

# Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2020 No. 2



Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe we are already a few weeks into the school term. The children continue to impress us with their adaptability to the new routines and I must thank you all again for your support in this too.

We have had a couple of concerns raised about how parents are socially distancing when collecting children at the end of the day. These are very few in number but we do want everyone to feel comfortable and safe and we rely on you to follow social distancing guidance. We don't have staff available to 'police' social distancing so please remember to keep your distance, even if that means that collecting your children takes a little longer. Thank you.

## **The sound of music**

This week I have really enjoyed the sound of music escaping from various lessons taking place in our hall. We have worked alongside our external music teachers to implement new Covid safety measures. This has ensured we can maintain our extra-curricular music offer. Music is such an important part of our community and opportunities to make music benefit our children enormously. We are currently supporting music lessons in guitar, keyboards, violin, percussion and woodwind. We have such a range of talented children! If you would be interested in your children learning any of these instruments, please do get in contact with us and we can put you in touch with our music teachers. We may also be able to help if finance is a barrier to your children learning an instrument.

## **Parents' evening appointments**

You should all have received a letter inviting you to make a parents' evening appointment to discuss your children. We have brought the dates of these appointments forward this year so you can have early feedback on how school closure has affected children and how they are settling back into school routines. Even if you can't make the dates provided, class teachers would really appreciate the chance to discuss your child's learning so do make an appointment for a different time.

## **Solar Panels**

Our roof is now wearing some fantastic solar panels provided under a West Berkshire renewable energy project to tackle the climate change and become carbon neutral. We're very excited to be part of this project and look forward to seeing how much green electricity the panels can generate.



### **New resources**

We are so excited to have a new class set of iPads to support learning in our school. These are a phenomenal resource for our children and will give them access to a wide range of new learning opportunities. The purchase of these iPads is the result of an extremely generous donation to the PTA by Val and Tony Parker. Both are long time friends to the school who already kindly donate their time as volunteers. We'd like to thank Val and Tony on behalf of all the staff and children who will benefit from their generosity for years to come.



Another fantastic resource now in use with our children is a new interactive whiteboard and sound system in the hall. We're using this often during our indoor PE lessons and it's proving to be a real hit. I can't wait until we can invite you back in for assemblies again so you can see it in action. The children will love sharing their work on the big screen! This has been funded through the PTA using the money raised by all the wonderful events they arrange throughout the year. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting our PTA.

Thank you particularly to all of those who give up their time on the committee or to organise and run events and activities. Even now, the PTA are still working hard behind the scenes to arrange school uniform sales and plan for future fund raising.

### **Food for friends – Harvest Collection**

From next Monday, we will start our annual Harvest Collection for West Berkshire Food Bank. It is more important than ever for us to support our community and the Food Bank provides essential supplies to local families, many of whom have been affected economically by the Covid 19 pandemic.

To find out what items are urgently needed you can check on the Food Bank website -<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.

We will leave a labelled box outside the school office for your donations. Any contributions gratefully received.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

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

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



#### **Contact Us:-**

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)

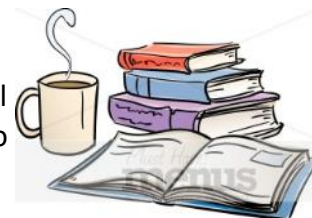
# School News

- Children should now be getting into the swing of their homework routines, please let us know if you have any difficulties with accessing My Maths or any other resources.



- Under current restrictions, we are unable to hand out any birthday treats in class – sorry.

- Reading café can now be accessed on our school website. Hurray! You will find it under the home learning -> reading tabs. Don't forget, you can also access reading texts online from this location too.



- Please can we ask that children don't bring in toys or other items from home Including trading cards or similar.

- If you need to contact any member of staff, please send your e-mail through our enquiries address. Many thanks.



## Data Collection Sheets

We have still not received all data collection sheet and permission packs for all pupils. Please send your completed forms into the school office without further delay. Thank you.

### School Holiday and Term Dates 2020/2021

#### Thursday 22nd October

3.30pm—End of Pupil Half Term

#### Friday 23rd to Friday 30th October

Half Term

#### Monday 2nd November

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### Friday 18th December

3.30pm—END OF PUPIL TERM

#### Mon 21st December to Monday 4th January—

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

#### Tuesday 5th January

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### Friday 12th February

3.30pm—End of Pupil Half Term

#### Monday 15th to Friday 19th October

Half Term

#### Monday 22nd February

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### Wednesday 31st March

3.30pm—END OF PUPIL TERM

#### Thursday 1st to Friday 16th April

EASTER HOLIDAYS—SCHOOL CLOSED

#### Monday 19th April

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### Friday 28th May

3.30pm—End of Pupil Half Term

#### Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Half Term

#### Monday 7th June

9am—ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### Tuesday 20th July

3.30pm—END OF PUPIL YEAR



### Contact Us:-

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)



# PTA Update

***A huge welcome from all the parents, teachers, and friends of the school on the PTA!***

## ***Fundraising***

With the world looking quite different over recent months, we have missed out on our big summer event, two clothing collections and probably more too - all which impact fundraising for the school and children.

If you have any ideas for easy, socially distanced fundraising events, grants or donations, do let us know 😊.

## ***Matched funding***



Did you know that lots of companies pledge to match the amount raised or donated to a charity? Many banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, phone companies and car manufacturers are known to offer match-funding schemes. Barclays and Vodafone are two examples, but does your company offer this? Why not find out, as it's a great (and easy) way to support the school and children.

## ***Clothing Collection – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October***



Unfortunately we were unable to go ahead with our collections at the end of March and before the summer holidays, however we are pleased to say our next collection is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Bags will be out soon, although feel free to use bin bags too. Sealed/knotted bags can be dropped in the bike shed from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Please maintain social distancing and try not to touch any other bags.

