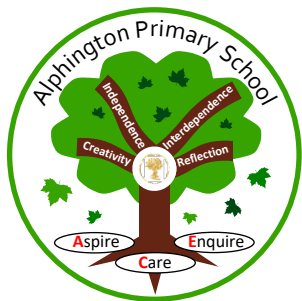




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

14/01/2022



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! It has been lovely seeing you all after the Christmas break and I hope that all of you who celebrate, had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

The children have come back to school in good spirits and have enjoyed taking part in their hook days.

Teachers have been busying working and filming their curriculum information for the term ahead. The curriculum maps, facts videos and curriculum videos are available on our Facebook page and website for you. I hope that you find these useful.

We are looking forward to a more 'normal' term and look forward to sharing your child's learning with you.

Covid rules:

As I am sure you are aware, there is currently a National suspension in the need for PCR tests for anyone who has a positive lateral flow test, if they are displaying no Covid symptoms. From Monday, if you / your child do not have any symptoms and test positive on a lateral flow test, they do not need to take a PCR test. They must then follow the self-isolation rules:

- The person who tests positive must isolate for 5 days.
- They can take a lateral flow test on day 5 and again, 24 hours later on day 6.
- If both of these tests are negative, then the self-isolation period can end.
- If they are still positive, then you can retest on the following consecutive days.
- You need 2 negative lateral flow tests (24 hours apart) before self-isolation can end before the original 10 day period.
- The day of the test is day 0 so must not be counted in the 5/6 day information above.
- If you/your child develops symptoms, then a PCR test must be sought rather than a lateral flow test.
- This also applies to anyone who is currently self isolating.

As we continue to see cases grow, both within school and in the wider community, please can I recommend that you carry out routine lateral flow tests of your children so we know we are doing all we can, to keep everyone safe. Thank you, as always, for all of your support with this and let's hope that we are coming towards the end of this wave.

Clubs:

We are delighted to be working with Sporty Stars this term who will be running the football club for KS1 and KS2 on a Monday after school. Please can we encourage you to sign your child up if they are interested in doing this, as low numbers last week meant that all ages were out together.

Going forward this will be run as two separate football clubs which will be held on either the field or astro turf. Sporty Stars will also be running a KS1 multi skills club based in the hall. (Please note that wraparound will be held in the year 3/4 shared area during this time) Please book all Sporty Stars clubs through their website: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/after-school-clubs.html>

In addition to this Mr Turner will be running an after school singing club on a Tuesday for KS1 and KS2 between 330-430pm. This club can be booked in the usual way through the school gateway app and is now available for you to book. We will be adding more after school clubs during the year.

Rocksteady:

Would your child like to play in their very own rock band? Rocksteady in-school band lessons are the perfect opportunity for your child to learn new skills, develop friendships and have the time of their life. Rocksteady come into school every Wednesday and children love getting involved. Please take a look at this short video to see what learning in a band could do for your child's well-being:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/watch-video/>

Future Aspiration Assemblies:

This term, we want to explore different careers and pathways for children to promote our Aspiration focus. It is important that from an early age, pupils are exposed to a range of careers and develop their own aspirations. To support with this, we are looking for any parents who are interested in sharing what they do with our pupils, why they chose this career and what skills are needed. We have been looking at learning characteristics linked to subjects and professions. As we are still not having visitors in school, we will be pre-recording this with set questions to share. Each week, during the assembly, we will show these videos with classes which will then promote discussion. It would be great to share a range of jobs and professions to expose pupils to as many different pathways as possible! If you are interested in this, please contact admin@alphington.devon.sch.uk

Dates for your diary:

International Faith Day: Friday 21st January

Queens jubilee celebration: Monday 7th February

Children Mental Health Week: Week beginning 7th February

Parents drop in evenings: Week beginning 14th February

Half term: 21st -25th February

Children return to school: Monday 28th February

World Book Day: Thursday 3rd March



School office:

We are delighted to welcome Susan Tansley to the office team and I am sure you will look forward to speaking with her over the coming days and weeks.

Special menu:

On Thursday 20th January we have a change of lunch menu for the children. This meal can be ordered in the usual way, either by the school gateway app or via your child's class teacher that day.

Wild West Cowboy Menu

Census Day

Thursday 20th January 2022

Wild Westcountry Sausage or Quorn Sausage

served with

Potato wedges & Sweetcorn

followed by

Sticky Toffee Cake

*special dietary requirements catered for
please contact your kitchen manager*



Phase News - Early Years

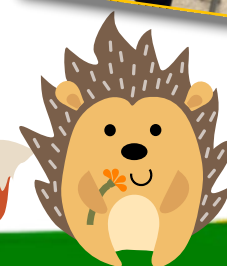
Ladybirds

The Ladybirds have had a fantastic start to the Spring term learning all about fairy tales. Each week they will be learning a new story and exploring lots of learning linked to the characters and plot in their play. This week's tale was 'The Enormous Turnip' the children have really enjoyed telling the story using actions and repeating the events in the correct order. They have been acting out the story in the home corner, dressing up as the characters and have explored sensory play in the small world, building a farm with oats and grains and creating different pens for the animals. They have also been thinking about the word 'enormous' and using it to compare the size of different objects. There has been a big focus on fine motor skills this week where the children have built finger strength by rolling, pinching and cutting playdough to create a range of designs as well as squeezing sponges in the water play to wash the sea creatures.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

