

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2021 No. 3



Dear Parents and Carers

Winchester Science Centre 2021

What an amazing day we had last Friday when the whole of KS2 (Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings Classes) visited the Winchester Science Centre.

Children enjoyed being transported into space for the planetarium show and got hands on experience in workshops linked to their current topics. This really enriched their understanding of the things they have been learning in the classroom. The exhibits were completely interactive and the children could have spent a lot longer engaging in the challenges and experiments available to them. There also couldn't have been a better trip to allow children to follow the example of the termly learning hero – Investigator Dog.

Many thanks to the KS2 team, particularly Mrs Hatton and Miss Hawes, who organised this fantastic trip and for all the staff who worked additional hours to ensure it could happen. If you are looking for something to do as a family, this centre is highly recommended.



Harvest Festival and Foodbank Appeal

Congratulations to our brilliant Kingfishers who led the school's Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church this week. They shared our school parable of The Sower and took us through the pumpkin prayer. Our new Year 6 worship leaders, Ryan, Kalisia and Grace, were commissioned during the service too. Thank you to Mrs Ebre and everyone who helped the children to prepare.

We were particularly proud of our new Wrens who really enjoyed their first church service. As many of them had never visited St Mary's before, Reverend Jane very kindly gave them an extra tour of the church and the chance to ask questions after the service had finished. With the walk up and back to church, and an afternoon PE session, we're sure they slept very well in the evening.

As part of this term's value of compassion, the children are keen to not only understand when people need our help but also to take action to help whenever possible. We have chosen to launch a Harvest Foodbank Appeal and you will see a box placed outside our school office from tomorrow where you can leave any donations. Many thanks for your support with this. If you would like to find out what items are currently needed, the list can be found here: <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



Wrens' phonics coffee morning

Many thanks to all the parents who attended our coffee morning about phonics in Foundation Stage. It's lovely to be able to hold these parent information events again. Mrs Makepeace and Mrs Ebrey really enjoyed sharing how we teach phonics and having the chance to answer your questions. We hope you find your learning packs really useful.

Black History Month



Many of you will be aware that October is Black History Month. One of the school's current Equality Objectives is to ensure that our curriculum prepares children for life in modern Britain and that we have good representation of all different groups and communities. We also feel very strongly that we have a duty to fight prejudice through education. Black History Month offers us a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of black scientists, artists, authors and other leaders in their fields in a way that has previously been missing from school curriculums. We are very grateful for the improved availability of teaching resources to support this aim and our participation is part of our continuing curriculum development rather than a one off event. We're increasingly aware of how important this is to our children, many of whom have shared with us how exciting it is to see different role models and inspirational figures and how this affects their view of what they can achieve in life.

We have started holding our open mornings for parents of children who will be starting school in Autumn 2022. The next one is on Thursday 14th October and bookings can be made through the school office. Please do spread the word.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

M. Higgs

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher

REMINDERS

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.



Contact Us:-

Tel: 0118 971 3362

Text: 0118 324 0216

E-mail: enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

Website: www.aldermaston.org.uk

School News



Morning Active Clubs

Due to the popularity of our morning clubs, we are looking to increase those on offer throughout the week.

We are able to confirm that we can offer a Multi-Sports Club for all children in Years 1 to 6 starting on Monday, 1st November and continuing until Monday, 13th December. This will take place in the hall—please see flyer attached later in this newsletter.

We are also looking to introduce a club for Tuesday morning and will provide further details once this has been confirmed. Watch this space!

Regular Activities in School

Morning Active Clubs before school

Every Wednesday 8am—Gymnastics Club
Every Thursday 8am—Judo Club
Every Friday 8am—Street Dance Club

Music Lessons during school time

Every Monday—Guitar
Every Tuesday—Violin/Piano
Every Wednesday—Percussion/Drums
Every Thursday—Woodwind/Piano

AFTER HALF TERM

Additional Morning Club before school:-

Every Monday 8am—Multi Sports Club

Your local church dates:

Sunday, 10th October

Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston at 10.45am.

Sunday, 17th October

Harvest Festival Service at St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston at 10.45am.

Key Dates

Thursday 14th October

9.30am—Open Morning for Year R September 2022 Intake—please call the school office to book your place—Larks Room

Monday 18th October

9am—FS Parents Maths Meeting—Larks Room

Tuesday 19th October—Year R ONLY

4 to 7pm—Parents Evening BY TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT

Tuesday 19th October—YEARS 1 TO 6 ONLY

4.30 to 7pm—Parents Evening BY TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT

Wednesday 20th October—YEARS 1 TO 6 ONLY

3.30 to 6pm—Parents Evening BY TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT

Thursday 21st October

3.20pm—END OF PUPIL HALF TERM

Friday 22nd October to Friday 29th October

HALF TERM

Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

ENERGYKIDZ HOLIDAY CLUB—please see flyer in newsletter.

