

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term (1) 2025 No. 7



We've had a great start to 2025 and it was wonderful to welcome the children back after the holidays and hear all of their stories about the exciting time they had over Christmas and the New Year.

A peaceful new year

We are starting our Spring Term looking at the value of peace. We are reflecting on the importance of peace through bible stories and considering the teachings of other faiths and different worldviews. Children are reflecting on how they find peace in their own lives and thinking about the need for peace in our wider community and indeed throughout the world.

Our learning hero for this term is the Team Worker Ant. In class, we will be looking for children to show that they can listen, participate and share their ideas, and collaborate and support others in their groups. The British value associated with the Team Worker is mutual respect – something which really helps teams to get the most out of any activity.



You will have received your child's Curriculum Overviews for this term. Please do support them in their learning about this term's topics and feel free to ask class teachers any questions you might have about the different areas of our curriculum.

Healthy Living Week 2025

We started the new school term with our annual Healthy Living Week. Our photo gallery should give you a taste of the children's achievements and enjoyment of this five day event. Highlights included:

- A very 'crisp and refreshing' daily walk a mile
- Exciting sessions of different sports and physical activities with external coaches – this year these included rocket ball, badminton, archery and boccia (a Paralympic sport)
- NSPCC 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' lessons as part of our wellbeing focus. These sessions support children to keep themselves safe and know when and how to ask a trusted adult for help.
- MHST wellbeing workshop for Starlings Class with a focus on readiness for the specific challenges of Year 6 and getting ready for moving to secondary school
- A screen free day at school
- Reviewing why we need sleep and how much sleep we need to be at our best
- Lots of work on healthy eating and cooking and creating recipes and snacks (thank you for the lovely feedback we received on some of the new food you got to try at home)
- Revisiting our zones of regulation work which helps children to identify talk & share about how they are feeling.
- And our ambitious big activity outing, which this year allowed our children to challenge themselves at a climbing centre



The feedback from our children has been very positive and varied in relation to the parts they enjoyed the most. If you have any feedback, it would be gratefully received. Please do e-mail it into the school office. Many thanks to our staff team who put in a lot of extra work behind the scenes to ensure this week was such a success.



Speak out. Stay safe.

We try to run this well established programme with our children every other year as part of our safeguarding commitment. The NSPCC materials are sensitively matched to the ages and developmental stages of our children and include class based assemblies and linked learning. Children have been meeting Buddy and understanding that all children have important rights:-

- The right to be safe
- The right to speak out and be heard
- The right to get help when they need it

They have talked about how sometimes others behave in a way which is 'not OK' (abusive and unsafe) and how they can speak out for themselves and for others if something is worrying or concerning them. These assemblies have revisited the idea of sharing worries with a trusted adult and we have talked about the work of Childline and how to contact them.

As part of the programme, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 will also receive workshops led by specially trained NSPCC volunteers later in the term.



A healthy balance to screen time

As part of Healthy Living Week, every class took part in a screen free day. This proved to be surprisingly popular with the children and a really useful exercise for staff to review how using screens impacts on our workload and experiences of teaching in the classroom. To be clear, our screen free day, in line with the rest of Healthy Living Week, was about finding a healthy balance rather than labelling all screen time as harmful. It is a really important part of children's education to help them make effective use of all the brilliant technologies available to them, technologies which will undoubtedly be a major part of their working lives in the future. As educators, we know we are extremely fortunate to have access to superb online resources to support the curriculum.

Things we considered:-

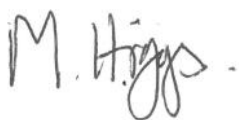
- The term screen time is very broad – it covers lots of different activities. It might be more useful to think about whether children are engaged in something purposeful – e.g. finding out about something interesting, learning a new skill or communicating in a positive way with friends or family.
- Does the amount of time spent on 'screens' prevent children from taking part in more beneficial activities like sleeping or being physically active?
- Do children have a 'healthy' relationship with their technology? Can they manage without screen time? Can they concentrate on other tasks for a sustained period of time? Do the games they play or sites they visit leave them feeling positive and hopeful or worried and unhappy?

