

# Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

## Spring Term (2) 2022 No.4



Dear Parents and Carers

Spring has definitely arrived and it's great to see the children enjoying lots of time outside in the sunshine.

### Charity

Thank you for your support with our efforts on Friday to raise money for both Comic Relief and for the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. We're delighted to announce that we raised a total of £192.00.

In our collective worship on Friday, we were able to reflect on why we were raising money. We watched a video about one particular child and his friends and how the money raised had improved their lives. We also enjoyed sharing some jokes. I hope some of these were shared with you too.

We're really proud of the interest our children take in events happening around the world. We've had many conversations in school about events in Ukraine and we know that children are seeing a lot of news coverage. Sometimes children can find the news upsetting or worrying. The following link offers some support and advice for families to help children if they are upset by anything they have seen in the news.

[Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine | Childnet](#)

### Democracy in action

We are in the very fortunate position to have received a generous donation in support of children's reading at Aldermaston. Many, many thanks to Mrs Hollis for your kind contribution to our school.

The School Council had been working with Mrs Ebrey on how this money could be spent to inspire and engage our children. They came up with four suggestions - a school trip, a visit by an author, buying a book for every child or buying a storytelling chair.

Our focus British value for this term is democracy (as championed by the Reflector Owl learning hero) so we set about creating a polling station, complete with ballot boxes and voting tokens. As the children arrived in the morning, they were very excited to see the transformation of our KS2 library. School councilors reminded children about the principles of democracy in class before allowing anyone to attend the polling station where they ran a rigorously controlled vote. Each child had to be registered to vote and only once this was confirmed were they issued a voting token. Adults were **not** allowed to vote.



Votes were counted and checked against those who registered to vote. Then they were counted again! Our children have voted for the money to go towards a school trip in the Summer Term. Watch this space!

Well done to our school council representatives – Lilly, Sienna, Sam, Harmony, Lavinia, Stanley, Jack and Arabella – for ensuring the children enjoyed exercising their democratic rights.

### **Staffing**

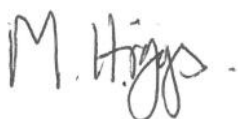
Covid 19 levels in the local area remain relatively high and staff absence continues to be a challenge. We're sorry for any impact this is having on our children. Please be assured that we are working hard to minimise disruption and to ensure that the supply staff used are familiar to our children. If you feel that your child is unsettled or concerned, please let us know so we can offer them reassurance and support.

### **Music festival at the Anvil Theatre**

Rehearsals for the Junior Music Festival have been going very well and the children are tuneful and enthusiastic. I'm looking forward to hearing them perform next Wednesday evening. Thank you for all of your support with this. It looks like a record breaking year of children wanting to take part in this excellent musical enrichment showing what talented children we have in our school. We'll let you know how they get on.

Wishing all mums and other caregivers a wonderful Mothering Sunday and special family time.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs M Higgs**  
**Headteacher**



#### **Contact Us:-**

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# PTA NEWS



## Welcome to our new Chair and Secretary!

A huge welcome and thank you to Genna Clarke who has taken on the role of Chair and Sam Cooper who has taken on the role of Secretary.

The previous Chair, Gail Andrews, had been covering both roles of Chair and Secretary for over two years and has now stepped down, but will stay on the committee as it's such a great group of people who do brilliant things.

## AWE donation – British Science Week

A big thank you to AWE for their fantastic donation of £500 towards science books and kits. This was part of the recent British Science Week which is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths – all of which AWE are passionate about. We will feed back what the money will be spent on and how the children will benefit.

## Amazon Smile - a free way to raise money

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the PTA every time you shop, at no cost to you!

AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping App for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that AmazonSmile will donate a portion of the purchase price to the PTA (which is a registered charity).



Follow the simple instructions on the link below to set it up on your web browser or phone, select

**Aldermaston Parent Teacher Association (Pta)** as the charity, and remember to always use the smile.amazon link, rather than the standard Amazon one. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/charity/smile/about>

## Want to have a say in how funds are spent?

We'd love to have more members of the PTA, however we understand that many people are busy or worried about committing. If you're unable to come to meetings, but are interested in helping out and giving your views, then why not share your email address with the committee and we can include you on communications about how we look to spend money and what activities we support. We'd love to hear your suggestions too, so please drop us an email [pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk).





## Clothing collections

Thank you so much for your support on the last clothing collection; we raised almost £70. We have the next one booked in for the **17<sup>th</sup> May**, so if you're having a clear out over Easter, then don't forget us!

(Please remember not to donate yet, as there is nowhere to store it.)

## Pre-loved uniform sale

We regularly collect and sell on pre-loved uniform at great low prices, with the money raised going into the PTA funds to spend on the children. If you have any good quality clean uniform which you no longer need, please send them into school. We'll be announcing the date of the sale as soon as we can.



## Fun activities

We've all missed the activities which we normally run, from school discos to summer fetes and fireworks displays. We've been working hard in the background and hope we can start getting these back again soon, subject to local authority guidelines regarding covid. Fingers crossed!

In the mean time, watch this space for some fun Easter activities and Queens Platinum Jubilee events.

## Next meeting

Why not pop along and meet the team, we'd love to hear some new ideas or you can just have a listen. We're a mix of parents, staff and friends of the school and we'd love to meet you and let you know what we do. Our next meeting will be on the evening of **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** so please drop us an email at [pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk).

