



Special mention for Australia following the terrible bushfires, please read to the end to see how our children want to respond.

Thought for the Day:

Once a wise man was asked,
"What's the meaning of life?"
He replied,

"Life itself has no meaning. Life is an opportunity to create meaning."

Question of the Week:

Of all the things you are learning, what do you think will be the most useful when you are an adult?

Dear Parents and Carers, welcome back to a new term, new year and a new decade. What will 2020 bring! We look forward to finding out and all the challenges ahead. The children have come back to school with renewed energy and enthusiasm and look very smart in their school uniform. Please look at the Key Dates and put them in your diary. All the information will be on the school website as well. Read on to find out what we have been doing at school this week.

Nursery: This week the children have been learning about the story 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. They have been building bridges and painting trolls to support retelling the story. We have set up a new story shed in our outside area where the children can look at and share books. In Maths we have been comparing sizes and linking this to the size of the goats in the story. We have also been reading a rhyming poem or story everyday and are tuning in to listen for words that rhyme. Thank you for returning the holiday news sheets, the children have enjoyed sharing their news and your contribution has enabled us to ask questions and develop the children's speech further.

Reception: The focus of learning has been the season of winter. The children have chosen to listen to several stories relating to winter and have expressed their opinions on what their favourite part of the story has been. In Phonics the children have learnt the digraphs 'th' and 'ng' and have learnt the tricky words 'be' and 'me'. The children have also been looking at the alphabet and practising naming the letters and saying the phonemes. The Children have been writing sentences about their school break and focusing on sounding out words, using finger spaces between words, using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and a full stop at the end. In Maths the focus has been learning about zero.

Year 1: The children are settling back into the routines. They have returned with enthusiasm and are eager to learn. To celebrate and welcome the new year, the children have been thinking about and setting their own new years resolutions. The children have also been learning about the seasons and have created a calendar for 2020! They have been learning about subtracting in Maths this week. In English the children have been writing a recount about their holiday. They are now focusing on a new text called 'Here come the aliens' linked to the theme for this half term, 'Reach for the stars'. They have been using their prediction and visualisation skills too! Thank you for creating the amazing projects with your child! There have been some changes to the PE timetable across the year group.

Year 2: We are starting the year on the wild side as we begin our new topic, 'Born to be wild'. We have started looking at our roarsome story 'Where the wild things are' and are looking forward to discovering what these wild things are and where we can find them. As in life, the children are being taught how to effectively share in equal groups through our Maths lessons about division. We continue to thank you for your support at home and emphasise on the importance of reading with your child on a daily basis, please remember to sign their planners. We do check them every day!

Year 3: We have settled in well after the holidays and are ready to learn! In English we have started a new topic about poetry; focusing on Haiku's. We identified the features of these poems and will be creating our own Haiku's based on our new History topic of Ancient Egypt. This week in Maths, we have been reviewing our learning of the previous term. In Geography, we have researched a county in England and are excited to present this in a non-chronological report. In Science we have delved into our bodies further by looking at how our muscles help to move our bodies.

Year 4: The children have come back from the holidays rested and ready for a new year of learning! Our learning in this coming Spring term will be based around the theme of 'The Orient Express' and, to get us off to a good start, we have created historical artefacts from the Shang Dynasty of Ancient China and acted as archaeologists to present our findings to our classes. In English, we have begun to reflect on what clues we might find in a text to show us that it is set in another culture. In Maths, we have been building on our knowledge of the 1, 2 and 10 times-tables to explore the 11 and 12 times-tables through partitioning.

Year 5: The children have returned refreshed after the break and are making a positive start to the Spring Term. We have begun our new history topic about how the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings came to settle in Britain after the departure of the Romans in 410CE. To complement our history focus, in English, we are learning about Kennings – the Viking poems which use few words and are like riddles. Do ask your child to give you an example! In R.E., children are using the story of Esther in the Old Testament to consider issues such as sacrifice, prejudice and discrimination and are exploring how this story links to the Jewish celebration of Purim.

Year 6: We have come back from holidays ready for another jam-packed term! We have started our new topic - War and Peace - which ventures into World War 1 and World War 2. Students are extremely eager to learn more about such important periods of history. In English, we explored the use of fronted adverbials and how to write from another character's perspective. The children used various fairy-tales to construct some very interesting pieces of writing! In Maths, we have focused on decimals; discussing and understanding place value and also how to multiply and divide by integers. We have also started learning about Hinduism in RE and all about various professions and their salaries in PSHE. Students are also excited about the new competition in KS2 - looking after their own plant (an Amaryllis). Year 6 have voted and decided on the names of their class plant - Plantzilla (6NC), Albert Plantstein (6K) and Carmen (6C).

