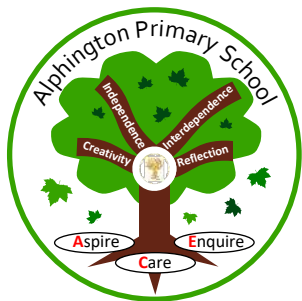




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

03/11/2023



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a lovely half term and managed to spend some time with friends and family. I am pleased to say that the weather has been a little calmer today! Thank you for your support yesterday as the decision to close the school is never an easy one to make, but the main priority is to ensure the safety of all. As we move into the winter months please can you ensure children have a warm, waterproof coat with them in school each day. Thank you.

The children have settled in well after the half term break and have lots to look forward to in the weeks ahead. As always, as we move towards Christmas things get really busy in school with children taking part in a range of events. If you have any concerns about your child taking part in any Christmas events, then please do let their class teacher know.

School photos:

On Thursday 9th November Tempest photography will be in school taking individual photos of children. If you have more than one child in school they will also take photos of siblings within the school day. If you have a child who is not yet of school age and you would like them to have a photograph taken with their brother/sister, then please do come to the hall from between 8.15 and 8.45am. The rear hall doors will be open during this time to make access easy. Please note that we are only able to offer this for siblings and not wider family groups. To ensure we support children who may find the number of additional number of people in school a little overwhelming, can we ask that you leave site as soon as your photograph is taken.

TTRS:



As you know we buy into Time Tables Rock Stars to support children with learning their times tables and they have added some resources that may be helpful for parents.

Parents & Carers – Times Tables Rock Stars (trockstars.com)

<https://trockstars.com/parents/>



Admissions policy for 2025-26: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2025-26. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals which are based on policies for this year and next year and have your say.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page

<https://alphington.devon.sch.uk/consultation-admissions-policy-2022-23/>

Further information is here:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/arrangements-and-policies/>

The consultation runs until 12 January 2024. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March next year.

You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

Dogs:

Please can we remind that dogs are not allowed on site and when tying dogs up by the gate please leave plenty of room for children to walk by safely. The vast majority of the dogs are very friendly but please can you remind your children not to touch or approach any dogs that are unknown to them. Thank you for your help with this.

Foundation:

The Foundation gate will close at 9.00 so please can you ensure that your child is in school by this time. If you are running late you will need to buzz and come into school via the main office. Thank you.

Anti-Bullying Week 2023

Here at Alphington Primary School we are proud to support Anti-Bullying Week which will take place Monday 13th to Friday 17th November. The theme this year is 'Make A Noise About Bulling'. We are trying to encourage students to come forward about bullying, highlight the effects of it and ask what we can do to stop bullying. We will also learn about the differences between 'banter' and bullying.

The week will start with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November where children are invited in wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique! The week will end with Children in Need where children are invited to wear non-uniform for the day.

For more information on anti-bullying week, please visit:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying>



Children In Need:

We will be celebrating Children In Need on Friday 17th November. This year's theme is Spotacular but children are welcome to wear anything they are comfortable in and we are aware that for some of our children this may mean wearing their usual school uniform. All donations to Children In Need can be made via the school gateway app, do contact the school office if you require any help with this.



Pearls Land:

As you may be aware we have been working on continuing to develop Pearls Land. One of the plans was the relocation of the large pond as it has not been safe to use for many years. Unfortunately, since September we have also had to limit access to Pearls Land due to safety around the pond. This, and the time of the year, meant that half term was a good time to move ahead with relocating the pond. It was confirmed that despite being attractive, the old pond had low nature value and very poor water quality.

To ensure safe migration of animals, several weeks ago a wildlife corridor was set up for the relocation of any wildlife. Again, this was under the advice of wildlife specialists including an expert in Newts. We are fully invested in developing a love of the outdoors in children and over the last few years have worked in partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust, appointed a trained teacher and a senior leader responsible for outdoor learning, formed a wildlife champion group and added outdoor learning for all children across the school. This is work that we will continue to develop and build upon over, the coming years.

We appreciate that when making changes to land that it can look worse before getting better, but we are looking forward to the children being able to use this space again including having pond dipping lessons with Devon Wildlife Trust, who we will be working with again this year.



Spotlight on learning:

Year 4 have had a super start back to school where they have enjoyed learning about their new theme 'All about rainforests'. During the hook day, children enjoyed hunting in the woods for rainforest animals, creating clothing using natural resources and playing Eagle Eye – it really was like they were in a rainforest! In science, the children have also enjoyed looking back at their eggs from before half term to see how different liquids would affect them. They were fascinated by the egg stored in vinegar, which became bouncy!



Year 5 have been inspired to create their own designs for a mysterious shop by our class text, *The Nowhere Emporium*. They have also written some truly excellent descriptive introductions using powerful language, adverbials and similes that have made us very proud. Apart from our budding authors, we are pleased to learn that we have some engineers in the making! The children have been experimenting with bridge designs and enjoyed testing the strength of them using weights. Much fun was had by all.

Year 6 have had a great week back to school and thoroughly enjoyed their HOOK day on their new topic: Powering the world. Where does our energy come from? They used their collaboration to research different renewable and non-renewable energy sources and create fantastic fact files to present their information.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 7th November: Glow in the dark dodgeball

Wednesday 8th November: Glow in the dark dodgeball

Thursday 9th November: Individual and sibling photographs

Friday 10th November: In school Remembrance Day assembly

Monday 13th November: Odd socks day

Week beginning 13th November: Anti-bullying week

Wednesday 15th November: Year 4 cross country event

Thursday 16th November: PTFA discos

Friday 17th November: Children in Need

Wednesday 29th November: SEND sports festival

Thursday 30th November: PTFA Christmas jumper swap day

Friday 1st December: Whole school reindeer run

Monday 4th December: Pre-school Christmas performance @ 9.30am and 2.00pm

Tuesday 5th December: Year 1 to visit Lucerne House

Wednesday 6th December: Foundation to visit Lucerne House

Wednesday 6th December: Rock Steady Christmas performance @ 9.30

Thursday 7th December: Foundation production to parents @ 2.30

Thursday 7th December: Year 2 to visit Lucerne House

Thursday 7th December: PTFA Christmas event

Friday 8th December: Year 3 and 4 to visit Lucerne House

Friday 8th December: Foundation performance to parents @ 2.30

Monday 11th December: Squirrels and Dragonflies production to parents @2.00 and 5.00

Tuesday 12th December: Bumblebees and Grasshoppers production to parents @ 2.00 and 5.00

Wednesday 13th December: Children's Christmas lunch.

Wednesday 13th December: Year 3 and 4 Carols on the Court @ 2.45

Thursday 14th December: Volunteers 'thank you' morning

Thursday 14th December: Year 5 carol concert @ 6.00

Friday 15th December: Last day of term

Wednesday 3rd January: Children return to school

