

Primary Newsletter



Spring 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

WOW! What a busy half term it has been. Children have been really immersed in their learning and I've been seeing some excellent work as I've been going around the school during the last few weeks. World Book Day was magical and thank you for finding sparkly clothes for so many of the children to wear!

There is always so much exciting learning taking place all the time at our Primary School. Remember you can keep up to date with all that is going on in school by visiting the Primary area of the ARA website and search for our Curriculum Newsletters and our Knowledge Organisers for each year group.

This is a busy year for Years 2 and 6 especially as we gear up to SATs. Year 6 will be undertaking tests from Monday 9th May to Thursday 12th May. The teaching staff in Year 6 have been working incredibly hard to ensure that the children are well prepared to take these tests. Year 2 SATs comprise of tests and tasks which the teachers administer as part of the normal school day, with the test part of the SATs taking place from Monday 16th May to Friday 20th May.

Over the Easter break the Year 2 play area will have the second stage of its transformation taking place. The soft blue surface is being re-laid and a whole new set of play equipment is being constructed for the children to play on when they return after the Easter break. We are then moving on to the new cover and play areas for Nursery, Reception and Year 1. Plans have been drawn up by staff and these have been agreed to take forward.

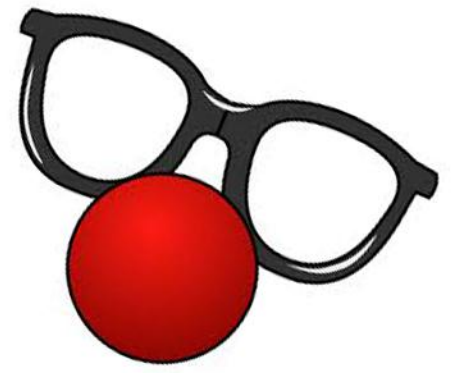
Please have a peaceful break. Any of you that have families living in areas of conflict throughout the world our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Together

RED
NOSE
DAY

Do Something
Funny for Money



This year we took part in fundraising for Red Nose day (Comic Relief). We all wore something red and then donated £1! As a school we raised £177 for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who donated.

What is Red Nose Day?

Red Nose Day is a fundraising event run by Comic Relief.

Comic Relief is a UK charity which aims to create a just world free from poverty.

The money raised is used to transform lives in the UK and around the world.

Why we took part

Pupils learn valuable life skills and gain understanding and empathy for others in the world.

It's a great way to get together for a giggle.

Our school can really make a difference to people's lives.



Dress to Express Day

On Friday 11th February, Alec Reed Academy celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. For this year's theme 'Express Yourself', the children were encouraged to explore the different ways we can express ourselves, and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas. Thank you to all parents and carers for your generous donations. As a result, we managed to raise over £300 for charity.



Punctuality and Attendance

Well done to everyone for making sure our children get to school on time every day. A reminder our doors open for soft start at 8.15 a.m. and our lessons start at 8.30 a.m. Congratulations to the following classes who were awarded best punctuality and attendance this half term.

Phase 1

| | Best Punctuality | Best attendance |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| 25.2.22 | Dove | Squirrel |
| 4.3.22 | Starfish | Squirrel |
| 11.3.22 | Panda | Lobster |
| 18.3.22 | Lobster | Lobster |
| 25.3.22 | Peacock | Lobster |

Phase 2

| | Best Punctuality | Best attendance |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 25.2.22 | Albatross | Albatross |
| 4.3.22 | Dolphin | Albatross |
| 11.3.22 | Giraffe | Albatross |
| 18.3.22 | Dolphin | Dolphin |
| 25.3.22 | Elephant and Giraffe | Albatross |



TOP TIPS FOR MAINTAINING GOOD ORAL HEALTH

Ealing Smiles Daily - Ealing's Oral Health Programme



Use a fluoride toothpaste when you brush your teeth twice a day
(the brand does not matter).

