



Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

19/07/2024



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

As the school year comes to a close, it is good to take some time to reflect on the school year. From the excited welcomes on the first day in September to the heartfelt goodbyes I know that we will have on Tuesday, all have been a testament to your children's growth, learning, and achievements. Thank you for your support and dedication to making this year a success.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday September 5th.

Here are some of the highlights of the year.

Year group news

Nursery

What an amazing year we have had in Ladybirds!

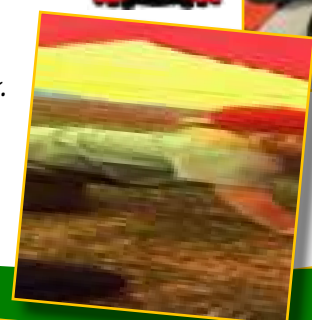
We have been incredibly busy exploring new learning, making new friends, and enjoying exciting experiences and activities together that it's hard to remember everything we have done this year, so here are a few of our favourite moments!

In the Autumn term we enjoyed getting to know each other, sharing and celebrating what makes us unique, and becoming a community at Alphington Primary School. We had a fantastic time at the Christmas Sing Along, performing for our families and grownups, and showing off our lovely singing skills. We couldn't eat enough at the Christmas dinner, and looked very festive in our Christmas hats and jumpers – we liked the pudding the best!

In the Spring Term we enjoyed making Easter Nest Cakes! We were working hard to decorate them with runny chocolate, and trying to be like Resilient Ron and not to eat the cornflakes before we decorated the cakes! We were very excited when the Easter Bunny came to visit Ladybird classroom and had hidden some sweet treats for us to find!

In the Summer Term we have made the most of the sunshine we have had, getting outside to enjoy building boats with the big construction materials, turning our selves into pirates, making maps and searching for hidden treasure! We also had a fantastic time at the Nursery Disco, showing off our fantastic dance moves and moving about with our friends!

We have had a lovely year in Ladybirds, we are thankful for our time together. We say good luck to those transitioning up to Foundation this year, and see you soon to all the Ladybirds returning in September. Have a lovely summer everyone.



Foundation

What a fantastic year we've had in Foundation! We kicked off our journey with the topic 'Marvellous Me,' celebrating all the unique and wonderful qualities that make each child special. We explored their dreams and aspirations, and even had an exciting visit from Spiderman to investigate the mess left by Evil Pea and the police to talk about different careers.

Our 'Amazing Illuminations' topic lit up the Autumn term as we explored fireworks night, Diwali, Halloween, and the wonders of space, including a magical 'night walk' where we gazed at constellations, played with light and shadows, and enjoyed some delicious hot dogs! Spring brought the enchanting 'Once Upon a Time' topic, delving into traditional tales, with children enjoying a dress-up day and an online pantomime. We also explored lifecycles and were thrilled by a visit from fascinating reptiles.

As summer approached, we embarked on 'Wandering Around the World,' discovering new continents weekly, immersing ourselves in diverse cultures, clothing, foods, songs, and traditions. We explored London on the London bus, and even had a London tea party with scones and 'tea.' We also had lots of fun creating boarding passes and passports, and even boarding a 'plane' with our suitcases! This term, our 'Under the Sea' exploration taught us about environmental care, pollution, pirates, and the seaside, highlighted by a trip to the aquarium where we met a real-life mermaid. To celebrate the end of our topic, we will be having a beach day which includes beach clothes, fish/veggie dippers, and chips at our very own 'beach.'

Throughout the year, we've also developed our understanding of numbers and numerical patterns in maths and taken each topic as a chance to immerse the children in fun and exciting ways to develop their reading and writing skills. Thank you for a year filled with curiosity, learning, and endless fun!



Year 1

What a fantastic year of learning we have had! We have covered a variety of interesting topics such as 'People who have changed the world, A trip to Shanghai and the Great fire of London...just to name a few! We have been lucky enough to have wonderful learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom, we were a visitor from Shanghai, we visited Dartmoor Zoo, we had outdoor learning sessions with Devon Wildlife Trust and amazing art with Mrs Coombes! The children have been incredible!



