



SPRING 2 2024

ALVELEY NEWSLETTER

www.alveleyprimary.co.uk



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The weather is starting to warm up, the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and the field is becoming slightly less water-logged, which means only one thing at Alveley Primary School – the summer term is nearly upon us!

This term, we have had a huge focus on our reading provision and would like to take this opportunity to talk about it in more detail. Having invested in our library and new books, we are fully focused on developing our 'reading for pleasure' culture, with pupils actively taking part in the process of choosing and pushing themselves to read more. There is a real 'buzz' around school regarding reading, and I'm now hearing books being recommended in corridors, characters being discussed in the lunch hall and parents chatting to each other about which books they think other families would enjoy. This whole community approach to enjoying reading and children's literature is a hugely important foundation to developing our school further. Our next steps with this involve working with Bridgnorth library and Booka, the new independent bookstore in Bridgnorth, to build lasting relationships and help to support us. We are also looking at ways to introduce audiobooks, giving another route in for our young readers. This would be especially helpful for those struggling readers, offering an inclusive way to access the same stories as their friends, regardless of reading ability. I have recently conducted a pupil survey around 'reading for pleasure'. At the start of the year, pupils scored their enjoyment of reading at 5.7/10. Pupils now rate it as 8.7/10. Similarly, the parent survey showed that enthusiasm for reading amongst pupils has gone from 6.6/10 to 8.8/10. This is a real step in the right direction and foundation for us to continue building on.

Have a lovely Easter holiday. I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8th April.

Mr Marsh



SCHOOL CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Summer 2024 Dates for the diary

- **8th April** - First day of the Summer 1 term.
- **12th April** - Y3/4 Bike Ability
- **15th April** - Elm Class to Enginuity
- **20th April** - Shrewsbury Half Marathon
- **30th April** - Oak Class Bookfest Award Ceremony
- **30th April** - Basketball tournament KS2
- **6th May** - BANK HOLIDAY
- **13th-16th May** - SATS week
- **15th May** - Early Years Parents Lunch
- **20th - 21st May** - Elm parent workshop and lunch (final day to be confirmed)
- **23rd May** - Oak parent lunch
- **24th May** - LAST DAY OF TERM
- **3rd June** - First day of Summer 2 term.
- **3rd - 10th June** - Multiplication tables check fortnight
- **10th June** - Phonics screening week
- **10th - 12th June** - Oak Residential trip
- **11th - 17th June** - Book Fayre
- **17th June** - Y6 Crucial Crew
- **19th June** - Class photos
- **1st - 2nd July** - Y6 move up days
- **3rd July** - Sports Day
- **15th - 17th July** - Oak Class plays
- **19th July** - Last day of Summer 2 term.

CLASSES



NURSERY AND BEECH

This half term in EYFS we have explored the theme of " farms". We have enjoyed looking at wheat and reading The Little Red Hen, making our own farms using small world toys, and looking at different types of farms around the world in our Understanding the World sessions. We discovered there are cucumber farms and rice farms! We turned our role play area into a farmhouse and farm shop and enjoyed pretending to buy farm produce.



CEDAR

Cedar have had a busy half term learning all about 'Flying High.' As part of this topic children learnt about the history of flight and some significant people in history including the Wright brothers, Neil Armstrong and Tim Peck. One of our focus books for this half term was 'The Way Back Home.' In Literacy; children wrote character descriptions, story settings and a recount of the story; whilst also refining the English skills expected of pupils in Key Stage 1. To conclude children enjoyed welcoming in their parents for a workshop. One of the tasks required children to think of questions they would ask an astronaut. Luckily, the children had a surprise visit from 'Neil Armstrong' and were able to ask their space themed questions. Children thoroughly enjoyed and embraced this topic and together we are looking forward to our next topic 'Weather Experts.'



ELM

This half term in Elm we have been learning all about 'Sensational Shropshire', we did a local river study on the River Severn down the country park, it was lots of fun but muddy! We have been making torches in D&T using our knowledge of electrical circuits. We then linked this to our literacy where we wrote a set of instructions for how we made our torches.



OAK

This half term Oak Class' topic has been Deserts of the World. The children have really engaged in this topic, particularly through our focus book: Holes. In Literacy, the children have produced some fabulous newspaper reports and balanced arguments based on the events in the book. We have been taking part in the Shropshire Bookfest event. This involves reading up to six books by acclaimed and exciting authors. We have created artwork, book trailers and poetry to enter the competitions and look forward to attending Theatre Severn in April for the award ceremony. In Design and Technology, we have been creating stuffed toys. We had to design, create and evaluate our stuffed toy. We improved our sewing skills, learning blanket stitch and running stitch.

