



Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

01/12/2023



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We have had a busy few weeks and we have another couple of busy weeks ahead. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the different events which we have coming up.

Illnesses:

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.



Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.



Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).



General reminders:

Please can you ensure children have named coats in school everyday.

Please can we ask that children only wear a watch and stud earrings and no other jewellery.

We have very limited storage in school so children only need to bring the essentials into school and not big rucksacks.

The Foodbank will be collecting from us before the end of term so please drop in any donations to this over the next couple of weeks. Your donations are always incredibly generous and do make a difference to local families.

Shoe boxes:

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to your amazing support we were able to send over 36 boxes.

Children In Need:

Due to your incredible generosity, we raised £424!

Charity donations for Hospiscare:

At each festive event which we are hosting over the next two weeks, we will be holding collections for our chosen charity. This has begun with the Reindeer Run today. We will have a collection box for any cash donations or alternatively, you can make your donation via the school gateway app. Your generosity always overwhelms us, so thank you in advance for any donations which you are able to make.



Hospiscare
Caring in the heart of Devon



PTFA:

We would like to welcome the new PTFA committee and thank the previous committee for all of their amazing work. The PTFA work tirelessly to raise funds for our children and make such a difference to us, so thank you all for giving your time.

Meet your PTFA Committee



Contact us on ptfa@alphington.devon.sch.uk



Chair

My name is Victoria and I have stood as PTFA chairman. I have three children. My middle daughter is at Alphington school and I wish to support the PTFA. I feel our children love the extra activities that this charity provides.

Vice Chair

Hi I'm Heather, I am the new vice chair, I have two children Alicia and Connor. Connor is in pre-school and Alicia did attend Alphington. I am looking forward to raising money to help get new equipment for the school for all the children to enjoy. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the beach with my children and exploring the outdoors.



Treasurer

Hi I'm Lexi and I'm the new Treasurer. I have two boys, Quinn in Yr 2 and Benji in Foundation. I'm looking forward to helping the PTFA raise funds for all the extras that help make Alphington stand out. In my spare time, I enjoy building custom Lego creations with my boys.

Secretary

Hi, I'm Rachael and I'm the new PTFA secretary. I have one beautiful little boy in Pre-School. I work full-time at Exeter College and worked in Devon Libraries for over 17 years. I'm looking forward to ensuring that the children get to experience lots of fun and enriching events! In my spare time, you'll probably find me reading a good fantasy book!



Your Trustees - Hailei, Alexia and Alysia

Hailei - Hi my name is Hailei. Mum to Matilda in Yr 2 and Jacob in Yr 5. This is my third year on the PTFA and I'm looking forward to raising much needed funds for school. In my spare time, I'm probably building lego!

Alysa - Alysa has a son in yr 5 and daughter in yr 1 & is excited to help support the ptfa in making magic moments for the kids.

Elfridges:

The PTFA are holding the ever popular Elfridges event on Thursday 7th Dec, where parents can pay for their child to attend the grotto and select a maximum of two gifts. Each gift will be wrapped and labelled for their special person, ready to go home and be placed under the tree. If you would like your child to take part, please follow the link below or alternatively you can drop the cash into the school office. Please ensure the money is in an envelope with your child's name, their class and who the gift/s are for.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/alphingtonprimaryptfa>

Carol Service invitation:

Please see attached invitation to the big Exeter Carol Service at St James Park Stadium!

You and your family are warmly invited to our Carol Service at St James Park football stadium on Monday 11th December. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start and entry is free - you don't need a ticket!

There will be carols, performances, a very short talk and lots of mince pies.



Roles and responsibilities:

The children are given many different roles and responsibilities while they are at school, and they are looking forward to introducing themselves to you over the next few newsletters. We are starting with our school council and Wildlife Champions.

Welcome to this year's Alphington Wildlife Champions!

After submitting some fantastic and passionate applications, our 14 wildlife champions for this year had their first session with Emily from Devon Wildlife Trust and Mrs. Knight last Friday.

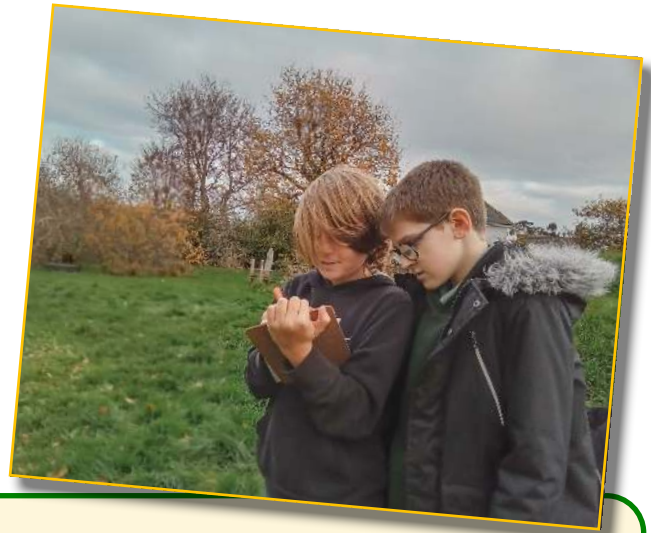
Up first on the agenda was really understanding what the role of a Wildlife Champion is - Emily described them as "a bit like school council but dedicated to wildlife; a team purely to think about how to look after wildlife and the environment, at school but also in the community". Following that, Pearl's Land and our forest area were searched and explored, top to bottom, to establish what we do well with our natural space at Alphington and what we can improve - that's where our Wildlife Champions come in! The Champions' aim is to come up with and undertake a project to help wildlife at Alphington - and it's up to them what that project is!

All that time in our wonderful grounds sparked a lot of ideas, so watch this space to see what the Wildlife Champions get up to next!

"I wanted to be a wildlife champion because I love nature and want to help it." Robin

"I've enjoyed doing loads of stuff today because I've learnt about different things and the game was fun." Tamara





School council:

Hi we are your new School Council members for this year and we are so excited to have our first official meeting where we got to know each other, collected our new badges and shared with each other why we chose to run for this years council. As councillors, we are going to aim to make positive changes within our school and the wider community. From fundraising for local charities to organising new events in school, we look forward to the year ahead and making influential decisions.

'I want to make positive changes to the school' - Florence, Year 2.

'We are so happy that we are this years School Council because we are going to make a difference to our school' - Wilfred and Mila Year 4.

'We are good leaders and we care about making changes' - Martha and Annie, Year 2.

'I want to make the school more fun and enjoyable for us and other children who will come to Alphington' - William, Year 2.

Animals 2 U visit:

Year 2 had a fantastic opportunity to view animals from hot and cold climates yesterday. A royal python, polecats, Madagascan hissing cockroaches and giant land snails were all there to be seen. The children really enjoyed themselves, they marvelled at the royal python's scaly body, the polecat's sharp claws and the giant land snail's slimy trail. The Madagascan hissing cockroaches were also a highlight, with the children gasping as they heard them make their distinctive noise. It was a great educational experience for the children, with the animal visitor teaching them interesting facts about the different creatures. The Year 2 children enjoyed learning about the unique animals and their habitats, as well as the conservation efforts being taken to protect them. It was a memorable experience for the children, and one that they will never forget.



Dates for your diary



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 @ 9.30am

Thursday 7th December - Foundation production to parents @ 2.30pm

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 @ 2.30pm

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

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

Wednesday 13th December - Children's Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day

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

Thursday 14th December - Volunteers 'thank you' morning

Thursday 14th December - Year 5 carol concert @ 6.00pm

Friday 15th December - Last day of term

Wednesday 3rd January - Children return to school

