

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term (1) 2023 No. 4



Dear Parents and Carers

Learning Heroes

Congratulations to our first class learning heroes of this academic year. They enjoyed receiving their Investigator Dog learning hero certificates in collective worship.

Wrens	Jack	Owls	Joseph-James
Robins	Oscar	Kingfishers	Cheyenne
		Starlings	Felicity



What an excellent start to the school year for these children who have consistently asked excellent questions in their learning and have persevered enthusiastically in all lessons.

Attendance

You cannot have avoided the media coverage of the attendance crisis in our schools.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66701748>

Our school attendance target is 96% and for Autumn Term (1) our average attendance has been 94.7%. Whilst there are genuinely some nasty bugs doing the rounds at this time of year, and we do not want children to feel unwell at school or to pass around illness, there are also too many avoidable lost days of learning. There is a direct link between learning outcomes and attendance at school. This means that if your child misses lessons at school, they are less likely to reach the expected standard for their age group.

The Department for Education and the local authority are very clear about the need to improve school attendance figures. As a result, we will now be amending our attendance policy to include provision for fining families whose children have unauthorised absences of 5 days or more. Typically, this will be when families choose to take their children on holiday during term time. We will share the updated policy with you after half term. We will also continue to send termly letters to families when their child's low attendance is causing concern.

Sponsored success

What a great outcome from Nerys Pearce's visit! Not only did we meet an inspirational sportswoman but our children have raised just over **£800** to spend on sports equipment. I know our school council will be up to the challenge of helping us choose some new equipment. Thank you all for your support.

Welcoming visitors

It has been a very busy term for welcoming lots of people into school. We had a good turnout for our first Open Morning and felt very proud sharing the school with prospective parents for next September. Our children are such a fantastic advert for Aldermaston School.

Thank you for making the time to attend our recent parent evenings. Our teachers enjoyed showing you how well your children have settled to their learning this year. Don't forget, we are always happy to talk with you about how your child is getting on. You don't need to wait for parents' evening or written reports if you have any concerns or questions. Class teachers are available daily for a quick chat at the end of the day and you can make an appointment to speak with them through the school office as needed.

Our Wrens parents enjoyed their first curriculum coffee morning recently. Mrs Makepeace shared our approach to teaching early reading and provided phonics packs to support families in sharing their children's learning at home.

Road Safety

Over the last couple of weeks, our road safety lessons have been a really useful reminder about how we can keep ourselves safe when out and about. I hope you see the children applying their learning on family trips and outings over the half term break. Everything from being visible, understanding stopping distances and the challenges of hearing electric cars have been discussed and considered and it was great to see practical sessions in our school car park helping the children to understand safely crossing roads.

If you wish to do some further work with your children on road safety, the links below may be helpful.

<https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/advice-for-parents-and-families>

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>



We look forward to publishing the results of our road safety poster competition in the next newsletter.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back and hearing their news on Tuesday 31st October.

M. Higgs

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



To lead on from the trip to Winchester Planetarium, Year 5 and 6 have worked collaboratively to create their own solar systems. They have identified all the planets and used wire to show a scaled down version of the distance between planets.

Miss Jenkins



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.

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

Friday 20th October to Monday 30th October

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October

The Oaks Holiday Club

Sunday 29th October

5pm PTA Fireworks at Padworth Lane

Tuesday 31st October

8.55am ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

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

Tuesday 14th November

2 to 3pm Year 4 Swimming Lesson

Extra from cancelled session on Thursday 5th October

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

Thursday, 21st December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

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**



Oaks Holiday Clubs

plenty of indoor and outdoor fun!

Feb Half Term

13th - 17th Feb
(Mon-Fri) 1 week
Aldermaston CE
Primary School

Easter

11th - 14th Apr
(Tues-Fri) 1 week
Mortimer
St Mary's School

May Half Term

30th May - 2nd Jun
(Tues-Fri) 1 week
Aldermaston CE
Primary School

Summer

7th - 11th Aug
14th - 18th Aug
21st - 25th Aug
(Mon-Fri) 3 weeks
Mortimer
St Mary's School

Oct Half Term

23rd - 27th Oct
(Mon-Fri) 1 week
Aldermaston CE
Primary School

8am-6pm - For all children aged 4-11 - Ofsted Registered
theoakschildcare.co.uk 0118 933 2960 office@theoakschildcare.co.uk