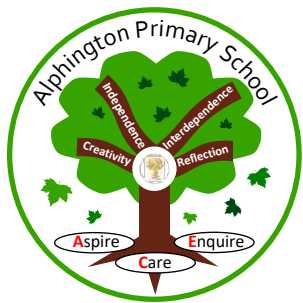




Alphington Primary School

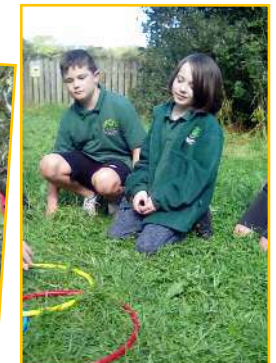
Newsletter

17/12/2021



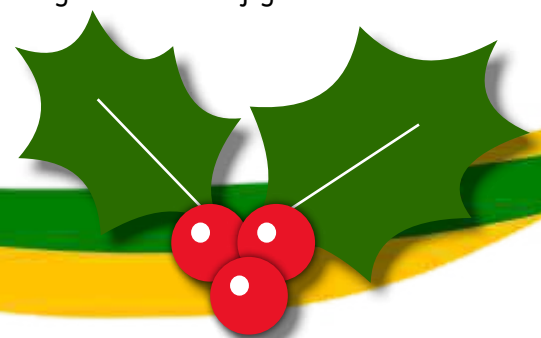
Message from the Headteacher

What a term we have had! Despite the Covid interruptions, we are very pleased to have been able to carry on with amazing learning opportunities for the children. The children have really immersed themselves in their themes and have been fantastic writers, mathematicians, artists and scientists, amongst other things. Your children really have been brilliant! They have thrown themselves into all that has been offered, with so many children taking part in clubs and other activities.



I would also like to thank you all for your support and patience during another uncertain time. We don't know what lies ahead but I do know that we will face any challenges as we always have, with the amazing community we have. Thank you. For all of you who have sadly, ended this term either with Covid or having to isolate, we send you all our best wishes and we are looking forward to welcoming you back in January. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you that celebrate, a magical Christmas and a very happy new year.

Sharon



Christmas performances:

We are looking forward to sharing the children's Christmas performances with you tomorrow when we send home the link and details of how to access them.

Clubs:

Next term, we are pleased to continue to work with Sporty Stars to run a KS1 and KS2 football club on a Monday alongside a KS1 Parachute club on a Friday. Follow the website link on the poster to book sessions. We will also be running additional clubs led by staff which will be shared with you in the new year.



after school Clubs @ ALPHINGTON

Monday
Football KS1 & KS2
Friday Parachute KS1

Sporty Stars are bringing back our popular and award-winning after school club, to your school in the new year. Children can expect a range of fastpaced games, have lots of fun and enhance their skills and techniques.

KS1 and KS2 Football will take place on the Astro Turf and School Field.
Parachute Games will be in the School hall.

Ages: KS1 & KS2
Dates: 6 Weeks
Football: 10th Jan - 14th Feb
Parachute: 14th Jan - 18th Feb
Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm **Price:** £33 per club

Additional info: Parents to collect children from the School playground. Children to wear sporty clothing or PE kit.

Book Online: <https://www.sportystarseducation.co.uk/after-school-clubs/>

info@sportystars.co.uk SportyStars SportyStars UK





School lunches:

Please note that there has been a change in the lunch menu for the first two days on our return in January, as the school kitchen had to swap the meals on Wednesday and Thursday. This has been changed on the school gateway app for you.

PE days:

There are a few changes to the PE timetable for the New Year which are shown below. If your class isn't on the list this is because their PE days have stayed the same.

Hedgehogs: Wednesday and Friday

Foxes: Wednesday and Thursday

Dragonflies: Monday and Thursday

Avocets: Monday and Tuesday

Badgers: Monday and Tuesday.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 4th January: Non pupil day

Wednesday 5th January: Children return to school.



