



Newsletter



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ISSUE 29

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the statements from the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, and Prime Minister, Boris Johnson this week, I am writing to provide you all with an update regarding our school's current provision, plans for this term and plans looking further ahead.

As many of you will be aware, I have been constantly frustrated by the ever-changing guidance given by the Government, but have, at every opportunity erred on the side of caution, when ensuring the safety of your children and the staff at Alford Primary School.

No Wider Opening to Year 2, 3, 4, 5

Following government guidance, we are currently open fulltime to EYFS, Year 1, Year 6 and the children of keyworkers. In total, we now have 10 'Bubbles' of children. This week, the number of children increased by 16 and it is looking increasingly likely that we will need new 'Bubbles' to accommodate the extra children. We currently have nearly 25% of our staff who are not able to work in school with children. Therefore, in line with the recent government announcement, we will not be in a position to open to more year groups this term. Children who are working from home will continue to use our remote learning posted on the school website.

'Hello' Calls from Staff

Our staff have been contacting children regularly, to make sure that any issues with remote learning can be resolved. If you have not spoken to anyone from school, I am asking you to contact the office to check we have the correct contact details for you, as it

is essential that we can maintain regular contact with all children not in school.

Future Developments

Over the next term, we will be looking at using Microsoft Teams technology to further improve our virtual teaching, in the event of future school closures.

Summer Holidays

At present, nothing has been said to schools regarding a change to the situation during the Summer holidays, when schools are normally closed to children. The last statement from Gavin Williamson said nothing has been planned in regard to schools being open over the Summer holiday. However, Boris Johnson has talked about Summer Catch-up plans – to be announced next Tuesday – it is not known if these involve schools. We will let you know any updates as soon as we are informed.

Reports for Children

All teachers have written a report for the children in their class. These will be distributed in July. Further information will follow.

Next Year

As yet, we have had no information from the Government regarding the school situation for September. The Governors and Senior Leaders have discussed ways to support all the children with the transition to the next year group, and have decided that:

- **Children will not be repeating the year** – they will move up into the next year group as expected, and the curriculum will be adapted by teachers to plug any gaps.
- **All children will remain in the same cohort next year** - we will not be mixing the classes as we sometimes do. This is to give children

consistency as they return to school, working with familiar classmates.

- **All classes will be given the opportunity to meet their new teacher in small groups BEFORE the Summer holiday** (dependent on the COVID situation regionally and nationally). This will alleviate the anxieties related to meeting their new teacher and being in a new classroom. We will confirm teachers and classes in the near future, and more details of the transition day will follow shortly. It is currently planned for the week beginning 13th July.

Many parents have asked if the children will all be back in September. The honest answer is that nobody knows. We are waiting for further guidance with regards to the situation in which we find ourselves.

Personally, I can only see two possible outcomes for September:

1. If the current government guidance regarding social distancing continues (with a maximum of 15 children in a room), then the only solution that will enable all children to be in school in September will be a part-time rota for all year groups - combined with remote learning from home when not in school.
2. If the government relaxes guidelines regarding social distancing, and approves class sizes of 30, then all can return – albeit with stringent hygiene measures in place.

As always, I end with a huge thank you to all the parents, carers, family, friends and the children themselves for their endless positivity, patience and support for the school. These have been, and continue to be, very challenging times, and the way the school and local community have pulled together is outstanding. I look forward to the day when we are all back together again.

Keep safe and happy.

Warm regards,

Mrs Ross

FREE SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS

A reminder that ALL Free school meal online payments have stopped. Anyone who is eligible for a Free School Meal will need to visit school between 10am and 11am to collect a fresh packed lunch that is being prepared daily by JSTC.

If you are picking up a lunch, please come to the front gate and observe the 2 metre social distancing whilst on site. If you do not require a lunch, please email the office at:

primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk

DFE Information for Parents

Message from the Department for Education:

The DFE have updated their guidance on helping primary school aged children learn at home, to include information on the wider opening of educational settings.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

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3 June 2020

Read, get silly and have fun!

Summer Reading Challenge 2020 launches Online this week

Lincolnshire's Library buildings may be closed at present but that's not going to stop Lincolnshire's young readers taking part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge 2020.

Better Libraries in partnership with The Reading Agency and Lincolnshire County Council are going online to launch this year's challenge on Friday, 5th June at: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

The summer reading challenge promises loads of silly fun for children aged 4 to 11. Once children have signed up they can head to Lincolnshire Libraries' social media channels for fun activities and book recommendations and download the free library app Libby to borrow e-books to complete the challenge.

The theme for this year's challenge is 'Silly Squad' and the aim is to encourage children to read whatever makes them happy, get silly and have fun!

Cllr Nick Worth, executive member for culture at Lincolnshire County Council added: "The Summer Reading Challenge has always been popular with young people in normal times, but our current situation has provided us with online alternatives that are both fun and maybe a little silly! It is great opportunity for our young people to enhance their reading skills and most importantly to have fun while doing it."

After signing up on the summer reading challenge website, and discovering all its free quizzes, games and downloadable activities, children and their families can visit the Lincolnshire Libraries Facebook and Twitter channels @LincsLibraries and join in the fun there. Library staff have all sorts of silliness planned for the summer and every Friday at 10am and 3pm they will be running their online Silly Squad Club sharing crafts, activities and reading recommendations. By downloading the free library app, Libby, children can borrow a range of riveting reads to help them complete the challenge. Library staff have created a special Silly Squad collection of ebooks on Libby too, to help inspire and enthuse young readers around the county.

****ENDS****

LEARNING THIS WEEK

The children in yellow bubble have been creative this week.



