

# ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

### Lets talk about attendance!

The national expectation for attendance is 96%. Though individual classes sometimes achieve that, Argyle as a school has not.

The closest we got was 95.8% at the end of Autumn term 2019!

Why is this? Why can schools in Hampstead achieve more than 96% every week and yet we struggle so much? It's certainly not for lack of trying on school's part.

We talk about attendance, reward good attendance, make each school day interesting and provide social & emotional support.

What we now need is for all parents to understand just how much of a negative impact absences can have. Don't let your child's educational chances be distrubted by poor attendance.

*J. Wade*  
Head Teacher



2 OPAL  
6 SAPPHIRE



1 JADE  
3 PEARL

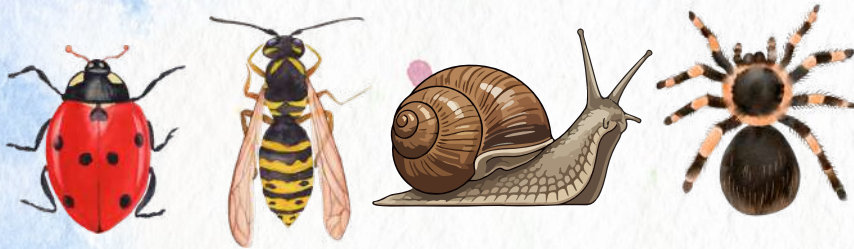
Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
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# NURSERY

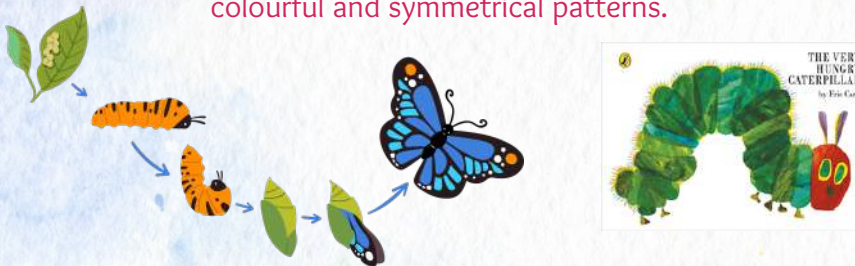
This week, we introduced our new topic for the term,  
**All Creatures Great and Small.**

Over the coming weeks, the children will go on an exciting learning journey around the world, exploring animals from every continent on Earth.

We began by focusing on minibeasts. The children learned to name a variety of common minibeasts, including ladybirds, bees, snails, spiders and woodlice, and showed great enthusiasm when sharing what they already knew.



As part of our learning, we read **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle. The children discovered that caterpillars are minibeasts that grow and change into butterflies (or moths) by forming a cocoon. Inspired by this, the children created beautiful butterfly paintings using a folding technique, producing colourful and symmetrical patterns.



Linking to the story, the children explored the different fruits the caterpillar eats on each day of the week. They enjoyed organising real fruits onto our large caterpillar, carefully matching them to the correct days. This was followed by a fun fruit tasting session, which the children thoroughly enjoyed!

The children also developed their creativity by drawing their own caterpillars.



During our stay and play session, they worked collaboratively with their parents to retell the story and apply their maths skills by placing the correct number of fruits onto each day of the week.

It has been a fantastic start to our new topic, and we look forward to continuing our adventure!



# RECEPTION

This week in Reception, we began our exciting new topic all about Spring and gardens!

We started by sharing everything we already know, and the children had some fantastic ideas.

