



Alexandra
Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



Alexandra Primary School

Newsletter 14
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Thought for the Day:

"Oh, my friend, it's not what they take away from you that counts. It's what you do with what you have left."

Question of the Week:

If you could eat lunch with any fictional character from a story or film, who would it be and what would you eat?

Dear Parents and Carers, many thanks to all the parents we saw during recent parent's meetings. We understand that this is a difficult and unsettling time for families and children, with a great deal of news coming from a variety of sources. We will continue to post updates on our website. We are developing home and online learning activities and will be providing more information on this shortly.

Nursery: This week Nursery have moved our focus onto Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics. We had a visit from a parent and local paediatrician that provided the children with first-hand experience and a chance to embed topic vocabulary. Thank you to those who attended our mark making stay and play. We hope it gave you the opportunity to see first-hand the busy learning your children do at Nursery. We also hope that you use the mark making ideas at home to support your child. In Maths we have been practising using positional language. Can you give your child clues to find things in your home and then can they give you clues? "Your socks are under your jumper", "Can you put your car on top of the table?". We are talking lots about our feelings and have introduced the Makaton signs for happy and sad.

Reception: In Reception we have continued our topic of fairy and fantasy stories. To support the learning about dragons, our focus was reading the story Zog written by Julia Donaldson. The children focused on a range of book work about the story including creating a story map to show the beginning, middle and end of the story, labelling a picture of Zog using descriptive language and writing speech bubbles following what the characters said. The children used their phonic knowledge to support their writing. In phonics we have been recapping the sounds 'oo', 'or' and 'ar' and the tricky word 'my'. Our maths focus has been on finding the number bonds to 10.

Year 1: This week the children have been focusing on settings based on a new text in English called Owl babies. The children have created their own settings linked to the book. The children have continued learning about number bonds and have been applying those skills to enable them to add by making 10. The children have been exploring the different seasons and what happens to the Earth to create those seasons in Science. In Geography this week the children have started to learn about the UK with a focus on England and the capital London.

Year 2: We have begun putting all of our knowledge about Australia and New Zealand into our writing lessons. Soon we will have produced a wonderful information report about an animal from Australia that we have been researching. We have made sure that we include some fantastic vocabulary and used the ever tricky 'did you know...?' questions! We have been thoroughly enjoying the topic about Australia and have begun constructing our dioramas to showcase our knowledge about the different habitats we can find down under. In music we have all started learning songs in different languages ready to perform a delightful showcase showing how diverse and cultural we are in Year 2. Throughout these last few weeks we have been further expanding our knowledge of fractions and how to find them when out in the real world. Thank you all for your continued support through parent meetings, we hope you are as impressed as we are with the progress the children have made!

Year 3: This week in year 3 we have used our identified features of a play script and composed our own play script using the story Egyptian Cinderella. We have selected a part of the story to convert to a play and look forward to performing these to our class. In maths we have used our knowledge of coins to help solve problems involving change. In Science we have researched the uses of spring in the world around us. Thank you for all your help with the children's costumes for World Book Day last week, the children had an enjoyable day with their book related learning!

Year 4: In Maths this week, we continued to explore fractions. Our work included equivalent fractions, fractions greater than 1, counting in fractions and adding fractions. In English, we have started to look at stories with issues and dilemmas. We have worked together to identify language and structural features of a text. In one lesson, we even created a 'conscience alley' to work through what choices were faced by the main character in a story called 'Balaclava Boys.' In Spanish, we have concluded our learning about food by performing role plays in our Spanish cafe. Some of us played customers and some of us played waiters, hablando en español of course! In RE, we have continued to look at the importance of sharing food in many faiths. As Easter approaches, we will focus on the Last Supper and the story of Easter. Finally, we continue to explore solids, liquids and gases in Science.

Year 5: After reviewing the features of adventure stories, children have been planning their own stories set in Viking times. To help visualise their stories, they have designed and drawn 'quest maps.' These beautifully illustrated maps show the route taken by their 'heroes,' the settings they pass through and the problems or challenges they overcome. In Maths, the week has been spent consolidating knowledge and understanding of fractions through an investigation. Based on a fictional tech company, children have analysed 'data' and worked out how to 'grow' the company - all of which involved lots of calculations using fractions! In Art, they have started to learn basic sewing stitches and to create their Viking bags.

