

Aragon School Newsletter

Aragon Road
Morden
SM4 4QU

Thursday 20th July 2023



Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe we have come to the end of the school year, and what a year it has been. We have had our wall art installed, our OPAL play has developed and gone from strength to strength, we've had Christmas plays, class assemblies, talent shows, visitors, workshops, trips, Humanities Week, STEM Week, Healthy Me week, a new website and so much more. In the last two weeks Year 1 have been to Littlehampton to the seaside,

Year 5 have been to Tate Modern and most classes have had a geography field trip too!

As we finish the year, I'm very proud to tell you that both Key Stage results have been excellent as have our Phonics Screening Check results. We are above National Average in everything and in some cases we are better by over 20%. Please see a detailed breakdown on page 2.

We had our last attendance assembly on Monday and were very happy to hand out 21 certificates and badges to children and 14 to staff for 100% attendance. We currently have 627 children on roll, so it would be great to think we could have more than 21 children next year!

We hope you enjoyed our Sports Days - we certainly did. I was so impressed with all the children's sporting attitudes, support of each and skills in all the different sports. Thanks to the huge number of you came along!

Now, I must get to the sad bit because after a fantastic year which included lots of hard work, PGL, trips, SATs, Leavers Production of Matilda (see page 5), Leavers Assembly and Disco, it's time to say the fondest farewell to our lovely Year 6s. They have been a wonderful year group who have behaved beautifully and been superb role models. We all wish them every success as they head off to High School for new adventures but do want to remind them that they are welcome to visit any time they like!!

It's goodbye as well to Mrs Davey-Mason, Miss Boateng, Mrs Cheung, Mrs C, Mr Dillaway and Mrs Stone (details on page 5). We will miss them all so much!

Have a great summer holiday - see you on the 5th!

Clare Ryder



@aragonprimary



@AragonPrimary



Diary Dates

July

21st - Break up @ 1.30pm

September

1st and 4th - INSET Days

5th - Children back

18th -29th - Y5 Bikeability

22nd - Jeans for Genes Day

29th - National Teaching Assistant Day

All calendar dates can be found on our website at: <https://www.aragon.merton.sch.uk/upcoming-events>

"To be the best we can be!"

Aragon's 2022-2023 Results

We are so pleased to tell you that this year, Aragon achieved excellent results in end of key stage tests. The percentage of children at Aragon passing was much higher than those passing nationally, in some cases up to 20% higher. Congratulations to all the children, and their teachers and teaching assistants, who work tirelessly to ensure your children are 'the best they can be'. Take a look at the unvalidated results below (validated date will be available in Autumn 2023).

KS2 - Y6	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM Combined
Aragon At and Above	90%	93%	93%	83%
Aragon Above	41%	27%	57%	25%
National At and Above 2023	73%	71%	73%	59%

KSI - Y2	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM Combined
Aragon At and Above	77%	70%	83%	64%
Aragon Above	28%	7%	16%	6%
National At and Above 2022	67%	58%	68%	-

Phonics - Year 1	
Aragon Pass	88%
National 2022	75%

EYFS - Reception	Com. & Lang	PSED	Phys. Dev.	Literacy	Maths	Good Level of Development
Aragon	83.3%	85.6%	88.9%	76.7%	83.3%	73.3%
LA Merton	79.7%	81.3%	84.4%	71.2%	78.6%	69.2%

"To be the best we can be!"

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

The Dfe's research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Class	Attendance 2022-2023
RP	91.3
RC	93.3
RT	91.9
1M	95.1
1B	94.0
1DV	94.2
2W	93.4
2R	94.4
2G	94.8
3A	93.9
3AB	94.0
3LB	94.0
4H	94.8
4B	95.6
4J	93.6
5L	95.4
5E	95.4
5B	94.4
6B	94.8
6F	95.7
Totals	93.9

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

Year Group	22-23 Persistent Absenteeism %
R	30%
Year 1	17%
Year 2	15%
Year 3	17%
Year 4	16%
Year 5	14%
Year 6	11%

"To be the best we can be!"