Amara said, "Flowers start growing,"

Humayra noticed that "the trees get flowers too,"

Vlad shared that "birds start singing," and

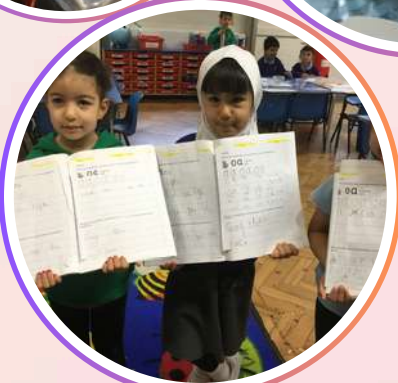
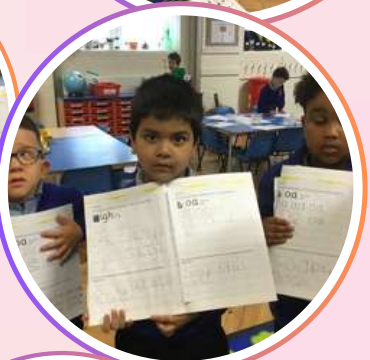
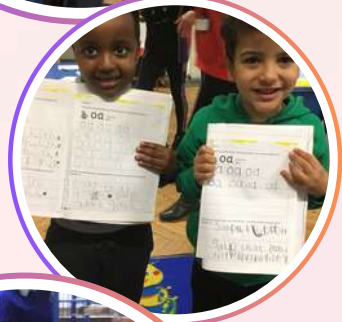
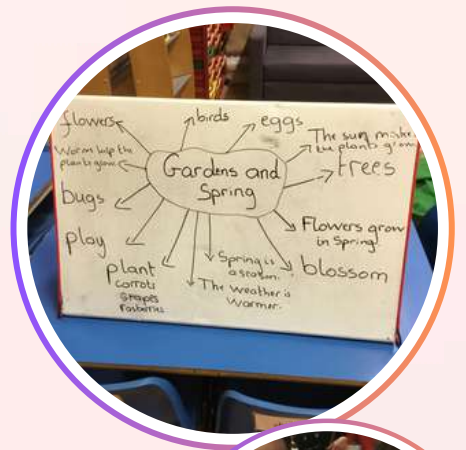
Aimah explained, "It gets rainy but we can wear a raincoat and use an umbrella."

It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and understanding of the changing seasons.

The children have also started learning the May Day dance, and they are really enjoying it. We are looking forward to performing this for parents on 1st May!

In handwriting, the children are beginning to write simple sentences. This is a challenging skill, as it involves remembering a full sentence, segmenting each word into sounds, and then writing the correct letters.

The children did a fantastic job and were especially good at remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops.



# YEAR 1

This week, Jade Class proudly presented their fantastic assembly to families and friends.

The children worked incredibly hard and were excited to showcase all that they have been learning.

The assembly began with a creative storytelling performance, where the children shared their imaginative tale, "The Papaya That Spoke."

They demonstrated wonderful confidence, expression, and creativity as they brought their story to life.

In maths, the children impressed the audience by demonstrating their understanding of doubling and halving. They explained their thinking clearly and showed how they solve problems using these skills.

The class also explored the human body, confidently explaining how different parts work, including the brain, muscles, and lungs. Their enthusiasm and knowledge truly stood out.

In geography, Jade Class taught us about the four countries of the United Kingdom. They confidently named England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and shared interesting facts about their flags and national flowers.

The children also spoke about their learning in the garden classroom, where they enjoy exploring nature and developing their understanding of the world around them.

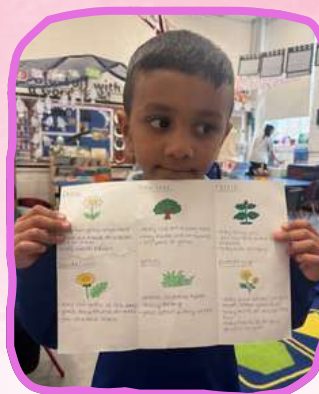
To make the assembly even more special, the children performed their own original songs, which they helped to create. Their singing was full of energy and joy, making it a real highlight of the performance.

We are incredibly proud of all the children in Jade Class for their hard work, teamwork, and confidence. Well done to everyone for such a wonderful assembly!

We are proud to celebrate a fantastic start to our Summer 1 homework projects, with Mia and Ahnaf already producing wonderful work.

They have shown great enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication, setting a brilliant example for their peers.

We look forward to seeing more of the children's projects being shared in the coming weeks.



