

# Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2020 No. 3



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much for the generous donations to date for our Harvest Festival appeal for the West Berkshire Food Bank. There's still time to add items and the box will remain outside the office during next week too.

## A cold wind...

has been blowing through the media this week with tales of schools risking hypothermia in order to reduce the risks of Covid. I've certainly noticed the seasonal change in temperature on gate duty and wanted to reassure you that we have no intention of subjecting children and staff to icy conditions in our classrooms.

The official advice is that we have to balance the need to have fresh air in the room with thermal comfort. We don't need to have all the windows and doors in a classroom wide open but neither can we have them all shut. We will keep as many windows open as we can (the amount open will depend on the weather outside) to allow ventilation during lessons. At break times, we will open the doors and ventilate the room before closing them during lessons.

It is worth noting that rooms are going to be colder than we are used to so please ensure children have their jumpers every day. It will be worth considering, as the temperatures drop, whether your child would benefit from wearing a thermal vest or similar underneath their school uniform.

## Leading by example

Our fantastic House Captains and Deputy House Captains have refused to be beaten by the class bubble restrictions. They are creating videos to be shared with their fellow house team members in class. These will allow them to share house point scores and inspire great learning in their house teams. Well done Mieke, Charlotte, Thea, Lola-May, Bertie, Dylan, Bella and Vlada.



## Remote learning

If your child needs to miss school time as a result of the Covid 19 isolation requirements, even for a day or two, there is work available on our website under the home learning section for each class. Any work completed can be e-mailed in for feedback through our [enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk). Of course, there is no expectation that a child who is feeling unwell should complete work and any child absent from school due to illness is not expected to complete this work.

Behind the scenes, we are continuing with preparations to deliver learning at home in the event of a local or national lockdown. Following on from your feedback, and reflecting changes to safeguarding guidance, we should be able to provide each child with regular video contact with their class teachers and the opportunity to directly contact staff themselves during the school day to support them in completing learning tasks. We have registered with G Suite for Education and staff are currently training in the use of google classrooms. Over the next few weeks, we will start to

use this platform with classes during lessons to help familiarise children with how to access and complete work and communicate with teachers in their virtual classroom.

To help us, we'd be really grateful if you could complete and return the technology survey which will be e-mailed to families tomorrow so that we have an accurate view of what devices are available for children's use at home. Many thanks.

### **Parents' Evening Appointment**

We hope you found your parents' evening appointments helpful and informative. If you were not able to make an appointment for the Tuesday or Wednesday this week, we will be in touch to see if we can find an alternative time for you. We would really like every family to have the opportunity to talk to their child's class teacher.

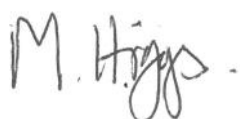
### **Health and safety visit**

This week we welcomed the local authority health and safety team who visited our school site. They observed morning drop off routines and conducted a walk through of the school building to observe how class bubbles were organised and other Covid-19 risk reduction measures. It was a really positive experience and it was great to receive external assurance that there are no concerns about the measures we have implemented.

### **Feedback to governors**

If you have any feedback on your parents' evening appointments, and in particular feedback on the school approach to reading, our governors would love to hear from you. Please drop a line to our Chair of Governors, Sam Chaventre, using [schaventre@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:schaventre@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk). Many thanks.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.



**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 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

# School News

## Pantomime—The Jungle Book at The Watermill Theatre

We're very sorry to share that the Watermill Theatre has had to cancel their planned Christmas performance of the Jungle Book. We have provisionally booked for the following year and as we get a bit closer, we will start to organise some other Christmas events in school for the children this year.



### Larks Club

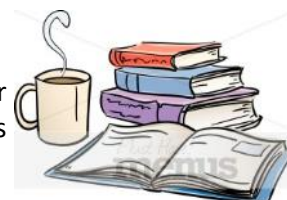
Our morning club, Larks is up and running and has proven to be very popular. We have decided to continue to provide this service up until the Christmas Holidays and are now taking bookings for children who wish to come along from next Monday, 9th October until Friday, 18th December. If you need your child to join this club, please complete the booking form from the school website under the September 2020 tab on the Home page. Places are strictly limited, so please make sure you book early to avoid disappointment. If you wish to book for next week, please send in your completed booking form no later than 2pm tomorrow (Friday 9th). Thank you.

- 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.



## Flu Immunisation

Please find attached with this newsletter, information from the School Nurse Team regarding Flu Nasal Immunisations taking place in school on Friday, 13th November. This year, we have no control (and therefore cannot chase) those of you that have not returned these forms as the school nurse team are requesting that you complete an online form to confirm that your child may have the nasal spray. If you wish your child to have the flu nasal spray this year, please make sure you complete the online form by Friday, 13th November at the latest. Thank you.

## School Individual Photographs—Monday 9th November

The school photo shoot by Tempest Photography (previously Snappers) will take place on Monday, 9th November. In light of the current circumstances, we are unable to offer the early morning pre-school sibling photographs this year. Of course, all siblings in school will be photographed together during their visit.

### Vacancy in School

Please see our advertisement on the next page for a  
Temporary Support Assistant.



**Support Assistant – Total 12.5 hours**  
**(over 2 days—Thursday and Friday)**  
**(Required asap – initially fixed term until Christmas 2020)**

**We have a vacancy for an experienced support assistant to work as part of our fantastic team.**

The ideal candidate will:-

- Enjoy working with children
- Support children in accessing learning, enjoying their lessons and making good progress across the curriculum
- Develop great professional relationships with children and colleagues
- Have a calm and consistent approach to helping children develop effective learning behaviours
- Be committed to personal development and willing to engage in CPD – particularly in relation to school development priorities

Pay Grade B Point 1-3 within the range of £17,842 to £18,562 per annum (pro rata) or £9.24 to £9.62 per hour.

Closing Date: 3pm – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Interviews: w/c Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Please contact the school office on [enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk) for an application pack.

*The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.*





# PTA Update

## ***Clothing Collection deadline = first thing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October***



The bags will be collected on Monday morning so please ensure you drop your bags in the bike shed no later than morning drop off on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. 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 information below for what we can and can't collect, and don't forget to let friends and family know too. There are more bags available if you need them!

**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

## ***Amazon Smile – easy fundraising***

If you've not already done it, don't forget to set up Amazon Smile, which allows us to get a small amount of cashback each time you shop at Amazon UK (providing it is via [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)). It's quick and easy and no need to set up a new account.

If you go to this link it will explain it for you - [https://smile.amazon.co.uk/.../about/ref=smi\\_aas\\_redirect](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/.../about/ref=smi_aas_redirect)

You then just need to choose 'Aldermaston Parent Teacher Association (PTA)'. Make sure you use Smile rather than the standard Amazon for us to benefit.

## ***Second-hand uniform – thank you!***

Thank you to everyone who donated or bought uniform. We managed to raise £130 😊.

**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. 😊**