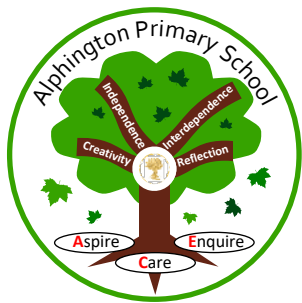




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

04/03/2022



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely half term break and managed to spend some time with friends and family. The children have settled well back into school, and we are all looking forward to the forthcoming half term.

We are also looking forward to seeing you all next week as part of the drop in sessions, where you will be able to see your children's work and classroom. Please can we ask that you still wear a face covering when in the school building. Thank you.

Covid update:

As we head towards a more 'normal' way of living and working, I am sure that many of you will have mixed feelings about this. Some of you will be pleased about the relaxation in measures whilst others may feel more concerned about what this may mean for them and their family. I am sure that we will continue to work together to keep all of our school community, safe and well.

- Face coverings are no longer required in the school grounds, although I am aware that some people, both staff and parents, will feel more comfortable wearing these.
- We will continue with good hygiene measures, including hand washing and the use of hand sanitisers.
- School will remain well ventilated, so children should still dress warmly.
- Wraparound club will continue to run in the same way.
- Children/adults who test positive will be asked not to attend school for 10 days after testing positive or on receipt of two daily consecutive negative lateral flow tests from day 5 onwards.
- The day of the positive test is still day 0.
- Any child/adult who has Covid symptoms should have a PCR test and not come into school.
- Remote learning mats will continue to be shared through our website.

Swimming pool:

We have been working hard to get the swimming pool up and running but have encountered lots of issues along the way including a broken boiler, damaged flooring, a leak in the pool and a rotten fire escape. We have started these repairs and hope to get the pool open as soon as possible.

Academic mentor:

We are delighted to welcome Lea Lutke to the team who will be joining us next week. Mrs Lutke will be working with a range of children across the school as part of the National Tutoring Programme.

Volunteers:

As things start to ease, we are hoping to start getting our amazing volunteers back into school. If you would like to help with the PTFA, hearing children read or supporting with a particular project then we would love to hear from you. All volunteers will need a new DBS check so please contact the school office so that we can get this process started.

Mothers Day / Special person event:

We are really looking forward to working with the PTFA for their first on site fundraising event this year! The PTFA will run a Mother's Day / Special person event on Thursday 24th March where children will be able to select a small gift for their mum or a special person in their life. Children will be able to bring in £2.00 on that day and will bring home their wrapped gift.



Girl's football:

To celebrate the Women's Euro competition in July, we are taking part in a national event to promote as many girls as possible playing football on the same day. As a school, we have organised a day of girls football from Year 2-6 which will be run by Sporty Stars. The boys will also have a PE session that day. Please can all children from Year 2 to 6 wear their PE kit on Wednesday in addition to their normal PE days. <https://girlsfootballinschools.org/letgirlsplay.php>

Red Nose Day / Red Cross Appeal:

As I am sure you are aware, the Red Cross has launched an appeal to support those living through the crisis in Ukraine. With this in mind, we will be holding a joint fundraising appeal day on Friday 18th March. Children will be able to come to school wearing either something red or a Red Nose Day t-shirt/nose. All money raised will be split jointly between the two charities. You will be able to make your donation via the school Gateway app.

If your child is worried about the news, the websites below may be useful when talking to your child about the situation in the Ukraine.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40019250>



Dates for your diary:

International Women's Day: Tuesday 8th March -this will be celebrated in school through a linked assembly

Girls Football: Wednesday 9th March

Year 1 Sports Festival: Wednesday 9th March

Red Nose Day/Red Cross Appeal: Friday 18th March

Last day of term: Friday 8th April

Term starts again: Monday 25th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May

Half term: Monday 30th May

Bank Holiday for Queen's Jubilee: Monday 6th June

Term starts again: Tuesday 7th June



The CAP Money Course is coming to Alphington

Over three sessions we will explore with the help of videos and a workbook

- how to build and live on a budget
- how the CAP money system works
- how to live week to week without using credit

The CAP Money Course has been found to be useful for newly retired people, soon-to-be students, singles living alone or with children, couples moving in together, parents dealing with mounting bills, anyone wanting to save for a big future event – in fact it is for everyone. The CAP money course has been helping people to manage their money since 2008 with thousands of participants attending the sessions supported by hard copy and online resources.

"Before the CAP Money Course I never knew where I was and felt overwhelmed about how to budget. Now my finances are clear and I'm confident managing them."