Isla has created a piece of collage artwork using strips of paper from magazines and newspapers to create a butterfly. She has also used Lego to create a symmetrical butterfly design.



Three sisters having a go at Enola's Magic Potion experiment – mixing vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and food colouring!



Marvellous maths in EYFS.



Some amazing work, designing and making a pirate sock puppet.

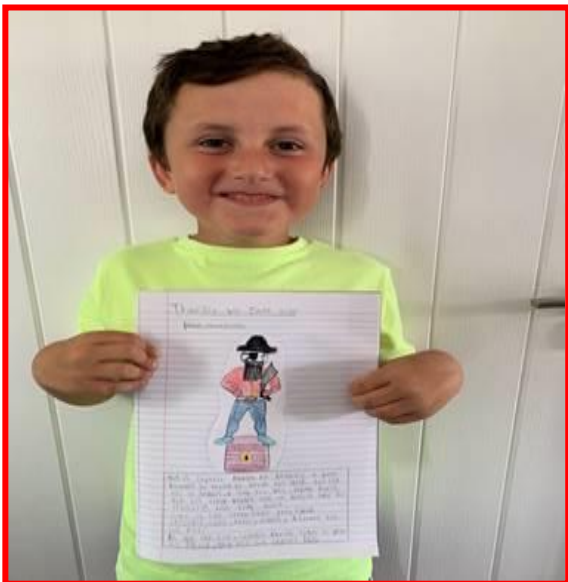




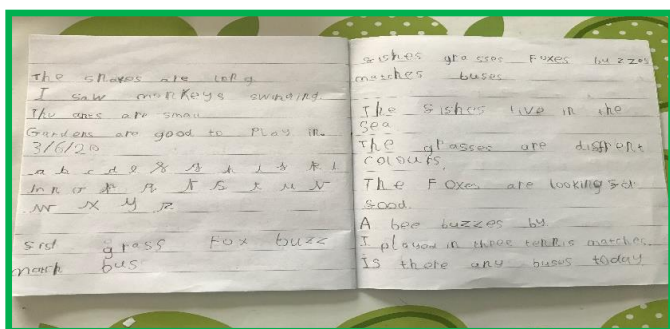
Here are some pictures from the Pirate Bubble! They have been working away in school. Well done, Year 2!



More amazing pirate work! Well done!



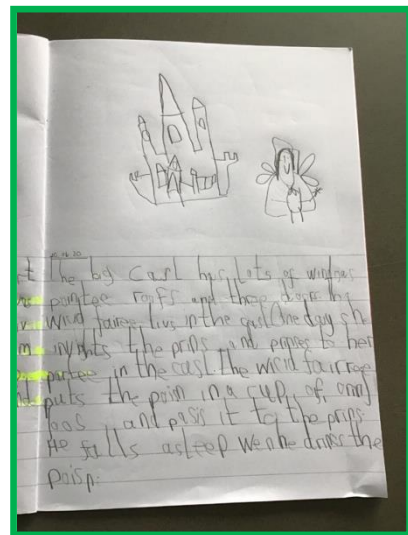
Wonderful writing from Henry in Year 1.



Toby's collage of flying in a Hot Air Balloon



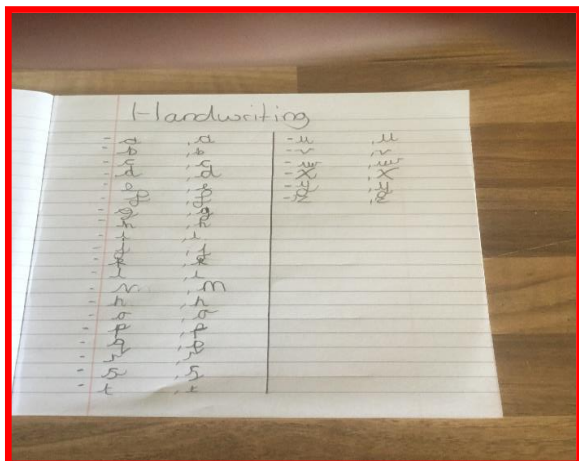
More from EYFS: Trent's Super story writing – this is outstanding!



Ellis has completed a beautiful dog collage.



And finally, Sebastian's handwriting practice was just one of the many things that he sent to his teachers – great work, Sebastian!



COVID-19 ALFORD SUPPORT FOR THOSE ISOLATING IN LOCKDOWN

It has come to light that some people testing positive for Covid aren't aware of the services available to them to support them and their families whilst isolating. The numbers isolating is likely to increase with track and trace so here are the numbers for the Alford Hub – a dedicated team who can help you if isolating.

A diagram for Alford Hub services. At the top left is the Alford Hub logo with the tagline 'Connecting the Community'. In the center, the text 'Alford Hub' is surrounded by six colored hexagons, each representing a service: 'Virtual Community Centre & Hub services' (light blue), 'Prescription delivery for the home' (green), 'Crisis response' (red), 'The Alford Clinic' (pink), 'Referring Service' (dark blue), and 'Local Pharmacy' (yellow). At the bottom left, it says 'How to ask for Help'. At the bottom right, it provides contact information: 'If you require any of our services, please call 07957 272852 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Email: alfordhub@gmail.com'.

A graphic for Alford Hub support. At the top left is the Alford Hub logo with the tagline 'Connecting the Community'. In the center, there is an illustration of three stylized human figures (two red, one yellow) standing on a blue globe. Below the illustration, the text reads: 'IF YOU NEED SUPPORT WHILST SELF ISOLATING DUE TO COVID-19 OR TRACK AND TRACE. SIMPLY CALL/TEXT 07957 272852'.