

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term (2) 2024 No. 4

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Autumn Term (2). You should have received your curriculum overview for this term and hopefully you are already hearing from your children about their new topics in class.

This term, our value for Collective Worships is 'Courage' and we will be exploring what this means through bible stories, current events and wider school life. In every class, children are trying to follow the example of our Thinker Learning Hero who solves problems by using a creative and imaginative approach.



Anti-bullying week

The theme of anti-bullying week is 'Choose Respect'. It focuses on the power we all have as individuals (children and adults) to make positive choices to help others and prevent, address and resolve bullying situations through respectful and kind behaviour. A key theme is children asking the adults in their lives to lead by example, both online and offline.

As always, we are committed to taking part in this annual event. It allows us to revisit our school definition of bullying and ensure children know how to get help if they witness or are subject to bullying behaviour.

Our approach to bullying is linked to our expectations that everyone in the school should feel **safe, happy and able to learn**.

Bullying is a type of anti-social behaviour which is repetitive, intentional and involves an imbalance of power.

We want every child to be able to tell a trusted adult if they come across this type of behaviour.

The School Council has some work planned around this topic. We will also be talking to all children about having courage to stop bullying in a whole school collective worship as well as finding out what learning they have completed in class to help keep everyone safe.

Bikeability



In another example of our safety curriculum, children in Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed the chance to complete their Level 1, Bikeability training in school. Being able to ride a bike is such a great skill for children. It gives them access to a healthy active pastime, allows them to explore further afield and can make travel easier. Bikeability training gives them the skills to be safe and confident on our roads. Well done to all who took part.

Year 6 with their certificates

Curriculum Corner

Look at this lovely piece of geography learning enjoyed by Owls Class last term. The Owl Squad were sent far and wide across the United Kingdom to find out about places as far flung as Glasgow, Rhyl and Worthing. They were returned by post to report back to the Owls Class about their adventures and what they found out about each location. The children had a wonderful time plotting their travels against the map in their classroom and it was an exciting way to bring this topic to life. You can find out more about their travels by reviewing Mrs Ebrey's blog posts on our website.



Following our recent family learning morning, it's also lovely to report that we have become a Music Mark School. This allows us to access lots of resources and work alongside other schools who provide high quality music provision for all children and recognise the value of music education as part of a broad and balance curriculum. Thanks to Mrs Waugh for all of her hard work as Music Lead.

Armistice Day

At 11am on Monday, school life paused for the observation of the two minutes silence. Our Year 6 children observed this at the Lych Gate Aldermaston War Memorial where they held a short service of remembrance which included reading out the names of the fallen. The Starlings Class lay poppy wreaths on behalf of each class at our school as a mark of respect.



Helping our community

Thank you for your support with our Foodbank Appeal. Please see below for the lovely message we received from West Berkshire Foodbank:

I wanted to let you know that your Harvest Festival donations this year weighed in at 72.1 kgs. Fantastic. This is the approximate weight of a fully grown leopard!

It also means that Aldermaston Primary School has donated the equivalent of 151 meals for local people who are experiencing real hardship.

Thank you so much for supporting us again. It means a great deal.

We're proud of how much the children take pride in helping out others. We're all looking forward to doing our bit for Pudsey tomorrow too.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.



M. Higgs



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

Attendance update:

Working together to improve School Attendance 2024 (WTTISA 2024) became statutory guidance on 19 August 2024. As a school we are guided by this statutory paperwork and have to follow the guidelines and thresholds set out in this document. The guidelines and thresholds are applied nationally for state maintained schools.

For example, the national threshold for when a penalty notice must be **considered** is when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period.

When the national threshold is met, schools are required to make an assessment on a case-by-case basis whether a penalty notice is the appropriate tool. This does not include holidays during term time.

In regards to holidays during term time, leave of absence forms need to be completed and shared with the office. These will be reviewed, considered on a case-by-case basis and as a school we will share the outcome. If the holiday request meet or exceeds 5 days (10 sessions), it is likely to be referred to West Berks for a potential penalty notice.

You can find full guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workingtogether-to-improve-school-attendance>

If you have any questions relating to attendance please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office or myself.

Mr Gunn. Senior Attendance Champion

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



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 19th November

08.45am to 9.30am EYFS Coffee Morning

Thursday 21st November

9.30am to 10.30am Open Day for Prospective Parents

Tuesday 26th November

9.30am to 10.30am Junior Music Festival Rehearsal

Tuesday 3rd December

08.45am to 9.30am EYFS Coffee Morning

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 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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