Phase News - Early Years

Ladybirds

What a brilliant start to the year for our preschool children! They have been such superstars, making lots of new friends and getting stuck into some amazing play. Over the last few weeks they have enjoyed dressing up for a very special Christmas photo shoot, having their faces painted and making lots of beautiful Christmas crafts. The children showed great concentration while playing guitars for a Christmas sing along- they listened carefully to the rhythm and made some brilliant music. Mrs Claus's kitchen has been filled with lots of wonderful role play; the Ladybirds have been busy baking, tidying and even serving Christmas dinner. We are so impressed with the amazing start our Ladybirds have made to preschool and are excited to see what wonderful learning awaits next term.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

We are so proud of all the Foxes and Hedgehogs for a fantastic first term at school, they have settled into school life brilliantly, built new friendships and had lots of fun along the way! Their year began with 'Marvellous Me' where we were visited by the dastardly Evil Pea who set the children lots of mischievous challenges to complete. We then explored 'Amazing Illuminations' where the children were real risk-taking Rosie's on our stargazing night, this led to a real curiosity about the dark and space which we investigated in our provision. More recently, the children have been learning about how lights are used in celebration through comparing a range of festivals and traditions from Diwali to Christmas. They have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit this week in provision; making snowflake art and creating Christmas trees and decorations, all topped off by a yummy Christmas lunch. The excitement continued with a Forest Folk party involving an outdoor disco, parachute games and even a mud slide!



Phase News - KS1

Year 1

Bumblebees and Squirrels have worked really hard on their final writes this week and they have produced some amazing stories based on 'The Way Back Home.'

We are very impressed with their final pieces of work! We have also been working hard on our 'Starry, Starry Night' pictures in our Art lessons and the final pieces look brilliant!

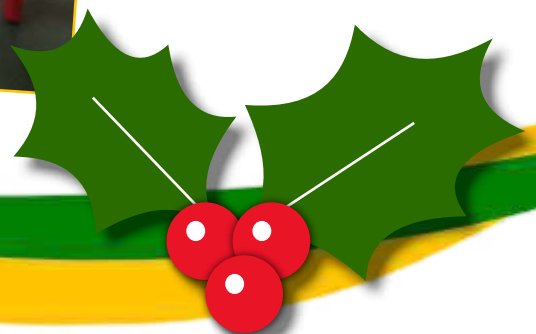
This week we had lots of fun using our science knowledge to complete a Christmas Escape Room!

Year 2

Grasshoppers and Dragonflies have been working very hard during the last week of term! In our theme lessons, we talked about parliament and we also made our own version of the Bayeux tapestry using felt!

We have enjoyed writing our own postcards about the perfect Christmas and we loved making Christmas cards during our Art lesson! We also loved taking part in this week's Christmas quizzes and enjoyed getting very competitive!

We really enjoyed dressing up in our Christmas outfits to record our Christmas performance – we hope you enjoy watching it!



Phase News - KS2

Year 3 have been excellent learners this term. In maths they have been finding out all about angles, learning about less than, greater than and right angles- the children even went on a right-angle hunt! In English, the children have enjoyed their Autumn poetry, using personification, metaphors, and alliteration. This term, the children have loved learning all about the Romans and what they did for us, famous Romans such as Boudicca and about strange things that the Romans used to do.

In science, the children have completed their learning on forces and magnets whilst discovering the different magnetic materials, how different surfaces create different amounts of friction and that magnets have two different poles which can attract and repel each other. It has been fun experimenting! They have also recorded their singing for Lucerne house, have enjoyed their yummy Christmas lunches this week and created Christmas wreaths, so they are feeling very festive and ready for the holidays!



Year 4 have been super learners this term and shown such empathy when learning about the rainforest and its need to be protected. The children have learnt about how chocolate is made and discussed how sometimes wages are not fair for all people involved in the process. They also learnt about many different things which are made from rainforest resources. It was rather surprising!

In English, the children have loved being writers and produced incredible writing, based on a Rainforest Rough Guide and An Anthology of Intriguing Animals. Some of the facts they learnt were absolutely jaw-dropping! The children loved hearing about the quokka (often called nature's happiest animal) and finding out that cheetahs have approximately 2000-3000 spots!

'Can Do Maths' has been a hit and the children have loved proving Coco the Cockatoo wrong on many occasions. Their explanations to help her have been clear and we think she knows a lot more maths knowledge now.

In outdoor learning, the children have enjoyed learning about foot chains, classification keys as well as a Christmas themed scavenger hunt which included tasks such as having to whisper until the next clue or having to walk around the perimeter of the pond as a sheep- noises were optional!



Year 5 have had a fantastic half term studying the Ancient Maya. They have learnt about Mayan Gods, food, clothing, class systems and used Ancient Mayan artwork to work as historians and uncover information about Mayan chores and punishments. They were brutal!