Classes 2023-2024

Mrs Ryder – Headteacher
 Mr Gilbert – Deputy Headteacher
 Mr Myers – Assistant Headteacher
 Miss O’Sullivan – Inclusion Co-ordinator/SEND CO
 Mrs Aldis – Designated Safeguarding Lead & Family Liaison Officer
 Mrs Jones – Year 4 Additional Teacher
 Mrs Vick – EYFS Additional Teacher

Current Teacher	Current Class	New Teacher	New Class Name
Year 6			
Mr Lillie	5L	Miss Ballantine*	6EB
Miss Ellerby	5E	Miss Barnes	6MB
Miss Barnes	5B	Miss Franks	6F
Year 5			
Miss Bernatek	4B-MIXED	Mr Lillie*	5L
Miss Brown	4H- MIXED	Miss Ellerby	5E
Mr Hicks	4J- MIXED	Mr Kennedy	5K
Year 4			
Mr Ashby	3A	Miss Bernatek	4AB
Miss A Blake	3AB	Mr Hicks	4H
Miss L Blake	3LB	Miss Brown*	4LB
Year 3			
Ms Garcia	2G	Ms Garcia*	3G
Mrs Roach	2R	Mrs Murphy	3M
Mrs Wingate	2W	Miss L Blake	3B
Year 2			
Mrs Murphy	1M	Mrs Wingate*	2W
Miss Boateng	1B	Mrs Roach	2R
Mrs Davey-Nason/ Mrs Vick	1DV	Mr Ashby	2A
Year 1			
Miss Pearce	RP	Mrs Curl*	1C
Mrs Curl	RC	Miss Blake/Miss Muir	1B
Miss Thompstone	RT	Miss Hall	1H
EYFS			
		Miss Pearce* Miss Atkins Miss Smith Miss Thompstone	RP RA RS Nursery

“To be the best we can be!”

Y6 Production

What a performance!

Last week, our very talented Year 6 had their final performance of Matilda and what a show it was! The singing, dancing, acting, props and backstage blew us away. Well done to every single child, you were incredible! Thankyou to all the adults who made the performance such a success, it couldn't be put on without you!



Goodbye and Good Luck

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Davey-Nason. She has worked here for six years, as a Year 2 teacher, Phonics Lead and KSI lead and has made a fantastic contribution to the lives of so many children. Mrs Davey Nason will be pursuing her passion to work with children in SEND.

Miss Boateng leaves us as she takes up new career opportunities. She has been a fantastic member of staff and we will miss her in September.

Miss Cheung and Mr Dillaway are leaving us to join our successful SCITT course and train to be teachers. Mrs Van Den Elshout will be taking up a new post, in a different work sector. We want to take this opportunity to thank all three who have worked tirelessly to ensure children at Aragon are successful and happy.

The saddest of goodbyes is to Viv Stone, who has worked at Aragon and before that Tudor First School, for 41 years. She has helped thousands of children to achieve their potential. Her incredible warmth and humour will be missed by all the children and team here. We hope she enjoys her retirement with her two daughters and grandchildren.

“To be the best we can be!”



Y4 American Day

Year 4 have been learning all about the USA in their Geography lessons this half term. To celebrate, they came to school dressed in red, white and blue, learnt about the different states, became news anchor hosts and played American sport.

Y5 Tate Modern

Year 5 were lucky enough to go on a trip last Tuesday to the Tate Modern. Having studied 'Installations' as part of their new Kapow curriculum, they went to see what they could see up close. The children not only observed installations but other artwork as well. They also spent time sketching some of the pieces. Members of the public commented on how well behaved they all were, a real credit to the school and we couldn't agree more.



Y1 Littlehampton Beach

Year 1 had a fantastic time on the beach at Littlehampton, after studying the seaside in their History lessons. They walked along the promenade, played on the beach and of course - ate delicious ice creams.