# YEAR 2



In Maths, the children began a new unit on fractions, starting by recognising a whole and its parts. They approached this new concept with great curiosity and confidence, showing a strong start to the topic.

In English, the children edited their innovations of our model text, *Rocket's Cosmic Quest*. We were particularly impressed by Nuzhat, who wrote about a dolphin on a quest to visit her friend, only to be chased by menacing sharks—what an imaginative and creative twist!

In Computing, the children began their unit on Scratch Jr, much to their delight. Aisha and Jasmine especially enjoyed working collaboratively, proudly exclaiming, "Look at our cool sprite!" as they explored coding together.

In PE, the children started athletics, focusing on sending and receiving skills. They practised improving their aim by rolling a tennis ball to hit a target, demonstrating great focus and determination.

In PSHE, the children reflected on what it means to be a good friend. Ayaana created some thoughtful captions to accompany her illustration, clearly expressing her values and understanding of friendship—well done, Ayaana.

In Science, the children began their new unit on plants. In their first lesson, they investigated the difference between seeds and bulbs before planting coriander and oregano seeds. We are very much looking forward to watching their plants grow over the coming weeks.

# YEAR 3

This term, our Year 3 pupils have been exploring the art of stitching as part of their curriculum. They have learned a range of basic sewing techniques, including the running stitch, and have applied these skills to create their own unique textile pieces.

The children demonstrated fantastic patience, focus and creativity as they carefully threaded needles and designed colourful patterns. This hands-on project not only helped to develop their fine motor skills, but also encouraged perseverance and a real sense of pride in their work.

We are incredibly proud of their beautiful creations and the dedication they have shown throughout this project.



# YEAR 5



On the first day of the summer term, Year 5 went on an exciting trip to the Ragged School Museum in Mile End. It was a day full of discovery, learning and fun.

When we first arrived, we stepped into a historic building on Copperfield Road. Straight away, we noticed a wall covered with photographs of children who had attended the school in Victorian times. It made us wonder what their lives were like.

First, we went to the top of the building, where we explored a small Victorian home. Surprisingly, we learned that up to eight people slept in one tiny room. Using artefacts and pictures, we discovered that many families were very poor and had to work long hours. For example, children often spent six days a week making hairbrushes. We also found out that families used heated bricks to keep warm at night and even shared the same bath water.

Next, we took part in a museum session where we learned about Thomas Barnardo, who believed that every child deserved an education, no matter how poor they were. We also discovered that many people in Victorian London suffered from diseases such as cholera due to dirty water. This reminded us of our recent class text 'Street child'!

Finally, we experienced what it was like to be in a Victorian classroom. As soon as we stepped through the door, everything changed. The room fell silent, and the strict teacher stood waiting at the front. We were ordered to sit up straight immediately, with boys on one side and girls on the other. Nervously, we held out our hands to be inspected for cleanliness.

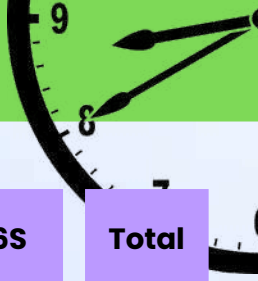
During the lesson, we wrote carefully on small slate boards using chalk, trying not to make mistakes. We also had to recite facts aloud together, repeating them until we got them exactly right. The teacher expected perfect behaviour at all times, and even the smallest whisper felt risky. We then attempted tricky maths problems using old-fashioned money, including shillings and farthings, which was quite challenging.

At the end of the lesson, we were shown some Victorian punishments. Although they were quite harsh, such as wearing a dunce's hat or standing in the corner, we found it interesting to learn about them.

Overall, we had a fantastic day and learned so much about life in Victorian times. It made us realise how different our lives are today and how fortunate we are to have clean homes, safe water and the opportunity to go to school every day. I especially enjoyed the Victorian classroom because it felt like stepping back in time, although I definitely wouldn't want to be a pupil there! I would highly recommend this trip to other classes, as it was both fun and eye-opening.