As always, we continue to work with our children on their online safety. You might be interested in the link below for useful resources for parents and families.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next family learning morning which is on Wednesday 29th January 2025.

Have a wonderful weekend.



Mrs M Higgs

Headteacher



Attendance.

Attendance is incredibly important to children's development and progress, our school target is 96%

We understand that sometimes unavoidable absences occur, but regular school attendance is vital for your child's success. Every day in the classroom provides valuable learning opportunities, from academic lessons and social interactions to developing essential life skills.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between lower achievement and absence below 95%

Consistent attendance helps children build strong foundations in reading, writing, and maths, while also fostering important social and emotional development. Missing school can lead to gaps in learning that become increasingly difficult to overcome.

We encourage you to work with us to ensure your child attends school regularly, as it significantly impacts their academic progress and overall well-being.

If there is anything the school can do to help and support you, please get in contact with us and we can discuss this face to face or over the telephone.

Iain Gunn

Deputy Headteacher & Senior Attendance Champion at Aldermaston Church of England Primary School



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

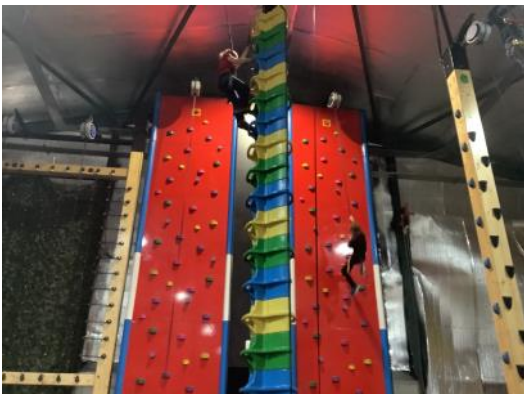
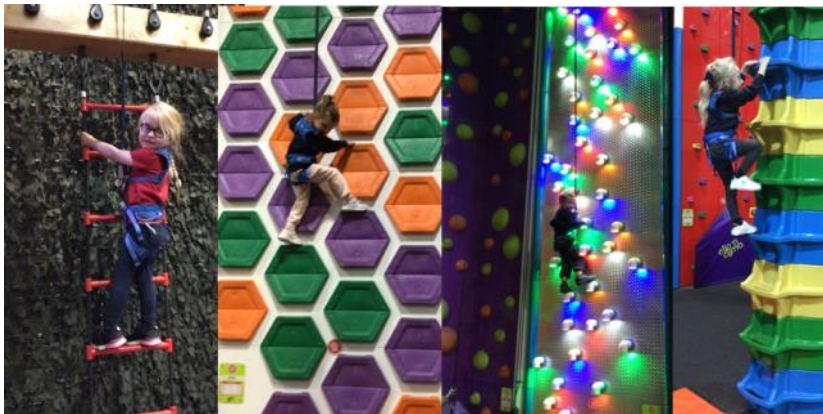
NO NUTS STATEMENT

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



Healthy Living Week in pictures.



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

Wednesday 29th January

9am to 10.30am.....Family Learning Morning

Tuesday 11th February

All day.....Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February

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

Monday 24th February

08.55.....ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 3rd March to Friday 7th March

All week.....Year 6 Residential

Monday 10th March to Friday 14th March

All week.....Book Week

Monday 10th March

All day.....World Book Day—Dress-up

Monday 24th March

7:00pm.....Junior Music Festival—Hexagon

Tuesday 25th March

9:30am.....Easter Service at St Mary's

Friday 4th April

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

Wednesday 23rd April

08:55am.....ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Friday 23rd May

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

Monday 2nd June

08:55am.....ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 22nd July

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

Spring Term 2025

First Day of Term 3	Monday 6th January 2025
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 14th February 2025
Half Term—no school	Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025
First Day of Term 4	Monday 24th February 2025
Last Day of Term 4	Friday 4th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

First Day of Term 5	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half Term—no school	Monday 26th to Friday 30th May 2025
First Day of Term 6	Monday 2nd June 2025
Last Day of Term 6	Tuesday 22nd July 2025



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