

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2021 No. 1



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been lovely to see all of our children back in school again and to welcome some new faces.

Covid-19 update

As expected, Covid-19 measures have been relaxed in schools. We are no longer required to keep children in separate bubbles and implement measures like staggered start times to support social distancing. However, we have kept measures such as increased handwashing and additional cleaning and staff continue to LFD test twice a week.

We remain vigilant for anyone displaying potential Covid-19 symptoms. We have already had a positive case amongst our children since the start of the term. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in your child's class, you will receive a letter to let you know. Changes in isolation requirements since 16th August mean that close contacts of a positive case who have received both doses of their vaccine or are under 18 years and 6 months are no longer required to isolate.

If numbers of Covid cases in the school community reach one of the following thresholds, we will reintroduce more stringent Covid protection measures within school.

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10 day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for Covid-19 within a 10-day period

As always, we're very grateful for your support in keeping children home who are displaying possible Covid symptoms and ensuring they have a PCR test as soon as possible.



Super Sports

Our children are really enjoying their basketball coaching!

Reading

Welcome back to a new year of reading! A few highlights to get us all going...

- We have lots and lots of lovely **new books** - everyone will be bringing home their new reading books this weekend and the library is restocked and ready to go. Children have already been enjoying library sessions and exploring their new "book boxes." Please support your child in getting off to a flying start with reading at home - remember the school reading record needs to be signed five times a week by a parent, and, now that our risk assessments have been relaxed a little, reading records should come into school every day.
- A number of pupils have taken part in the local libraries' **Summer Reading Challenge** - if you have, do bring your certificate and medal into school next week so that we can present it in Assembly and give you the recognition you deserve. The deadline to finish is 15th September, so if you've already begun the challenge, get your skates on!



- **Reading Cafe** is back online for the next few weeks, and we are hoping to be back face to face very soon. This is for absolutely everyone but is particularly popular with our younger children, so if you're new, please look us up! Until we are able to meet back in the classroom after school, keep tuning in (on the PTA Facebook page and on the school blog every Thursday at 5pm) and watch this space! This counts as one of your five reads - see Mrs Ebrey or your class teacher if you'd like the official stamp in your reading record.

Our Foundation Stage children will also be bringing home their very own school reading books this week - beginning with wordless stories. Look out for a note in their bags explaining a little about how to get the most out of these and support reading in this very first couple of weeks before we begin phonics. We will be inviting parents in for a coffee morning within the next week or two to talk through this very exciting part of your child's reading journey - in the meantime, if you have any questions at all do please get in touch.

Welcome to our new Wrens


We've had such fun welcoming our new Wrens to school life at Aldermaston. They're a fantastic group of children and we have been so impressed with how well they are settling in and making new friends.

Staffing changes

We said goodbye to Mrs Lunnon at the end of last term. We're very grateful for everything she has contributed to our school in her 6 years here and wish her all the best in the future. We're welcoming two new faces to the staff team this term. Mrs Oram, who is working as a teaching assistant in Robins Class, and Mrs Coulam, who has joined us as a teacher in Starlings Class for this term.

Our SENCO, Miss Goulding, is currently absent from school and in her absence, myself and Mr Gunn will be the first point of contact for any SEND matters.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Swimathon this weekend. Wish us luck!



Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



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SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2021 TO 2022

Autumn Term 2021

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Half Term

Autumn Break Half Term

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Term

Thursday 2nd September

Thursday 21st October

Friday 22nd October to Friday 29th October

Monday 1st November

Friday 17th December

Spring Term 2022

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Half Term

Spring Break Half Term

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Term

Wednesday 5th January

Friday 18th February

Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February

Monday 28th February

Thursday 7th April

Summer Term 2022

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Half Term

Summer Break Half Term

Start of Pupil Term

End of Pupil Term

Monday 25th April

Thursday 26th May

Friday 27th May to Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June

Thursday 21st July



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