

Lion Pack Cubs is run by Baloo (Beth), Dragonfly (Dave), Fox (Chris), Akela (Paul), and our fantastic young leaders Ben (Chil) and Lexi (Rama). We currently have 26 cubs in four “sixes”. We were also well-supported by a regular gang of parents who we are very grateful to.

Summer 2023 (half-term onwards)

The highlights of summer term were our camp at Pinsent and the memorable trip to the Isle of Wight. On the two-night camp, Cubs cooked their own meals, learnt some new scouting skills, and tried their hand at air rifle shooting and archery. Wide games, a campfire, hike, and plenty of free time rounded off the weekend, where Cubs were required to demonstrate independence, leadership, teamwork, and friendship. Many badges were progressed.



On the Isle of Wight, to which we ventured on a very choppy hovercraft ride, we had an outstanding tour of the RNLI lifeboat station in Bembridge, visited the fossil museum, had a fossil hunt along the sand-blown beach, and took the open-topped buses around the island. The day ended with a ferry trip back across the Solent and chips in Southsea.



The term concluded with a very wet opportunity to help the Friends of Flood Meadows clear the River Wey from the fool's watercress which had taken over; and a big water fight at The Den.



Autumn 2023

Autumn started with our annual weekend camp, this time in the forest site at Bentley Copse, where Cubs took part in wide games, yoga, crate stacking, orienteering, and an assault course... alongside the traditional scouting activities on camp – they even made their own folded pizzas on the BBQ. We had great weather and everyone had a fantastic time amongst the trees and wildlife of badgers, deer, and a very inquisitive fox! This event counted towards the **Teamwork**, **Outdoors** and **Adventure** awards, and **Navigator**, **Backwoods Cooking**, and **Pioneer** activity badges, and many others.



The term's main programme kicked off with **Backwoods Cooking** on the campfire (toasties on sticks!), followed by a trail-following hike through Ackender Woods for the **Navigator** badge, performing a play using hand-made shadow-puppets (**Entertainer**), and completing the **Communicator** badge. We also had the usual games and teamwork, leadership, and fun.



After half term we were very privileged to visit RAF Odiham for the **Air Activities** badge, where not only did we go inside the Chinook, but we also learnt about air traffic control, the station fire service, the aircrew's equipment and armoury, and of course what it is like to fly in the heavy-lift helicopter. We also had a superb talk at The Den by a Cub's dad who flies Chinooks – which was a great personal touch and brought it to life. Cubs made their own knot boards (for the **Pioneer** badge), and hot air balloons (**Scientist**) held a magic night. The Cubs represented 3rd Alton in the remembrance parade, and the end of term was marked by Christmas crafts and a cocktail & quiz night.

Not to forget the November Adventure Sleepover at The Den, where we had a night-hike and a visit to the climbing wall.





Spring term 2024

In January we had a visit to the fire station (they even had a call out that night!), and worked towards our **Fire Safety** badge. Cubs took part in the jump rope workshop at The Den, and the District Top Trumps tournament, in which we progressed to county level!

Cubs began their **Community Impact** staged activity badge, with a visit from the Alton Climate Action network. We continued working with ACAN throughout the year and remain engaged with the community, looking at recycling, reducing waste, working on the ALFI plot at the station, and litter picking around town.



After half term we had our spring adventure camp at Runways End Activity Centre (in heated sleeping pods). Cubs took to the canal on the canoes, went caving underground, and took part in night-lining obstacle course. We also had a camp fire, night hike (bat detecting!), and other games and activities. Cubs worked towards their **Nights Away, Time on The Water, Paddle Sports, Outdoors, Adventure**, and other badges. Cubs had a great time and worked on their confidence, team work, and problem-solving skills.





During our weekly meetings, Cubs cooked a light meal of Welsh cakes for their families for the **Chef** badge, and we had a visit from Alton's Dogs For Autism charity to show us all the great work they do – unfortunately no four-legged visitors this time. Towards the end of term we made our own working volcanoes and learnt about the gruelling sulphur mines in Indonesia – this counted towards the **World** and **Scientist** badges. Towards the end of term we had a wide game at Anstey Park, and the last meeting of term was games and Nerf gun battle.



In addition we had the usual selection of games, teamwork, and fun, and Cubs started working towards their **Outdoors in 24** badge in which we are encouraged to spend as much time outside as possible.

Summer term 2024 (up to half term)

Highlights of summer term so far include an epic 10k hike up Old Winchester Hill, growing seedlings for ALFI to plant out in Alton, and campfire cooking at The Den – this time pizza pitta pockets, and chocolate orange cake.



Many thanks for all the parents for their support, and to all in the 3rd Alton team.

Paul, Beth, Dave, Chris, and our young leaders Ben and Lexi