



Argyle
Primary
School

NEWSLETTER

OUR VALUE FOR JANUARY IS RESPONSIBILITY



See page 2 to see where our Year 5 pupils took this picture



KS1 visit The Foundling Museum



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week we had the third review of our teaching of phonics and early reading so far this year. We have another 3 days booked in! We've taught phonics for many years at Argyle and, prior to Covid, the percentage of pupils passing the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 was above the national and local average. Why such an intense focus now then?

- 1) Expectations in the primary curriculum are higher. Children need to be able to read confidently and fluently from a younger age in order to meet expectations;
- 2) Our demographic is more complex and pupil mobility is high as more families find themselves in temporary accommodation;
- 3) The knowledge about how best to teach pupils to read is more advanced and detailed than it has ever been before and ambitious schools want to be sure that they are giving all pupils the best possible chance to learn this important skill quickly.

Did you know that there are 44 phonemes (sounds) in the English language but around 250 graphemes – that's letters or groups of letters corresponding to the sound. Synthetic phonics programmes systematically teach children to remember and apply these and our review days help to ensure that every teacher, teaching assistant and leader is fully equipped with the best strategies, knowledge and resources to help all children to master them.

J. Wade

Head Teacher



Visiting Google



On Friday 19th January, 5 Amethyst visited the Google offices at Pancras Square. Inside, Fiona, Annette and other volunteers told us all about the company and what it was like to work at Google. We learnt about all the benefits of working at Google and all about the new building in King's Cross- which will have a swimming pool on its roof! We then went on a tour of the 11 floors.

“ We learnt a lot about the different companies that Google already owns or has bought- like YouTube, Android and Google Pixel.

Cyrus ”

“ From the 11th floor, we could see the whole of London: the Great Northern Hotel, our school, the Shard, the new Google building being constructed and the London Eye.

Safia ”

“ The trip inspired me to want to work at Google because there are lots of cool things there like a swimming pool- but you have to get all your work done first!

Yusra ”

YEAR 4



Roman Pottery Workshop

“

I enjoyed making my own pot. I liked the feel of the clay when making the mould and making the design to go on the pot. It was fantastic!

