

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term (1) 2024 No: 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Family Learning Morning

We had 52 visitors to the school for our family learning morning. Thanks to everyone who was able to join us. 63% of children had a visitor join them for their maths lesson.

We started the event with a short presentation about anxiety and worry from Dr Ridley of the Mental Health Support Team or MHST. We are very fortunate to have access to support from this team who provide staff training, work directly with children in school (e.g. our coping with worries workshops for classes) and who also accept referrals to work with families whose children are having a difficult time with their mental health and wellbeing.



In the classrooms, we focused on sharing how teachers work with manipulatives and visual models to support mathematical understanding. We had a particular focus on bar modelling. I hope that this gave you the tools you need to support your children with their learning at home. For those with children in different classes, hopefully you could also see the progression and difference in challenge and expectations.

Many thanks for the comments and feedback left on the day. Don't forget that you can always e-mail in any feedback too.

Safer Internet Day

This Tuesday, we took part in Safer Internet Day. Our brilliant Year 6 tech team, Josh and Freddie, led an assembly to help everyone think about how our use of technology has changed over the years and how this can create challenges. Judging from the children's reactions, if you have an old model dial up phone at home, it would be well worth showing it to your children. Some also seemed particularly surprised about the idea of watches which only told the time!

Children have spent time in their classes, learning about and discussing internet safety and their own use of technology.

There are links to helpful websites for parents and carers on our computing curriculum website page and below is a link to some safer internet day top tips to support parents and carers.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

It's worth reminding you about our mobile phone policy. If children bring phones into school, they require a form completed by you and the phone will be kept in the office and collected from there at the end of the day. Please also be aware that the same rule applies to smart watches which perform similar functions – e.g. internet access, external communication and photograph/video capabilities. If in doubt, have a chat with your class teacher or our office staff.

Relationships, health and sex education

Teaching children about their bodies and healthy relationships with other people forms part of our curriculum. There is a statutory element to this. For example, the science national curriculum requires us to teach life cycles and the process of reproduction in some plants and animals and to teach children about what changes happen as humans age.

In September 2020, it became compulsory for primary schools to also teach relationships and health education. The expectations of these areas of the curriculum are that we provide the key building blocks for healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This sits alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

This is an outline of the content to be taught under primary school relationships and health education:-

Relationships	Families and people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.
Health	Mental wellbeing, internet safety, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, drugs, alcohol and tobacco, health and prevention, basic first aid, changing adolescent bodies.

These expectations are met through our PSHE curriculum with strong links to appropriate topics in science, computing and PE. In addition to compulsory elements, the curriculum also provides an element of sex education which is tailored to the maturity of the children. This is recommended by the Department for Education and is best practice in primary schools, particularly to ensure that our older children are ready to move on to secondary school. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from these lessons (see our RSHE policy available on the website—<https://aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk/community/governance/policies>).

For Spring Term 2, every class is due to deliver a PSHE unit of work which has a strong focus on children understanding their bodies. On Wednesday 21st February, you are invited to a drop in session at school where you can view the teaching materials and find out more about our approach to relationships, sex and health education. The session will run from 3.30pm in our Larks Room. This is a great opportunity for you to find out more about the content of these lessons and to revisit the school policy on RSHE. Everyone is invited and class teachers will be available for you to discuss how lessons are taught and for you to share any concerns which are specific to your own child. Don't worry if you can't make this date, you can also speak to your class teacher and ask to view materials at a different time.

Christingle

On Monday morning, we had another House Learning session. This was in preparation for our Christingle service and the children had learned about the Christian celebration of Candlemas in collective worship. It was super to see the House Groups working together to make their Christingles, with the older and younger children supporting each other and building those important relationships which give our school such a lovely close knit feeling. I hope your children were able to explain the symbolism of the different parts of the Christingles they brought home. Many thanks to Reverend Jane who sourced all the supplies for creating the Christingles and came in to support the children on her day off.

The Christingle Service on Tuesday morning was beautiful. This is the first time our Year 6 worship leaders have worked alongside Reverend Jane to plan their own church service and Verity, Evelyn and Josephine created the foundations for a lovely community worship. They were well supported by brilliant readers from Kingfishers and Owls Class.

Please see photographs for both events in the gallery later in this newsletter.

Learning Heroes

This morning we congratulated our Team Worker learning heroes for this term. These children have been role models in their class for using the Team Worker skills of listening, participating, sharing, collaborating and supporting others. Well done!

