

# Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



## Spring Term (2) 2024 No: 3

Dear Parents and Carers

We are enjoying the start of our Spring Term (2).

This term our value focus for collective worships is **trust**. Children have already been thinking about who they trust and how we know if someone is trustworthy. This is a great opportunity at home to discuss trusted adults in your children's lives and people they can talk with. Our chosen bible stories look at the disciples trust in Jesus and how people have achieved great things when supported by their faith in God.

Our learning hero is the Reflector Owl who champions democracy in our school. Staff at school will be celebrating the key learning skills of reflecting, checking, responding and improving and they will be helping children to recognise when they've demonstrated these skills.



### **Bucklebury Farm**

What an amazing time our Robins Class had last week when they visited Bucklebury Farm. This trip had been carefully planned to link in with their geography curriculum and the children learnt lots about the different animals at the farm and how they are looked after by their keepers. They also made great use of the play equipment available. They were buzzing with information when they returned and really keen to tell everybody about what they had seen and experienced on the trip. It seems the deer were a particular favourite! Please see our photo gallery of the trip included in this newsletter. Many thanks to Miss Renfrew for organising the trip and for the brilliant staff and volunteers who supported on the day.

### **Attendance**

At Aldermaston CE Primary we take attendance and punctuality very seriously. Children need to attend regularly and on time if they are to take advantage of the opportunities for learning offered by the school curriculum. Our school attendance target is 96% and we aspire for every child to get as close to 100% attendance as possible, every year. We know there are times when there are absences, but please consider the following when considering your child's attendance:

#### **What you must do:**

- Communicate with school; telephone the school before 9.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Share with school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, seek advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
- Have a backup plan for if your child requires support with transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then please talk to school as a first step so we can help and support.

#### **What we will do:**

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Communicate with you if your child's attendance is causing concern.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

### **Active Aldermaston**

We're so proud of how much our children enjoy being active. Over one third of our KS2 children are currently training twice a week in school to take part in the West Berkshire and North Hants Cross Country Championships. Our Year 3 children are continuing to make great progress in their swimming lessons and this term Year 3, 4 and Year 5 children are receiving weekly tag rugby coaching sessions from Tadley Tigers rugby club. In addition, Years 1, 2 and 6 are receiving external coaching in bat and ball skills this term. It's fair to say that the KS2 football club is also quite popular.

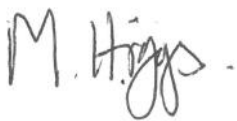
We love encouraging our children to be active and to try new activities. If your child receives any special medals or awards from their out of school activities, we can celebrate these in our Friday assembly. Do send them in. Not only does this celebrate these important achievements, it might also give other children an idea about a new activity they would like to try.

### Updates on learning

You should all have received your termly curriculum overviews which outline your children's learning topics for each subject this term. Remember, teachers are happy to discuss the curriculum with you if you have any questions or need any further information. Thank you to those who were able to make the RSHE parents drop in session last week. We hope you found it useful. Don't forget to book your parents' evening appointments for the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Bon voyage to our Starlings Class who will be heading to Wales at the start of next week for their residential visit. We can't wait to hear about all of your adventures.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.



**Mrs M Higgs**  
**Headteacher**

### ADVANCE NOTICE

We will celebrate Red Nose Day in school on Friday, 15th March.

We invite all children to wear something red other than their school uniform top or a comic relief t-shirt and donate a suggested minimum of £1 towards Comic Relief.



### 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**



# 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](mailto:enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.aldermaston.org.uk](http://www.aldermaston.org.uk)

## EVENTS THIS YEAR

**Tuesday 9th February and every Tuesday until 26th March**  
3.30 to 4pm.....Reading Café

**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 Ebrey

**Tuesday 12th March**  
PM.....KS2 Cross Country Competition

**Friday 15th March**  
All day .....Red Nose Day—wear something red and donate minimum £1 per child

**Monday 18th March**

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

**Wednesday 20th March**  
4.30 to 7pm.....Parents Evening – all year groups

**Thursday 21st March**  
3.30 to 6pm.....Parents Evening—all year groups

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

**Wednesday 27th March**  
3.25pm.....END OF PUPIL TERM

**Monday 15th April**  
8.55am ..... ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

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

## TERM DATES 2024/2025

### 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

### Autumn Term 2024

First Day of Term 1	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Last Day of Term 1	Thursday 24th October 2024
Half Term—no school	Fri 25th October to Fri 1st November 2024
First Day of Term 2	Monday 4th November 2024
Last Day of Term 2	Thursday 19th December 2024

### Spring Term 2025

First Day of Term 3	Monday 6th January 2025
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 14th February 2025
Half Term—no school	Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025
First Day of Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024
Last Day of Term 4	Friday 4th April 2025

### Summer Term 2025

First Day of Term 5	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half Term—no school	Monday 26th to Friday 30th May 2025
First Day of Term 5	Monday 2nd June 2025
Last Day of Term 4	Tuesday 22nd July 2025

# Robins - Bucklebury Farm

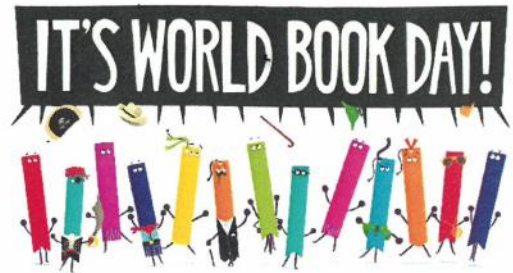




ALDERMASTON CE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



BOOK WEEK 2024  
11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> till Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, when the lovely Kerry has a bit more time to share a story!

## DRESS UP DAY

When? Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 😊

## 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 13<sup>th</sup>**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk).