LITTLE SQUIRRELS NURSERY

NURSERY TIMINGS

Wrap Around

7.30 - 8.45 AM

Morning Sessions

8.45 - 11.45 AM

Afternoon Sessions

12.15 - 3.15 PM

OUR LEARNING

Each day, children have adult led activities, including a daily phonics lesson delivered to all children. Following their adult led learning, children work with a teacher to complete scaffolded activities. While some children are completing work with their teacher, others engage in child initiated learning, supported by other adults. To maximise learning opportunities, children have daily access to both an indoor and outdoor classroom, where independence and choice are encouraged. All areas of the EYFS framework, including reading, writing and mathematics are planned coherently across all ages and activities and opportunities are appropriately adapted to meet each child's needs, deepening and extending their understanding. Within the carefully planned environment, stimulus and enhanced provision is used to excite, capture and motivate the children and provide learning opportunities .



JOIN OUR NURSERY!

A positive ethos is at the heart of our EYFS unit. It is extremely important that the children feel happy and comfortable within the setting; where they are constantly supported and encouraged. The children's achievements are recognised and celebrated. This ethos allows for and encourages problem solving, resilience, curiosity and high levels of engagement. All adults recognise the importance of developing a strong, positive, trusting relationship with each child, knowing each of them as an individual. If you are interested to know more, please contact our School Office.

Friends of Alveley School



Spring Disco



Thank you to everyone who has supported our events during the Spring term. The second half of the term has seen a successful second hand book sale and a fun filled school disco. The children enjoyed both events and the generous donations from families mean we are well on our way to purchasing new history resources for the school, which will be a great addition to support the children's learning.

The summer term looks just as exciting with FOAS hosting a joint 'Summer Festival' with Alveley Recreation Ground. Planning meetings will begin early in Summer term, but we already have food, drinks, fairground attractions and live music lined up so save the date, Saturday 6th July 2024!!

If you would like to join the FOAS team or would like further information please contact the school office.

We hope everyone has a very Happy Easter and look forward to welcoming you to our Summer events.

Thank you for your continued support which, as always, is directly benefiting our pupils.

Mrs Carr - Chair of FOAS

Second hand book sale



Around School

Drawing Workshop with artist Rory McCann



Cedar Parent Workshop



Girls Football Taster



Tennis Lessons



Elm trip to the Country Park



World Book Day



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

Several parents at Parents' Evening asked how best to support learning while at home. We hope that reading and spellings are practised through the week, daily where possible. However there are a few other resources that you might find useful. All of these are either free to use or ones which your child already has a login for. Please contact school if you don't have this login and we can provide it:

- www.purplemash.com (for all areas of the curriculum)
- www.mathsbot.com/primary/ks2 (Year 6 arithmetic practise- really good resource!)
- www.mathsframe.co.uk (great maths resources, particularly the Year 4 times table check game)
- www.letterjoin.co.uk

Here are some examples of questions you could ask while reading. These will help with reading comprehension knowledge and deepen understanding of what has been read.

Vocabulary	Infer	Predict	Explain	Retrieve	Sequence
Draw upon knowledge of vocabulary in order to understand the text.	Make inferences from the text.	Predict what you think will happen based on the information that you have been given.	Explain your preferences, thoughts and opinions about the text.	Identify and explain the key features of fiction and non-fiction texts such as: characters, events, titles and information.	Sequence the key events in the story.
<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the word mean in this sentence? • Find and copy a word, which means • What does this word or phrase tell you about.....? • Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why? • Which of the words best describes the character/setting/mood etc? • Can you think of any other words the author could have used to describe this? • Why do you think is repeated in this section? 	<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was..... feeling.....? • Why did happen? • Why did say.....? • Can you explain why.....? • What do you think the author intended when they said.....? • How does make you feel? 	<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the book cover/blurb - what do you think this book will be about? • What do you think will happen next? What makes you think this? • How does the choice of character or setting affect what will happen next? • What is happening? What do you think happened before? What do you think will happen after? • What do you think the last paragraph suggests will happen next? 	<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is your favourite character? Why? • Why do you think all the main characters are girls in this book? • Would you like to live in this setting? Why/why not? • Is there anything you would change about this story? • Do you like this text? What do you like about it? 	<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of text is this? • Who did.....? • Where did.....? • When did.....? • What happened when.....? • Why did happen? • How did.....? • How many.....? • What happened to.....? 	<p>Example questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened? • What happened after.....? • What was the first thing that happened in the story? • Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story? • In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please scan the QR code above to see if you might be eligible for free school meals. Not only does this give support for school meals, it also allows us to support with the paying of school trips and other experiences, as well as helping with uniform, forest school, PE kit and other clothing.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Easy Fundraising is a free and easy app that you can download and sign up to. Every time you shop online, a small amount of money is donated to school (by the company, NOT you!). While it will cost you nothing to support us this way, it might make all the difference to the projects that I'm keen to develop in the future. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-alveley-school to support us!