# Attendance & Punctuality



Class	1J	2A	2O	3P	4E	4O	5A	5Q	6S	Total
Week 1	95%	91%	92%	94%	95%	93%	94%	96%	98%	94%

Well done to **5 Quartz & 6 Sapphire** who achieved the target of 96% attendance this week.

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## 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.

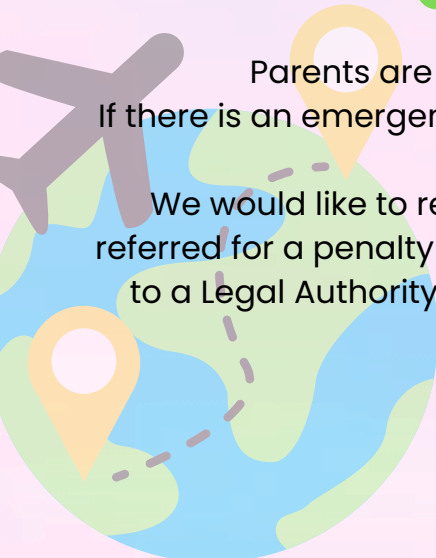
Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

## Exceptional Leave

Parents are reminded not to book holidays during school term time.

If there is an emergency and you need exceptional leave, please complete a form from the school office before booking your tickets.

We would like to remind parents that taking holidays less than 5 days can still be referred for a penalty notice. You may not be issued a Penalty Notice but you will be invited to a Legal Authority Meeting with Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Team in Camden offices.



**Every School Day Counts**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL

<p><b>MONDAY 20th</b></p>	<p><b>ESOL class in FLC 9:30am to 11:30am</b>  <b>Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b>  <b>Catch up Booster - selected children from years 1 to 4 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (year 1 finish @ 4pm)</b></p>
<p><b>TUESDAY 21st</b></p>	<p><b>Year 3 swimming - 11am to 12pm</b>  <b>Selected children to Panathlon Challenge @ Talacre - 9.25am to 12.30pm</b>  <b>Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b>  <b>Cooking Club Group 1 - 3.15pm to 4.45pm</b></p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 22nd</b></p>	<p><b>ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am</b>  <b>Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b>  <b>Football Club, years 1, 2 &amp; 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAY 23rd</b></p>	<p><b>Year 6 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b>  <b>Year 3 &amp; 4 girls La Liga Football try outs - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>  <b>Art/Comic Book Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 24th</b></p>	<p><b>Football Club, years 4, 5 &amp; 6 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>  <b>Homework Club with parents - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b></p>

**Family Concert: Marmalade & Masquerades**  
18 & 19 April



Join us at the fascinating theatre for a storytelling adventure, featuring tales of Paddington Bear and more!

With music by the Zaffari Ensemble and narration by Helena Kerner, dive into the fantastical world of National Treasure Paddington Bear and magical Prince Priggen.

Discover how music can spark the imagination at this special children's concert.

Before or after the concert drop in for a free family creative workshop and create a cardboard picnic for Paddington and friends!

We cannot wait to see you and for you to be part of our special night. We will be able to help you with any special needs you have. We will be able to help you with any special needs you have.

Enter code **FADINGTON** when buying tickets for 25% off.

Book your place at [familyconcerts.org.uk](http://familyconcerts.org.uk) or scan the QR code.



Learn English fast and for free at Argyle Primary School



**LEARN ENGLISH AT ARGYLE** Free classes every Monday and Wednesday 9:30AM - 11:30AM

This class is open to all adult students of all levels. You will learn English fast with other students. Pre-school children are welcome but it is the responsibility of the parent to care for them so they do not interrupt class. We will go on trips to local sites and learn everyday vocabulary. We will work on:

- Spoken English
- English pronunciation
- Reading
- Writing

We will study what you want to learn.

Visit [Barnardo's.org.uk](http://Barnardo's.org.uk) on the **Family Learning Centre (FLC)** to register.

Visit [www.argyleprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.argyleprimaryschool.co.uk) for more information.

Argyle Primary School, Knowledge Street, London N20 9JL