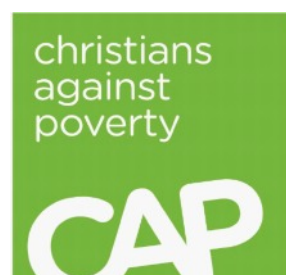
Having the tools to set a budget and stick to it, helps to debt-proof people in the long term. There are more than 1,000 churches in the UK delivering the CAP Money Course in their locality. Now CAP volunteer money coaches are offering the course in Alphington for the first time. It is free, confidential, and open to everyone. No-one needs to share details of their finances unless they choose to do so.

Knowing the state of your finances is likely to become even more important over the coming months. The course, resources and Money management tools are free to all participants.

To find out more and book a place, go online at

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

or phone Alan and Marjorie Douglas on 01392 434176



Phase News: Early Years

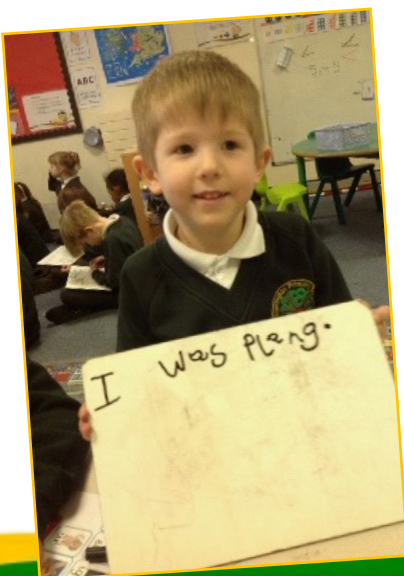
Ladybirds

This term we are focusing on growth, through our key question, Where does that come from?. We have started to learn about the difference in human life, identifying the separate stages of growth from babies to elders, and are enjoying noticing signs of spring in our outdoor environment. This week we have had great fun learning about Shrove Tuesday and creating lots of exciting and delicious pancake toppings. We have been sharing local traditions and held our very own pancake races, exploring the language of 1st, 2nd 3rd and practising hand eye coordination by perfecting our flipping skills. The ladybirds enjoyed sharing the story of 'The Big Pancake' and spent time acting it out during discovery time. This week's mathematical exploration is all about the number 4; the Ladybirds have been busy counting sets of 4, subitising 4 and recognising the numeral 4.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

Foundation have started their new topic 'Once upon a time' with a bang this week! After listening to our new story 'Jack and the jellybean stalk' the children had great fun designing sweets for our sweet shop and using their fantastic descriptive skills to describe them- after all that hard work it was important to taste the sweets too! Fantastic problem-solving skills and resilience have been used to build jelly towers using cubes of jelly and straws, and the children have been exploring colour mixing using equations to demonstrate how to make new colours. Foundation have been busy in the giant's kitchen, writing menus with some inventive and unusual flavours of jellybeans and creating signs to advertise their inventive menu. There has been lots of celebration in Foundation this week with a busy day learning about Pancake Day and St David's day on Tuesday. We learnt about why we celebrate pancake day on Shrove Tuesday and enjoyed lots of pancake fun: we flipped phonics pancakes, decorated, and designed our own pancakes, read stories about pancakes, and ended the day by tasting some pancakes.



Phase News: KS1

Year 1 have finished the 'bold women in history' unit and have worked incredibly hard to write their own biographies on Mrs. Patterson and Miss Fenlon, including skills such as alliteration and exciting adjectives. The children have enjoyed becoming scientists and have completed their own investigation about what a plant needs to be healthy. We were all fascinated to see that the plants without sunlight grew but turned a yellow colour! Both Squirrels and Bumblebees have enjoyed celebrating world book day this year. They have looked at the text 'Beasties' and used different treasure to create their own adventure stories. They have also taken inspiration from the book 'Shopping Basket' and used bar models in maths to work out how many items they had left in their baskets. Finally the children enjoyed an afternoon building reading dens and other story-related activities.



Year 2 - The Grasshoppers and Dragonflies loved dressing up in their costumes for World Book Day this week! We also took part in lots of fun book-related activities! We designed our own super villain for a story and made our own comic strips. Our new book covers were very creative and we also enjoyed sharing book recommendations with our friends. The children have also produced some fantastic final writes about 'Big Cats!' They used the different features of reports in their final writes and included lots of interesting facts about leopards to inform our reader. Our new topic is called 'Extreme Environments and Intrepid Explorers' and on our Hook Day at the start of the term, the children took part in lots of different activities including making arctic/desert art work and learning about the different countries in the United Kingdom. The children also enjoyed our 'Now Press Play' about life in the Arctic!