Children aged 0-3 should be using a smear of toothpaste that contains at least 1000ppm of fluoride (a smear is a thin layer of toothpaste).

Children over the age of 3 should be using toothpaste that contains 1450ppm of fluoride, only use a pea size amount of toothpaste, they do not have to use a special children's toothpaste, the family toothpaste is fine as long as it contains 1450ppm fluoride.

Fluoride helps to prevent tooth decay, it strengthens the tooth enamel and can be found in toothpaste and in some mouthwashes.

Remember: Brush, spit and do not rinse the mouth.

It is best not to wash away the tooth paste, this will give the fluoride time to work on the enamel.

For more information:

www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/taking-care-of-childrens-teeth/
www.nhs.uk/conditions/fluoride/



YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK WORKSHOP

This term we held a parent meeting all about the Phonics Screening Check which is a test for children in Year 1. Children take it during June in a one-to-one setting with a teacher. They are given 40 words to read, 20 real words and 20 alien words. They must use their phonic knowledge to decode and blend these words accurately. The children are constantly practising their sounds at school and regularly take part in practice tests.

There are many past papers that are posted on the government website that can be used at home to support your child's learning. Please check out the link below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video



CELLO MASTERCLASS

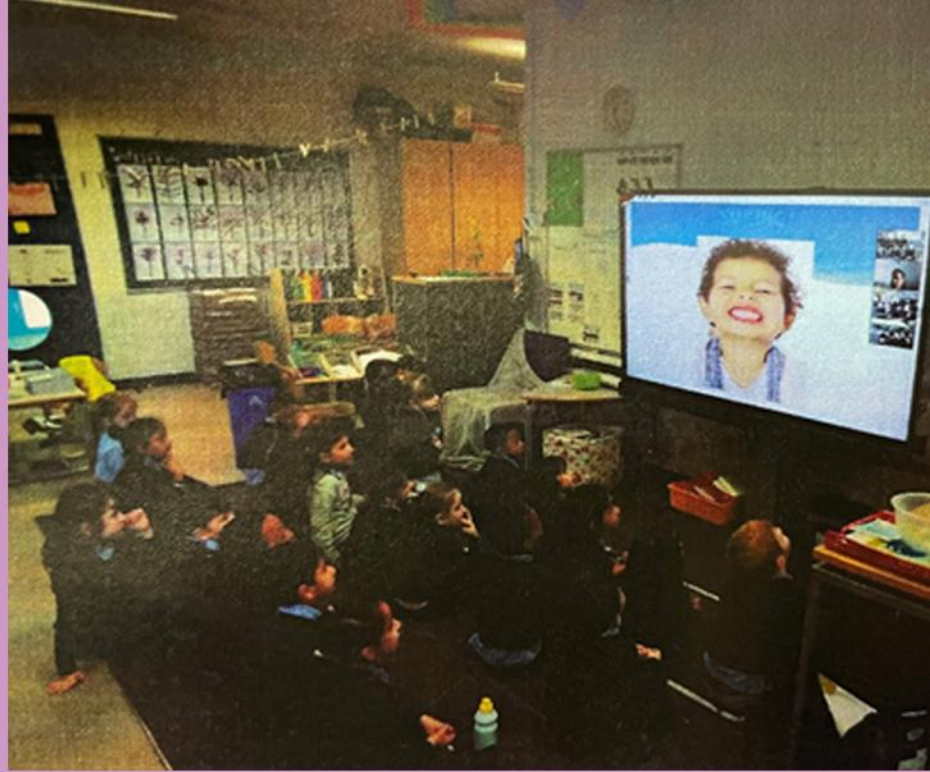
This half term some of the Year 4 children were very lucky to have a cello master class with the secondary cello music teacher. They learnt about the history of the cello and the traditional music which is played on it. They also learnt how the cello is very adaptable and it is used in many modern pieces of music too. The children were very excited to get to play the instrument as well, learning how to hold it correctly and to use a bow.



