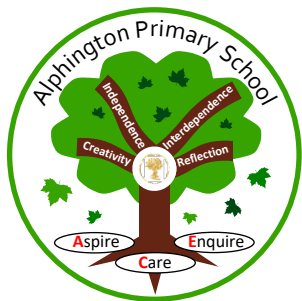




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

17/09/2021



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a great first full week back. The children have really thrown themselves into their learning and new topics, and they have loved their hook days. With this in mind, teachers have been busy creating this term's curriculum maps, facts finders and curriculum videos for you, so you will know what your child will be learning this term. These will be shared later today through our website and Facebook page so please do take a look.

As reading is such a key skill for children, we have been creating more exciting and relaxing spaces for children to use when they are enjoying a book. Look at how good the library looks!!



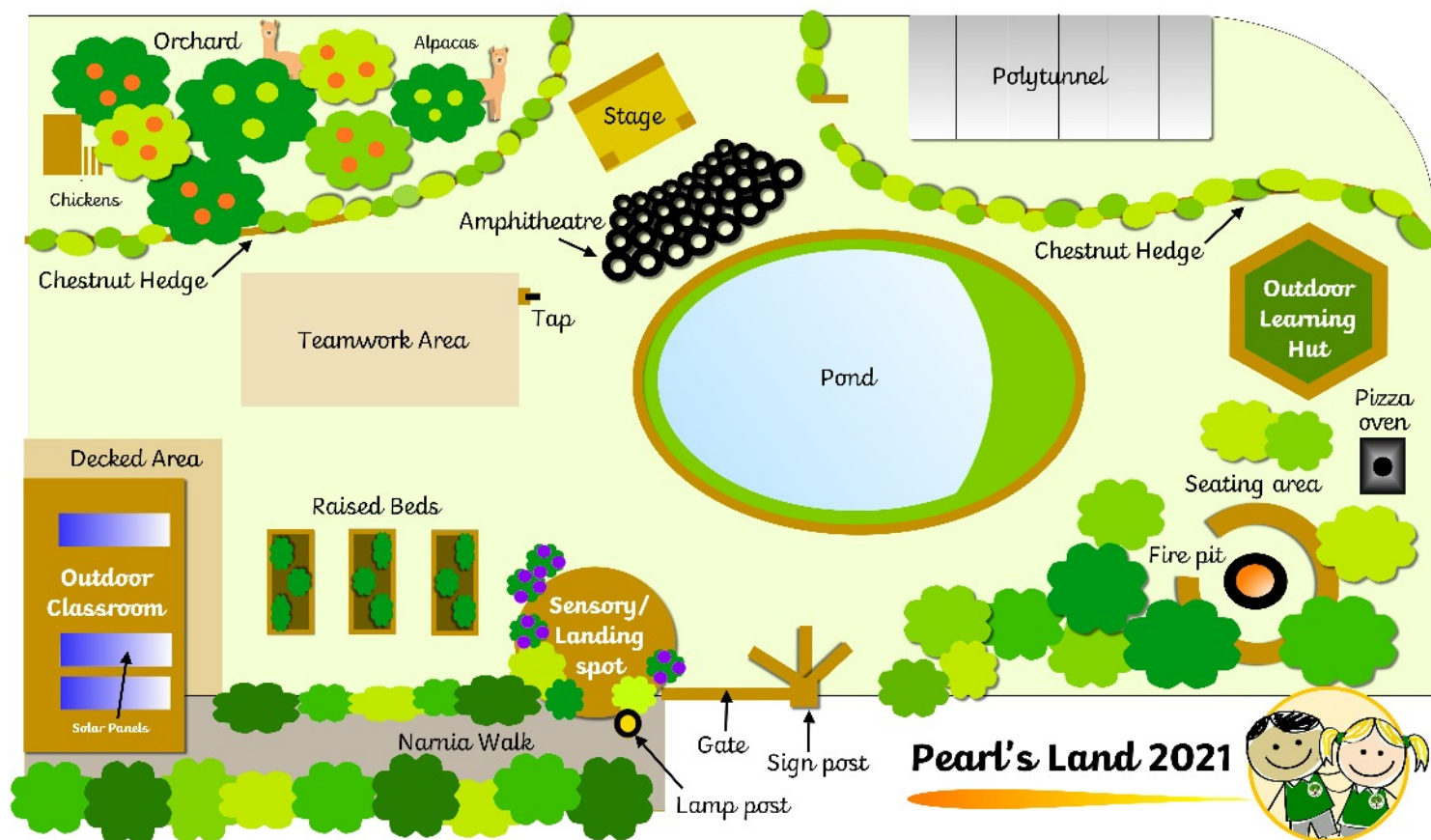
Sponsorship:

We have signed up for the school's virtual marathon where children will run 2.6 miles around the running track. They can do this by themselves or as part of a team. By taking part, children will be part of one of the world's largest marathons, joining 50,000 runners completing 26.2 miles on the streets of London in the mass Virgin Money London Marathon, and a further 50,000 people running a virtual event of the same distance across the world. Please click the link for a special message from GB athlete Charlotte Purdue.

