

Primary Newsletter



Spring 1. 10th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of our wonderful children,

We're almost at the end of Spring 1 and it is proving to be another purposeful and productive term with the children enjoying many broad and enriching opportunities and experiences. Do ask your children what exciting things have been happening in their class!

Thankfully, we now seem to be coming out of the cold snap we have had since earlier this term and I for one am looking forward to the days getting warmer, longer, and lighter. However, we probably still have some wet and cold days ahead of us so please do ensure your children continue to come to school appropriately dressed. Please also remember to label all of your child's belongings so that lost items can be reunited with their owners quickly and easily.

Reading, Reading, Reading

We often get asked by our parents and carers, 'How can I help my child do well in school?' The simple answer is to read. Then read some more and then a little more. Research consistently proves that those children who read regularly during their primary school age achieve higher in their GCSEs than those who don't. A small amount of reading both aloud and to each other, each night, for example 10 minutes, will make a huge difference. In school, we put reading at the heart of all we do.

I have another bit of really good news to share with you all - every year Ofsted write a data report for each and every school called the IDSR (Independent Data Summary Report) where the results of the national tests from the previous summer are analysed and measured against all other schools. Most of our results were 'in line with national results' which we were really happy about, in addition we achieved the following:

Attainment at key stage 2 (year 6)

For high prior attainers, progress in mathematics was significantly above national and in the highest 20% in 2022

Attainment at key stage 1 (year 2 - now in year 3)

Attainment of greater depth in writing (27%) was significantly above national in 2022

Attainment in phonics (year 1 - now in year 2)

The proportion of pupils meeting the phonics expected standard in Year 1 was significantly above national and in the highest 20% of all schools in 2022.

This could not have been achieved without your continued support and help for your children - thank you.

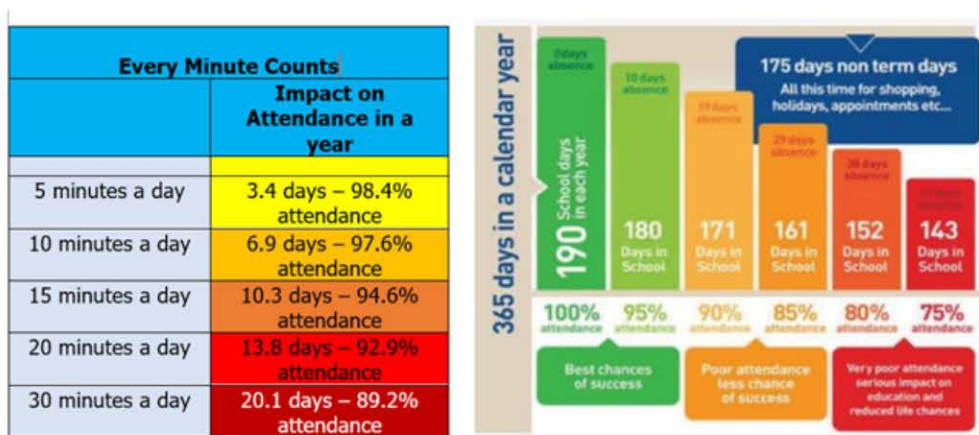
Attendance and Punctuality

We are currently trying to do everything that we can to improve the attendance and punctuality of our children to school. (Every Pupil, Every Day). Remember, coughs and colds are normal at this time of year and a runny nose, or a bit of a cold is not a reason to keep your child off school. One of the most important ways in which you can support us and your children in 2023 (and beyond) is to ensure that your children attend school every day. Attendance in school is of paramount importance - any absence can have a profoundly negative impact on your child's learning, as important aspects of a sequence of work can be missed.

Please see the following extract taken from a Department for Education document "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

As you can see, for the educational success of your children, it is exceptionally important to attend school as much as possible. The school will continue to focus on attendance, and I would really appreciate the support of all Parents and Carers. All of our children should have equal access to success, and we wish to remove any barriers contributing to poor attendance.

Please look at the two charts below which show the impact on a child's learning that is regularly late to school and how lower levels of attendance can reduce the life chances of our children.



Parents Evenings

Just to confirm the scheduled dates of Thursday 20th April 2023 and Monday 24th April 2023. Information regards booking appointments etc will be sent out to you all closer to the time.