Year 6: Year 6 had an extremely eventful week, as they engaged in their last SATs practice week before the official tests. Students showed amazing ambition and resilience across the 4 days of assessment, putting in a fantastic attitude and work ethic. This was evident in their progress across the year level - all the students should be incredibly proud. In History, students learned more about the beginning of World War 2 and the impact of Hitler's actions. They listened to Neville Chamberlain declare war on Germany and considered how the Axis and Allied Powers felt during this time. In Science, we concluded our investigation! Some students were successful in testing numerous variables to create mould growth on bread. We also explored the workings of trade (importing and exporting) between various countries and how this has changed since the 17th Century. Children continued learning about Guru Nanak and discussed various commitments we have in our lives and what we do to uphold them.

Notices:

LGFL have notified schools that there are issues with telephones at the moment. Please continue to ring in, we will then ring you back. Alternatively, we have been provided with an alternative number for the time being. 0207 3451797

Coronavirus update:

What you need to know:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home

The updated guidance can be found here:

• <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Parents should be leaving the school site promptly following the collection of their child at the end of school. Children should stand and wait with their parent or carer whilst waiting for older siblings. No one should be playing on the equipment or in the adobe. We have said this before, but following an incident involving the police last week, please ensure a swift exit after school.

Key Dates for the term:

24th February – Return to school

28 th February	2C Class assembly	13 th March	Sport Relief – Mufti Day
2 nd March	Choir at Royal Festival Hall	13 th March	1B Class assembly
3 rd March	Reception trip to Model Village		
5 th March	World Book Day		
6 th March	2W Class assembly		
10 th & 12 th March	Parents' Evening	3 rd April – Last day of term. School finishes at 1:30pm	
10 th – 13 th March	Bookfair	6 th April - 17 th April - Spring Holiday Break	

School Closed: INSET Day – Thursday 7th May 2020 and VE Day on Friday 8th May

School Attendance:

Current whole school attendance since September is 96.36%.

Congratulations to 2B, and 6C for achieving 100% attendance recently.

Please remember that term time leave will be unauthorised.



Home and online learning

Reading is the key to enable the whole curriculum to be accessed and so we encourage that this takes priority. Reading can be supported through hard copies of books, Bug Club, Reading Plus (Years 4 to 6) and by visiting your local library now in preparation.

Academic learning is not the only consideration when children are not attending. Wellbeing and physical health are also important concerns during any time away from school. Please remember that this only applies to children who are feeling fit and healthy.

On our website we have several links to online portals where children can access learning. These are platforms where teachers have set work or where there is a continuous independent access, which can be monitored by teachers. All links are available via our school website.

<https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/online-learning>

- There are three new programmes which teach the fundamentals of Maths and English: Doodle Maths, Doodle English and Doodle Spelling. The programmes are intuitive, which means that they determine what each child will learn when they work on the app. This is an independent learning app, which will inform us about areas of child's strengths and targets / next steps. Your child's log in will be their bug club log in. There is a parent app, DoodleConnect, which provides information about your child's progress when using this programme.
- Phonics Play – free Phonics play for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 children. Click on the yellow button with a blue background to gain access to this.
- Reading Plus – vocabulary and reading activities for Year 4 to 6. Children have their own unique log-ins for this programme.
- My maths – practise tests and independent learning.
- Mathletics – practise tests and Maths concepts.
- Timestable Rockstars – times tables practise
- Third Space (Year 6 only)
- PIXL Unlock and PIXL TT
- LGFL
- Busy things – Part of the LGFL website has lots of curriculum linked activities
- Bug club – ActiveLearn
- Grammar explained on LGFL is split into year groups and their objectives appropriate for your child.
- Language Angels – Year 3 to 6 - MFL games which are module based

All of the home learning above will be accessed via our website under Parents and the online learning tab.