OAA and Team Building Festival

Mr Lillie and Mrs Chung were lucky enough to accompany 10 year 4 and five pupils to the MSSP OAA and Team Building Festival on Friday, at Harris Academy Morden. The children were tasked with completing 11 different activities, all with purpose of testing their team working skills. The children collected a letter from each completed activity to solve a 13 letter acronym at the end of the festival. Mr Lillie was really impressed with how well the children worked together and their exemplary behaviour, they were a real credit to the school.



"To be the best we can be!"



Y2 Geography Field Trip

Last week, Year 2 went out on a Geography Fieldwork trip to Morden town centre. In their Geography lessons, they have been learning about life in Kenya and comparing it to live in the UK. One of the focus areas was learning about urban environments. Using various mapping apps, the children learnt about life in Mombasa, an urban city in Kenya. The children then went out and collected lots of first hand information and data about our local urban environment. On the trip, the children visited the underground station, the Civic Centre building, the high street and a residential road. The children were excellent at drawing comparisons between the two locations and understanding why Morden is a bustling town in our local area. They were all excellent geographers and could even make suggestions about to improve the local environment.

Y4 Geography Field Trip

Year 4 made the trip to Morden Hall Park. Linking to their Geography work on the Amazon River, they looked at the River Wandle, sketching it out and following its route on the map. They also participated in some orienteering games and map work.



Y5 Geography Field Trip

Year 5 took to Morden Park. They had to 'geog' their memory and remember back to their route travelled to swimming. They first drew a map from memory. On Google Maps, they then looked at road maps, street views, and terrain maps to see how similar they were to the ones they had made. They then set off and drew more accurate maps as they walked. Finally, they looked at the terrain of the park, and made larger scale maps using multiple pieces of paper.



Y6 Geography Field Trip

Last week (of course before singing happy birthday to Mrs Allan), Year 6 headed out to survey the local area (Joseph Hood Memorial Park) and decide its suitability for a case study. The children used the iPads to rate the area's cleanliness, safety and appropriateness. They also practised their map reading skills to navigate their way to and from the park.



A Message from School Council

Aragon School Council would like to congratulate our, very worthy winners of the Lower and Upper School Talent show.

We had great fun hosting this event yesterday (19.07.23) and know that the whole school enjoyed watching it very much! The winners of the two talent shows were:

Pui Yi - 3AB - Playing the Piano

Yakub, Jesse, Harry S and Harry W - 4B - Gymnastics

The talent we have in our school is astounding and, moving forward, we would love to do lots more events to celebrate this. So watch this space! Have a great Summer from your School Council!



A Message from Mrs Jones

I would like to take this moment to thank the School Council for being absolutely awesome this year! I have loved every second of working along side you all. Your ideas and enthusiasm have been a constant joy to be around all year and I am so proud of everything you have achieved! Our school were lucky to have you! You guys will be a tough act to follow next year!

Have a wonderful summer!

Love Mrs Jones

Nursery Graduation

Congratulations to our Nursery graduates of 2023! We look forward to seeing you in September!



“To be the best we can be!”

House Point Leaderboard

Griffin



13 692

Unicorn



12 718

Dragon



11 844

Phoenix



10 529

House Point Leaderboard

Congratulations to the following children who earned the most house points for their class:

- Holly (RC), Niamh (RP), Freya (RT)
- Matteo (1B), Osmaan (1DV), Dev (1M)
- Millie V (2G), Lola (2R), Umrah (2W)
- Dhruvan (3A), Lily-Rae (3AB), Brooklyn (3LB)
- Rae (4B), Eugenia (4H), Billy (4J)
- Primrose (5B), Hope (5E), Aaliyah (5L)
- Tilly (6B), Mia R (6F)



"To be the best we can be!"

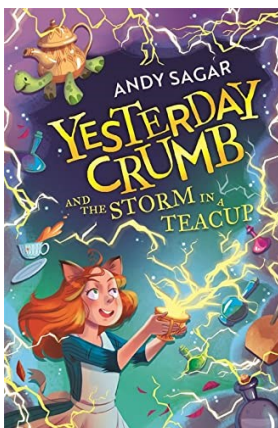
Attendance 3/7/23-19/7/23

We know that sometimes illness can't be avoided but now we are fully re-open and trying to close all the gaps in the children's learning from the national lockdowns, we really would appreciate you getting your children into school everyday and on time.