The Foundation children have had a wild start to the Spring term with a visit from some amazing animals. They were all really brave and held and stroked a range of animals including mice, geckos, stick insects and even a royal python! The children were very curious and asked some fantastic questions about 'what the animals ate?' 'What tricks they could do?' and 'where they lived'. They particularly enjoyed watching the mice walk a tightrope and the geckos jump onto some of the very brave Foxes and Hedgehogs. They continued to investigate 'What's inside the egg?' in a fun filled forest folk session focussed on birds. The children went bird watching, looking to spot any birdlife around our school grounds and then had fun making two types of bird feeders as well as practising their knot tying skills; using sticks and wool to make fishing rods.



Phase News - KS1

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to 2022! The children have fully immersed themselves into becoming Dino Detectives, starting our theme with a visit from the dinosaur dome where we looked at the different types of dinosaurs, their names, and their different features. The children then explored some different fossils and even found dinosaur poo inside a fossil! Inside the dome, we transported back to the Jurassic period and learnt all about what Earth was like when the dinosaurs were alive. The children also put their fossil knowledge to the test and used clay to make their very own ammonite models. In English, the children have been creative writers looking at the Irish Myth 'Song of the sea'. They have been looking at using alliterations and repetition in their writing to create an atmosphere.



Year 2 - Grasshoppers and Dragonflies have had a marvellous start to 2022! The children all loved taking part in the different activities on their hook day at the start of our 'Marvellous Medicine' topic! As our new topic is about health and medicine, the children learned how to put bandages on each other and they had lots of fun performing first aid on teddies! They also got to make some special thank you cards for our NHS heroes! It was also a very messy day and the children loved exploring what happened when we made ooblek using cornflour and water. To finish the day, the children made mini plastic rockets using vitamin c tablets and water. As the mixture fizzed inside the plastic tubes, the lids flew off. They flew up really high and the children got very excited! During our English lessons, the children have been writing their own stories based on the text 'Little Red Reading Hood' and have been working hard on using a range of adjectives, adverbs and similes to convey different meanings



Phase News - KS2

It has been so lovely to have KS2 children back after the holidays and they have been settling in well despite the cold, wet weather! All of KS2 have now had their hook days and there is a definite buzz of excitement with their new themes.

Year 3's new theme of: Who is the Greatest Artist? started colourfully as the children became artists for day exploring different ways of creating art. They worked with Mrs Coombes in the afternoon to create printing blocks inspired by Frida Kahlo. They have also been thinking about how they can be artists in our outdoor area and created a colour wheel out of natural resources. Finally, the children discussed many different forms of art including music, dancing, poetry and singing. A great day was had by all!



In **Year 4**, the children have been learning about the Terrific Tudors! They were very excited to solve a mystery of who stole the jewellery from a crime committed in Tudor times. The children have looked at evidence and quotes left from several suspects and were able to identify the thief! They have learnt many facts about Tudors including that just stealing 11p meant a trip to prison but 12p, meant execution! The children have loved learning about family crests, creating shields, making pomanders, and completing the sniff test to see what spices and foods were discovered during Tudor times.



Year 5 had a superb hook day learning about Space. Having a visit from the Space Dome was a real treat and the adults and children loved seeing the stars and learning phenomenal facts. The children loved creating their own abstract Peter Thorpe inspired abstract space art using paint and produced wonderful work. They also listened to Holst's: The Planets and created compositions to represent Earth. The children decided it would sound busy! Finally, they created shape poetry describing different aspects of space.



In **Year 6**, the children had to survive for their hook day! Based on the text, Kensuke's Kingdom, the children had to imagine they had been washed up on a deserted island and had to prioritise how they were going to survive. Year 6 prioritised shelter first of all... they went out to Pearl's Land and the woods to build shelters using an array of different resources and got rather muddy. Next, they needed to find a way off the island so made their own rafts and then tested to see if they floated or sunk. The children formed tribes where they made headdresses so they could be identified by other members of their teams and they wrote survival log diary messages hoping to be found, telling our story of survival.

The children cannot wait to learn more survival skills with Devon Wildlife Trust this half term.



Wraparound News:

Welcome back and welcome to all our new starters - it's great to see you all! We have had a lovely first week of term with your children and have very much enjoyed catching up with them all and hearing about their Christmas holiday fun. We're pleased to let you know that we are not currently working in pods, which has allowed the children to reconnect with their friends across the wider school.



This half term our Wraparound topic is Traditional Tales. The children have already begun to immerse themselves in a world of storytelling through dress up activities, playdough character creating and role play with the small world toys. The children always play an active role in the planning of activities and we will continue to take our lead from them as they explore new and old traditional tales.

Please could we remind parents that children must be booked into session before they attend. It is vital that bookings are made in advance to ensure the ratios are adhered to. Parents who pay via childcare providers are reminded to email the Wraparound account with details of the payment each time a payment is made, as this allows us to locate the payment and credit your school gateway accounts.

