

Aragon School Newsletter

**Aragon Road
Morden
SM4 4QU**

Friday 23rd February 2024



Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all well and had a lovely half-term break.

As so often with my letter to you, I'd like to begin with some thank yous. First of all, thank you so much for coming to our Progress Consultation meetings. It is so important for your child/children

that you know how they are getting on so you can share the highs and lows and support their progress, attainment, friendships and wellbeing. Thanks too, to all our Reception parents who came in this morning to 'Share a Story' - what a great turnout!

We've had a lot going on this week with a cricket coach from 'Chance to Shine' an independent charity that works to spread the power of cricket in schools and communities across the country, coming in to work with Years 1 and 6. They loved it. Year 2 had a fabulous time at Wisley Gardens on Tuesday and have been writing super recounts all about it this week. On Thursday, Years 1 and 4 had children's author and illustrator, Emily Fella, in to inspire them to become cartoonists or artists in the future, see the details on pg 4.

We used our PE funding to have an orienteering course installed all around the grounds this week and the staff had some great training on how to use it with the children which entailed everyone running all over the school trying to crack codes. It was really good fun. Do ask your child if they have noticed the signs yet.

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team are at the borough championships today so we are keeping our fingers crossed for them. Good luck team!

Have a lovely weekend,

Clare Ryder

Check out our social media!

House Challenge! Any child who is wearing their full Aragon uniform one day next week will gain 5 house points. However, which day will be kept a secret! (Not the 29th!)



[@aragonprimary](https://www.instagram.com/aragonprimary)



[@AragonPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/AragonPrimary)



Diary Dates

February

23rd - Reception Share a Story and Coffee

26th - School Council to Houses of Parliament

29th - 3G Class Assembly

29th - School Council Break the Rules Day

March

5th - Class Photographs

6th - Y5 Holi Workshop

7th - World Book Day

WB 11th - STEM Week

13th - Y5 Harry Potter Studio Tour

14th - 3M Class Assembly

18th - Y6 Imperial War Museum

21st - 3B Class Assembly

21st - Rocksteady Concert

22nd - Y1 Share a Story and Coffee

27th - Easter Egg Raffle

28th - Last day 1.15pm pick up

29th - 12th - Easter Holiday

April

15th - Children back

19th - Y2 Coffee and Story Morning

"To be the best we can be!"

Year 1 Spotlight

English - We have read the story of the Odd Egg. We started by how the duck in the story was feeling at the beginning. The children came up with great emotions: nervous, disappointed, confused and worried. We wrote a diary pretending to be Duck and we included feelings, adjectives and a question to end our diaries. This week everyone in year 1 has created their own bird and written sentences using interesting adjectives and written a fun fact about their bird. Each class will then put these amazing fact files together to make our own 'Bird Spotter's Guide'!

Science : We have just finished learning about different materials. We grouped different objects into what materials they are made from and spoke about the properties. The children loved using magnets in the experiment finding out which materials are magnetic. We also learnt new scientific vocabulary: translucent, transparent and opaque. We used actions to help us remember what those new words mean!

"Plastic is hard and it can be lots of different colours" - Inaya

"Glass is fragile because it can break easily" - Ted

Art

The children loved our recent topic called 'Paper Play'. The children started by experimenting with different ways of folding strips of paper to make 3D models. Then we created larger sculptures showing the different folding techniques we had learnt.

"I liked folding the paper lots of times to make a zig-zig and swirling the paper around a pencil" - Brooklyn

Finally, we created pictures of trees using paper and tissue paper.



EYFS - People Who Help Us

To finish our topic of 'People Who Help Us', Reception were very lucky to have a special visitor from St Helier Hospital.

We met a paediatric nurse (Evie's daddy) and found out about their role and what they do day-to-day. We learnt that paediatric nurses look after children when they are feeling poorly both in the hospital and at their houses (in the community). We explored some of the equipment they might use, including a heart monitor and we looked at their uniform. Thank you Evie's daddy, we had so much fun!



"To be the best we can be!"

Arriving late can affect your child's attendance!