6B	97.3%	2G	96.2%
6F	96.7%	2R	95.2%
5B	98.4%	2W	91.5%
5E	96.3%	1B	94.2%
5L	97.3%	1DV	90.9%
4B	96.5%	1M	97.3%
4H	96.0%	RC	95.6%
4J	93.4%	RP	96.4%
3A	92.9%	RT	93.9%
3AB	97.6%	Whole School	94.2%
3LB	95.0%		

Reading Matters: Click on the link to take you to a description

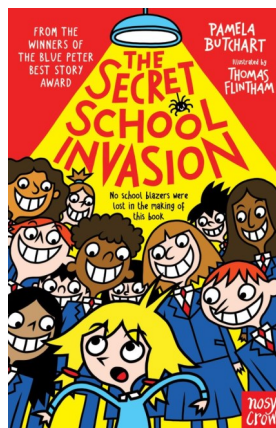
Y5/6



Y3/4



Y1/2



EYFS



Safeguarding

Children have a right to be cared for and protected; protecting them is everyone's responsibility. Here at Aragon Primary School, we have a duty of care to ensure that all users of the school are kept safe from harm.

We are committed to provide a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and grow into mature and responsible people. Safeguarding children is an essential part of our holistic approach to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect and that every child reaches their full potential. To report a safeguarding concern or for any queries contact: kaldis@aragon.merton.sch.uk

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MON 24TH JUL – FRI 28TH JUL

MON 14TH AUG – FRI 18TH AUG

MON 21ST AUG – FRI 25TH AUG



LET'S HAVE FUN IN THE SUN!

It's tennis time!

"To be the best we can be!"

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10–15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/the-big-ask-big-answers/>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childrensonlinebehaviourinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

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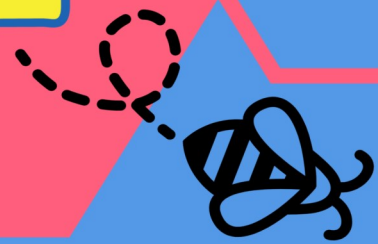
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SURREY
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£14.50 on the day
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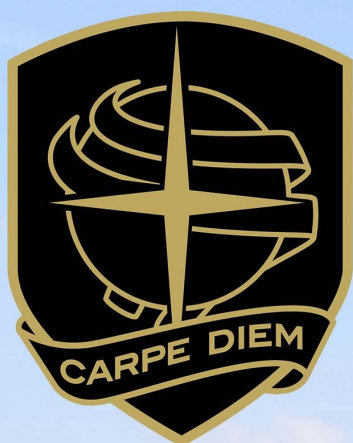
MUSIC

Max White
The 286
Red, Green, Blue
Southern Bound
Amber T
yes2chance
Izzye Music
Cat Elliott
Ill Billies
BUGS UKULELE and More!

“To be the best we can be!”

Southfields Academy

Open Events 2023



"Leaders are ambitious for all pupils... the curriculum content is well organised and taught by staff who have strong subject knowledge."

"Pupils and families appreciate this happy and welcoming school."

"Pupils behave calmly and sensibly in lessons... they are respectful to each other and their teachers."

Ofsted, April 2023

Autumn Term 2023

Wednesday 27 th September	09:00-10:15
Tuesday 3 rd October	09:00-10:15
Wednesday 4 th October	09:00-10:15
Thursday 5th October	17:30-19:30
Tuesday 10 th October	09:00-10:15
Wednesday 11 th October	09:00-10:15
Tuesday 17 th October	09:00-10:15
Wednesday 18 th October	09:00-10:15

At other times, we welcome visits by appointment. For visits during this time or at any other time, please email: sean.french@southfieldsacademy.com or phone: 020 8875 2661

"To be the best we can be!"