

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term (1) 2022 No.2



Dear Parents and Carers

Hear the drums

We recently welcomed Kakatsitsi, a group of master drummers from Ghana, to our school to share their musical and dancing talents.

They had the whole school on their feet dancing and singing! We learnt about how the music they shared was part of their Ghanaian tradition and how it reflected their daily lives and their beliefs.

The songs the children were taught became the soundtrack to our coach journeys this week – clear evidence of the children's enjoyment and the impact Kakatsitsi's visit had on them.



A whole school adventure

What an amazing day we had at our whole school trip to Go Ape this week. We were so pleased to be able to offer this adventurous activity to all the Aldermaston children. Our amazing children did brilliantly in facing the challenges of the obstacle course and quite often surprised themselves with what they could achieve. The games on the ground provided plenty of opportunities to develop teamwork and everyone appreciated the natural habitat of the forest and the time they spent in nature's playground. We know the children will have slept very well on Tuesday evening.

It was all hands on deck to ensure this trip could go ahead. Huge thanks to all of our staff team who made this ambitious plan possible and particularly Mrs Boyden for all of her work behind the scenes. See picture gallery later in this newsletter.

Mental health and wellbeing

We're proud of the provision that we already have in place to support the wellbeing of our children which has been a huge priority over the last couple of years. Staff have a real focus on pastoral care and implement a therapeutic thinking approach to behaviour management. We're also fortunate to have our own qualified ELSA (Mrs Woollam) available to work with children who need some additional support. We use our curriculum and special events like the annual healthy living week to provide additional input. However, we're always looking for ways to improve what we are doing and we wanted to update you on some new developments in this area.

Attached to this newsletter is an introduction from the Mental Health Support Team who will be working with the school from September this year. This is the second team set up in West Berkshire and this initiative will widen the options for support available to you, our staff and our children. I hope many of you will be able to attend the parent information session after the half term break.

I am currently training to be a mental health lead for our school and the course is filled with interesting research about wellbeing and ideas for developing provision. At the same time, for their summer term project, our school council is looking at how we can help our children to enjoy better wellbeing and mental health. We'll have some more information about these developments on display at our family learning morning.

Welcome back and a date for your diary

Thank you to everyone who has attended recent events in school including the parent sessions about the KS1 SATs and the phonics check and the excellent relaunch of our 'in person' reading café. It has been great to have you back in the building.

We have lots of exciting events planned for next half term including a family learning morning on Thursday 9th June. The theme is PSHE and wellbeing and we know you'll enjoy spending time in class with your children. Please do come if you can. The hall doors will be open from 8.55am. Please sign in and enjoy a tea or coffee before a quick introduction and your chance to join your children in class. Please note that other family members including grandparents and siblings are welcome too.

Ambassadors for our school

It was a pleasure to support our team of KS2 athletes who represented the school at the Quadkids athletics competition at Park House School on Saturday. Twenty one schools and four hundred and twenty children were involved in this athletics festival where every child took part in a sprint race, middle distance race, vortex javelin and standing long jump to earn points for their school. Thank you to Ben, Rowan, Sam, Harmony, Mikey, Maddie, Nevaeh, Ella, Jasmine and Lavinia and their families and to Mrs Redding. We're looking forward to next year's event already!



On Saturday evening, our children were once again out in the community singing and playing their instruments as part of a concert at St Mary's Church. We're so proud of the feedback we had about their amazing performance and their exemplary behaviour. Thanks to Mrs Ebrey for organising this great opportunity.

Thank you to all our families who support us in ensuring the children can enjoy these extra curricular opportunities. What fantastically talented children we have!

Manager Learning Heroes for Summer Term (1)

Congratulations to our Manager Class Heroes for this term. You have shown yourselves to be organised and ready, welcoming of challenge, responsible and able to use resources well. We're very proud of your achievements.

Wrens	Isabella	Owls	Noah
Robins	Nelly	Kingfishers	Kian
		Starlings	Ella



A Platinum Jubilee celebration

This morning has been a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We started with a special collective worship where our older children shared the timeline they have researched and created to show all the changes the Queen has experienced through her historical seventy year reign. This, along with other lovely examples of our children's work, will be on display at the Aldermaston Exhibition.

The children then split into their house groups to spend the morning working together in mixed age groups on a range of craft activities linked to the jubilee.

Finally, the whole school came together on the playing field to enjoy a picnic fit for royalty.

As part of our school celebrations, we have been very fortunate to receive a special Aldermaston commemorative mug. These have been made possible due the generosity of a number of local people and organisations, including our wonderful PTA. Hopefully, these will serve as a reminder of this important occasion in the history of our country and be treasured for years to come. Additional mugs, subject to availability, are on sale at £5 each at the Aldermaston events over the four-day weekend or from our Foundation Governor, Cathy Jones.

