

All About Toys!

Since the start of the Spring term, life at Albemarle has been filled with Toys. In class the children have been taken on magical adventures and immersed in a world of wonderful books filled with characters linked to the circus.

Last week, the adventure came to life. A visit from 'Circusology' provided the children with a platform to transform themselves and become members of the circus. Across the day, children from Nursery, through to Year 6 spent time developing magic tricks and circus skills.

Behind the scenes, teachers have planned an amazing term filled with activities to extend and enrich the children's learning. We know that the children will have a magical time at school and hope that they will share their adventures at home with you.

Anyone for Tea or Coffee?

Thank you to everyone who attended Wednesday's PTA Coffee Morning. Lots of ideas were shared and some of the fantastic suggestions for future events were made:

- A monthly Farmer's Market at Albemarle
- Courses for parents on First Aid, Zumba and other exercise sessions, ESOL, Maths & English
- An Easter bonnet parade and raffle

The PTA will look at how they can put these suggestions into practice. In the meantime, the first event of 2018 will be:

'Hearts & Crafts' on Friday 9th February at 3.30pm.

This will be followed by a Cake Sale on Friday 23rd February at 3.15pm.

In the morning of Friday 9th February, at 9am, I will hold a coffee morning. The topic will be 'the Creative Curriculum'. With this term being the shortest in the school year, it would be amazing to get more parents involved to help make Albemarle even more special.

Everyone is welcome

Next week, the Core Value is

'We are Independent'

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Anyone for Breakfast ?

Over the last five years we have worked with families to provide 'Wrap Around Care'; which means that we are open from 7.45am to 6.30pm.

As a school we try to keep costs to a minimum and provide value for money. Over the past four years we have kept our Breakfast Club prices as low as possible, in fact we have not put the cost up for the last four years. However, I regret to inform you that the time has come when we have to increase the daily price by 50p to cover the cost of running Breakfast Club.

As from Thursday 1st February 2018 the daily cost of Breakfast Club will be as follows:

- £2.50
- £1.00 if you are in receipt of free school meals / pupil premium and registered with the school.

Twinkling Stars fees will remain unchanged at this time.

Update from the Governing Body

"It was the first meeting of the term last night for all the Full Governing Body to meet and to hear from the Senior Leadership Team about the school's progress. All seems well on track with pleasing levels of pupil progress. The staff forums, which were established to improve communication between staff, the SLT and Governors, have got off to a good start.

Governors are keen to make sure they contribute fully to the life of the school and debated targets they will hold themselves too. These will be published on the website when finalised.

Last night was a special occasion as we said goodbye to Heinz Toller after 19 years as a Governor. His contribution will be missed and we would like to thank him for his dedication to the school and for his positive impact on the success of Albemarle and its children".



Whole School Targets

As you are aware, at the start of each school year, in partnership with the Governors, staff get together to set key priorities that are identified by analysing key school performance measures.

As Albemarlans, you will be aware that our attendance target is 97%. Alongside this are six other targets, one of which is:

- To raise standards in Maths

At Albemarle, all staff strive to support all children to become confident mathematicians and to demonstrate a 'Love for Learning'.

This year we have introduced 'Learning Questions', which have replaced Learning Objectives and allow our children to further develop their explanation skills and understanding of key concepts. Learning Questions also provide teachers with invaluable opportunities to unpick children's misconceptions and to identify important next steps to help them improve and build upon their answers.

As a school, teachers are now piloting a Mastery approach to maths teaching. This approach focuses on depth of understanding and encourages children to reason and solve a variety of mathematical problems.

Alongside a number of skills, the development of number fluency is a vital aspect of our approach and every maths lesson starts with this as a focus. As well as the hour long maths lesson, each day children in Years Two to Six have an extra fifteen minute slot to further develop their core skills of times tables and practice their reasoning skills.

As part of our creative curriculum, we have also begun embedding maths skills across the curriculum. As well as developing statistic and measurement skills in science, the children use geometry skills in Art and Design and Technology lessons whilst also learning about position and directions in P.E.

At Albemarle, the learning does not stop at 3.15. As a school we invest in Mathletics, an interactive on line maths program for children from Reception to Year 6 which is aligned to the National Curriculum. Each week, teachers set tasks. Once children have completed their set tasks they are then able to compete in maths games with children from across the world. The games adapt to children's previous results ensuring that questions are appropriately matched to the child's ability. Mathletics also enables teachers to check the children's results, identify areas which require further attention and provide additional support.

Dates for your Diary

On Monday, we will email you a list of 'Dates for Your Diary'. This will provide you with a list of key events, trips and activities which will take place during the Spring term.

T's is the Season for Love



This half term, the classroom book corners have been decorated with hearts as we explore 'The Season for Love'. On Wednesday 7th February, we hope you will be able to join us in a celebration which explores the true meaning of Love as children from across the school present a collection of songs, poems and readings.



Half Term Break February 12th to 16th Holiday Care @ Albemarle



With only 10 school days until the February half term, if you haven't yet managed to organise your child care, Holiday Care @ Albemarle will be here to help. To find out more go to <http://www.albemarle.wandsworth.sch.uk/holiday-care.html>

This Week's Attendance

This week only 3 classes managed exceed the attendance target of 97%.

Diamond	97.70%
Emerald	98.29%
Sapphire	97.32%

Yours **Theresa Moses** Headteacher

