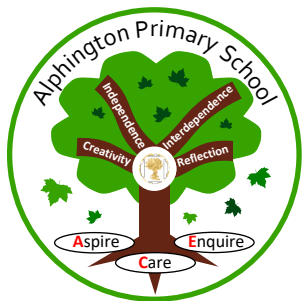




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

28/01/2022



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in school. Despite continuing to see covid cases rise across the school which means that we need to stay in our enhanced measures, we are pleased to have been able to take part in some extra curriculum events.

World Faith Day:

The children had a fantastic day on Friday celebrating World Religion Day. They discussed why this day is so important. Some answers included: "So that we learn to understand and respect other," and "So that we can solve disagreements easier when we are older as we have more of an understanding of others beliefs," Each class then put their creativity into action and created a piece of artwork to celebrate the day. We were blown away by their work!

Miss Collinson- RE lead



Netball:

The netball league got off to an amazing start last Monday! All team members put in 100% effort, observing and working with each other's strengths throughout. West Exe were fantastic hosts, and we very much look forward to playing again soon. A huge well done to those involved - your enthusiasm and passion was infectious. (Plus, a bonus of a 7- 0 victory!)

Gymnastics:

Well done to our gymnasts who attended an inter school competition at West Exe last week. The whole squad were amazing, and we came away with first, second and third place. Well done everyone!



Community Outdoor Learning Day:

The children had a fantastic day at Barton Fields last week working as part of the local community to plant trees and bulbs alongside children from other local schools.



Safer Internet Day:

On Tuesday, 8 February we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day. This year, we will be celebrating young people's roles in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers. The theme this year is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. In class and through our assembly, pupils will explore what constitutes respectful behaviour online, and know what to do if they encounter hate or bullying directed at them or someone else. We will continue to learn how to keep ourselves and others safe.

Queens Jubilee:

On the 6th of February the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne. To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, the school will be holding a special day on Monday the 7th of February where the children will learn about the Queen's life and official roles. We will also be looking at how the UK and the world have changed over the past 70 years; how things have developed; how they have remained the same and the people who have left an impact. To help with the celebrations we would like children to wear red, white and blue for the day.

Mr Moore- History lead





Wellbeing award:

We are excited to share with you that we are currently in the process of working towards The Wellbeing Award for Schools. This award aims to promote and protect the wellbeing and mental health of the children and staff in school. It not only celebrates what we are doing already but enables us to review our current provision and develop this further to commit to a clear strategy ensuring that mental health and wellbeing sit at the heart of our school community. The award recognises the importance of the wider school community; working with pupils, staff, parents and governors. As parents, you will be receiving an email with a link to complete a quick questionnaire to share your views. As a key part of our school community, we value your views in giving us insightful feedback before we review our current provision.

Miss Brackley - RSE lead

Open evening:

As we have been unable to hold face-to-face parents evenings, we are planning to have a drop-in session during the week commencing 7th March, so that you can see your child's classroom and their learning. As these are drop-in sessions rather than formal booked meetings, you don't need to book a session so, please feel free to arrive at any time during the open evening which will run from 4.00-5.45pm. Class teachers will also be available during these sessions. Please can we ask that, to allow for site cleaning, that you have left the site by 6.00pm.

These sessions will need to be in line with our Covid risk assessment so please can we ask that you only use the entrance allocated to your class and wear a facemask when on site. To limit the number of visitors on site at the same time, we have set aside one evening per year group and split this across the school. Children are also welcome to attend but must stay with their parents. We are really looking forward to sharing your child's learning with you.

This event will be in addition to our usual planned parent / teacher meetings, which we will hold later in the term.

Foundation: Thursday 10th March- please use the main gate and then come in through the horse shoe.

Year 1: Wednesday 9th March- please use the main gate and then enter the classrooms through the year 1 playgrounds.

Year 2: Tuesday 8th March please use the main gate, walk through the cage and then come into school by the main playground where you drop your child off.

Year 3: Wednesday 9th March - please use the main gate, walk through the cage and then come in the side doors to year 3.

Year 4: Thursday 10th March- please use the main gate and come in through the side doors to year 4.

Year 5: Tuesday 8th March- please use the main gate, walk through the cage and then into the year 5 classrooms.

Year 6: Monday 7th March -please use the main gate, walk through the cage and then into the year 6 classrooms.

Dates for the diary:

Queens Jubilee celebration - wear red, white and blue: Monday 7th February

Half term week: 21st-25th Feb

Class open evening: W/C 7th March



Phase News - Early Years

Ladybirds

Preschool have been learning all about fairy tales and this week they have been transported to the world of Jack and the Beanstalk. A giant beanstalk appeared in the classroom with the giant's castle and the children have had great fun retelling the story and creating their own imaginary 'giant themed' play. The Ladybirds worked as a team to build beanstalks and had races up and down them in the outside area. They have also spent time learning about the different sounds instruments can make and how we can move our bodies to match them. This week we are exploring the story 'The Princess and the Pea'; using puppets to tell the story and investigate the life cycle of a pea. We will be introducing the children to weight and discovering what is heavier and lighter by balancing objects using our hands, bodies, and scales.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

Foundation have been exploring farms this week through the story of 'Rosie's Walk'. They have learnt to tell the story, using positional language to describe where Rosie went on her walk and the funny things that happened along the way. They then used this language to build their own 'walks' during Forest Folk and collaborated with a partner to guide them through the obstacles while blindfolded.