We all hate to be late to meetings, jobs and events and we can miss important things when we arrive after the start time. This is the same for school. The first bell goes at 8:45am and we are ready and registered by 8.50am. Once we are in our class, we are straight into early morning work. We are doing catch-up work from yesterday's learning, arithmetic, daily reading and lots more! Every minute counts in school, we only have 190 days to complete an entire year's curriculum.

Year Group	Minutes late over the last 2 weeks	Minutes late since 15/1/24	In Hours	School Days Lost
Reception	258 minutes	549 minutes	9 hrs 9 min	1.40 days
Year 1	126 minutes	423 minutes	7 hrs 3 min	1.08 days
Year 2	343 minutes	775 minutes	12 hrs 55 min	1.98 days
Year 3	71 minutes	275 minutes	4 hrs 35 min	0.70days
Year 4	247 minutes	525 minutes	8 hrs 45 min	1.34 days
Year 5	416 minutes	658 minutes	10 hrs 58 min	1.68 days
Year 6	204 minutes	349 minutes	5 hrs 49 min	0.89 days

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.



late

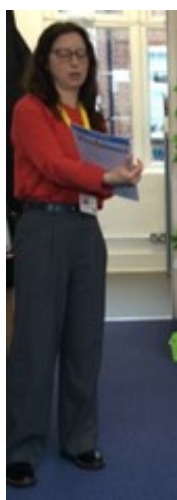
"To be the best we can be!"



Robyn, one of our pupils in Nursery, has done something truly extraordinary! She recently participated in an inspiring act of kindness by donating a whopping 10 inches of her beautiful, long hair to the Little Princess Trust!

By donating her hair, she's helping to create wigs for children who have lost their hair due to illness or undergoing challenging treatments. But that's not all! Robyn also managed to raise over £500 for the charity through her hair donation.

Artist Visit



On Thursday, we were joined by Emily Fella, children's illustrator and artist. She spent time in each year 1 and 4 class sharing her journey to becoming a published illustrator. She gave the children tips on how to reach this success and reiterated the message 'never give up' - a motto she lives by.



She shared some of her books and took us on an adventure, meeting the characters she had created from superhero insects to gingerbread monsters!



Then onto the main event. The 'how to' part of the session, where Emily took us through the simple steps in creating our very own characters, from bears to robots and superheroes! She gave tips and hints throughout. The children all created their own pieces of work and were super proud of their final pieces.

'I haven't drawn a bear before; I didn't know where to begin! I do now, I am going to show all my family tonight!' Harleigh

'I can draw a whole family, a bear family, It was easy!' Maddie

'I have made a superhero worm, like Superworm, but my one!' Arthur

'I'm excited for the artist, I hope she can teach me how to draw!' Albie

'The children were buzzing all day, excited to get stuck in and all proud of their creations and ready to show them off! Lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves! A year group of budding artists' Mrs Lester



"To be the best we can be!"