ORAL HEALTH SESSIONS

On Friday 28th January 2022, Nursery, Reception and Year 1 were very lucky to have Adele Francois speak to us via zoom, who is the Oral Health promoter for the borough of Ealing. She took the time to speak to us about how important our teeth are and what will happen to our teeth as we grow up. We learnt 3 main facts about keeping our teeth healthy:

- Brush your teeth for two minutes twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste*
- Have a balanced diet and learn the importance of cutting down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks*
- Visit the dentist regularly, as often as they recommend*



YEAR 2 SATS WORKSHOP

This term we held a parent workshop about the 'Year 2, End of KS1 SATS' which take place in May. Children will sit the following tests.

- Reading (2 papers).
- Mathematics (2 papers).
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling (2 papers)

The children will have been preparing for these tests throughout their learning in school and will be familiar with them. It will provide teachers with a great evaluation of how your child is progressing.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD BE READY FOR THE TEST?

Try these activities:

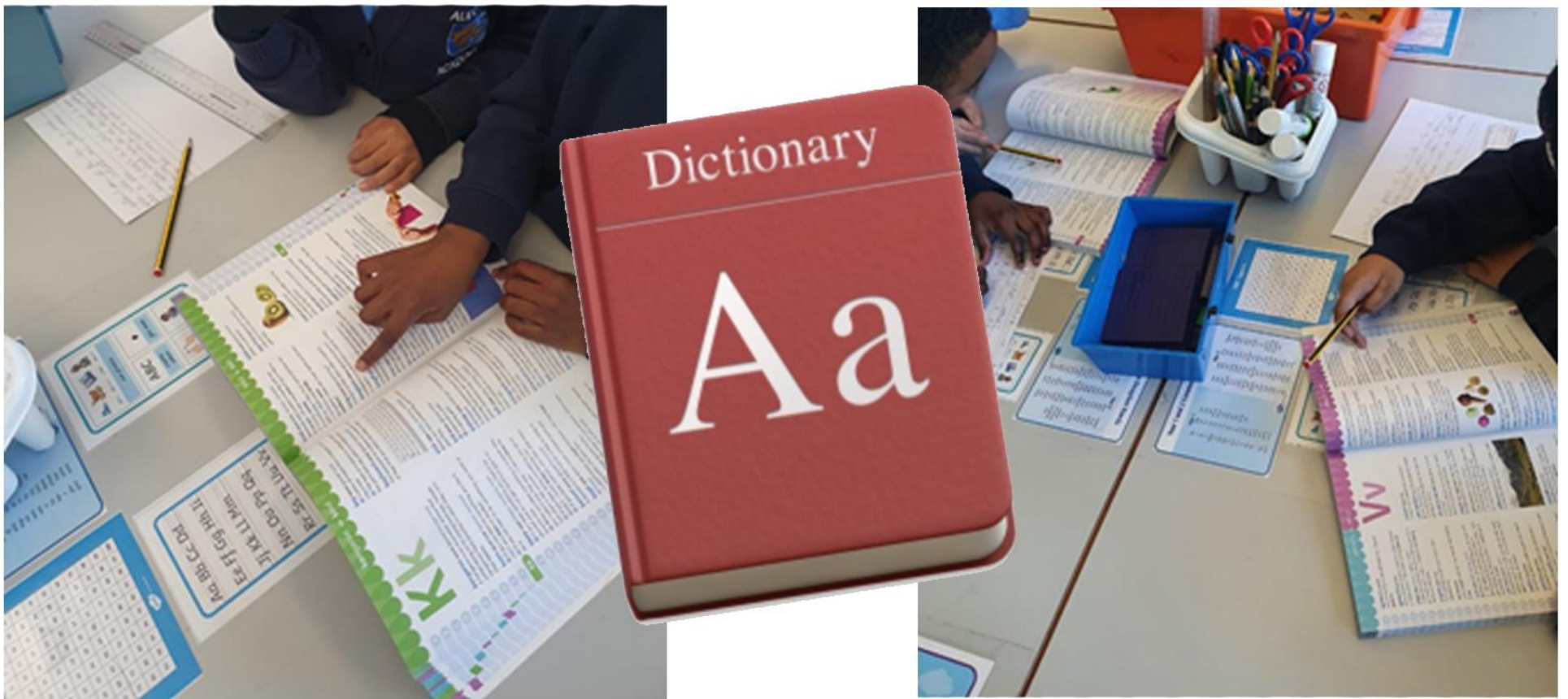
- Check out our Fun learning ideas for age 7 to find language games and activities to play together.
- Choose a book from the Oxford Owl free eBook library to read together.
- Read our top tips for ages 6-7 to find ways to help develop your child's reading skills.
- Play games and print out activity sheets in our kids' activities section.
- Practice key skills with Progress with Oxford Activity books.