Wrens	Oscar	Owls	Sienna
Robins	Jil	Kingfishers	Kailesh
		Starlings	Alicia



I hope the children enjoy a lovely week over the half term break and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 19th February.

M. Higgs

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



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.



No nuts in this area due to allergies

PLEASE SEE OUR FULL NO NUTS STATEMENT ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

EVENTS THIS YEAR

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 19th February
8.55am..... ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 20th February
All day..... Robins Trip to Bucklebury Farm Park

Wednesday 21st February
3.30pm Parents Information Session re RSHE Curriculum in Larks

Thursday 22nd February and every Thursday until 21st March
PM Year 3 Swimming

Monday 4th to Friday 8th March
All week—Year 6 Residential to Abernant Lake

Monday 11th to Friday 15th March
Book Week—see separate information from Mrs Ebery

Tuesday 12th March
PM KS2 Cross Country Competition

Tuesday 19th March
All day Year 56 Trip to The Ashmolean Museum

Tuesday 26th March
9 to 10.30am Easter Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 27th March
3.25pm END OF PUPIL TERM

TERM DATES 2023/2024

Spring Term 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

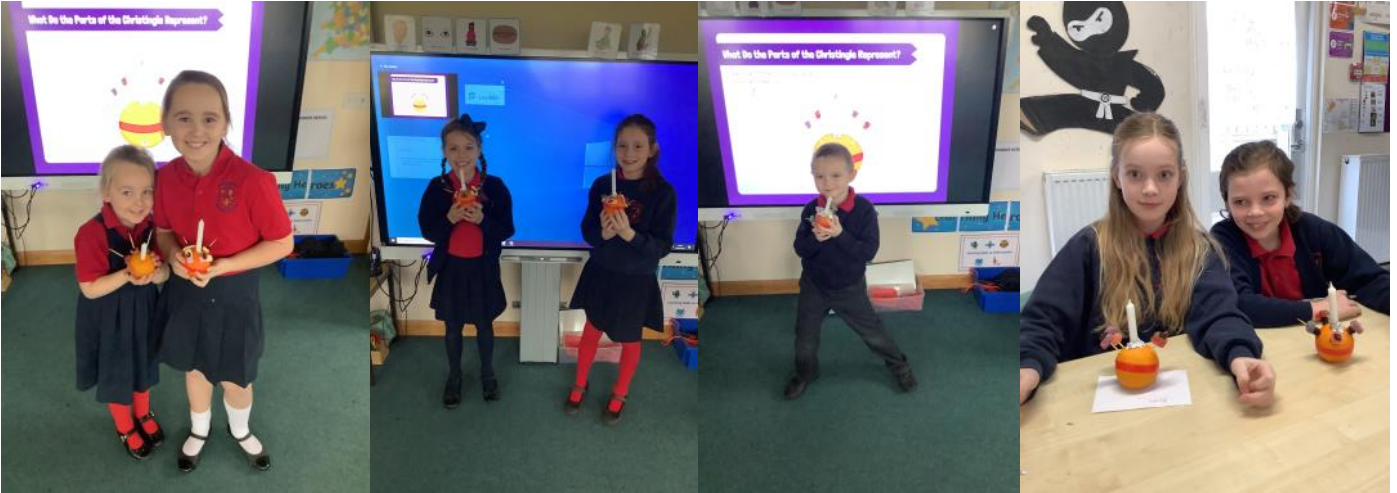
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Website: www.aldermaston.org.uk



Christingle



Christingle



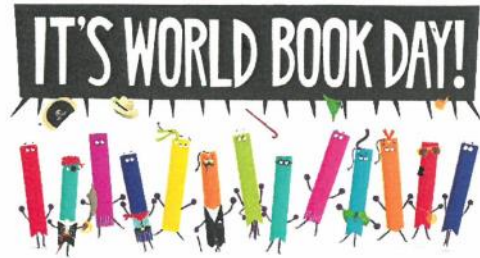
Book Week—11th to 15th March



ALDERMASTON CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



BOOK WEEK 2024
11th – 15th March



Book Week at Aldermaston is a highlight of the school calendar, and we are back with a bang this year! Here's how you can get involved!

Please note that, because our Year 6 children are on residential during the first week in March, Book Week is a week later this year.

WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SALE/SWAP

When? Thursday 7th March 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Where? In Starlings classroom

Need a costume for Monday? Got a bunch of old dress-ups that don't fit anymore? Drop into our Costume Sale in Starlings after school. Donate a costume, swap a costume, or just help yourself to a costume (donations welcome but not expected!)

SHARE A STORY!

When? ALL WEEK

Who? Everybody!

Aldermaston loves reading! From Saturday 9th March to Sunday 17th March, you can share a story with our amazing local businesses and claim your special Book Week freebies!

Just take your reading record along with you, show your voucher and share what you're currently reading, and enjoy some goodies on the house.

Hilliers Garden Centre – share a story in the café and claim a **treat from the café!**

The Hinds Head – share a story and claim a free **soft drink!**

Mad Hatter Flowers – share a story and claim a **badge and a 10% discount for your big person!***

Aldermaston Stores – share a story and claim a **sticker and a treat!**

The Canal Tearooms – share a story and claim a free **icepop!**

The Butt Inn – share a story and claim a free **lolly!**

We are incredibly grateful to the local businesses in Aldermaston for their support. Please do your bit to support them back, if you can. Enjoy sharing your stories – if you get any photos you'd like to share, too, we'd love to see them.



* Because Mad Hatter are already at full capacity on Mothering Sunday, our Book Week offer will run there from Monday 11th till Sunday 17th March, when the lovely Kerry has a bit more time to share a story!

DRESS UP DAY

When? Monday 12th March, all day

Who? Everybody!

Love it? Hate it? Want a list of book characters who legitimately wear school uniform* or pyjamas** all day? We warmly invite everyone to dress up as a book character on **MONDAY 12th MARCH** to kick off Book Week. You can find loads of ideas for simple, no-fuss costumes on our special Book Week blog post on the school website. What about dropping into our Costume Swap/Sale the week before and snagging yourself a bargain?



* All the children in Matilda, Malory Towers, St Clare's, the Chalet School, Goodbye Mr Chips, Percy Jackson...

** The Midnight Gang, the grandparents in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Tom in the Night Pirates, Max in Where The Wild Things Are, the little boy in The Snowman, Sophie in the BFG.... You're welcome. ☺

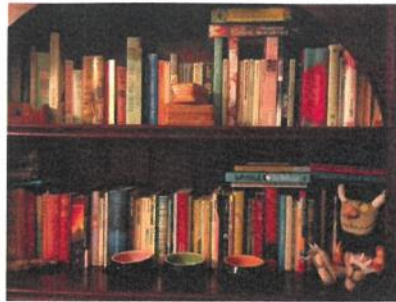
Book Week—11th to 15th March

BOOKS FOR



The books for a pound voucher scheme is back and the selection looks better than ever! During Book Week, your child will receive a voucher which they can exchange in any bookshop in the country, either for one pound off the book of their choice, or for one of these books written specially for World Book Day. You'll be able to check out all this year's books in the library.

TAKE A SHELFIE!



What are you reading? Show us your bookshelf! You can post your shelfie on the PTA Facebook page or bring a printed photo into school to add to our #takeashelfie wall – you can be in the photo too, if you like, but you don't have to be. We'll put some staff shelfies up, too – can you guess who owns the shelf!?

BEDTIME STORIES!

When? Wednesday 13th March 6:15 – 7:00 PM
Where? In the hall
Who? Everybody!

Bring the whole family and your favourite teddy bear, wear pyjamas if you like, and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a biscuit. The more the merrier!

THE BIG BOOK AND DOUGHNUT SALE!

When? Friday 15th March
Where? Larks Room.
Who? Everybody!

We will be having a big sale of gorgeous, quality, preloved children's books in the Larks Room on Friday 15th March. Children are invited to bring in a pound to school and choose a book of their very own at the book sale before the school day ends. Parents are then invited to come along after school, browse and grab as many bargains as they like.

Look out for our school governors selling doughnuts too – please bring cash.



AUTHOR VISIT

When? Tuesday 12th March, 2:30 – 4PM
Where? KS2 library

Local author Kerry McIntosh will be in school on Tuesday afternoon to share a story with our children and will be available after school to sign copies of her book, the excellent *Rory Green – Secret Agent to the Queen* – an exciting story with a strong environmental message. Signed copies can also be preordered from the school office.



This is just a taster of what we have planned – there will be loads happening in school, too. Do ask your child what they've been up to in school – and why not check out our World Book Day blog on the school website?



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.