Have a great half term break from all of the ARA Primary team.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

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

Week beg.	Best Punctuality	Best Attendance
13.1.23	Year 3 Peacock	Year 3 Panda
20.1.23	Year 1 Dove	Year 3 Peacock
27.1.23	Year 2 Owl	Year 1 Dove
3.2.23	Year 1 Dove	Year 1 Starfish
10.2.23	Year 3 Peacock	Year 1 Dove

Phase 2

Week beg.	Best Punctuality	Best Attendance
13.1.23	Year 5 Manatee & Year 6 Albatross	Year 5 Eagle
20.1.23	Year 5 Manatee	Year 6 Dolphin
27.1.23	Year 5 Eagle	Year 5 Eagle
3.2.23	Year 5 Manatee	Year 4 Kestrel
10.2.23	Year 5 Manatee	Year 5 Eagle



HEALTHY SCHOOLS PLATINUM AWARD

Healthy Schools London Platinum Award

We are delighted to announce that Alec Reed Academy has achieved the Platinum Healthy Schools London award in recognition of the hard work of our staff, pupils, and parents to promote healthy eating and exercise. Mrs White will be presenting all the positive changes we have made as an academy to promote healthy eating and exercise across the primary phase during an Ealing Packed Lunch Conference to support other schools in Ealing. What a success for our fantastic community!

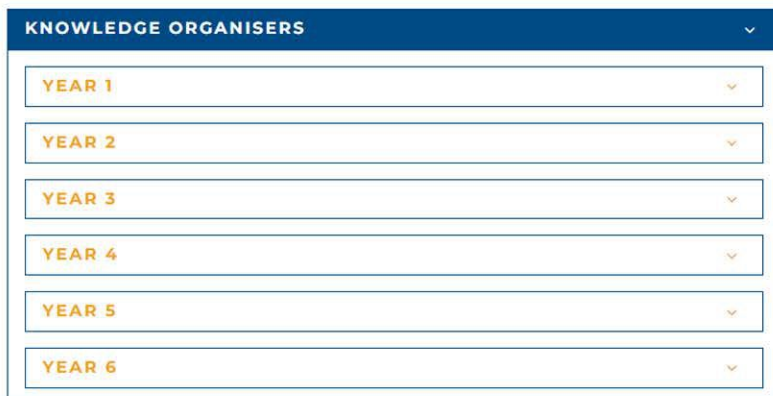


Healthy School



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

We wanted to remind you about our fantastic Knowledge Organisers that are available for you to access on our website. These Knowledge Organisers are available for every subject and have been written by our subject leaders and teachers. They provide information on the knowledge and skills your children will be learning for each particular topic. We also include key vocabulary and links to previous learning.



Visit: www.alecreedacademy.co.uk/primary/curriculum

PARENT WORKSHOP:

PACKED LUNCH FOR UNDER £1

Thank you to all the parents who attend Mrs White's packed lunch workshop. We were overwhelmed with the parental engagement for this workshop and will look to hopefully run another workshop in the summer term for those interested and on the waiting list.

The workshop went extremely well with parents learning lots of new useful money saving tips and healthy snack alternatives whilst having the opportunity to get hands on and create a packed lunch for their child. We were also joined by Senior Health Improvement Officer, Nicole McGregor, who is also a trained nutritionist who was able to provide advice and support to parents.



Parent Feedback:

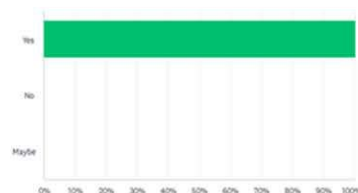
Q2 Did you learn anything new today?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Q3 Would you recommend this workshop to others?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the **likelihood** of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the **potential impact** of a cyber incident; and making the **recovery** from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version – by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' – such as your birthplace or a pet's name – in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency – even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates – so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure – criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack – or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun – so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-word | https://haveibeenpwned.com

EYFS

PEOPLE WHO HELP US!

This half term in Nursery and Reception, we have been learning all about people who help us. We have been learning all about firefighters, doctors, teachers, dentists, police officers, paramedics and veterinarians. We were really lucky to even have real life superheroes come and visit us at our school.

On Monday 23rd January 2023, we had a visit from two local police officers Jess & Bev. They spoke to us all about what their day-to-day job is like and how they help to keep us safe. They even spoke to us about how to cross a road safely. They were so nice and even let us try on some of their uniform!



TOP TIPS

FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Remember the **SMART** rules!

S

is for: Stay **SAFE!**

Keep your personal information private. Do not give out your address, phone number, social media handles, or school name to online strangers.

M

is for: Don't **MEET** Up!

Meeting someone in person you met online could be dangerous. Check with a parent or guardian.

A

is for: **ACCEPTING!**

Don't accept friend requests or files from people you don't know.

R

is for: **RELIABLE!**

Stop the spread of misinformation by relying on trustworthy sources, family, and friends.

T

is for: **TELL** Someone!

