

AUTUMN 1 2024

ALVELEY NEWSLETTER

www.alveleyprimary.co.uk



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is a pleasure to write the first school newsletter of the academic year 2024/25. After the longest half term of the year, I wanted to share a couple of reflections on how the pupils have returned to school and some of my aims for the year ahead.

Firstly, the pupils have all returned to school settled and ready to learn. There is a real buzz around school, with new topics, new classes and new pupils all ready and raring to go. The school itself is continually evolving, and there has been a lot of positive feedback both at the gates and parents evening around how much the environment now reflects the ambition we have for our pupils. By the time you return from half term, you will see new features on the outside of school, and in the coming weeks, a new scooter rack will have been fitted, in order to support those who wish to travel in this greener, healthy way. I'm currently looking at ways of expanding the Reception/ KS1 outdoor area and hoping to develop a STEM area inside school, to really inspire pupils to engage with these important subjects.

As stated in one of the final letters of last year, our school outperformed the national average across every academic metric in 2023/24. This is due to sustained support and focus both from school and home and, while far from being the 'be all and end all' of school, is the central pillar of everything we do. Essential to this has been the pupils' ambition and drive. We have pupils desperate to do extra maths challenges, supporting and congratulating each other for moving up a level and the photocopier is in overdrive with pupils asking for extra practice to take home. You can find **all** of the maths challenges on our website. Keep it up Alveley!

I hope that you have a peaceful and relaxing half term holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th November, ready for another exciting half term.

Mr Marsh



SCHOOL CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Autumn 2 2024

Term Dates

- **4th Nov** - Term starts for pupils
- **5th Nov** - Dodgeball 1
- **12th Nov** - Dodgeball 2
- **20th Nov** - Gymnastics Competition
- **21st Nov** - Oak class lunch and parents workshop

Dates to keep an eye out for:

- Remaining trips and parent lunches/ workshops for this term.
- Christmas lunch Christmas party and carol concert dates will be sent home in a separate letter during the first week of term.

CLASSES



BEECH

Beech class have settled well into the new school year. We have enjoyed learning all about ourselves in our topic Marvellous Me and then extended this to look at people who help us in our wider community with visits from Alveley Community First Responders and a Veterinary Practitioner. In literacy we have started to explore initial sounds and used this in our writing to label pictures. During maths we have explored sorting and grouping, measure, weight and capacity as well as looking at patterns. We have read a variety of books so far this half term as well as leaning tongue twisters and lots of new vocabulary linked to our topics.



CEDAR

Cedar have had a great first half term! Our topic this half term has been 'Best of British.' As part of our learning we have been focusing on Paddington in Literacy. Children have been writing character descriptions and re-writing a familiar Paddington story. In maths this half term children have been learning about place value as well as addition and subtraction. Children have been using maths apparatus to support their understanding. In our foundation subjects and science, we have been looking at both aerial and relief maps and how to find their features, then applying this knowledge to our artwork. We have also been learning traditional British folk songs and composing our own pieces.



ELM

We have been up to lots this half term in Elm. Our topic this half term has been 'Our Blue Planet', as part of our learning we have created non-chronological reports about Oceans. We have learnt all about living things and their habitats, we went to the Sealife centre and got to see some Ocean habitats. We have been working on routines in gymnastics and putting our balances all together. As well as developing our striking and defending skills in football with Kidderminster Harriers. In history we have looked at children's lives in the Victorian times and compared them to our lives today. We look forward to learning all about 'Polar Explorers' next half term.



OAK

It's been a half term full of learning, teamwork, and achievements! Oak Class has had an exciting and busy half term, centred around the topic of Ancient Greece. On our topic day, the children learned about some of the remarkable discoveries made by the Greeks, explored the significance of ancient vases, and even tasted a selection of traditional Greek foods. The entire class also participated in the EKO STEM Robotics Workshop this half term, where they built and coded robots to complete a range of challenges linked to STEM themes. Both the girls' and boys' football teams put in outstanding performances in their tournaments, proudly reaching the semi-finals.