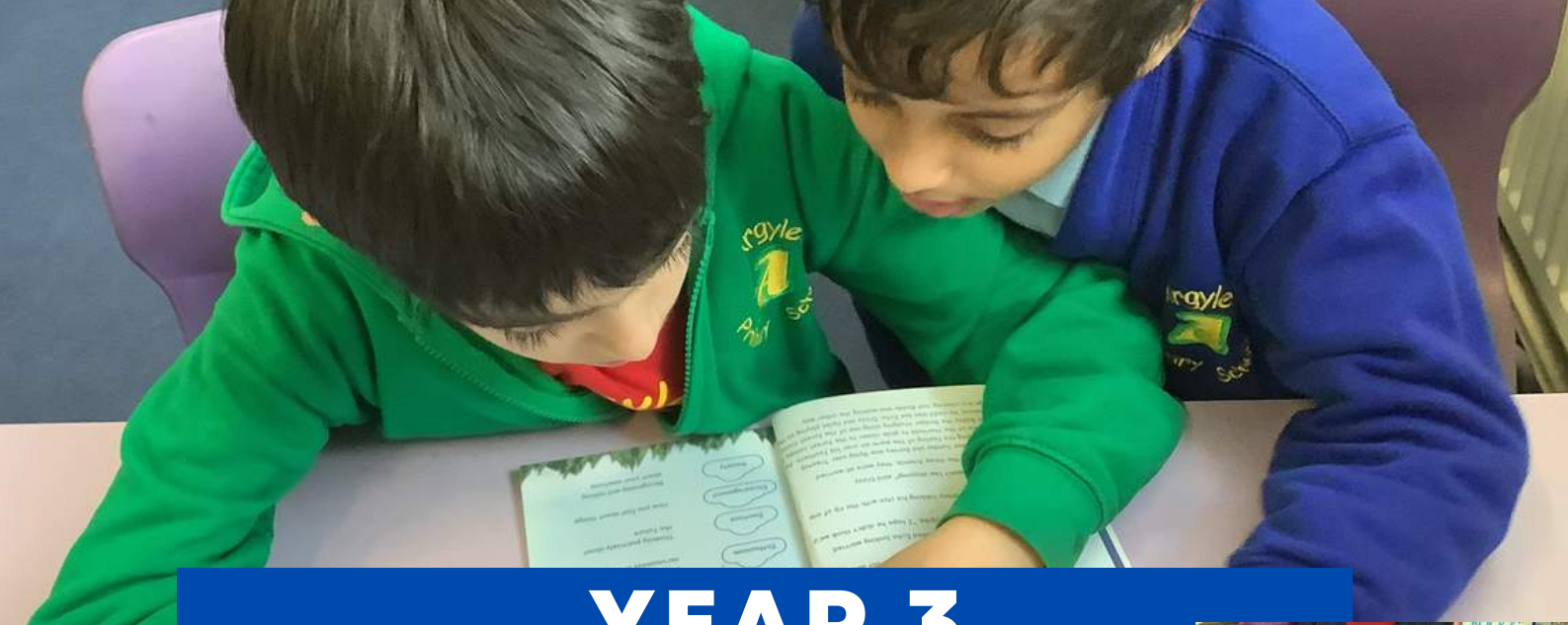
Myra

”

This Thursday, year 4 were treated to a fascinating workshop all about Roman pottery, led in school by Michaela from the Highgate Roman Kiln Project.

They started by finding out a little about the discovery of Roman kilns beneath Highgate Woods and what kind of information archaeologists can learn from careful examination of such artefacts. Then they compared a replica of a Roman poppy head beaker to fragments of real Roman pottery that had been dug up before finally making their own. They were very proud of what they had achieved.





YEAR 3

MINDFULNESS

Year 3 enjoyed reading stories from 'Mindfulness' a book that was donated to them. The book is a great resource that is designed to open conversations with young children around social issues that affect their lives.



“ Thank you for donating these books to us. It has helped us to understand our emotions, to solve friendship issues and helps us to feel relaxed and calm.
Raghad, Angel, Muaz, Noara & LeAnna ”

DANCE

This half term Year 3 have begun their dance classes with The Place dance group. The children are at the beginning of working with professional choreographers to create a dance that encompasses and embodies one of their topics. We won't tell you yet what their dance will be about - but watch this space! For parents and families who want to see the dance, the children will be performing at The Place Theatre in the second half of the spring term. Dates and details about how to buy tickets will be shared once confirmed!



Key Stage 1



KS1 enjoyed their trips to the Foundling Museum linked to their learning in history about famous people in History. We are now learning about Thomas Coram who is a local historical figure who founded the hospital (now Coram's Fields). We were able to see paintings by William Hogarth and understand what life was like in the 1700s. We dressed up as children who may have lived there in the past and imagined what life was like for them.

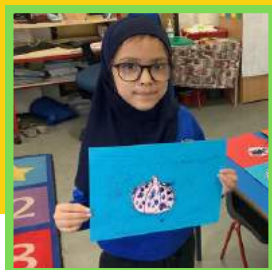


“ This statue is of Thomas Coram.
Musa ”

“ I have seen an old clock like that before and a fireplace.
Musa ”



KS1 have also been introduced to the art of Yayoi Kusama. They looked at various work and 'spotted' the common factor in all of Kusama's work- spots! They created their own art piece by drawing curvy and swirly lines for a background on coloured card, drew their own pumpkins and added black painted spots between its ridges.





Reception

This week the children in Reception began their new topic of 'Exploring Dinosaurs.' On Monday, the children were surprised to find a large egg in the classroom and talked about what animal the egg might belong to.

After reading the text 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' the children shared what they already knew about dinosaurs. Following this, they looked at images of different dinosaurs and compared them, identifying their similarities and differences.

This week we have been very pleased to be part of the 'Teen to Toddlers project' which involves students from Regent High School working with our children. We all had fun getting to know each other and making new friends.



Nursery

This week we moved on from ground transport and started to learn about water transport, especially boats. We had lots of fun reading 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' (by John Burningham).



We've had a strong focus on 'doing words' (verbs) this week through our book, 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. We made our own story map and acted out all the scenes from the book. We learnt lots of verbs (in bold), including **squabble, hop, chase, tease, flap, bleat, trample, muck-about, kick and tip**. Then we learnt how to talk about these verbs in the past-tense (by adding 'ed'). During the week, the children retold their own versions of the story with animals and boats in the water tray and in the small world play area. Then in Friday's stay and play session, parents and children worked together to stick all the characters from the book onto Mr Gumpy's boat and talk about what happened in the story, using the new vocab from this week. During circle time we talked about the importance of following instructions and playing safely (unlike the animals on the boat!).

Parent tip: you can help support your child's language development at home by making a special point of using doing words (verbs) to describe the every day activities (ie, walk, run, play, tidy, get dressed, brush teeth) and then talking about things you've done with them in the past tense, ie, "we had fun yesterday when we walked to the park", "well done, you brushed your teeth!"