If you see something, speak up! If something seems off, tell a responsible adult.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring 2023 Key Dates

Monday 20th February

Pupils return to school

Week beginning 20th March

Shakespeare Week with workshops for Years 2-5

Monday 20th March

Parents Evening

Wednesday 22nd March

History Dazzle Day

Thursday 23rd March

Parents Evening

Friday 31st March

End of Term 1.15pm finish

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER 2023

Tuesday 18th April

Pupils return to school

Monday 1st May

Academy closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

Academy closed for additional Bank Holiday

Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th May inclusive

Year 6 SATS

COMMUNITY EVENTS @ ARA

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KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

We are working hard to make sure you are fully informed about your child's learning and the key events taking place at school. In addition to letters home, here's a summary of what's available:

- **Half termly Newsletter**
- **Half termly Reading Bulletin**
- **Social Media updates**
- **Curriculum Newsletters**
- **Knowledge Organisers for each topic**



Visit our website to access these materials.

Please contact the Primary Office for further guidance.

Remember to always check your emails to avoid missing out on latest updates.

WEBSITE: WWW.ALECREEDACADEMY.CO.UK

FACEBOOK: [ALEC REED ACADEMY PRIMARY](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@ALECREEDACADEMYPRIMARY](#)

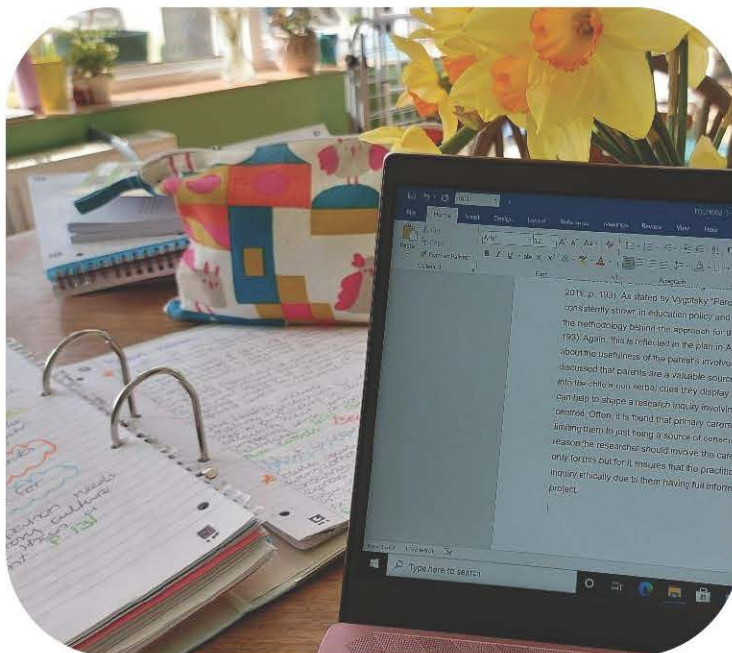
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DROP IN TO OUR INFORMATION
SESSION TO FIND OUT MORE!

Wednesday 15th March

4.00pm – 6.00pm

**at Alec Reed Academy,
London, UB5 5LQ**

*Please note, all centres and degrees run subject to numbers.

www.learninginstitute.co.uk
degrees@learninginstitute.co.uk



/team.tli



@tlis
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Let's Get Out and About!

February Half Term Holiday Activity Newsletter 2023

Welcome to the February Half Term '23 edition of Let's Get Out and About! In this edition, you will find out more about what is on in your local area during the half term break. Please remember to check the websites of venues before visiting as in some cases advance booking may be required. Enjoy!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

The festival for families returns from 8th – 18th February 2023 for children aged 0 – 11 and their grown-ups: 11 days jam-packed with more than 100 events, 50% of which are completely free.

Half-term highlights include a modern retelling of **Rapunzel by BalletLORENT**, talks by **Cressida Cowell** and **Michael Rosen**, the return of **YolanDa's Band Jam**, a daytime rave with the **world's youngest DJ**, and dinosaurs, magic, astronomy, hip-hop and comedy. For the older kids, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February have a special focus on ages 7 – 11, with shows including **Everything Has Changed**, which playfully explores the impact of change.



The festival includes a wide range of free, inclusive and accessible events and activities. Imagine Children's Festival is a Relaxed festival, meaning that performances have a relaxed approach to noise and movement in the space, and you are free to enter and exit. A chill-out space and noise-cancelling headphones are also available for both adults and children. Head to [Imagine Children's Festival | Southbank Centre](#) for more information. Some of the events are FREE and no booking required, just turn up on the day NB if you click on the activity and there is no link to book

tickets, you don't need one; others require booking in advance. **How to get there:** Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. The nearest tube and train stations within 5 – 7 minutes walk are Waterloo (**Northern**, **Bakerloo**, **Jubilee** and **Waterloo & City** lines) and Embankment (**District** & **Circle** lines). There are also lots of bus routes with stops 2– 5 minutes from our venues. For more information on getting here by road, rail or river, see below.

