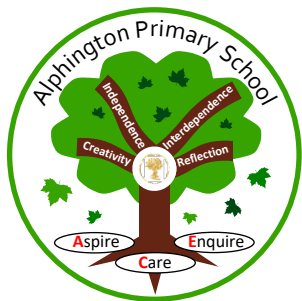




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

14/05/2021



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

There seems to be lots of positive things in the news around Covid at the moment and this feels like a real step forward and very hopeful! As a school we are always reviewing our risk assessment and operational plan, in line with the guidance from the DfE but at present we will not be making any changes, we will of course keep you up to date with this. We are also looking at how we could run after school sports clubs safely and will share this with you as soon as it is possible.

With that in mind, the guidance linked to testing hasn't changed but I thought it may be useful to add a reminder about the processes. If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid such as high temperature, a new persistent cough and/or a change to taste or smell, then it is vital that they remain at home and you seek a PCR test through the NHS. While you are waiting for the test and the results, the whole household need to self-isolate, including siblings. Please be aware that lateral flow tests are not to be used if a child is displaying any of these symptoms.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

Please can we ask that you keep us informed of any of the above. Thank you for all your help and support with this.

Staff changes:

Mrs Stone will be reducing her hours after half term and working in school on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Adkins will be working alongside and job sharing with her, by working in year 6 and Kestrels. Mrs Stone will be moving on to her new role fulltime, at the end of this school year.

Mrs Fletcher will also be moving on at the end of this school year after many fantastic years at Alphington. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Stone the very best for the future, they both will be greatly missed!

Headlice:

Just a reminder that all children, boy and girls, need to have their hair tied up if it is long enough. We do have some hair bands in school so we will be giving these to any children who have forgotten their own.



Lunch accounts:

Thank you for bearing with us whilst the issue with funds appearing on the children's lunch account was resolved. We understand all of the funds have now been applied to the accounts and are now correct.

Fairytale Lunch:

This special lunch can be ordered in the usual way, either by the school gateway app or with the class teacher on the morning of event.

Fairytale Menu

Once upon a time...
at Alphington Primary School

Thursday 20th May 2021

Three Little Pigs

(Chipolata Sausages) or

Cinderella's Carriage

(Pizza Muffin) or

Jack's Magic Beans

(Jacket Potato & Baked Beans)

served with

The Princess and the Pea

(Garden Peas & Sweetcorn) with

Goldie Locks

(Pasta Spirals)

Red Riding Hood Sauce

(Tomato Ketchup)

followed by

Gingerbread Man

with

Snowy White Milk

An allergen aware version of this menu
will be available on the day.



Phase news:

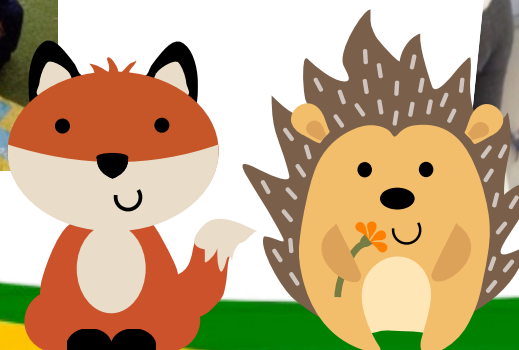
Ladybirds

Something fishy has been going on in Ladybird class this week, with the arrival of 'King Neptune's Kitchen' our exciting new takeaway restaurant. The children have enjoyed lots of imaginary play, cooking and serving fishy dishes as well as recording orders and reading menus. We have immersed ourselves in the story of the fidgety fish and are now ready to start to innovate (make our own changes to the story) and are excited to the children's amazing story telling ideas. The ladybirds have been getting stuck into their 'ninja challenges' each week focussing on one of our school learning behaviours to develop into a super skilled learner. This week we are focussing on Problem Solving Polly and will be taking on lots of tricky challenges which prompt us to think outside the box and figure out the best way to do things.



Foxes and hedgehogs

Foxes and hedgehogs have had to wrap up warm as they've headed off on a polar adventure to the arctic this week. We have been exploring the story Harry saves the ocean to discuss how to take care of our planet and protect the oceans. The children have enjoyed learning to tell the story by heart and using our 'wonderful word of the week' 'quest' to tell stories and head off on adventures in our explorer role play. We have been developing our balancing skills and core strength by building and negotiating explorer assault courses outside, imagining that we are climbing mountains or tiptoeing across ravines. We have been busy sewing in our fine motor station, using our funky fingers to sew a mitten for an arctic explorer and getting creative with water colours and wax crayons to make some icy picture in our creative area.