<https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/the-event/mini-london-marathon-in-schools>

This will take place during the week beginning 4th October and each class will be given an allocated time on one of their PE days that week. This will be our first sponsored event of the school year and this year we will be raising money towards developing Pearls Land. (Add plan here please)

We will be sending out a sponsorship form nearer the time for you to collect sponsorship from family and friends, any funds raised will be paid to the school via the school gateway app.



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Parents evening:

Parent meetings for Preschool and Foundation will be held w/c 27th September whilst the rest of the school will be held w/c 18th October. More information about this, will follow soon.

Attendance letter:

As part of our usual school systems, next week we will be sending out the formal, template letter linked to school attendance. Please note that this is a general letter about holidays and other absences in term time and does not relate to any specific children.

Uniform:

As children are now using more of the school grounds, please can we ask that all clothing is named as lost property is starting to back up already! All names clothing will make its way back to your child's classroom. Thank you for your help with this.

E-safety Update:

Within the 2021 updated Keeping Children Safe in Education act, E-safety has become a prominent feature in ensuring all children feel safe and empowered to make educated decisions when online. Over this half term, all year groups will be focusing on E-safety and how to ensure they are remaining safe when online. Pupils will be exploring their digital footprint, what a healthy media balance looks like, cyberbullying and online privacy.

Within our PSHE lessons, assemblies and computing lessons, we educate children about the risks and the benefits of being online, alongside what healthy and appropriate interactions, and relationships are.

As a school, we are aware how quickly games and apps change and we will continue to keep you updated with the latest news regarding E-safety. Below are a few websites which contain age appropriate and relevant information.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding E-Safety, please email or call.

Kirsty Naim - E-safety lead.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



Phase news:

Early news:

What a big week it has been for our Ladybirds, Foxes and Hedgehogs – they have settled into their new classes brilliantly, enjoyed exploring their environments, meeting their teachers and making lots of new friends! We are really impressed by the independence, resilience and courage that your children have shown us this week. They have had such a fantastic start to school and preschool, and are looking forward to a brilliant year ahead.

Ladybirds

The ladybirds went on an exciting adventure to Pearl's land for the first time this week. They got suited and booted and set off exploring. Whilst there, they collected apples and blackberries to make a pie and did lots of rolling down the roly-poly hill. They have enjoyed exploring their new environment this week; creating in the playdough tray, story-telling with the small world, lots of construction and even riding bikes!

Foxes and Hedgehogs

We have had a fantastic first week at school with the Foxes and Hedgehogs who have settled really quickly into school life! They got stuck into their new environment and have had lots of fun exploring it; from baking in the mud kitchen with plants from our garden, to performing super hero dance routines on our stage. The children have become architects and builders in our construction area, working as a team to create castles, boats, bridges with our large blocks. Some of the children chose to draw up plans for their creations and others measured the builds to check they were built correctly. They have made the most of our outdoor space, with lots of bike riding and scooting, as well as creating ways to pump and transport water. A super start to school -well done Foxes and Hedgehogs!

Key Stage 1

Our **Year 1 and 2** children have had a fantastic start to the new school year! They have all come back to school excited about their new topics and ready to learn. We look forward to seeing the amazing work they produce this year!

Squirrels and Bumblebees had a fantastic Hook day last week as part of their new topic 'In a land far, far away.' They created their own shape gingerbread man and also had lots of fun exploring our school grounds as part of their hunt for the gingerbread man! He was hiding in lots of different places around the school!

To end our first full week at school, Dragonflies and Grasshoppers enjoyed taking part in lots of different activities as part of their 'Global Gardens' Hook Day. We made our own bird feeders, did some leaf printing, and had lots of fun on our first session with Devon Wildlife Trust!



KS2 Phase News

It has been lovely to see the KS2 children together enjoying some wonderful weather that has been mostly dry! It was amazing to have our first Year 3 and 4 assembly this week and the children all demonstrated the Alphington Way as they listened to each other as we discussed the importance of sharing. We heard the story of how the animals got fire when they had to steal it from the crocodile because refused to share!