Year 2

As we come to the end of another exciting year in Year 2, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the countless memorable moments we have shared with your children. It has been a year full of adventures and learning, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and how they have grown as individuals and learners.

From the fun and learning at Dawlish Warren to the excitement of meeting different animals up close, our trip and animal visit were definite highlights of the year. The children's enthusiasm and curiosity truly shone during these experiences. They really have embodied 'The Alphington Way' in all that they've done.

The nativity performance was another standout moment, where our Year 2 superstars took to the stage with confidence and showcased their talents. We were so proud of their hard work and dedication in putting on such a fantastic show.



The children really proved themselves to be fantastic athletes during our Sports Week this year too. It was so lovely to see them get involved with all activities on offer. Cricket was a definite hit!

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a fantastic summer filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures. We look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting year in Year 3.

Warm regards,

The Year 2 Team



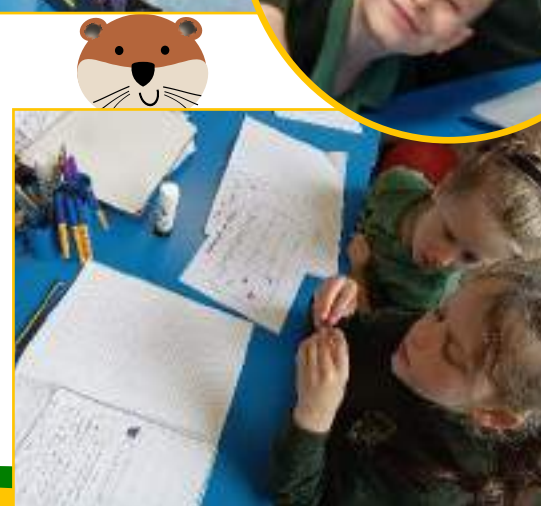
Year 3

We have had an awesome year in Year 3 and we can't believe how quickly the year has flown by! There are so many highlights of the year and here are some of the amazing things we have got up to!

We started our year by learning about volcanoes and we loved making our own volcano art pieces on our Hook Day! They were very colourful and creative! During Term 2, we loved designing our own Roman shields and we had lots of fun making vegetable tarts in our DT lessons. They tasted very nice!

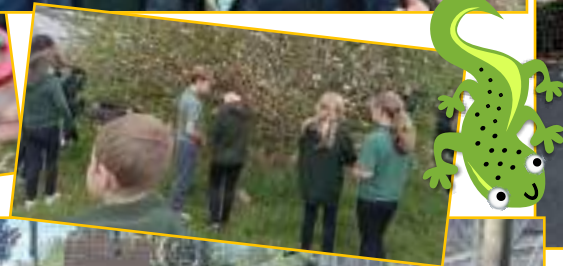
We ended the term with a lovely Christmas sing-song at our annual 'Carols on the Court' event. After Christmas, we got stuck into our new topic 'Frozen Planet' and we had a great time at the Tag Rugby festival at West Exe. We played really well and showed fantastic sportsmanship! In the Spring term, we went on our trip to RAMM on the train! We had a great time travelling on the train and we learned a lot about Ancient Egypt as part of the workshops in the museum. We were fantastic ambassadors for our school! The Summer Term brought lots more fun in the way of creating our own Lego settlements as part of our 'People and Places' Hook Day and we loved our outdoor cooking lesson with Devon Wildlife Trust! We ended the year with our 'Railway Revolution' topic and lots of fun on Sports Day!

WHAT A FANTASTIC AND FUN-FILLED YEAR IN YEAR 3!



Year 4

What a great year we have had in Starlings and Newts and we are so proud of all their learning and achievements this year. From resilience knot-tying in outdoor learning, to super story writing, to a fantastic trip to The Mix followed by a sleepover, it has been a jam-packed year! We have loved learning how to create electrical circuits, understanding the water cycle, learning what it would be like to live in the Mojave Desert and also enjoyed going back in time to Ancient Greece to learn about the first Olympics. The children have also shown themselves to be fantastic singers where they performed beautifully in The Court at school and also at Lucerne House to residents there. Most days, we enjoy some singing in class! Let's not forget the times table learning where we have become speedy mathematicians! We have loved all our sporting opportunities this year too where we have enjoyed skateboarding, sports day and the reindeer and Olympic Run. Well done to all of Year 4 for all of your hard-work and effort – what a fantastic year it has been!