Year 1 have been out and about in the school grounds during their outdoor learning time, finding out about the Artist Andy Goldsworthy. They have carried out research into his pieces of artwork and using the materials that were around them in the school grounds, they created their own design based on this artist. The children have started a new text in their English Lessons which is a Non-Fiction book based around Reptiles. The children are really engaging with finding out all the facts about these creatures and very excitingly, will soon be creating their own fact book about a dinosaur. In Maths, the children have been focussing on time and are doing brilliantly with being able to understand what O'clock and half past looks like.



Year 2 are continuing to love their topic of Carnival of Animals. The children have been busy designing masks that they will then make, using a range of different materials. In Science the children have been looking at different types of animals and the similarities and differences these have with one another. The children are very informative about this subject. I think the teachers are learning as much from the children as the children are from the teachers! Outdoor learning has been a real success since returning to school. The children have taken over two of the raised beds in Pearls land and have removed 2 years' worth of weeds in them, it was quite an achievement. As a group, they have decided on which plants and flowers they would like to plant and will taking care of these each week. The bees and other pollinators will be very happy with the choices that Year 2 have decided on.



Year 3 have been super learners and explorers over the last couple of weeks. In English, the children have been reading the amazing book: Krindlekrax, a story that takes place on Lizard Street, located in a town with cracked pavements, scorched brickwork and bumps and holes in the roads. We can't wait to see how the story continues... In maths, the children have been focussing on the 8 times tables. Ask us some questions to see how we do! Year 3 have continued learning about plants in science and have dissected flowers, naming all their different plants whilst also investigating the outdoor area and looking at the plants we have here at Alphington. In outdoor learning, the children have been focussing on sketching the plants and leaves using a range of resources including charcoal. We have some very talented artists!



Year 4 have been busy continuing with their new unit of science: ELECTRICITY! The children have learnt the names of different components that make a circuit and explored to how switch on bulbs, buzzers and motors. It was quite noisy work! They have had their final session with Devon Wildlife Trust and used their knot tying skills from the year and learnt lashings to make a catapult- a Greek invention. The children were extremely resilient building the catapults and they cannot wait to try them out. In English, they have been reading a new book: Myth Atlas and enjoying a range of different stories from different cultures. Toad Story was one of their favourites with boastful toads that sing badly. The children will be making their own myths using an iPad animate program and using Lego and plasticine models to create them next. We cannot wait!



Year 5 have been loving their theme and learnt so much about WW2. Using Now Press Play, the children had a WW2 experience, enabling them to feel like they really were back in the past. The writing the children created from it, was super! Using Anne Frank's diary, the children have learnt new vocabulary and have been using it within their own writing. They have become experts at using dictionaries and other sources, to find out the meanings of new vocabulary. In outdoor learning, the children have made model war shelters using natural resources and clay- some designs were very innovative. The children have also used outdoor resources to send messages in Morse Code- they were quite tricky to decode. The children are now focussing on propaganda and are designing their own posters based on WW2 propaganda.



Year 6 have had a super time exploring Space and finding out all about the universe. The children started the theme by having a rocket afternoon where they watched a bottle rocket fly into the sky... it went really, really high! Then the children made their own mini-canister rockets using a variety of materials including cola, sweets, vitamin C tablets and water. They learnt that there needed to be a good seal on the container for a high rocket! They have also made spaghetti and marshmallow constellations- it was sticky work! In maths, Year 6 have been learning about averages and calculating the mean, looking at different data. The children are still enjoying our book, the Nowhere Emporium and producing wonderful fantasy writing showing off their great imaginations.



Wraparound Club:

We have thoroughly enjoyed and made the most of the dry and bright weather this half term has had to offer. Our topic 'The World Around Us' has provided opportunities for the children to enjoy nature scavenger hunts, seed planting and bug house building along with generally enjoying the school's fantastic grounds in the sun.

Bookings for next half term will open week beginning 24th May. As usual, parents with Wave 1 priority spaces will have Monday and Tuesday of this week to make their bookings and secure these spaces. From Wednesday onwards, Wave 2 will open for all other bookings. If you are unsure what your Wave 1 allocation is, please email wraparoundclub@alphington.devon.sch.uk.

At this time of year, we begin to look at Wraparound requirements for September. If you currently use Wraparound Club and think you may need to alter your sessions or, if you haven't used Wraparound Club before but think you may need spaces for the new school year, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at wraparoundclub@alphington.sch.uk



Walk to School Week:

Next week is National Walk to School Week. We are challenging all pupils to walk to and from school every day next week. This year's challenge will focus on the walking superpowers that benefit individuals, communities and the planet.



There are lots of ways to make walking to and from school fun and engaging. Follow the link below to download activities and resources.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools>