There are many past papers that are posted on the government website that can be used at home to support your child's learning. Please check out the link below. www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

YEAR 2 DICTIONARY CHALLENGE:

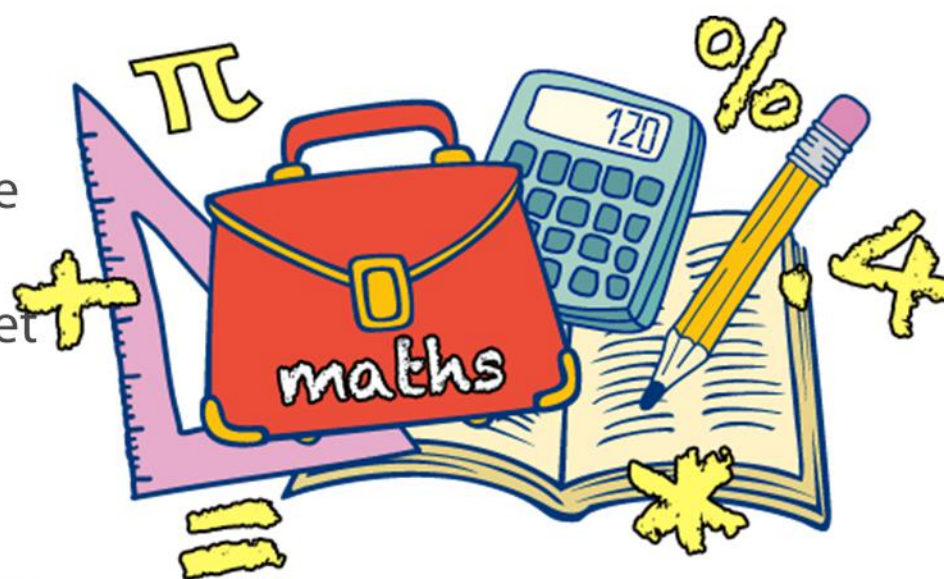
This half term Year 2 have been learning how to use a dictionary to further their learning.

They learnt how a dictionary is alphabetical in order and how this is followed across each letter in a word. They also competed in teams to see who was able to find 5 definitions for some really challenging words! All children thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and have learned some excellent life-long skills. Well done Year 2!



MATHS MASTERCLASS AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE!

This term, a selection of children from Year 5 have attended a Maths Masterclass, on Saturdays, at the Royal Institute in Central London. The Masterclasses were a series of workshops where students explored mathematics and computer science outside the confines of the classroom, through hands-on extra-curricular workshops. Each week, they met with workshop leaders who shared their expertise and passion through interactive project work. The children's participation was rewarded with a certificate and there will also be Celebration Events for all attendees of the Masterclasses on Saturday 9th July 2022 at the Royal Institution.



END OF KS2 SATS WORKSHOP

This half term, the year 6 team held a parent workshop to discuss the End of KS2 SATs scheduled for the beginning of May and what parents and carers could do to support their child.