Year 5

It doesn't seem five minutes since we were embarking on our year five journey together and now, here we are, almost at the end of the school year. And what a year it's been! We've learnt so many new things and had plenty of fun along the way. The children never fail to amaze us with their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and there have been many standout moments throughout the year.

The elements didn't dampen our spirits on our River Exe walk in the Autumn term when we saw first-hand how the river was once used and how it's used today. The children's fantastic singing at St Michael's church took our breath away and got us well and truly in the Christmas spirit in our Carol concert. In the new year, we represented Alphington at the West Exe inter-school handball tournament showcasing our sporting prowess and fantastic sportsmanship skills.

To mark science week, we were treated to a visit to the Space Dome where we journeyed through the cosmos stopping off for a closer look at the planets as we went. More recently, we crossed the border into Somerset and took to the foothills of Quantocks for our residential. The children experienced trying new things and worked as a team to overcome hurdles and complete challenges demonstrating their resilience, ability to take risks and to problem solve.

We are hugely proud of all the children have achieved this year and feel honoured to have been their teachers. We wish you all a lovely summer break and very good luck for the onward journey to year six.



Year 6

Year 6 have had an incredible year and achieved and experienced so many things: our Viking celebration with parents; the trip to the Energy from Waste Centre; thank you event at Christmas; rugby sessions with the Exeter Chiefs; SATs; our fantastic residential to Great Potheridge House; our trip to Crealy and fish and chips evening to celebrate the end of Year 6 and our production of Robin Hood. Well done Year 6 - you have made us so proud this year and throughout your time at Alphington and we wish you all of the best of luck on your next adventure to secondary school.



Owl Class

Owls have had a busy half term exploring equivalent fractions. They have been problem solving Polly's comparing fractions of different shapes and quantities. In English, they have continued to show incredible independence when writing and have enjoyed using imperative verbs to create their own recipe for milkshakes. We then followed the instructions to make and taste our creations!

We ended our term with an exciting trip to clip and climb where all pupils showed incredible resilience, risk taking and collaboration!!!

PTFA - Non uniform day:

For this event we raised a total of £236 - thank you to everyone who contributed.

Summer reading challenge:

We would love to see all of the weird and wonderful places that children find to read over the summer! Take a photo and send to admin@alphington.devon.sch.uk so that we can celebrate a summer of reading when we return.

Thank You to Our Volunteers:

A big thank you to all the parents and volunteers who have given their time throughout the year. Whether you helped in the classroom, organised events, attended trips or supported fundraisers, your contributions have made a significant impact. Thank you all.



Goodbye:

As we look forward to welcoming our new children we also say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children and those moving on. As you move on to the next chapter, remember that the skills and friendships you've made here at Alphington Primary School will always be with you. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. We also wish Miss Williams, Miss Oakley and Mr Prowse all of the very best for the future and thank them for all they have done at Alphington.

Preloved uniform:

We would welcome any preloved uniform which children have grown out of or in the case of our Year 6 children, will no longer require. Please drop it into the school office.

Looking ahead:

The upcoming school year promises to be even more exciting with new, enhanced learning experiences, and continued commitment to our children's' success.

Wishing you all a safe, fun, and restful summer break.





Meet the Governors

Peter Phillips - Chair of Governors

I joined the Governor team in Alphington Primary School in March 2021 and am currently Chair.

I have lived in Alphington since 1988. I have been, and still am, involved in various community groups. I was one of the founding members of Alphington Forum in 2012, a member of the Tuesday art group, the photographic group, and I walk with the Thursday walkers.

I have been a resident of Alphington since 1988, when I came to Exeter from Glasgow to help expand the company's newly opened Exeter office. The company is a civil engineering consultancy that was involved in the design of Colliford and Roadford reservoir dams. My own speciality had been shipyards so I naturally gravitated towards work at Devonport.

