

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term (2) 2023 No. 7



Dear Parents and Carers

We are thoroughly enjoying the start of Advent in school. In collective worships, our prayer table is decorated with a special Advent wreath.

The wreath has been carefully prepared by Reverend Jane and our Year 6 worship leaders (Verity, Josie and Evelyn). Children have learnt about the meaning of each of the four candles. Our wreath does not include a fifth white candle as we are not expecting anyone to be in school to light it on Christmas day! This week, we lit the 'Hope' candle. We learnt about the prophecies of Isaiah and thought about how our hopes might differ from those of children in different countries around the world.



Disco delight

Huge thanks to our PTA and all the brilliant parent volunteers who made the children's disco possible last Friday. The hall was completely transformed by their efforts and the children had an amazing time and were very proud of their outfits. Thank you for supporting the PTA's fundraising efforts.

Swimming to success

Throughout this term, our Year 4 children have been travelling to Tadley Swimming Pool on a weekly basis to take part in swimming lessons. The children have been really well engaged with developing their skills and we were very proud to award them their certificates in our collective worship this morning.



The Wizard of Oz

Possibly, our favourite whole school trip of the year is to the Watermill Theatre to enjoy their Christmas production. This year, we were treated to a performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. The cast of these productions are incredibly talented. It's hugely inspiring to see them sing, dance, play multiple musical instruments and tell a wonderful story in such a unique setting. The children are always transfixed by what is happening on the stage. Thank you to our volunteers who joined us for the morning and to the PTA for funding the coaches.



Carols at Douai Abbey

The carol service at Douai Abbey is a lovely local event which allows us to celebrate alongside children, staff and families from other local schools. This year, alongside participating in the service, we also provided a reader and musicians to accompany some of the carols. Starlings Class were great ambassadors for our school and we must particularly thank Holly, Verity and Evelyn for sharing their particular talents with the wider community.

We welcomed some very special guests to our Nativity dress rehearsal this week. Many thanks to the Cedars pre-school group who joined us for some festive fun and were brilliant audience members.



We're looking forward to seeing you at our Nativity performances or the Advent Service next week. Don't forget that children can wear their Christmas jumpers on Thursday to help make our Christmas lunch a truly festive event.

Scopay—New Dinner Ordering System

We are pleased to be able to confirm that today our new dinner ordering and payment system has gone live and you should have all received an email explaining how to set your account up. We will also be using this system for trips, events and parents evenings in the future so please familiarise yourself with the system over the next few weeks.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



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**

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

EVENTS THIS YEAR

Monday 11th December

PMFS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Tuesday 12th December

9 to 10.30amAdvent Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 13th December

PMFS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Thursday 14th December

12pmSCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 20th December

3.25pmEND OF PUPIL TERM

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

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 8th January

8.55amALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 8th January to Friday 12th January

HEALTHY LIVING WEEK

Thursday 11th January

PMYear 3 Swimming—First Session – every Thursday until Thursday 21st March

Wednesday 24th January

9 to 10.30amFamily Learning Morning

Friday 9th February

3.25pmEND OF PUPIL HALF TERM

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 19th February

8.55amALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 26th March

9 to 10.30amEaster Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 27th March

3.25pmEND OF PUPIL TERM

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

TERM DATES 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023

First Day of Term 1	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Last Day of Term 1	Thursday 19th October 2023
Half Term—no school	Fri 20th to Mon 30th October 2023
First Day of Term 2	Tuesday 31st October 2023
Last Day of Term 2	Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024

First Day of Term 3	Monday 8th January 2024
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 9th February 2024
Half Term—no school	Mon 12th to Fri 16th February 2024
First Day of Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024
Last Day of Term 4	Wednesday 27th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

First Day of Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 24th May 2024
Bank Holiday—no school	Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term—no school	Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024
First Day of Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024
Last Day of Term 6	Wednesday 24th July 2024



CONTACT DETAILS

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

Get to know your Governing Body

Who we are

The Governing Body at Aldermaston CE Primary School is led by our chair, Charlotte Watchorn, and is made up of 12 governors. To ensure diversity of thought, every governor brings a different perspective to the table, for example staff, parents, local authority, and the diocese.

[Visit the website to see our individual profiles.](#)

Why the school needs a governing body

The [school vision](#) is to create the best learning environment that allows every child to thrive. The School Development Plan sets out priorities for the year to say how this will be achieved. And the Governing Body holds the school to account to ensure the plan is delivered – and effective.

The key priorities for the 23-24 academic year are:

- **Whole School Curriculum:** a laser focus on maths and English, as well as embed newer subjects like music and computing.
- **Inclusion, behaviour and wellbeing:** to further develop the Doves provision, continue support for mental health and wellbeing, and evidence the impact of [therapeutic thinking](#).
- **Community:** to continue our collective worship, work more closely with other local schools, and plan events that engage our wider community.

What do we do

At a high level, we set policies for how our school operates. [You can view these online here.](#)

During our board meetings, the governors will '*effectively challenge*' the school, where we question to confirm, clarify, or get more information that leads to a better outcome.

Individual governors are also linked to a specific area, such as reading & literacy, maths, health & safety, wellbeing, and safeguarding. Their role is to meet regularly with the appropriate member of staff and report back to the wider board on the '*intent, implementation, and impact*' from their area.

[View the website to see our specific roles & responsibilities.](#)

When we meet

The full governing body meets 1-2 times every term. In addition, the Finance Committee and our newly formed Steering Group for SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) meets every 3 months.

[View the website to see when our meetings take place in 23/24.](#)

Where we make an impact

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management of a school, which includes the strategy, policies, budgeting and staffing. We support the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside the leadership team and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to all children.

How you can get in touch with us.

You can contact us via our Clerk, Gayle Bonner, by emailing gbonner@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk or calling **0118 971 3362** to make an appointment.





ALDERMASTON SCHOOL

HALL FOR HIRE

Our school hall is available for hire evenings, weekends and during some holiday periods, for any activities you may need a venue for. With secure grounds, easy access and ample off road parking our site is ideal for:

**Family/Birthday Parties • Social Events • Dance Clubs • Amateur Dramatics
Health & Wellbeing Sessions • Art/Photography Clubs
or any other event.**

Our school hall leads on to a decking area with sun awnings and outside lighting. The large playing field which can be used for all parties hiring the hall, is included in the hire cost. At a small additional cost, we can also offer the use of our kitchen space to provide room for making drinks and offering food which you have prepared offsite.

If you would like to hire the school hall or for further information, please visit our website:

<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/community/hire-of-hall>

or contact us at: **enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk**.

