

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term 1 2020 No. 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new academic year. We are delighted to have our classrooms full of children again and it has been lovely welcoming the children back, for many after a long break.

Thank you for your support in adapting to the staggered times and other changes required for us to open safely this term. If you need any reminders about our current arrangements or timings, this information is available under the 'September 2020' tab on our website. If in doubt, please get in touch and we'll be happy to answer your queries.

Requests to collect children from school

We understand that there might be a lot of anxiety around the issue of illness and when you should keep children home and when you might be asked to collect children from school.

We will always call you if your child's teacher feels they are too ill to be in school, and certainly in the case of vomiting or upset stomachs.

For a child to be considered a potential case of Covid 19, we will use the official symptoms as indicators. These are currently:-

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

When a child at school presents with any one of these symptoms, they will be isolated from other children and you will be asked to collect them (and any siblings) from school. We will also advise you to arrange for testing.

If a child shows any of these symptoms at home, please don't bring them in to school. Let us know you are keeping them (and any siblings) home due to potential COVID 19 symptoms and keep us informed about progress and outcomes with testing. We have put a link to the NHS 'Get a test' webpage on our website.

Any household where someone shows potential Covid 19 symptoms should follow the advice in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

We have really appreciated the brilliant communication from those families who have kept children at home with potential symptoms and have let us know about testing and test results to date. Thank you.

We understand that being asked to collect your child from school can be frustrating, particularly if you feel confident that your child does not have Covid 19. However, please remember that if you receive such a call, staff are acting to keep everyone safe and we rely on your cooperation to achieve this.

We are in regular communication with the local authority about suspected cases of Covid 19 and they are carefully monitoring the situation across West Berkshire.

New friends

Our school value focus for collective worships in Autumn Term (1) is 'Friendship'. Children will be considering the importance of friendship, Jesus' example of friendship in the gospels and how to be a good friend to others.

This week we have already made some new friends! A very warm welcome to our new EYFS children Charlie, Constance, Devon, Emily, Finley, Frances, Jacob, Maisy, Margot, Scarlett, Taylor, Thomas, Adrian, Bonnie, Christiana and Amberlena.

They've made a fantastic start with their first sessions this week and we're looking forward to having them in school full time from next Monday.

Wonderful PE Equipment

We're very grateful to the Primary Stars scheme (run by Reading FC Community Trust) which approved our application for free PE equipment. We received the above 'goodies' this week which includes a variety of equipment – different balls, cones, games markers, hoops, etc. These items couldn't have arrived at a better time for helping us to ensure that each class have their own set of key PE equipment. We know the children will have a great time using these items and enjoying being active in school.



Internet Safety

We've received an alert that there is an extremely distressing video in circulation which is currently trending on the app Tik Tok and other social media platforms. The platforms are trying to remove the content and hopefully it will be fully removed within the next few days. In the meantime, as we know some of our children use the Tik Tok app, we would urge you to take extra care with supervision. If you need any further information about how to support a child who has seen something online which distressed them, please use this link:-

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-parents-what-do-if-your-child-sees-something-upsetting-online>

Wellbeing

As part of our recovery approach to settling the children back in to school, we have completed some pupil voice questionnaires with our classes. These were used to help us understand how children were feeling about returning to school and to give them the chance to share any worries they might have so we could address these. We were very pleased with the children's positive responses. We had 85% stating that they were happy to be back with many expressing how pleased they were to be seeing their friends again and showing an appreciation of school and an eagerness to learn! School dinners were missed too! Very very few children indicated that they were unhappy to return with most of the remaining children feeling just a little unsure. We will continue to monitor how children are getting on over the course of this term and your child's class teacher will contact you if they have any particular concerns about your child and how they are feeling.

It seems as if we might see some sunshine this weekend. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Higgs'.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher



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School News

Reading

We are currently changing reading books on Fridays and for those reading shorter stories and books, this means they will be given multiple books to ensure they have enough reading material. Although the library is effectively closed at the moment, teachers have borrowed a good range of books for their classes to ensure there is plenty of choice for our free readers.

We will quarantine the books which are collected on Friday before they are put back in with other books. If you would rather not have books at home from school, let us know. Remember, there are plenty of free online reading resources available through links on our school website (use the 'Homeworking' tab and then go to the 'Reading' page).

Lost Property

Please note that due to the current situation we are unable to go through the lost property bin. Please can you remind your child(ren) that they need to keep all personal belongings with them. If you are missing any items, please let the office know ASAP. Please be aware that any lost items may have come into contact with other people around the school that may not be in the same bubble as your child.



Data Collection Sheets

Next week, all children in school will be given a set of permission slips along with a data collection sheet of information we hold in respect of each child. Please ensure these are returned to the school office asap in order for our records to be kept up to date and allow the children to take part in events in and around school. Many thanks.

Reminder to Year 6 Parents

Applications for Secondary School places for next September should be completed and submitted to your local council by 31st October. If you are applying for a school in a different county to that in which you reside, you must apply to the county that you reside in, not the county that the school is in. Please visit the website at www.westberks.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions for more information.

Admissions - September 2021

Anyone with a child whose date of birth is between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 and would be interested in a place at the school, now is the time to complete your application form with West Berkshire Council.

The West Berkshire Guide and Application Form are available on the West Berkshire website for online completion. West Berkshire Council will automatically write to all parents of children within the West Berkshire area who have children at pre-school to advise them how to apply for a place for their child from next September. Forms need to be completed and returned to West Berkshire Council by the **15th January 2021**.

Please visit the website at www.westberks.gov.uk/primaryadmissions for more information.

Please note brothers and sisters do not automatically get places; you must also fill in a form.

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020 TO 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Start of Pupil Term

Wednesday 2nd September

End of Pupil Half Term

Thursday 22nd October

Autumn Break Half Term

Friday 23rd October to Friday 30th October

Start of Pupil Term

Monday 2nd November

End of Pupil Term

Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2021

Start of Pupil Term

Tuesday 5th January

End of Pupil Half Term

Friday 12th February

Spring Break Half Term

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Start of Pupil Term

Monday 22nd February

End of Pupil Term

Wednesday 31st March

Summer Term 2021

Start of Pupil Term

Monday 19th April

End of Pupil Half Term

Friday 28th May

Summer Break Half Term

Monday 31st to Friday 4th June

Start of Pupil Term

Monday 7th June

End of Pupil Term

Tuesday 20th July



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