Children's Mental Health Week

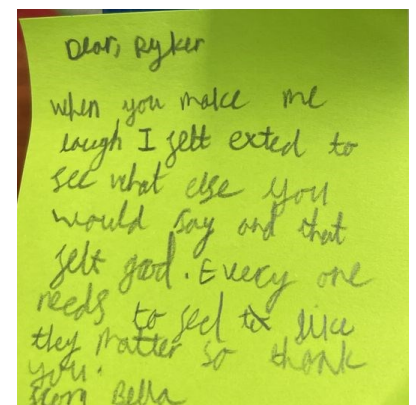
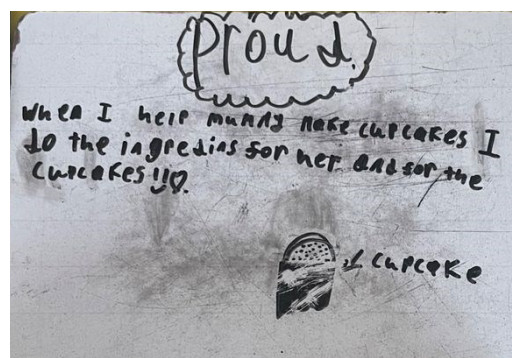
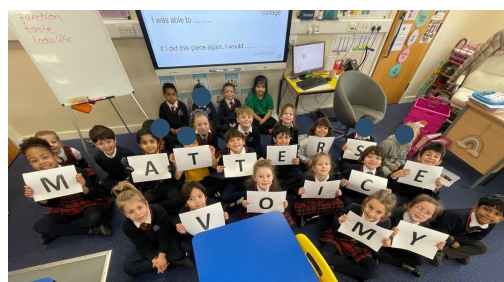
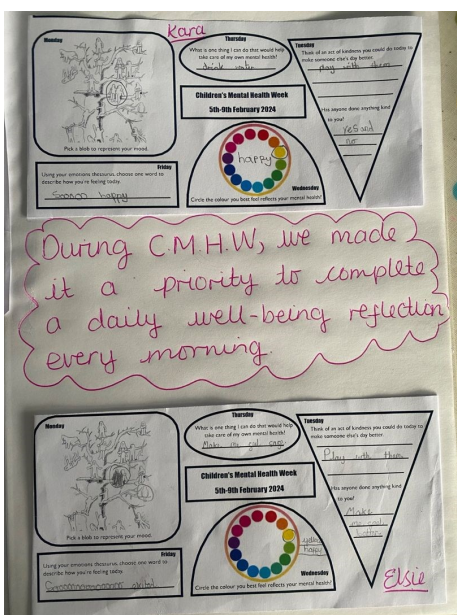
Aragon Primary School was delighted to support 'Place 2 Be's' annual 'Children's Mental Health Week'. Held every February, 2024's week ran from the 5th-11th February with the theme 'My Voice Matters.' Pupils at Aragon attended a launch assembly on the Monday morning discussing the importance of mental health and reducing stigma around this subject and increasing open dialogue. During the week, children participated in a number of activities linked to the theme 'My Voice Matters' including daily emotional check in's with staff, a special PSHE lesson using their voices to discuss different emotions, accumulating in a special 'Express Yourself' non uniform day where children were invited to wear a colour that reflected their feelings and to bring a small comforter toy from home. This week is just one of the many ways that Aragon Primary School achieves its long term commitment to making our school a place where all children feel that they can safely and openly express their emotions.



Drawing how we are feeling



Painting the rainbow breathing



“To be the best we can be!”

Rise Gymnastics 2024 Competitions!

Last half term saw the return of the Rise Gymnastics Competitions for Merton Borough and we are incredibly proud of the children who were selected and represented Aragon.

The children needed to choreograph their own routine which included a creative start and end position alongside one skill from each of the eight skill areas. All of the children worked hard during their lunch time practising and rehearsing this ready for the event. They also then had to perform two vaults.

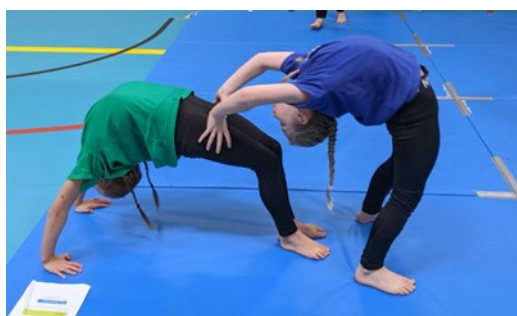
First up, was Year 5 and 6 on Wednesday 31st January. Cyrus, Harry, Hollie and Megan headed to Harris Academy in Wimbledon with Mrs Cox and Mrs Stonell to compete against other schools in the borough. On Friday 9th February, Daisy, Millie, Callum and Finley represented the Year 3 and 4 team to compete with Mrs Christelle and Mrs Moloney.

All of the staff were so impressed by the children's hard efforts and attitudes they showed towards the event. The time and effort the children had put in to their routines really showed with the level of skill they performed. Cyrus and Harry wowed the coaches with their impressive move and were even asked to teach it to the other children alongside Daisy and Millie winning a bronze medal for their vault!

Overall, we were all extremely proud of all the children and their fantastic efforts within the competition – well done everyone!

This half term we are looking forward to another 3 big events which include inclusive football, tag rugby development and netball championships.

Good luck to all those involved!



Train to Teach Webinar

Thursday 7th March 2024

5pm - 6pm

Find out more about training to teach with Sutton SCITT

Check out the Events page on our website to register for your place
www.suttonscitt.org.uk



Are you thinking about teaching as a career?