Monday 1st November

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 17th November

8.30am—Sibling Photos—please bring pre-school children along for a photo with their older siblings

AM—Individual Photos—all children in school

Thursday 18th November

Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Friday 26th November

AM—Whole School Pantomime—The Jungle Book at the Watermill Theatre

Wednesday 15th December

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Friday 17th December

3.20pm—END OF PUPIL TERM

Mon 20th December to Mon 3rd January—

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 4th January

Inset Day—School closed to pupils

Wednesday 5th January

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Dynamos Cricket Festival

On Thursday 23rd September, Mrs Hatton and Mrs Canning took a squad of Year 5/6 cricketers to the Dynamos Cricket Festival at Falkland Cricket Club in Newbury. This was our first opportunity for face-to-face inter-school competition since early 2020! Despite never having played together as a team in a competitive match, Team Aldermaston worked their socks off, and were commended by the umpire for their improvements throughout the tournament. Between matches, Noah C and Noah M led some coaching for the other members of the team and as a result, bowling and batting partnerships were much improved. Rocky and Kian in particular worked brilliantly as a batting pair and we saw both Noahs' score fours. Fielding was great too, with Noah M getting a wicket; some fast



bowling from Noah C; and an exciting slide across the field by Rocky to stop the other team from scoring a four. Huge congratulations to the whole squad: Arabella G, Grace M, Katherine, Noah C, Noah M, Ryan, Henry, Kian and Rocky – and a special thank you to Mr Mercer for taking some time out of his day to support the team with his cricket coach hat on.

Some of the Year 5 children from Kingfishers visited Aldermaston Allotments this week to pick pumpkins for the harvest service. The pumpkins were grown by Mr Canning and we saw about fifty of them, but we only picked five! We carved them for the Pumpkin Prayer, which goes like this:-

Pumpkin Picking

Cut off the top! - Lord, open my mind and bring me your wisdom and guidance. Scoop out the middle! Lord, take away all my worries and troubles.

Cut out the eyes! - Lord, help me to see the beautiful things you have made.

Cut out the mouth! - Lord, help me to speak your truth.

Put in the candle! - Lord, fill me with your light.



FUNDRAISING

A huge thank you to everyone who donated clothing recently; we managed to raise £90. Our next collection will be on the 3rd February 2022.

We also raised £105 just before the summer holidays with the second hand uniform sale. We hope to do another one soon, so keep your eye on the PTA Facebook page for dates. If you have any uniform in good condition which you wish to donate, please keep hold of it for now and we will confirm when to send it in.

FIREWORKS & CHRISTMAS

Sadly, due to a change of ownership at our usual fireworks venue, we are unable to hold our annual display there. The hall committee have been great with honouring the booking, however there have been some challenges outside of both their and our control. We do, however, hope to do something at Christmas, so watch this space!

RAFFLE

Finally, as part of our Christmas activities, we are looking for good quality raffle prizes. If any of you can assist with donations from companies you work for/local businesses, then please let us know. This could be a voucher for money, a voucher for a service or a physical prize. Please let us know if you can assist via our email address or message on Facebook.



PTA New members wanted!

The PTA is a registered charity, run by a friendly group of parents, teachers and friends of the school.

Whilst fund-raising is a major part of the PTA's activities and directly contributes to the improvement of the school, there's a lot more to it than that. We help to build the whole school community, including linking with wider society, all of which benefits the school and offers a positive influence within the local area.

We all lead busy lives, but there are lots of ways you can help - there are only about four meetings a year, plus you can volunteer as little or as much as you like.

Becoming a member of the PTA is a great way of getting to know other families and school staff whilst making a real contribution to the quality of school life for everyone.

We would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for fundraising activities or can help in any way.

Please contact us on pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk.

We also have a [Facebook](#) page.



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Book online www.sports-xtra.com

School/Location

Aldermaston School
Morning Club

Duration

7 x weeks @ 45 mins

Dates

01/11/21 To 13/12/21
Mondays AM

Start Time

08:00

Pick Up Time

08:45

Age Range

Years 1 - 6

Cost (£)

*£35

Other Info

Year's 1 to 6 Multi Sports Club , Max 16 book early !

*6% transaction fees apply

Terms and conditions apply.

Sports Xtra accepts no liability for any loss of or damage to items belonging to your child whilst on this course. Your contact details will be held on a database, exclusively used by Sports Xtra to help keep you informed of future activities. If you do not wish to receive future news and information, please contact us.

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Book early to secure your place. Places limited to 16!