Year 5 have also thrown themselves into their new English persuasion topic, writing letters to combat the plastic crisis. The children have been incredibly motivated by this topic and have been taking it upon themselves to go on daily litter picks around school and discuss the best ways to tackle this crisis.

It has been lovely to see the children do such a great job with their Christmas singing as the term ends whilst also enjoying making natural decorations using our many resources outdoors. Well done for such a super half term Year 5!

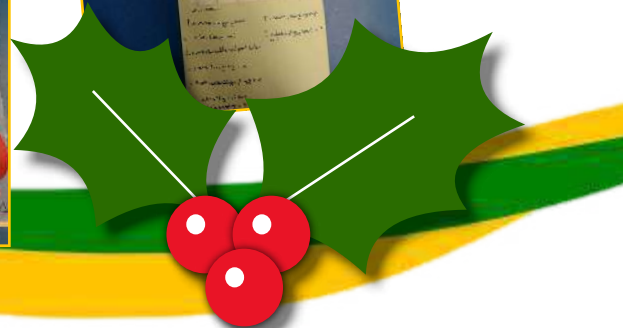
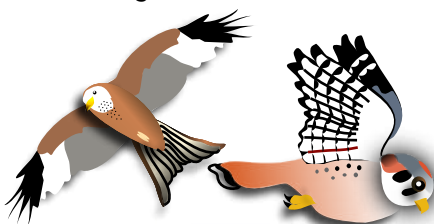
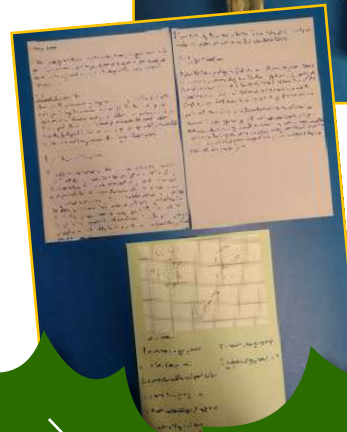
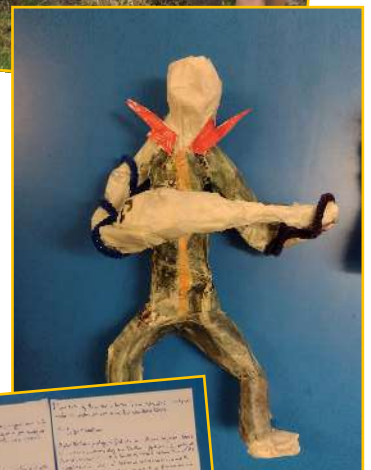


Year 6 have had a busy term and worked so hard in all areas of the curriculum. In Year 6, the children have explored a variety of Wallace's contraptions (from Wallace and Gromit) and have invented their own contraptions, writing detailed explanations and creating sophisticated blueprints. Some of the super contraptions included: Hutch Hoover, Re-toyable to fix old toys and the 'Egg-O-Matic' to collect the eggs from your chickens. They have focused on exploring lots of high-level vocabulary including the word aforementioned! Ask the children if they can use it in a sentence!

During theme, the children have explored different games, music and fashion from 1930s to present day. They designed and created their own board games and 3D models for their own outfits inspired by an era. During their art sessions, the children have studied the work of Banksy and explored stencils, testing their prototypes, and improving them until they became graffiti artists and spray painted their own designs.

It has been great to use outdoors to help the children with their science where they have learnt about how to distinguish living things from observable features. The children created classification keys and detailed descriptions of a range of animals and created their own invertebrates.

The year 6 children have loved their PE, focussing on batting and fielding skills in cricket and indoor seated volleyball using their core strength to balance.



Wraparound club:



This half term Wraparound Club have enjoyed many activities based around our Winter Wonderland topic. The mild weather has allowed the children to explore the wonderful outdoor spaces and enjoy some team games - something all our children have really benefited from. Winter art and craft has also been a huge success. The children have created natural artwork using sticks and leaves gathered from the forest, ice artwork that allowed them to explore the freezing process, pumpkin carving, and other Halloween craft, finished off with a week full of Christmas fun.



It has been a pleasure to share the first term of this academic year with your children and we are already looking forward to welcoming them back after what we hope will be a magical Christmas break.