In phonics we learnt about the 'c' sound and played 'What's in the box?' to learn about words that begin with 'c'.

Parent tip: Focusing on initial sounds in words is one of the first stages of learning how to read, so is an important skill to master. Try to think of as many words that begin with 'c' as you can, with your child, to help them to focus on initial sounds.

We learnt all about number 4 this week, by counting out 4 objects and also learning how to recognise numeral 4. We also compared measurements tall and long by making towers out of uni-link blocks. As usual, we've done lots of counting songs, this week with a number 4 focus.

Parent tip: Practise counting up to 10 on fingers with your child. Challenge: can they show you just 4 fingers?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All entries on the calendar have been sent via Parenthub, please check your child's class channel for more information. Remember to check your Parenthub often and, as always, if you forget to open the app, it will email you all the messages you've missed.

JANUARY 2024

Monday 29th

Workshop: Green Earth Schools Creativity Day for Year 4 and selected pupils across the school

Wednesday 31st

Trip: Topaz visit The Natural History Museum from 10am - 2.30pm
Trip: Selected pupils at Dodgeball competition at Talacre Sports Centre from 3pm - 6.30pm
Event: Flying Families begin

FEBRUARY 2024

Thursday 1st

Trip: Jet visit The Natural History Museum from 10am - 2.30pm
Trip: Year 3 visit The Natural History Museum 9am - 3pm

Monday 5th

Trip: Year 4 visit The British Museum from 10am - 12pm
Event: KS1 Young Readers

Tuesday 6th

Trip: Selected pupils Yrs 5&6 at Football competition at Somers Town Sports Centre from 3pm - 6.15pm

Wednesday
7th

Trip: Four Year 6 pupils at Camden Maths Challenge from 8.20am - 3.15pm
Trip: Selected pupils Yrs 5&6 at Handball competition at Talacre Sports Centre from 3pm - 6.15pm

Friday 9th

Trip: Year 6 visit Malorie Blackman exhibition at British Library from 9am - 11am

Half Term
Monday 12th - Friday 16th

Attendance & Punctuality



	WK1	WK2	WK3	WK4	WK5
Jet	91%	90%	85%		
Topaz	95%	89%	91%		
Amber	95%	92%	86%		
Emerald	98%	97%	90%		
Opal	81%	90%	89%		
3 Garnet	98%	96%	96%		
3 Pearl	96%	94%	95%		
4 Onyx	97%	98%	96%		
4 Quartz	91%	98%	96%		
5 Amethyst	95%	97%	98%		
6 Sapphire	91%	98%	91%		
Total	94%	94%	92%		
Camden	94%	-			

Well done to
5 Amethyst
3 Garnet
4 Onyx
4 Quartz
for attaining the target of 96%
attendance this week.

This week 105 of sessions in the registers were marked as 'L' (Late). Although the number is high it is an improvement on last week, so thank you all for your ardent efforts. Pupils should be in their line at **8.40am**, ready to go up to class and be marked into the register at 8.45am when school begins. If your child goes through the brown office doors, they will be marked as late.

Reporting Absences

Parents should report any absences to the school office by calling 02078374590 before 9.30am.

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine.
A member of staff may call you again to discuss the absence.

Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

Every School Day Counts

Parent Workshops



Phonics

Well done to everyone who attended the Phonics Workshop with Marie on Thursday! I have received such great feedback on how insightful it has been. Remember the course is for 10 weeks and every week Marie will be going through different ways you can support your child with their phonics at home. From making fun games to take home to learning new strategies- please ensure you don't miss out! Remember YOU are your child's first teacher!

Date: Every Thursday
Time: 9am-11am
Location: FLC

First Aid

We had 21 parents/carers attend the Family First Aid course that started this week. Alison the tutor will be covering various topics throughout the weeks, from what to do when someone is choking or how to deal with burns. If there are any topics you would like Alison to cover please let us know- remember this is YOUR COURSE!

We hope to see all of you again next Friday. If you would like to join it is not too late, please come along next Friday to the FLC. Please remember to sign up and enrol online, if you are having any difficulties please come and see Sharmina or we can resolve any issues next Friday!

Date: Every Fridays
Time: 9am-11am
Location: FLC



Flying Families

All 12 spaces are now BOOKED for Flying Families. Thank you to everyone who has shown interest. If you did not get a space this term but are still interested please let Sharmina know so you can be added onto the waiting list.

Date: Wednesday 31st January
(Every Wednesdays)
Time: 3:30pm- 5:30pm
Location: School- top hall