AROUND SCHOOL



Harvest Festival



STEM Day



Ancient Greece Day



First Responder Assembly



Flower Planting Around School



Vet Workshop



Sealife Centre



**Girl's Football
(Semi-finalists!)**



**Fire Safety Assembly
and Workshop**

School Refurbishments

The playground refurbishment



The new entrance hall



School Refurbishments

The hall



LITTLE SQUIRRELS NURSERY

NURSERY TIMINGS

Morning Sessions

8.45-11.45AM

Afternoon Sessions

12.15-3.15PM

OUR LEARNING THIS HALF TERM

Nursery have had a brilliant start to the new school year. Lots of new faces have joined and the group have all settled in well, making lots of new friends. Our topic for this half term has been 'all about me.' As part of this children have been thinking about themselves, their families and their friends. They have also been learning about feelings and how their feelings can change. One of the focus stories this half term has been Owl Babies. The children talked about how the baby owls felt at different part of the story. Miss Ordidge paid Nursery a visit with her baby daughter and talked to the children about how to look after and care for a baby. Children were keen to share stories about when they were younger. Nursery have also been learning about 'people who help us.' This has been an exciting topic with children having opportunities to meet some of these people. The local first responders team and a local vet visited the group to discuss their job role. Children have also learnt the names of many other people who help us and now know what they can do to help others.



JOIN OUR NURSERY!

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 .

If you are interested to know more, please contact our School Office.



Friends of Alveley School



Our first autumn event, the Halloween disco, was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed having a dance and playing a few games, especially turning Mr O Malley into a mummy!!!

Thank you to the parents and staff who volunteered their time to make the event possible.

The money raised from this and our future events will go straight back to school to support the children.

If you are able to help out at our events please visit the school office where we can guide you through the volunteer DBS application and keep you updated with future events.

Friends of Alveley School meet every 6 weeks to share ideas on fundraising. Next date TBC.



After School Clubs

Next half term we are pleased to announce the following clubs will be taking place alongside the regular after school clubs. All of Alveley's after school provision is priced the same, in order to keep it fair and equitable between after school club and others. There are two additional clubs on a Tuesday, so you may have to choose between them. However, we will look to run forest school club again later in the academic year, as well as additional sports clubs.

Monday - British Sign Language Club



Created on www.british-sign.co.uk

In this club, we will learn the basics of BSL, including the reasons for signing, finger signing our names, basic greetings and numbers. Over the 6 weeks, I hope that we can learn enough to make BSL a part of our school's daily routines.

Tuesday - Dodgeball Club

Whether preparing for the tournaments this half term, or learning a completely new sport, come along to dodgeball club and enjoy an hour of sport after school.



Thursday - Boomwhacker Club

In this club, we will be developing our musical knowledge, coordination and understanding of musical notation to learn, practise and perform different songs and pieces of music.



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. Please contact school if you don't have this login and we can provide it:

- www.ttrockstars.com (for supporting times table knowledge)
- 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

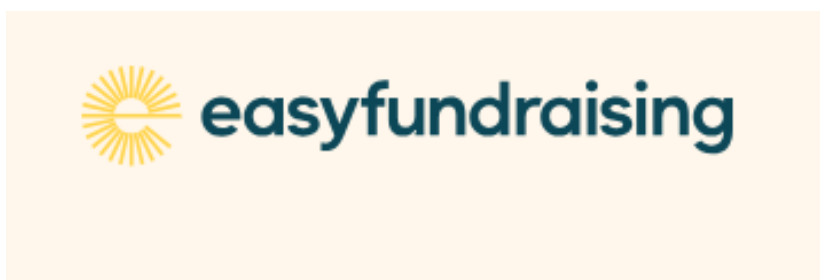
Here are some examples of questions you could ask while reading. These will help with reading comprehension knowledge and deepen understanding of what has been read.

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!