We are paid by the weight (minus anything not allowed) so the more you donate, the more money we raise. Please see the attached information sheet for what we can and can't collect, and don't forget to let friends and family know too!

## ***Second-hand uniform***

Thank you to everyone who recently donated uniform, we sell these on at bargain prices to raise funds. Please see the attached information sheet for how to order (requests and payment will be online).

## ***Free books***



In March we sourced over 100 free books from Harper Collins for the children to enjoy!

**Please let the PTA know if you are able to assist with anything. This could be joining the committee, fundraising ideas, helping at events, donations – anything. We're a friendly bunch and always happy for help and ideas. 😊**

*If you need to contact the PTA, you can email us at [pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk), plus please like our Facebook PTA page to get regular updates on events and activities at school (Aldermaston P.T.A.) - Gail Andrews, PTA Chair.*

# SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

- Red polo shirts, blue PE t-shirts, blue PE shorts - **£1 each**
- Trousers, skirts, shorts, pinafores, summer dresses - **£2 each**
- Jumpers & cardigans - **£3 each**

1. Requests to be emailed to [pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk), with the following:

- ✓ *child's name & class,*
- ✓ *item(s) requested,*
- ✓ *size requested.*

2. The PTA will confirm if the items are available, and the total cost due.

3. Once payment is received, items will be sent home with the child.

*Please transfer funds directly into the Aldermaston PTA bank account to ensure no cash handling at this time.*

Sort code **20-05-00**, Account no. **43814467**, Reference *Your child's name*

(Please note not all uniform and sizes may be available as we are reliant on donations.)



## Happy Bags Clothing Collection

# 12th October



Do you have any clothes, shoes, bags etc. that you want to get rid of? Our next collection is on the 12th October and is a great fundraiser for the school - especially as we have missed out on lots this year.

**Raise funds and at the same time help our environment by keeping reusable resources out of landfill. Pre-loved garments collected by Happy School Bag are sold to second-hand markets for the purpose of reuse and provides affordable quality clothing to disadvantaged people in need.**

### We accept

- Reusable clean and dry clothes
- Reusable paired shoes and footwear
- Fashion accessories, Handbags, Belts, light jewellery, scarves, hats, etc...
- Console games, souvenirs (small decorative ornaments, unwanted gift boxsets)

### What we don't accept:

- Single shoes
- Mats, Carpets
- Duvets, Pillows, Blankets, Bedlinen
- Curtains
- Bric-a-Brac
- Dirty-Damaged-Wet-Damp-Smelly items
- Old Fashioned Clothing
- No uniforms or toys (soft or hard)
- No Books - DVD's



## Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
  1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
  2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
  3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)
- Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.



- If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**
- If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school. Schools have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Viv Bennett CBE**

Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and  
Early Years | Public Health England

Head of World Health Organisation  
Collaborating Centre for Public Health  
Nursing and Midwifery

Follow me on Twitter: @VivJBennett



**Dr Susan Hopkins**

Interim Chief Medical Officer |  
NHS Test & Trace

Deputy Director | Public Health England

Consultant in Infectious Diseases &  
Microbiology  
Royal Free, London



# COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

A quick guide for parents/carers

## What to do if...



### my child has **any one** of the following Covid-19 symptoms

1. a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
2. a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
3. a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

## Action needed

- Do not send your child to school
- Book a test for your child  
a test can be booked by calling 119 or online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Whole household to self-isolate
- Inform school immediately about test result



## Back to school...

**...if a child's test comes back negative and symptom free for 48 hours they can return to school when they feel well enough. The child should not be tested again unless they develop new symptoms**

**If the test result is positive, then see below.**



### ...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)

- Child should not attend school
- Inform school immediately about test results
- Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days
- Other household members should not get tested unless they develop symptoms because even if they tested negative, they must still isolate for 14 days

**...after 10 days has passed so long as the child is feeling better and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours.**

**They can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.**



### ...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms

- Child shouldn't attend school
- Household member with symptoms should get a test
- Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result
- Inform school immediately about test results

**...if the household member test is negative, and the child does not have COVID-19 symptoms**



### ...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)





- Child shouldn't attend school
- Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days
- No need for the child to get tested unless they develop symptoms

**...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they tested negative during the 14 days**



West Berkshire  
COUNCIL



 <p><b>...my child has been identified as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for 14 days - even if they tested negative during those 14 days</li> <li>• Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they tested negative during those 14 days unless they have developed COVID-19 symptoms</b></p>
 <p><b>...we/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</b></p>	<p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days unless the child or a household member develops COVID-19 symptoms</b></p> 
 <p><b>...my child is medically vulnerable</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the school to understand the options open to the child and develop an action plan to enable the child to access education.</li> </ul>	<p><b>...once plans are in place and any risk assessment completed</b></p>

for more info <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-locp>

If you need to self-isolate and require support with shopping or prescription collections, then you are advised to:

Contact family, friends or neighbours to see if they can help you.



Find out the **community support group** for your area, who may be able to assist you, here: <https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/findcommunitysupport>

You may also wish to consider the **free NHS prescription delivery service** provided by Echo of Lloyds Pharmacy. To find out more and register for the service, go to [www.echo.co.uk](http://www.echo.co.uk)



Contact **NHS Volunteer Responders**, who can arrange for food, prescriptions and essential items purchased by vulnerable residents, if needed. Call for support on tel 0808 196 3646 (8am to 8pm seven days a week).

If you are considered **clinically extremely vulnerable or vulnerable** and/or are in **financial difficulty**, then you can ask for help from our Community Support Hub by phone on 01635 503579, or email at [westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk)  
The Hub is open 8:30am to 5pm, Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30am to 4:30pm on Fridays.