Have a lovely half term break with your children and enjoy the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Yours sincerely

M. Higgs

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



Contact Us:-

Tel: 0118 971 3362

Text: 0118 324 0216

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



Go Ape Gallery



SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2022 TO 2023

Summer Term 2022

First day of Term 5

Last day of Term 5

School Closed to pupils

First day of Term 6

Last day of term 6

Monday 25th April

Thursday 26th May

Friday 27th May to Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June

Wednesday 20th July*

School Closed to pupils

Thursday 21st July to Sunday 4th September

Autumn Term 2022

First day of Term 1

Last day of Term 1

School Closed to pupils

First day of Term 2

Last day of Term 2

Monday 5th September

Thursday 20th October

Friday 21st October to Monday 31st October

Tuesday 1st November

Tuesday 20th December

Spring Term 2023

First day of Term 3

Last day of Term 3

School Closed to pupils

First day of Term 4

Last day of Term 4

Wednesday 4th January

Friday 10th February

Monday 13th to Friday 17th February

Monday 20th February

Thursday 30th March

Summer Term 2023

First day of Term 5

Last day of Term 5

School Closed to pupils

First day of Term 6

Last day of Term 6

Monday 17th April

Friday 26th May

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

Monday 5th June

Thursday 20th July

*change from Thursday 21st July due to extra Jubilee bank holiday during May half term week.



Aldermaston CE Primary School

CALLING ANY VOLUNTEERS – ALDERMASTON SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!



We are in need of some more Volunteers to help with individual reading/times tables at school. It only has to be for an hour a week, or more if you are able.

Please contact the School Office in person, or email:
enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs Miller (Volunteers Coordinator) will be available every day after school in the playground for a chat.

Your help will really be invaluable and we will see our children flourish.

Please note: All Volunteers will have to go through some checks first, including DBS, Volunteers agreement, Safeguarding and references.

PTA NEWS

Latest contribution.

We have gladly contributed to the Year 6 leavers books that will be provided to our current students later this term.

New way to raise funds for the PTA...

The PTA are now using a great website called www.easyfundraising.org.uk to help raise money for Aldermaston Parent Teacher Association (PTA) - simply by shopping online.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use them to shop with over 6,000 retailers such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS and Booking.com.

Retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the PTA.

Please register using this link – just click sign up -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=284560&invite=b3xedg&referral-campaign=c2s>

They also have an app if you would prefer to use that, just search for easyfundraising.

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation.

There's no catch or hidden charges and Aldermaston Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will be really grateful for your donations.

Pre-loved uniform collection

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. The next pre-loved clothing sale will take place in the school playground in June. Keep an eye on the Facebook page and whiteboard in the school playground for the exact date.



Next PTA Meeting..

The next PTA meeting will be held on 6th June at The Hinds Head @ 7pm in the Officers Mess. Please come and join us, it is very informal and we always welcome new members. You do not need to commit a lot of your time but your ideas and help at events is invaluable to making this charity a success.

This meeting will combine the AGM and the detailed planning for the 2022 Summer Fete due to be held on the school premises on the 8th July 2022.

We will be asking for volunteers to help with both the planning and hosting of this event so if you are free and willing, please send us your details 😊.



pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

[Facebook - Aldermaston P.T.A](#)



Aldermaston's Big Jubilee Picnic Lunch

Sunday 5th June 2022 12 noon – 4.00pm

on Aldermaston CE Primary School Field

2pm cutting of the Celebration Cake and Group Photograph

Please bring your own picnic, drinks, rugs, table and chairs

Come wearing red, white and blue Children's Crafts

Commemorative Aldermaston Mugs for sale £5 each, cash only.

Sorry but we cannot accommodate dogs on the field nor allow smoking



FLOWER FESTIVAL 'OUR QUEEN'

at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

Thursday 2nd – Saturday 4th June 2022 10am – 5pm each day

**With a special service of Songs of Praise and Blessing of the Flowers
on Thursday 2nd June at 11am**

Want to be involved? Then come and join us - all levels of experience are most welcome. Help with stewarding over the 3 days - we would love to see you.

For further info contact Cynthia on 07887 776596 or email
cmnewman2021@outlook.com



Aldermaston's Jubilee Exhibition at the Aldermaston Parish hall

Saturday 4th June 2022 10am – 5.00pm

Free exhibits and events, with any donations to the Queen's charities:

- The Queen, including her coronation and celebrations in Aldermaston
- Aldermaston 1952 – 2022 – visual display
- Women's fashion 1952 - 2022
- Aldermaston Parish hall 1952 - 2022
- Display of crafts from the Aldermaston Craft group
- Children's crafts – come along and make a crown to wear at the picnic
- Refreshments including sandwiches and cakes
- Sale of Jubilee mugs
- Treasure Hunt
- Extension of the exhibition is at the Hinds Head including refreshments



Aldermaston Celebrations

Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June 2022

Timetable of events:

Thursday 2nd:

10am – 5pm Flower Festival in St Mary's Church including a Songs of Praise and Blessing of the Flowers at 11am

8.30pm – 10.30pm in the field opposite St Mary's Church,

Pay bar & BBQ provided by the Hinds Head

9.30pm the Piper will play

9.45pm Lighting of Beacon by the Lord of the Manor

Friday 3rd:

10am – 5pm Flower Festival in St Mary's Church

Saturday 4th:

10am - 5pm Flower Festival in St Mary's Church

10am - 5pm Exhibition and Refreshments in the Parish Hall

Sunday 5th:

10.30am Benefice Songs of Praise at Douai Pavilion

**12noon – 4pm Big Jubilee Picnic Lunch in the school playing field with
The Cutting of the Celebration Cake at 2pm & Group Photograph**

All events are free - no tickets or booking required

Come and make this a celebration to remember