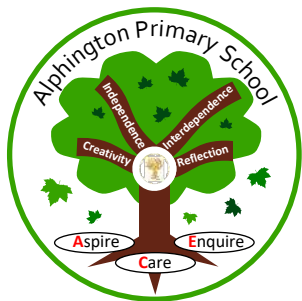




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

6/5/2022



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a lovely start to the new term we have had, with the sun shining - some of the time! It has been lovely seeing the children starting their new topics. If you would like to find out more about these, then please see the curriculum maps and videos on our website.

<https://www.alphington.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/>

The children have also started to enjoy extra curriculum trips with our Foundation children visiting The Plymouth Aquarium, a group of Year 5 children attending a STEM workshop at Maynards school and Year 5 enjoying their Evacuation Day. We are looking forward to other year groups enjoying trips and visits over the term ahead.

Year 6 SATs:

We want to wish all our Year 6 children the best of luck for their SATs next week. They have been amazing, and we know that they are more than ready for them!

Parents evenings:

This term, we will be holding Parent's evenings on Monday 23rd May 3:45 - 5:30pm, Wednesday 25th May 3:45 - 5:30pm and Thursday 26th May 3:45 - 6pm. Bookings will be open from Monday 16th May through our usual online platform and further details of how to book your appointment, will be shared with you nearer the time.

Sports Day:

We recently shared our exciting plans for our school sports days which will be held at The Exeter Arena on 16th June for KS2 and 14th July for Foundation and KS1. We need to book transport well ahead of these events and are asking parents to let us know by Monday 9th May, whether your child requires a place on the coach for a nominal fee of £1.50 or if you would prefer to take your child yourself.

You can do this via the school gateway app by selecting your child and going into payments. You can then choose either 'Sports Day - Pay for coach place' or 'Sports Day - Own travel arrangements'.

If you select 'Own travel arrangements' you will not be asked to pay any charge, but you must add to basket and then check out, for this to register with the school.



Anti-bullying Quality Mark:

Throughout the summer term and next year, we will be working to achieve our Bronze Anti-bullying Quality mark award. This is a national award that challenges schools to demonstrate their effectiveness in anti-bullying and fostering positive relationships.

It endorses the belief that the safety, mental health and wellbeing of everyone are essential elements of learning, development and achievement. This will involve working with children, parents, staff and governors to achieve this award. We look forward to sharing this with you during the summer term.

PTFA - raise £20.22 in 2022!:

Thank you to all of you who have taken part in the challenge and fundraiser. You can now pay any amount of money which you have raised for this event, via the school gateway app.

School summer discos:

We are very excited to be planning a summer school disco for the children. Tickets will be sold by the PTFA at drop-off and pick-up w/c Monday 16th May, by the PTFA noticeboard in the main playground. For our Year 6 children, tickets will be available on Monday 23rd.

The cost is £3.00 per child and each ticket will include entry, drinks, sweets and a glow stick so no additional pocket money is needed.

Class teachers will be around to help any children in Foundation and Year 1 who wish to get changed into their own clothes.

Please contact PTFA if you have any questions.

PTFA@alphington.devon.sch.uk



Dates for the diary:

Year 6 SATs week: 9th May - 12th May

D&S Fire Rescue Service visit to Y2 & Y5: 10th May

Year 6 residential: 16th May - 20th May

Parents Evenings: 23rd, 25th, 26th May

Summer school disco: 24th May

Half term: Monday 30th May - Mon 6th June (children back in school on Tues 7th June)

Sports day for KS2: 16th June

Year 5 residential: 11th-13th July

Sports day for Foundation and KS1: 14th July

PTFA Summer Fayre: Friday 15th July

Last term of term: Friday 22nd July



Phase news - Preschool and Foundation:

Ladybirds

The ladybirds have had an exciting week exploring minibeasts. They have been developing their observation and language skills by identifying a range of minibeasts and using new vocabulary to describe them, as well as beginning to sort and classify them. They have enjoyed reading the story of super worm and have been using their fine motor and counting skills to create their own numbered super worms. Our new climbing frame and slide has been a huge success and has provided the children with lots of opportunities to be risk taking Rosie's and build their climbing skills.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

Foundation started the term with their very first school trip to the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth. They enjoyed a guided tour of the aquarium where they learnt how to communicate like a scuba diver and tested their sense against those of a shark. After exploring the exhibits and having a great time watching the fish and marine life, they took part in a science workshop where they tested which creature was the most efficient plankton feeder and discovered that an egg would float in salty water. Since returning to school they have enjoyed applying their experiences from the aquarium to role play submarines, calculate with shells, and build habitats for sea creatures.



Phase news - Key Stage 1

What a great first week back **Year 1** have had! We started off week 1 with an experience day for our English text, 'Wombat Goes Walkabout'. We looked at different Australian animals and the children particularly loved learning about marsupials. Ask them to tell you some facts at home! Year 1 have made a fab start to their sentence stacking - using powerful vocabulary, repetition for effect and a variety of punctuation. The children are very excited about theme this term and have loved learning all about the Great Fire of London. We kicked off the week with a Now Press Play experience on our hook afternoon, and the children relished in the opportunity to ask questions about their new topic afterwards. We have used timelines to sequence key events from September 2nd - September 6th 1666 and have practised using language such as, 'a long time ago' and 'in the past'. We also had lots of fun learning the popular nursery rhyme, 'London's Burning'. We briefly looked into the history of this rhyme and then learnt to sing it in rounds, with sign language. Go year 1! Science this term has linked to our outdoor learning, where the children have loved exploring their sense of sight. We played 'Eagle Eye' and matched colour swatches to objects in our natural environment - great fun! We look forward to what the rest of term 5 may bring!



