

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2018



What a fabulous Bank Holiday! I hope you enjoyed the sunshine and the extra day! Next week Year 6 will be starting their SATS. I am so proud of them, they have worked their socks off and thanks must also go to our amazing Year 6 staff team who have made sure those children have had a brilliant year, not only preparing them for SATS, but also inspiring them to produce some inspirational work. I cannot believe the progress the children have made. I hope you will ensure Year 6 have a restful weekend and are ready for next week. Please praise them for their hard work. We will be providing a light additional breakfast before they take their tests. Year 2 have been taking their tests this week and have done brilliantly. Well done.

### Toilets

Just to let you know that the concern with the taps has been fixed. Although this problem could have been alleviated if children turn off the taps. Toilets are an ongoing issue in school and we have had a slight problem with our drains recently which is being tackled, but will be fully addressed in the Summer. As our building is over 30 years old some aspects will start to need our attention. There has been an occurrence with worms and nits in school please could parents be vigilant and treat if necessary.



### Year 5 residential

Year 5 had an amazing time in London, staying near St Paul's Cathedral. They visited the Tower of London, Houses of Parliament, HMS Belfast, The National History Museum, as well as seeing a show and seeing the sites of London on a mini cruise. According to the staff, they were an absolute credit and a delight throughout. They even slept! Again I am sure

you will join me in thanking the staff who give up their time to accompany your children. Although I think they had a great time too!

### Staffing

Everytime I write to you I feel I am informing you about another staff departure. I know parents will be concerned about the changes, however most staff would have moved whether I was here or not. Schools always go through periods of change. As a school we have worked relentlessly to raise standards and broaden the curriculum and it is evident that outcomes have risen and the changes that we have been working on during the two years have become embedded and the staff we have appointed recently have been fantastic. Alphington school has always been a special school and the warm ethos that pervades the school will continue with Miss Tarr. No-one is irreplaceable although you are allowed to miss us a bit!

After 20 years at Alphington Ms Goodwin has made the decision to move on to pastures new at the end of the Summer. This was planned. Ms Goodwin started as a student teacher at Alphington, then after several years as a teacher, she then became assistant head, acting head and a deputy head before becoming our SENCO.

As a SENCO, Ms Goodwin has been relentless in securing Alphington's reputation as an inclusive school and her expertise is widely sought after.

As Deputy when I first came, she provided invaluable support and was 100% behind me when we were implementing changes. Ms Goodwin's calm approach to all school matters has pervaded all aspects of school life and she will be missed, although I am sure we will utilise her expertise in the future.

Her post has been advertised and hopefully we will appoint before half term.

### Absence

We have been warning parents for a long time that if they take unauthorised absence from school for holidays for a sustained period of time they will be fined. I am aware that these fines are now coming thick and fast. I am only allowed to authorise holidays in exceptional circumstances and if parents decide to take their child out for a holiday during term-time then they are liable for a fine. I do empathise with parents about the cost of holidays, but it is the law and I have a professional responsibility. The policy has been agreed by governors and is monitored frequently by the Educational Welfare Officer to ensure we are complying with legislation.

### Gates

The main green gates will be closed between 8.30-9.00 and 3.30-3.45 and there will be no access to vehicles. The only exception being for disabled access. This is to ensure children can walk safely into school. Also if possible could you enter the school at the top-gate by the red bike shed if you pass it in the mornings. This enables less congestion.

### Talent Show

Congratulations to the winners of the talent show this year. The vast array of talent was a joy, I am sure you will enjoy watching some of the entries at the summer fayre. I know some parents feel it is a waste of a day with no learning. However in other schools children usually bring in games for the last day of term or watch a film. Our children have longer day than most schools (at least 15 minutes) and we always consult with the School Council to ensure they would like the Talent Show to continue.

Miss Tarr will decide as to whether she would like to carry on with it.

### Dates for your Diary

14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs  
21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 trip to Grenville  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Celebration assembly  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – last day of half term  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – First day back at school  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Dartington adventure and sleep over in school  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Whole school photo / Year 6 photo  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – KS1 Sports day  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – KS2 Sports day  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – New Foundation visit  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – New Foundation visit  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Parent café at 2.30pm  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – New classes day  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – New classes day  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July – New classes day  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – School fayre  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Foundation assembly at 3pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – **New** parents evening  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 5/6 performance  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Year 5/6 performance  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – School discos  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Leaver's assembly at 2pm  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of term  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – First day of term

### PTFA

Their next event is bingo and bubbles (over 18s only) which is next Friday 18th May from 7.45pm, eyes down 8pm!  
Tickets are available from the school office at £5 per ticket. All welcome.

The PTFA would like to thank all of you who came to their meeting last week and were happy to see new faces. Just to remind you that the PTFA is open to everyone, they support and raise funds for the Pre-School and School.

### Miss Tarr

Miss Tarr will be here at Alphington today and tomorrow.