If you would like to find out more about how we can support you on your teaching journey, then come and chat to us at the London Get Into Teaching Event



Get Into Teaching Event

Book your place
<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

Saturday 2nd March, 10am - 2.30pm
Congress Centre, London, WC1B 3LS

"To be the best we can be!"

Guess the location!

Where in the world do you think this week's story is taking place?



1.

The capital city is Canberra.

2.

Kangaroos and koalas live here.

4.

The country is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean.

3.

Aboriginal people arrived here about 50,000 years ago.



What?

A rare black and white dolphin has been seen in the sea at Hervey Bay, Queensland in **Australia**.

Researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast have named the dolphin Speckles, due to its striking appearance.



Source: @SeaSaver, X.

Georgina Hume, a researcher at the university, said, "Speckles leapt out of the water three times in an upright, vertical position". Georgina recalled the dolphin had "many white areas, along with white stripes across its sides."

GEOGRAPHY



Mrs Roach's Geography Quiz



The first child to tell Mrs Roach the answers on Monday lunch time at 12:10pm will win **30 Class Chart points** and a **special Geography badge** to wear proudly at school!

This week...

1. Why was the dolphin discovered in Queensland called Speckles?
2. Find out two interesting facts about a native Australian animal to blow my mind!

Storytelling Week

Our entire school recently took part in Storytelling Week, from 27 January to 4 February! This annual event is a vibrant celebration of the power that stories hold, reminding us of the joys of sharing them.

Stories have the remarkable ability to teach us about the world around us, letting us step into someone else's shoes, encouraging empathy, and broadening our horizons. They also provide a means to relax and escape from the everyday, whilst nurturing essential literacy skills.

To kickstart the week, Mrs. Ryder and Mr. Gilbert, shared stories during our assembly and spoke to the children about the history of storytelling. They then set a thrilling challenge for the children: to learn and retell a traditional story over the course of the week!

The culmination of this exciting week was a magnificent assembly, where each year group showcased their incredible storytelling skills. The performances were absolutely captivating!



Throughout the week, our eager pupils eagerly shared stories amongst themselves, and were treated to some mesmerizing tales from adults around the school. In addition to this, all parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were invited in to school to read with their children and share stories.

We are immensely proud of all our students for their enthusiasm and creativity during Storytelling Week. Their dedication to honing their storytelling skills was truly inspiring!

Let's keep the magic of storytelling alive throughout the year, nurturing a love for tales that will last a lifetime!



"To be the best we can be!"

OPAL Donations - could you check any cupboards for...



Please drop off
to our OPAL
donation spot
outside the
office.

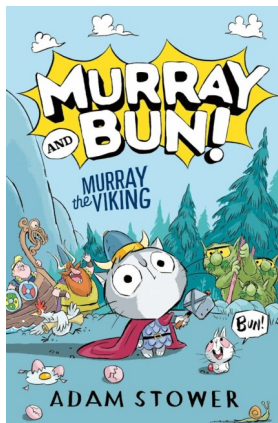


Reading Matters - Poetry: Click on the book to take you to a description!

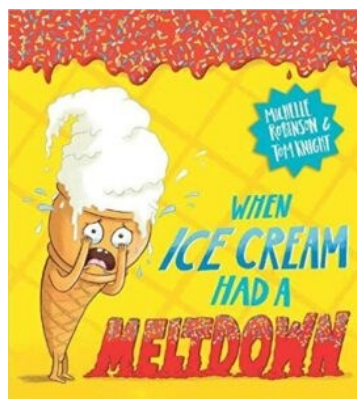
Y5/6



Y3/4



Y1/2



EYFS



Did you know...?

You may be able to get free school meals, food vouchers in school holidays, free holiday schemes and extra funding for your child's school through the 'Pupil Premium'. Check your eligibility and save hundreds of pounds whilst helping raise money for your child's school. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals>

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

"To be the best we can be!"

Attendance over the last 2 weeks!

Congratulations to all the classes who achieved an attendance of 96% or more!