In **Year 2**, we started this term's theme about 'Carnival of the Animals' with a very busy Hook Day! We learned about different animals that live in the Amazon rainforest, we took part in a fantastic Now Press Play experience about habitats, and we also made our own carnival masks! They were very colourful and creative! During our first outdoor learning session, we worked really well in teams to make mini settlements for lego people, using natural materials! We thought about the different geographical features that a village needs and we included features like schools, shops and houses in our villages. In this week's music lesson, we loved using the boom whackers outside to create different sounds and we worked well in groups to create musical sequences! This term, we have also started a new English unit based on the story of 'The owl who was afraid of the dark' and we are working hard to use a range of conjunctions, adverbs and dialogue in our stories. Our writing is really improving and we are producing some really creative pieces - well done everyone!

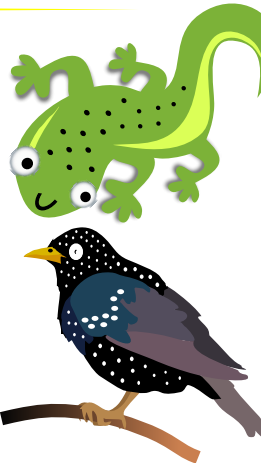


Phase news - Key Stage 2

Year 3 have started the term with a super hook day where they enjoyed the green and pleasant land that surrounds us on our school site! The children made beautiful artwork based on flowers, enjoyed being outdoors making journey sticks and even had a picnic! Throughout the term they will continue to be enjoying the land of Pearl's Land and exploring what makes it so special. In English, the children have been exploring travel brochures and created amazing word banks to use in their writing as a class. Finally, in science, the children have been focussing on plants and looking at plant germination. It has been great to watch the roots emerge from the broad bean seeds the children planted, and compare older and newer seeds to see if there is any difference in their growth! Hopefully, we will be able to eat some of the crops when they are ready towards the end of summer!



Year 4 - It has been a lovely start to the term enjoying being outdoors in the sunshine, focussing on rounders in PE, improving our throwing and batting skills. Having Devon Wildlife Trust working with Year 4 has also been a lovely addition to our Fridays and the children showed excellent collaboration in their first session. The children have been excited by their new Theme: The Ancient Greeks where they have already learnt that so many of our inventions today originated from Greece, for example the yo-yo! On the hook day, the children had to create mazes to trap a Minotaur, be blindfolded in a labyrinth and enjoyed a Now Press Play experience. We cannot wait to learn even more about this fascinating time in history...



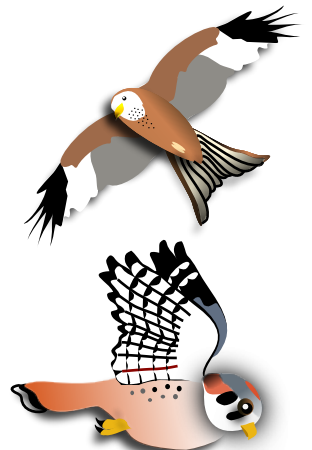
Year 5 have had an exciting start term exploring their World War Two topic. This week, Year 5 had a brilliant day learning about and experiencing a WW2 evacuation. The day began by evacuating to Alphington Community Centre where we were met by a WW2 storyteller to tell us all about life on the home front, bombings, gas masks and much more. We then took part in an Evacuation 'now press play', which allowed the children to be fully immersed in the experience.



During break and lunch time, we played WW2 games including pick up sticks, skipping, drawing with chalk and boules. Finally, we finished the day by creating our own evacuation diaries and considering what it would have felt like to have experienced evacuation back in WW2. The children were an absolute credit to our school and really enjoyed the day's events.



Year 6 have had a super start to the term, and we have been so impressed with their focus and enthusiasm with their SATs practice. The children have played lots of games to help with their revision and one of the favourites is grammar bingo! Alongside SATs preparation, the children have enjoyed time outdoors developing their rounders skills, focussing on fielding- it has been a pleasure to spend so much time in the sunshine! The children have also enjoyed creating space art with Mrs Coombes as they begin to explore their theme: Making Our Mark where they are looking at how people make a difference and can leave a mark through their actions. Finally, Year 6 had a visit from the police to discuss anti-social behaviour as part of our PSHE where the children were able to ask questions and learn more about the role of police officers.



Wraparound news:

Welcome back to another half term and whilst it is a short one, it will be full of fun. The children have already fully immersed themselves in our new topic 'Under the Sea' and have enjoyed evenings full of painting, junk modelling and other craft activities. They have also enjoyed making the most of the outside space and the school's soft play area. Please can we remind you that after-school club will be closed on Thursday 16th June due to mandatory staff training. Breakfast will operate as usual on this day. For your reference, this is the same day as the KS2 sports day.

Best wishes,
The Wraparound Team