The Foxes and Hedgehogs learnt about healthy foods and wrote a recipe for their very own healthy smoothie which they then enjoyed making and drinking. They have been studying the art work of Kandinsky and used collage to make their own pieces inspired by his work.

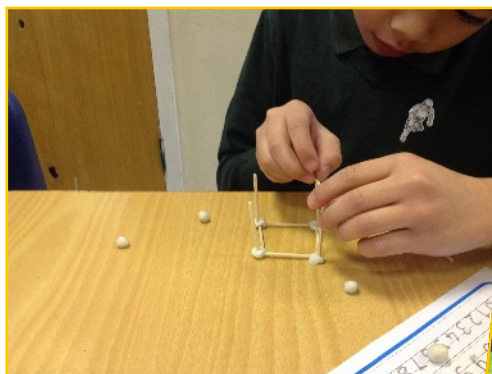


Phase News - KS1

Year One enjoyed celebrating World Faith Day last week. We discussed the importance of listening to others and finding out about different religions. The children were then collaborative Callies and worked in groups to create some beautiful watercolour paintings to mark the celebrations. In Maths, the children have been exploring partitioning numbers and using different methods to represent this. They have shown lots of resilience and problem-solving skills when they learnt about bar models. We have also seen some fantastic online learning from the children isolating, it's been great to see everyone being so resilient!

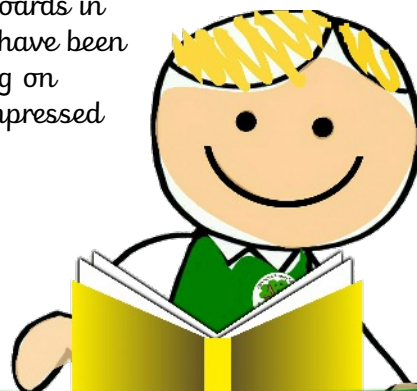


Year 2: Grasshoppers and Dragonflies have been enjoying this term's theme lessons about Florence Nightingale. The children have loved learning about how important she was and they also had lots of fun using the 'Now Press Play' headphones to act out the key events in her life. In our Maths lessons, the children made 3-D shapes using playdough and wooden straws and were able to use words like 'vertices, faces and edges' to identify the properties of the shapes which they had created. During our PSHE lessons, the children have been working on dreams and goals. We have set ourselves some targets and have also discussed the different jobs which they would be good at when they grow up!



Phase News - KS2

Year 3 have certainly had some great dance moves this week! The Year 3 children have been learning different steps (some very complicated) to sequence a dance and have shown so much determination and collaboration. In English, they have been preparing the final writes after enjoying the story of Wolves in the Walls... we cannot wait to see what is coming out of the walls, ceilings and floorboards in Year 3's stories soon! In maths, the Year 3 children have been becoming column addition experts and been working on regrouping and exchanging. We have been really impressed with their layout and problem-solving. Well done Year 3!



In **Year 4**, the children have been learning all about sound and how we hear. They have tested how we can affect the volume by dropping objects from different heights, how we can muffle sounds and also learnt about the loudest sounds ever made. One of the loudest ever sounds recorded was the eruption of volcano Krakatoa in 1883. It created a sound wave which registered 180 dB and was so loud it was heard 3000 miles away! The children have also been busy finishing the story of The Lost Thing. They cannot wait to start their final writes next week. Finally, both classes have been working hard to improve Pearl's land for people and wildlife by making bird-feeders, clearing the polytunnel, laying woodchips around the fire-pit and improving the bug hotel. A busy week for Year 4!



In **Year 5**, the children have continued to love their theme about space. During the week, they have had very heated discussions debating about whether it was right or wrong to send animals into space in the name of exploration. The children showed excellent debating skills. Also, Year 5 learnt all about the Space Race and how exciting it was to see who would get to the moon first! In science, the children have been learning all about the planets, their sizes and their temperatures. They noticed there is a pattern with how close the planet is to sun affects the temperature. The children look forward to writing a NASA persuasive letter next week showing all of their learning so far! Finally, in maths the children have been learning about angles and improving their accuracy whilst using a protractor. It has been challenging but we have been Resilient Rons' to ensure we get more accurate each time we measure.



Year 6 had a very enjoyable session of outdoor learning with Devon Wildlife Trust. Paul tells us he doesn't know who was more excited using flints and steels, the children or teachers! The children showed excellent learning behaviours and resilience lighting fires in the cold, frosty morning and were 'Collaborative Callies' collecting the required natural resources. In maths, Year 6 have been increasing their knowledge of fractions dividing and multiplying them, adding and subtracting them and moving onto word problems involving fractions. Lots of quick times table recall has helped! Lastly, in English, the children have been writing beautiful stories linked to Kensuke's Kingdom. Their vocabulary used to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind, has been incredible- it is like we are on a yacht when reading them!