The end of KS2 SATs consist of the following tests:

| Date | Paper | Time |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Monday, 9 th May | English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Paper 1 | 45 minutes |
| Monday, 9 th May | English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Paper 2 | Approximately 15 minutes |
| Tuesday, 10 th May | English Reading | 1 hour |
| Wednesday, 11 th May | Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic | 30 minutes |
| Wednesday, 11 th May | Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning | 40 minutes |
| Thursday, 12 th May | Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning | 40 minutes |

The children have been preparing for these tests throughout their learning this school year and will be familiar with the format of each of the assessments. In addition to what the year 6 staff are doing in school to support the pupils, there are a few things pupils could be doing at home to help them be prepared for the tests.

What can I do to help my child be ready for the test?

- Ensure pupils are secure with their times tables. Pupils all have a login to TT (times tables) Rockstars and should be practising this regularly.
- Pupils should be reading at home, with an adult, for at least 20 minutes a day. In every pupil's reading record, you will be able to find question stems to help support you with questioning your child's understanding of what they have read.
- Encourage pupils to complete the homework that is sent home weekly and over half term holidays – this homework has been designed to cover specific misconceptions in pupils learning.
- Ensure pupils are in school on time and every day. Unlike assessment weeks, if pupils miss one of their SATs papers, there is no opportunity to resit the test at a later date.
- Ensure pupils get enough sleep and have breakfast before coming to school.

The resources linked below can be used to support your child in preparing for the tests.

- Use the link here to access some top tips for reading and developing their reading skills: [Reading & comprehension: Age 10–11 \(Year 6\) | Oxford Owl](#)
- Visit the Oak National Academy site for some support with KS2 SATs revision: [KS2 SATs preparation | Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)
- Use this link for access to free SATs skills worksheets and information about the End of Key Stage 2 tests: [Key Stage 2 SATs | Oxford Owl](#)
- This White Rose Maths link has free access to workbooks related to maths topics covered in year 6: [Parent resources | White Rose Maths](#)
- This White Rose Maths link has free access to teaching videos for all year 6 maths topics: [Home Learning | White Rose Maths](#)

Parents who attended the meeting on the 16th March 2022, will have received a 'Power to Perform' resource pack that outlined the key information regarding the end of KS2 SATs and some further ideas to support your child at home. Every pupil in year 6 will receive this same pack to take home with them on Thursday 31st March 2022.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE NSPCC

Over the last few weeks, a group of ARA Primary students have worked hard on planning and organising a fundraising event as part of their Life Skills sessions. Together, they have learned why charity is a worthy cause and which steps they needed to take to organise the event.

The process has been extremely fun, and they have loved taking part in all the various stages of this project. Some of these have been:

- *To Mind map ideas of different charities and fundraising ideas*
- *Held a vote of which charity and fundraising idea to choose – NSPCC and Superhero Day won the vote!*
- *Write a letter to Ms Franklin asking for permission and explain their reasons - they then took these to Ms Franklin*
- *Create posters to help advertise the event*
- *Work together to prepare for the day.*
- *Do a shared write of a letter to send out to parents about the day*

The children have worked incredibly hard over the last 6 weeks, and they should be extremely proud of what they have achieved, for both themselves and for the NSPCC.

I'm sure Superhero Day will be a huge success, and everyone will look incredible!



EXPLORING VEHICLES THROUGH CROSS PHASE LINKS

This half term in Design and Technology lessons the year 2 pupils have been learning all about Vehicles. They have experimented building the chassis, axle, and wheels of a car, learnt new vocabulary and discussed why different vehicles are designed for a purpose. To conclude our unit, the pupils visited the secondary school and took part in a practical lesson where they built cars out of wood. These sessions were led by Mr Spiller and Mr Flynn the secondary D&T teachers. The pupils enjoyed these lessons!