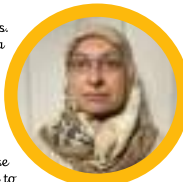
Now that I am retired, I keep up my engineering interests with membership of the Professional Engineers' Club (Exeter).

Being a school governor is most interesting and fulfilling. Our duty as governors is to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children, and this of course includes the well-being of the staff, who work so hard for the children.



Anjumn Kanani

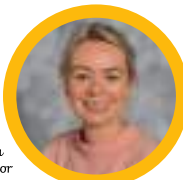
My name is Anjumn Kanani and I have lived in Alphington for over 35 years. My children have attended Alphington Primary School. By profession I am a Chartered Civil Engineer. I retired just over two years ago and decided to give back some of my time in service to the community where I have lived for so long. I was elected as a Governor at Alphington Primary School in July 2022. Soon after that I became a link Governor for SEND and in addition lead Governor for Breakfast and After School Club. During my visits to school, I am always impressed with the way all staff work to develop, motivate and get the best results from all the children and make use of all resources including the outdoor areas and swimming pool. I have got to know some of you during my visits to school.



Laura Holmes

I have been a proud member of Alphington Primary school for 16 years. I began my career as a playworker at the breakfast and after school club and over the years have further trained to become the manager of this provision as well as a Teaching Assistant and a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant. These roles take me across the whole school and allow me to make valuable relationships with our children.

I value the opportunity to be part of our children's lives and help shape their futures and my role as a Staff Governor now allows me to do this on a new level. As a parent and a member of staff, I feel rewarded by my governor role as the children at Alphington deserve nothing but the best I can give.



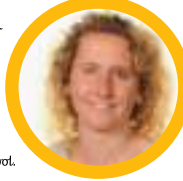
Caroline Rowe

I started my teaching career in Cornwall as a Teacher of ICT and Business in the largest secondary school in the county. Shortly after I stepped up to the Head of Computer Science and Head of House. I was then seconded to the leadership team to gain experience.

In 2017 I successfully applied for the position of Housemistress and Teacher of Computer Science at a boarding school in Bristol. I was promoted to Head of Computing, and also Senior Housemistress. I am now Assistant Head, and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). I still teach GCSE and A Level Computer Science. Recently I completed my MSc in Computer Science and Cybersecurity with York University.

I recently got married and now live with my husband and dog between Bristol and Exeter. Both my step-children attended Alphington Primary School.

Recently I completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge and I am improving my running with the aim of completing a 10kms race in the not-too-distant future. We also love travelling and spend what time we can in our holidays experiencing different places and cultures.



Jennifer Pulsford

I joined as a Parent Governor in November 2023 to add my HR knowledge and skillset to already established governance board. I am extremely passionate about the community that we have in Alphington and recognise the privilege it is to have such a great school available for our children. My children are in Nursery and Year 1, which means you can find me that side of the school at drop off and pick up, so please feel free to come and give feedback on things we do well and the opportunities for improvement.



Graham Bone

Community Governor - joined January 2024

Specific areas of responsibility: Curriculum, Finance and Resources, and Pupil Premium

Current role: Deputy Head, Exeter School (and Independent Schools' Inspectorate Team Inspector).

I am a science teacher who has taught for over 20 years. I have experience in both the state and independent sectors, and across the age range from age 7 to 18. I first became a governor at Alphington because I am passionate about education and want to give back to the community; wherever possible actively contributing to supporting the wellbeing of children and staff by helping ensure high quality educational experiences.

I live in Exeter with my wife, Emma (also a teacher), and my two teenage children, Dylan and Iris. Outside of the classroom, I am interested in science more widely, aviation, and technology. I also enjoys cooking, especially experimenting with vegetarian food and to unwind, love spending time in nature; cycling or walking, especially along the Jurassic Coast and across Dartmoor.



Dates for your diary:

Friday 19th July: Year 6 leavers event

Tuesday 23rd July: Year 6 leavers assembly

Tuesday 23rd July: Last day of term

Thursday 5th September:
Children return to school

