

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term (1) 2024 No. 2

Dear Parents and Carers

KS1 Multiskills Festival

This week, we sent two teams of KS1 children to take part in our local Multiskills Festival at Theale Green School to test their skills against teams from several other local primary schools. The children took part in a lovely range of activities including speed stacking, boccia, golf skills and archery, to score points for their team. Many thanks to Mrs Makepeace and Miss Renfrew for organising and accompanying our children. The children looked so smart in their school sports kit and everyone was very impressed with the support they gave their teammates and their exemplary behaviour. Thank you also to all the family and friends supporting on the day. I'm looking forward to celebrating and handing out certificates to Lucian, Clark, Oscar, Florence, Edward, Harley, Larosa, Orion, Hetty, Iver and Summer – congratulations!



Staffing Changes

We're delighted to announce that Mrs Redding has now taken up the reins as our Office Manager. Mrs Redding has worked in our school for nineteen years and brings a wealth of experience to her new role.

Sadly, we're saying goodbye to another long-time colleague. Mrs Faulkner has decided that after over 17 years, she's ready to hang up her laptop charger. We're very grateful for the super technical support she has provided us as our IT manager and her (often tested) patience with those of us who are less technically minded. We shan't use the R word but we wish her all the best with her future plans.

School lunches

Just a reminder that we're currently in a precarious position with our catering contract. We're in a review period where we're closely monitoring and encouraging uptake of school dinners after making changes to our menu and charges so we can maintain a contract with our current catering company. Please do support if you can – we really do want to be in a position where we can continue to offer good quality hot lunches to all of our children.

Harvest donations

We are very proud to support our local foodbank through our annual Harvest appeal. There are more families than ever before who are using and depending on a foodbank and I know that any contributions will be greatly appreciated. We talked about the work of foodbanks in our Monday collective worship and were particularly sad to see that between April 2023 and March 2024, 655,000 people found themselves using foodbanks for the first time. We also learnt that 1.1 million emergency food packages had been provided to

children during that period. We have placed our Harvest appeal collection box just inside the entrance lobby and children can also bring in donations to their classrooms.

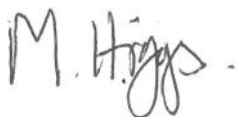
You can also use the link below to find out what items are urgently required for donation. <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Thank you.

Finally...

The children can't wait to welcome you to our family learning morning next Friday (11th October). You can look forward to joining in lessons with a musical theme. Please drop off your children as usual through the school playground and we will then ensure there is tea and coffee available for you in the hall where you can sign in and receive a visitor label. You are welcome to stay for all or part of the morning, whatever you can manage. The event finishes at 10.30am so the children can go out for their break.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend..



Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th August 2024 Penalty Notice fines
increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has a total of 5 days of unauthorised absences in 10 school weeks, for things like:

- being late after the register has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing and up to £2,500 fine, or up to 3 months in prison and a criminal record



For more information please contact:
EWSS@westberks.gov.uk



ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Attendance

We take your child's attendance very seriously at Aldermaston CE Primary.

We are currently in the process of reviewing and updating our attendance policy. Based on new guidance from the Department for Education, these changes aim to promote and increase regular attendance and ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential by being in school more frequently.

The updated changes include the use of Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school. The changes have come in to use from 19th August 2024. Penalty Notice fines have increased to £160 for each parent, for each child.

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please speak with our Senior Attendance Champion, Mr Gunn.

NO NUTS STATEMENT

We have a responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for everyone in our school and we take the management of allergies very seriously.

As our school currently has one or more pupils on roll who suffer from a serious nut allergy, we request that parents and carers **DO NOT** send food to school that contains nuts. This includes:-

- All types of nuts
- Spreads and sandwich fillings containing nuts like peanut butter and Nutella
- Cereal and chocolate bars which contain nuts
- Cakes or biscuits which contain nuts

Please check food labels if you are unsure about ingredients.



No nuts in this area due to allergies

PLEASE SEE OUR FULL NO NUTS STATEMENT ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/parents/school-dinners/no-nuts-statement>

School News

REMINDERS

ACCESS TO SCHOOL BUILDING

Please note that at all times there should be **NO PARENTS** in the school building without having first signed in through the office and obtained a visitor badge. Thank you.



WALKING ON SCHOOL WALL AT FRONT OF SCHOOL

Please could we remind you **NOT TO ALLOW** your children to walk on the small wall at the front of the school.

NO Smoking or vaping on School Grounds



Our school site is a no smoking zone and we therefore ask all parents to NOT smoke or vape within the school grounds. Thank you.

Car Park

Please be considerate when parking in our school grounds to drop off and collect your child. The spaces on the left hand side of the drive are meant to be used for people who can drop off or pick their child/children up quickly, rather than for those needing to wait for a long time. If you need to wait, please park in the spaces to the right of the main drive or in the spaces in front of the field to the left of the main school building as you come into the entrance gate. Thank you.

Use of Playground Equipment

We would ask that **NO CHILDREN** are allowed to play on the school equipment in and around the playground. These areas are for use by the children during school time only and should **NOT BE USED** by children before school or after school. Our insurance only covers the use of this equipment with supervision by staff, who are trained in the correct use of the play equipment and we would not want any harm to come to the children without the correct supervision. Thank you.

EVENTS THIS TERM

Thursday 10th October

9.30am to 10.30amOpen Day for Prospective Parents

Friday 11th October

9am to 10.30am Family Learning Morning

Wednesday 16th October

4 .30pm to 7pm Parents Evening

Thursday 17th October

3.30pm to 6pm Parents Evening

Tuesday 22nd October

9.30 am to 10.30am Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 23rd October

3.30pm to 4.30 pmYear 6 SATS Information Event

Thursday 24th October

3.25pmEND OF PUPIL HALF TERM

Friday 25th October to Sunday 3rd November

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 4th November

8.55am ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 11th November 2024

11am.....Armistice Day—observing silence in school & Y6 children laying wreaths at the war memorial

Wednesday 4th December 2024

PM.....Nativity Dress Rehearsal

Friday 6th December 2024

10am.....Whole school trip to the Watermill Theatre for Pinocchio

Monday 9th December 2024

PM.....KS1 Nativity Performance

Tuesday 10th December 2024

PM.....KS1 Nativity Performance

Friday 13th December 2024

12pm.....Christmas lunch

Tuesday 17th December 2024

9:30am.....Advent Service at St Mary's Church

Thursday 19th December 2024

3:25pm.....END OF PUPIL TERM

Please see our online diary for more dates at:-
<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/calendar>

TERM DATES 2024

Autumn Term 2024

First Day of Term 1	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Last Day of Term 1	Thursday 24th October 2024
Half Term—no school	Friday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024

First Day of Term 2	Monday 4th November 2024
Last Day of Term 2	Thursday 19th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

First Day of Term 1	Monday 6th January 2025
Last Day of Term 1	Friday 14th February 2025
Half Term—no school	Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025
First Day of Term 2	Monday 24th February 2025
Last Day of Term 2	Wednesday 27th March 2025



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