6EB	95.7%	2A	94.9%
6F	97.3%	2R	96.9%
6MB	97.3%	2W	95.4%
5E	96.2%	1B	96.8%
5K	96.6%	1C	93.3%
5L	96.1%	1H	98.3%
4AB	94.7%	RA	95.1%
4H	94.4%	RP	99.2%
4LB	98.2%	RS	97.7%
3B	96.2%	School	96%
3G	95.8%		
3M	97.1%		

House Point Leaderboard

Griffin  **1403**

Unicorn  **1323**

Dragon  **1165**

Phoenix  **1015**

House Point Averages

Griffin  **10 points per Griffin**

Unicorn  **8 points per Unicorn**

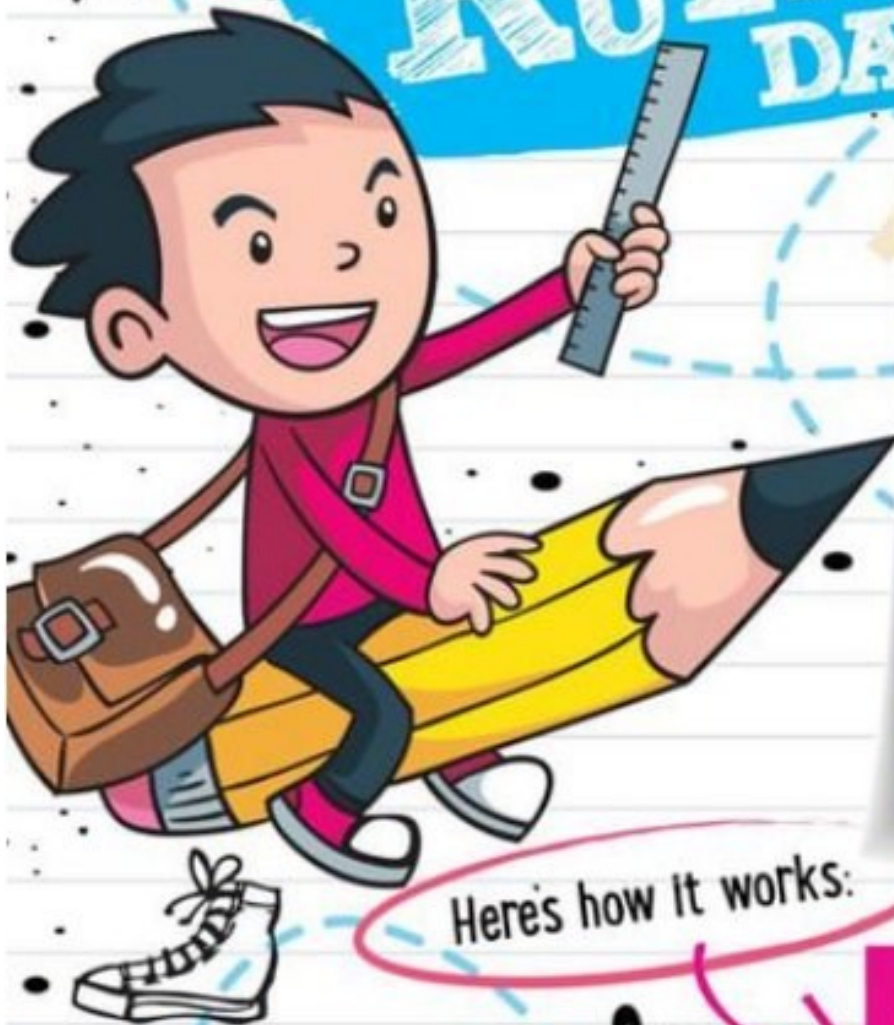
Dragon  **8 points per Dragon**

Phoenix  **8 points per Phoenix**

"To be the best we can be!"

Aragon Primary School Council

BREAK the RULES DAY



Rules to be broken include:

Do not wear a hoodie.

Do not have juice in your water bottle.

Do not wear nail varnish.

Do not wear bright socks or tights.

Do not wear trainers.

You must do your homework.

Do not bring a chocolate biscuit for break time.

Here's how it works:

When?

Thursday 29th
February 2024

(Leap Year)



50p for each rule that you break from the list above

You decide how many you want to break!

Teachers will collect your 'Rule break' dues in class



"To be the best we can be!"



Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either: have a high temperature, do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

"To be the best we can be!"