Explore, build, play Celebrate architecture and materials with Play Build Play at **the National Gallery** as it approaches its building transformation. **When?** Tuesday, 14 February, Wednesday, 15 February and Thursday, 16 February 2023 11 am - 4 pm (drop-in)

How to get there: **Elizabeth Line** or **Central Line** to Tottenham Court Road Station, then 10 min. walk. [February half-term: Explore, build, play | Events container | National Gallery, London](#)

If you prefer to head out of town, **The Pavilion Shopping Centre, Uxbridge** is hosting a Winter Play Day on Tuesday 14 February, 10am to 4pm. Come along for a family fun day with activities including dance, story time, a baby corner, games, colouring and much more. Cost: Free, no need to book. Find out more: sdurner@hillingdon.gov.uk



SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Imagine Children's Festival

8 – 18 Feb 2023

Gunnersbury Park & Museum

A range of **Free** Family Trails are regularly available as well as February Half Term activities including Puppet Making on 14th February 11am – 3pm <https://www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on/children-families/make-and-take-once-upon-a-time/> OR make Royal Paper Chains on 15th February 11am – 3pm [Royal People Paper Chains | Gunnersbury \(visitgunnersbury.org\)](https://www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on/children-families/make-and-take-once-upon-a-time/) - no need to book. Suggested donation of £2. Click the link to find out about dates and times. Acton Town Tube Station (**Piccadilly** and **District** lines) or South Ealing Tube Station (**Piccadilly line**) then 10 mins walk either route. Buses E3 and 65. [Children & Families | Gunnersbury \(visitgunnersbury.org\)](https://www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on/children-families/make-and-take-once-upon-a-time/)

What's on at the local libraries?

Chinese New Year celebration - Acton Library, Saturday 11 February, 2 - 3.30pm

Ealing libraries in partnership with Hong Kong People Association invite you to celebrate the New Year with an afternoon of dance, music and storytelling. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and find out more about this year of the Rabbit. No booking required, All welcome

Chess and games club - Acton Library, Saturday 18 February, 11am - 4pm

Come and play chess and other board games including monopoly, dominos and scrabble. No booking required, Ages 5+

Make your own comic Acton Library, Saturday 25 February, 11-12noon, 2-3pm,

Join us and create your own story and characters. No booking required, Ages 5+

Create a cushioned heart for Valentine's Day Jubilee Gardens Library, Southall Saturday 11

February, 2pm Make a soft cushioned heart for yourself with tissue paper, No booking required, Age 4+

3D Valentine hearts craft Northolt Library, Saturday 11 February, 10:30am

Come and make a big 3D heart to give as a gift or hang up. No booking required, Age 3 and over

Make a bookmark Northolt Leisure Library, Saturday 4 February, 1pm

Never forget your place in a book again with this bookmark craft. No booking required, Ages: 5-10

Animal craft Northolt Leisure Library, Saturday 11 February, 1pm

To celebrate Darwin Day come make some animals with us. No booking required, Ages: 5-10

Half term reading challenge Northolt Leisure Library, **Monday 13 - Saturday 18 February**. During Half term, read 6 books to win a medal. Ages: 5-10

KidsYogaFlo returns to Hanwell Library - Free event on Thursday 16th February

Emma Hoddy @kidsyogaflo will run 2 Free yoga sessions on Thursday 16th February. She is running a parent/carer and child (ages 3-5 years) from 10-10:40am. 11-11:50am a session for children aged 6-10 years (parents must remain on site). There are limited places and booking is essential via:

<https://bookwhen.com/kidsyogaflo> If you book a place we kindly ask that you inform Emma if you are no longer able to attend so she can offer the space to someone on the waiting list. If you are unable to get a place, then please email Emma at kidsyogaflo@gmail.com and she will place you on a waiting list.

PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

FREE Drop-in Drawing Workshop for all ages and abilities on Friday 17th February 2023 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm. No booking required.

Come and practice your drawings skills with

artist [Lucia Ferguson](#) in a FREE drop-in drawing workshop for families and people of all ages and abilities in Sir John Soane's Pitzhanger Manor. This is a drop-in session, so participants may come and go as they please over the course of the session, space permitting.

Children must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian.

<https://www.pitzhanger.org.uk/whatson/drop-in-drawing-workshop/>

This newsletter was compiled by the School Partnerships and Enrichment Team, Ealing Council. All information was correct at the time of compilation but please use the weblinks provided to check dates and times before joining an activity. Please contact sthompson@ealing.gov.uk for any suggestions or feedback.