the world and characters of *Underlings*. He explained that his ideas often begin with simple “what if?” questions and grow from there. Pupils were particularly interested to hear how everyday observations, childhood memories, and a lot of imagination helped shape the story. Murray also spoke about the drafting process, reminding everyone that great books don’t appear fully formed—they are rewritten and refined many times before reaching readers.

One of the highlights of the visit was the fantastic question-and-answer session. Year 6 pupils impressed Murray with their thoughtful and imaginative questions, ranging from how long it takes to write a book, to where he finds inspiration when he feels stuck. Murray answered each question with enthusiasm and honesty, encouraging pupils to read widely, write bravely, and never be afraid of making mistakes in their creative work.

The presentation was both inspiring and informative, leaving many year 6s eager to start their own writing projects.

Updates & Successes

I would like to congratulate all our Year 6 pupils for their excellent effort and conduct during the recent Mock SATs tests. Throughout the week, pupils experienced the tests exactly as they will be delivered in May, giving them a valuable and realistic insight into what to expect.

We were particularly proud of the mature and positive attitude shown by everyone. The children truly embraced the message staff have been sharing: *simply try your best*. Their focus, resilience and determination were evident in every test location.

This important practice experience will help all pupils feel more confident and prepared when they sit the actual SATs in May. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the way they supported one another — keep up the fantastic effort, Year 6!

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Dates for your Diary

There's lots to look forward to!

Week beginning 23rd February – Act of Kindness Week

A wonderful opportunity to celebrate empathy, generosity and positive actions across our school community.

Wednesday 4th March – Year 6 Parents' Evening

We look forward to welcoming you in to discuss your child's progress.

Week beginning 9th March – Science Week

Including our exciting **science show and fair** — get ready for experiments, investigations and plenty of "wow" moments!

Monday 16th March – Spring Concert

An evening of music and celebration — we can't wait to showcase our talented performers.

Uniform & PE Reminders

To keep everyone looking smart and ready for learning:

- **PE kits should only be worn on PE days.**
- **Sports leggings are for PE only** and must be suitable sports material (please note: *not cotton*).
- **Jewellery:** Children may wear **one small stud earring in each ear only**. No other jewellery should be worn.
- **Facial piercings are not permitted.**

We really appreciate your support in helping us maintain our high standards — it makes a big difference to the children's focus and presentation.

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PTA – Volunteers Needed

The PTA is looking for new volunteers who can help with just one event per year. Your support will help ensure these events can take place and that we raise as much money as possible for our school.

If this is something you can help with, please contact us at dangell@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk
Thank you for your support!

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Kind Regards

Mr Harley and the Year 6 team.

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