Year 3

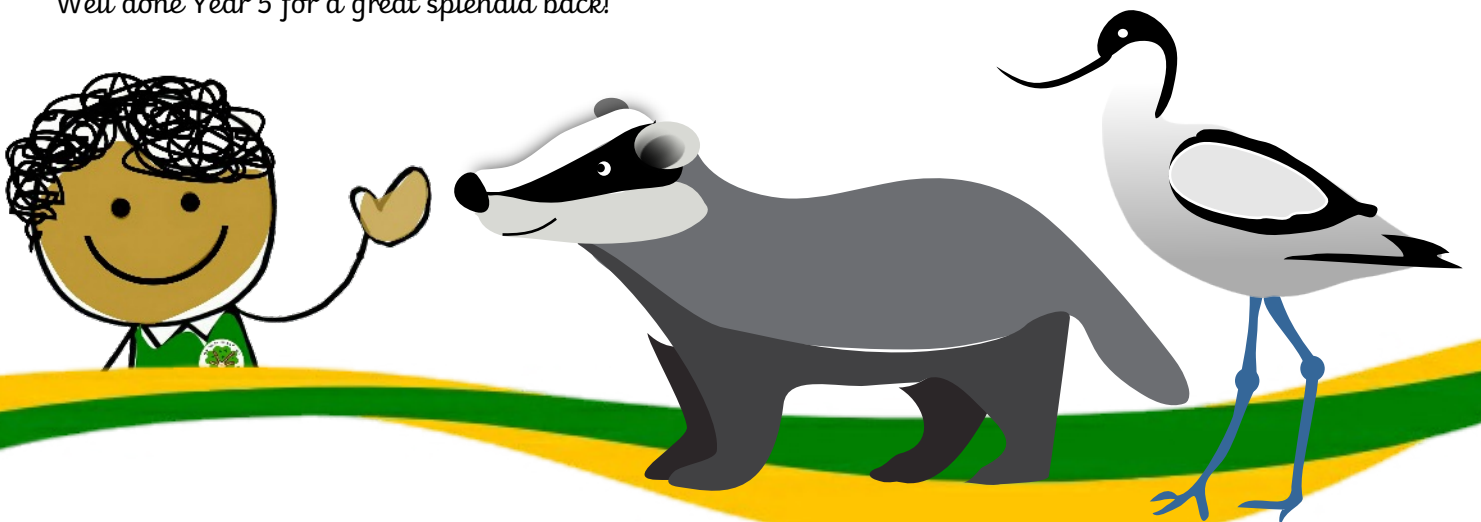
Year 3 have made a super start to joining KS2 and we have seen a lot of Resilient Rons. They had a very exciting hook day where we began learning all about volcanoes whilst linking key words and definitions. They enjoyed creating volcano art and planning an escape from school if there was a volcanic eruption! In English, the children have started reading "Here we are" and have already been working hard to produce sustained writing, showing so much determination. In maths, it has been wonderful to use resources to explore place value as the numbers start to increase in size. Well done Year 3 for your super start!

Year 4

It has been a pleasure to be with the Year 4s as they have shown such great collaboration and resilience over the last two weeks. It was such fun to compete in the hoop challenge outdoors where we raced to see which class could solve the problem the fastest. We have also enjoyed outdoor learning where we have been thinking about Stone Age tracking, journeys and beginning to think about hunter gatherers. On the hook day, the children made salt dough bone and teeth jewellery, created pictures of mammoths and even made replicas of Stone Henge from biscuits. In maths, the children have enjoyed working with numbers beyond 1000 and have become experts in writing cheques. What a great start to the term Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 have shown themselves to be excellent with their collaboration skills and problem solving, as they took part in an amazing and EXTREME hook day where they had to rescue an 'injured' member of their team by safely carrying them away from danger. When starting their theme: Would you rather be stuck on Mount Everest or Mount Fuji? by locating mountains around the world using atlases and other sources. In maths, the children have been extending their knowledge of place value and working with numbers up to 1,000,000. They have used resources to show greater or smaller numbers and enjoyed using the manipulatives in class to represent number. In English, the children have enjoyed their new text Jungle Survival handbooks and will be working towards creating their own survival guides based on mountains. Well done Year 5 for a great splendid back!



Year 6

We have been so proud of the Year 6 children coming back to school showing themselves to be role models and exhibiting the Alphington Way in all their learning. They enjoyed a brilliant hook day where they were learning about spies, whilst practising some necessary skills to make a spy including: the laser course, chromatography and also taking finger prints. In English, the children have started reading Stormbreaker- a story about a young boy who becomes a spy after the mysterious death of his uncle- we cannot wait to see the spy stories the Year 6 create later in the term based on this. Year 6 have also been fortunate to work with Exeter Chiefs and enjoyed their first session. Finally, in science, Year 6 have been learning all about electricity building on their knowledge from Year 4. They became excellent problem solvers as they were set the task to make working circuits where not all the bulbs and cells worked, so they had to discover the working components. Well done Year 6 for all you amazing efforts!

Sharon Tarr
Headteacher