Notices:

Collective Worship

In the past, we have applied for a Determination which allows us to have collective worship which reflects not only the Christian faith, but also the faiths and customs of our wider school community. Without our Determination the expectation would be that our collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. The Determination enables us to value, reflect and promote the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the school population. This year we need to apply for renewal of the Determination to allow for acts of worship to be relevant and meet the needs of our diverse community. The Determination provides an exemption for the whole school from the requirement that the majority of acts of worship must be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. This does not mean that the Christian Faith is not reflected but means that we are also able to consider other traditions, customs and beliefs. **If you have any comments to make about this application, please could you send them to the school in writing or use the office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk email address by Monday 3rd February. Thank you.**

Notices:

This term we are running a class challenge for KS2 classes - The Alexandra Amaryllis Class Challenge. The idea is for each class to grow and look after an amaryllis plant. Each week the class amaryllis will be measured and monitored. Each plant has been named and awards will be presented for the tallest grown, the most beautiful and the most cared for plant. Please ask the children how their class amaryllis is doing!



Key Dates for the term:

Key dates for the Spring Term 2020

6th January Spring Term begins
 15th January Year 6 World War II workshop
 21st January Year 2 Primary Sports
 23rd January Year 6 Rugby workshop at Twickenham stadium
 24th January Year 6 Rugby workshop at Twickenham stadium
 24th January Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
 24th January 4MC Class assembly
 31st January 3F Class assembly
 3rd February Year 5 trip to Ufton Court
 7th February 1I Class assembly

14th February – INSET Day – school closed

17th February to Friday 21st February – Half term

24th February – Return to school

28th February 2C Class assembly
 2nd March Choir at Royal Festival Hall
 6th March 2W Class assembly
 13th March 1B Class assembly
 20th March 2B Class assembly
 27th March 5B Class assembly
 3rd April 1V class assembly

3rd April – Last day of term. School finishes at 1:30pm

6th April - 17th April - Spring Holiday Break

School Attendance:

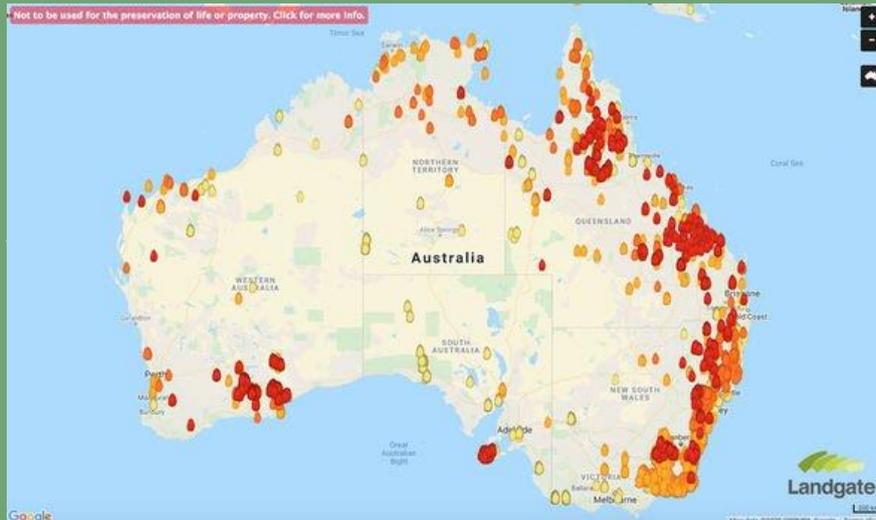
Current whole school attendance is 96.10%.
 Congratulations to all the children who have achieved 100% recently.
 Please remember that term time leave will be unauthorised.



The children have asked school council if we can help support the people and wildlife in Australia who are currently having difficulties as the bushfires cause a great deal of destruction and harm. Although Australia is on another continent over 15000 km away from us here in Hounslow, children and staff have been shocked by the news reports they are seeing. School council have asked if we can help in some small way and would like to do two things in the next few weeks.

Here is some context and to why:

2019/2020 Australian bushfires



Australians know to expect summer wildfires. But the blazes arrived early this year, fed by drought and the country's hottest and driest year on record.

So far:

- Over 2000 homes have been destroyed
- 24 people have died
- Over 500 million animals have been killed
- Fires are still burning.

In just New South Wales, an area the size of London is affected by the fires.

How big is the total area affected by NSW fires?

Four million hectares (40,000 sq km) in New South Wales since 1 July



What can we do to help?

The school council, gathered together to share your ideas and it was decided that as a school we will do our part to help Australia.



We are holding a non-school uniform day on **Monday 20th January** with Australia as the theme. Children can dress as an Australian, an Australian animal or come in clothes in Australian national colours. Children can bring a £1 donation.

We are holding a 'name the Koala or Kangaroo' completion, again for a £1, children can enter to win the toys above if they can guess their names correctly. This will be held daily in the quad afterschool for your chance to enter. Good luck.

All money raised will go to the Red Cross Australia to support displaced families and to support Wildlife conservation.

Please see Australia fundraising letter for more details.

Many thanks

