

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term (1) 2023 No. 3



Dear Parents and Carers

Family Learning Morning

What a fantastic turnout for our first family learning morning of the year. It was great to have 52 visitors in school, finding out about their children's classrooms and sharing their artistic talents. I understand it got a little competitive (between the adults) in some of our classes! The outcomes were certainly beautiful. Thank you for joining us and for your feedback which is really useful. A few people sent in e-mails with feedback after the event too. This is a great option if you don't have time on the day, there isn't enough room on a post-it note or an open forum wasn't the right place to leave your feedback. We're always keen to hear from parents and carers and to incorporate your ideas where we can. Most dates for our school events across the year were set in September and are available on the school website calendar. Our next Family Learning Morning is on 24th January 2024.



Harvest Festival

Our Owls Class led an excellent Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church on Tuesday. It was lovely to be joined by some of their families and members of our wider community. As always, we felt very proud of the respectful behaviour of all the children at our school. We must make a special mention to our Wrens on their first visit to church and to the Starlings who looked after them beautifully on the walk up and during the service.

The Wrens and our new Y6 Worship Leaders (Evelyn, Verity and Josie) stayed on at the church for a special tour by Reverend Jane to find out more about this special local place of worship.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our Harvest Festival. We will continue to collect up until the end of next week, so there is still time if you have not yet had a chance to pop in a donation.

Speed Bumps

Thanks to the planning and hard work of our wonderful PTA and the invaluable support of Burdens and Marshalls, we have been able to install speed bumps to ensure our children are even safer at school. We talked about the importance of the speed bumps in our Monday collective worship. Over the next few weeks, all children will be taking part in a road safety lesson and we will be inviting them to design a road safety poster for use on the school site.



School Dinners

It has been a very difficult period for catering businesses and overheads have increased substantially over the last couple of years. This has led to our current caterers, Dolce, increasing their costs by a substantial amount. As a result, we will be changing our suppliers for school dinners. After the half term break, we will be working with a new company called PS Catering to manage our school dinners. They are a small, family run business with a focus on fresh food and lots of great ideas for our school. The schools they are currently working with are very happy with their service.

This has happened with very little notice so please bear with us as we make the transition. Our wonderful kitchen staff will remain the same and we're looking forward to having some input into the menus provided to our children. We are also ensuring that you can still order from home or in class and pay electronically.

There is no change in entitlement for those who receive a free school meal. This includes all of our Wrens and Robins

who can have a free lunch every day. For children in Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings who currently pay for meals, the price will now need to increase from £2.60 to £2.70. This is still substantially cheaper than many other local primary schools, some of whom are already charging above £3.00 per meal. We're committed to keeping costs as low as possible going forward but will need to ensure prices realistically reflect the costs involved in providing meals. If you find yourself struggling with costs, please do talk to us to see if we can help.

Multi-skilled Robins

Congratulations to the wonderful team of Robins who attended a recent multi-skills festival at Theale Green School. Oscar, Mia, Michaela, Robyn and Poppy demonstrated fantastic teamwork and were wonderful representatives for our school. They are also the proud new owners of some very impressive bronze medals. Thank you Mrs Redding and Mrs Makepeace and all of our family supporters for looking after our team so well.



Inspirational sports figure



Today the children have enjoyed a visit from inspirational sports-woman, Nerys Pearce. She encouraged and supported them to complete their sponsored sporting circuits. The children were determined and energetic and some of the staff struggled to keep up with them! It's always great to see the whole school active and enjoying themselves.

I know that the children will have got a lot out of hearing Nerys' story. She spoke movingly about her accident and

overcoming the challenges of adjusting to life in a wheelchair. The advice she gave about persevering and pushing ourselves to succeed really struck home with our children. I hope they are able to tell you all about what they learnt and took away with them from this experience.



Parents' Evening Appointments

Thank you to everyone who has already made an appointment for next week. The Autumn Term parents' evening is a really good opportunity to find out how your child has settled at the start of the school year and to establish an effective partnership with their class teacher. Please do make every effort to make an appointment.

Using photos and videos

There are many good and important reasons why our parents and carers may decide not to allow their children to feature in school photographs and videos. Every class teacher has a list of parent permissions in this respect. We are no longer asking you to repeat the permission forms every year. Instead we will rely on you to tell us if you wish to change or update these. Sometimes we find that parents are surprised by the impact of withholding permissions. For example, children not being able to have their photos in newsletters because these are uploaded to our website. It's fair to say that photographs and videos are now very commonly used in children's learning. Please do discuss with class teachers at your parents' evening appointment if you are not sure about usage.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. I hope you are able to make the most of the sunny weather.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



School News

NOTICES

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. This has loose coping stones and could cause injuries.



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.



DOGS ON SCHOOL SITE

Please do not bring dogs onto the school site. Many thanks

CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 0118 971 3362
Text: 0118 324 0216
E-mail: enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Website: www.aldermaston.org.uk

EVENTS THIS YEAR

Monday 9th October

All day Whole School Flu Immunisations

Wednesday 11th October

4 to 7pm Parents Evening

Thursday 12th October

9.30 to 10.30am Open Day for Prospective Parents

3.30 to 6pm Parents Evening

Thursday 19th October

3.25pm END OF PUPIL HALF TERM

Friday 20th October to Monday 30th October

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Sunday 29th October

5pm PTA Fireworks at Padworth Lane

Tuesday 7th November

9.30 to 10.30am Open Day for Prospective Parents

Wednesday 8th November

9am PTA Bag Collection

Friday 10th November

Armistice Day—Year 6 laying wreath at Memorial

Wednesday 15th November

7pm PTA Meeting at The Butt Inn

Thursday 16th November

AM School Individual Photographs

Tuesday 5th December

AM Whole School Pantomime Trip "The Wizard of Oz" at The Watermill Theatre

Thursday 7th December

PM Year 4 Swimming—FINAL SESSION

Monday 11th December

PM FS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Tuesday 12th December

9 to 10.30am Advent Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 13th December

PM FS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Thursday 14th December

12pm SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 20th December

3.25pm END OF PUPIL TERM

Please see our online diary for more dates at:-
<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/calendar>

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

Please check food labels if you are unsure about ingredients.

PLEASE SEE OUR FULL NO NUTS STATEMENT ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/parents/school-dinners/no-nuts-statement>



**No nuts in
this area due
to allergies**

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY PTA FIREWORKS 2023

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER
PADWORTH LANE, RG7 4HY
GATES OPEN AT 5 PM

**LICENSED BAR | HOT FOOD
STALLS | DISPLAY BY ILLUSION
FIREWORKS**

This Event is Sponsored and Supported by

RM **Reading Money**
Simple Smart Advice

& **A&S CARPENTRY**

Tickets are available to purchase in
advance until Friday 27th October.

Purchase online by scanning the
QR code below or from:

Aldermaston Stores | The Hinds Head
The Butt Inn | PTA Committee

ADVANCE PRICE:

Adult - £8

Child - £3

Family (of 5) - £20

ON THE GATE PRICE:

Adult - £10

Child - £5

Family (of 5) - £25

(Free for under 2's)



**WE POLITELY ASK THAT
YOU DO NOT BRING
ANY SPARKLERS ONSITE**

For more information please visit
[Facebook.com/AldermastonPTA](https://www.facebook.com/AldermastonPTA) or
email: pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

