

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term (1) 2024 No. 3

Dear Parents and Carers

It's amazing to think that we are already at the end of our first term for this school year. The children have achieved so much already and it's great to see their progress. The Wrens Class are joining in with all school events as if they've always been here and I enjoyed seeing children across the school confidently sharing their ideas about friendship in our collective worship this morning.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our parents' evening appointments. I hope you found them useful. Please do let us know if there's any extra information you'd like to receive at these meetings or other changes that would help you support your children's learning at home. Don't forget, teachers are always happy to discuss how your children are getting on and you can usually catch them at the end of the day or contact them through the school office.

Wild visitors to the Robins Classroom

Our Robins Class recently experienced some unusual visitors from Bucklebury Farm. It was all in the name of science! Our curious Year 1 and Year 2 children had great fun learning about the habits of their new furry friends and finding out what they needed to stay healthy and well.



Harvest Festival

Thank you for the contributions we have received so far to our Harvest Food Bank Appeal. There's still a few days left to make a donation. The collection boxes are just inside our front door.

Tomorrow, our Owls Class will be leading our Harvest Festival end of term service. You are very welcome to join us at St Mary's Church for our 9.30am worship.

School uniform

Just a reminder about school uniform. Uniform expectations are available on our website here:-

<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform>

We will ask children to remove any non-compliant jewellery which will be kept safe until the end of day. Please also ensure that school shoes are sensible and safe – we're getting to the cold and wet end of the year. If you are having difficulties paying for uniform, please let us know. This information will be kept confidential and we may be able to help.

Kingfishers and Starlings – Geography fieldwork visit

Last Thursday, our two upper KS2 classes made a fieldwork visit to find out more about our local canal. Their trip to the Wharf allowed them to make first hand observations on this human made geographical feature.

ture. They discussed why it was created and where it was located and they also considered and tested the water quality. It was also another useful opportunity to review water safety with our children. The children brought their best investigative skills to the visit and we were very impressed with their learning.



Investigator learning heroes

Wrens	Lyla	Owls	Isabella
Robins	Ollie	Kingfishers	Zoe
		Starlings	Mary



Our persevering, enthusiastic, curious, question asking, researching learning heroes for this term have just received their certificates in a whole school collective worship. What a great start to the year for them and what wonderful role models they have been for the other children in their classes. Well done.

I understand that lots of fun was had at the Glitter and Glow Disco on Friday. Thank you to the brilliant organisers, everyone who supported on the night and to all of you for supporting our PTA events and raising money for the school.

I hope you are all able to enjoy some time with your children over the half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4th November.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break.

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.

PLEASE SEE OUR FULL NO NUTS STATEMENT ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

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



**No nuts in
this area due
to allergies**

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

Tuesday 22nd October

9.30 am to 10.30amHarvest 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

8.55amALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

All day.....Bikeability (Kingfishers & Starlings)

Tuesday 5th November

All day.....Bikeability (Starlings)

Wednesday 6th November

AM/PMFlu vaccinations (whole school)

Thursday 7th November

9.00amRags 2 Riches

Monday 11th November

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

Tuesday 12th November

AM/PMVision Screening Test (Wrens)

Thursday 14th November

AMIndividual Photos

Thursday 21st November

9.30am to 10.30amOpen Day for Prospective Parents

Tuesday 26th November

9.30am to 10.30amJunior Music Festival Rehearsal

Wednesday 4th December

PM.....Nativity Dress Rehearsal

Friday 6th December

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

Monday 9th December

PM.....KS1 Nativity Performance

Tuesday 10th December

PM.....KS1 Nativity Performance

PM.....Douai Abbey Carol Concert (Starlings)

Friday 13th December

12pm.....Christmas lunch

Tuesday 17th December

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

Thursday 19th December

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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