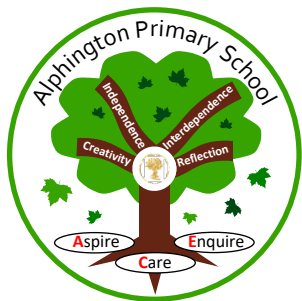




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

11/9/2020



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents /Carers,

Thank you for all your help and support this week in getting children back to school safely. It really has been lovely having children back with us and they have been amazing! It has also been lovely welcoming all of our new starters this week and I have been delighted to see how well they have settled in.

I would like to thank you for your patience while getting used to a new system as I appreciate this is a difficult and unusual time. I am pleased to tell you that the vast majority of things are working really well and I am so proud of how well the children have adapted to this new way of working.

There are a few things we would like your help with, to make things even easier:

- Please only arrive at your child's allocated time.
- Only one adult to attend pick up and drop off. If you do need to come to school with more than one adult please can I ask that you do not wait by the school entrances as this makes these areas very crowded.
- When you have dropped your child to school, please move away from the school gates to allow others to enter and leave school safely.
- Please ensure you are social distancing as much as possible as we need to consider everyone's safety.
- Please remember to send your child in with a clear pencil case.
- Thank you to everyone who is sticking to either no bags or small PE type bags as this makes such a difference in terms of space in the classroom.



Guidance on Covid symptoms and self isolation:

We have been contacted by a few families asking advice on when to self-isolate so I thought it would be useful to share the most up-to-date information we have.

You must self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see GOV.UK: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK
- you must not leave your home if you are self-isolating - this does mean you are unable to do the school run during this time

However it is important that we all keep up with the government guidance and advice as it does changes on a regular basis:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>



PE Timetable:

Apologies for the confusion caused by the PE timetable that was sent on the last newsletter, please see below for the final copy. On these days please send your child into school wearing their PE kits with their school jumpers / cardigans and as the weather gets colder, they can wear plain black jogging bottoms instead of shorts.

Class Teacher	Class Name	PE Days
Pre-school	Ladybird	Wednesday
Miss Fenlon (foundation)	Hedgehog	Thursday
Mrs Olmedo/Mrs Pattison (foundation)	Fox	Thursday
Miss Oakely (year 1)	Squirrel	Wednesday Friday
Miss Brackley (year 1)	Bumblebee	Wednesday Friday
Mrs Fletcher/Mrs Hill (year 2)	Dragonfly	Wednesday Friday
Mr Prowse (year 2)	Grasshopper	Wednesday Friday
Mrs Hill/Mrs Fidler (year 3)	Otter	Monday Thursday
Miss Thomas (year 3)	Kingfisher	Monday Thursday
Miss Williams (year 4)	Newt	Tuesday Wednesday
Mr Moore (year 4)	Starling	Monday Thursday
Miss Morgan (year 5)	Avocet	Tuesday Friday
Miss Collinson (year 5)	Badger	Tuesday Friday
Miss Hedge (year 6)	Kite	Tuesday Friday
Mrs Stone (year 6)	Kestrel	Tuesday Friday

School environment:

Staff have been working really hard to ensure the school still looks as exciting and friendly as possible so I wanted to share a few pictures with you.



Reading and the library:

We are keen to get children back reading as soon as possible but we are unable to use the shared library during this time. In its place, we will be setting up 'mini libraries' across the school. Children will be bringing reading books home to share with you and we would recommend that you wash your hands before reading these. When children return books to school, they will be set aside for 72 hours before being put back in circulation.

Home learning:

This year, we are continuing to work with a range of online programmes to support pupils' home learning. We are continuing with Spelling Frame to support key spelling revision and also Times table rock stars in KS2 and Numbots in KS1. We will be introducing My Maths to further develop online maths learning which has replaced Doodlemaths. We will send out further information about My Maths once this has been set up in class.

School lunches:

We are very pleased with how lunchtimes have been for our children this week, ensuring they can still access a varied menu of hot food each day. The majority of our classes are having their food orders delivered to their classrooms which makes it difficult for the school kitchen to make amendments to meals for individual children. We are also unable to offer a variety of fillings for the jacket potatoes as we would do so please be aware that they will be filled each day with cheese & beans only.



Communication:

I understand that this is a difficult time to stay in touch with the school but we will continue to find as many ways of possible to share information with you, celebrate children's successes as well as ensuring you are able to contact us as easily as possible. I will continue to send regular newsletters to you and each phase leader will add an update to share what has been happening in their team. Senior staff will always be on the gates in the mornings and at the end of the school day so please do feel free to catch us about anything. Alternatively, you can still email either the admin, welfare or the SENCO accounts if you have a particular query or question. If you need to speak to the class teacher then please email admin who will arrange for them to call you.

admin@alphington.devon.sch.uk / welfare@alphington.devon.sch.uk /
senco@alphington.devon.sch.uk

Parents evening:

In normal times, we really enjoy meeting you all formally at the first parents' evenings which we hold during this term. As these will need to look different this year, we are looking into ways of holding them virtually and will be in touch soon with further information. We will also be carrying out catch up phone calls and again more information will be sent out shortly.

Lost property:

Can we please ask all parents to clearly label every item of clothing with your child's name so when we find items, we can safely return them to their owner.

I am really proud of the way the home school community has pulled together to support children's return to school and again want to thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Tarr

Headteacher