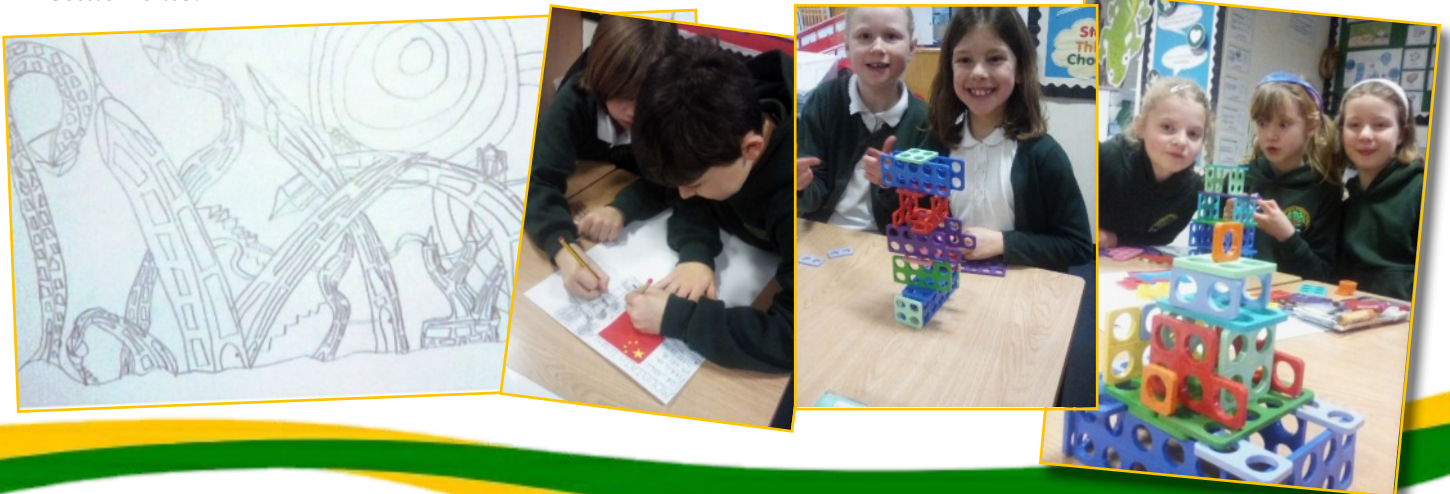


Phase News: KS2

Year 3 have had a super start to the half term beginning their new theme all about the Ancient Egyptians. During their hook day this week, the children had an amazing art experience with Mrs Coombes where they produced beautiful silhouette pictures with colourful paint washes, made mummified tomatoes, created Egyptian head dresses, and learnt so much during an immersive experience with Now Press Play. We cannot wait to find out even more about the Ancient Egyptians this half term! It has also been a great start to English with the new text: The Incredible Eating Boy. We will share with you soon, why he is so incredible....



In **Year 4**, this week's hook day was filled with challenges related to the new theme: 'Extreme Homes' where the children will be learning about settlements and what makes a village. The day started with a quiz where the children learnt many facts about villages and settlements and then learnt about 7 of the most extreme places to live in the world. Afterwards, in groups, the children created a persuasive advert to encourage someone to buy a house on top of a mountain in China- where there is only a ladder to get to the top! The children also enjoyed making settlements for object and toys, drawing awesome skyscraper pictures and building Numicon towers. We were so impressed with the children's collaboration and cannot wait to find out even more about villages and settlements.



Year 5

This week, we started our new Theme topic, "How does the water get in my cup?" with our hook day. The children learnt all about Georges Seurat and the painting technique pointillism. The children then painted their own river sketches using pointillism. They also created water themed haikus and learnt about the structure of these poems, where they had to be careful counting syllables. In Science, the children took part in multiple water-themed experiments, which were very fun! Finally, on Friday, the children had our first session with Devon Wildlife Trust, where they started looking at maps and how to use keys to represent different features in an environment. The new English and Maths units also started this week, the children are starting to look at balanced arguments and geometry.



Year 6

This week, the children began their new Theme topic, "Friend or Foe?" and spent the afternoon in the shoes of Viking warriors. The children learnt where the Vikings originated from and identified places which they invaded and settled, by cracking the 'runes' code. To decide on whether they would invade or settle in a town, the children engaged in a Viking 'Thing' debate as a class, where their reasoning was very impressive! As well as this, the children designed their own Viking longboat which they will be building later this term in their Design and Technology lessons.



Wraparound News:

Welcome back! We are excited to begin a new half term here at Wraparound Club and our first week got off to a great start. The children enjoyed taking part in some activities to celebrate St David's Day; they created daffodil pictures using their handprints and had a great time making and eating, Welsh Rarebit.

Our topic this half term is Healthy Me. The children have provided us with some wonderful activity ideas which have been incorporated into our planning. Initial conversations show that they already have a good understanding of what makes and keeps them healthy, and this topic will provide the opportunity to deepen this knowledge.

Please could we remind parents to park in the cage when dropping children to breakfast club as the car park is busy at this time of day.

Wraparound Mobile Number: 07912413086 - please use this number should you need to contact Wraparound staff during session times. This number will not pick up text messages so please ensure all other enquiries are emailed to wraparoundclub@alphington.devon.sch.uk in the usual way.

