

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2020 No. 4



Dear Parents and Carers

We are so grateful to have completed the first eight weeks of the school year without interruption and we're very pleased with how the children have settled back to school routines and their learning. Thank you to everyone in our school community for your help this term – especially our wonderful staff.

Celebrating a blue period

Look at this! A fantastic Picasso themed display by the mighty artists of Robins Class. The children explored creating their own self-portrait in a cubist style. Beautiful work carefully developed looking at the work of this famous artist.



Covid secure arrangements

We have now completed one term of working in our new Covid 19 secure arrangements. For next term, we will continue with the same staggered start and finish times. These have been working well – thank you for your support. Additional cleaning measures and handwashing will also continue, as will the fixed seating arrangements in our classrooms and the stringent measures in place for any visitors to site.

Children will continue to mainly work in their class groups. However, we will now be allowing them to share the playground at break times in larger infant (Wrens and Robins) and junior (Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings) bubbles. We will also be running some mixed class small teaching sessions within these larger infant and junior bubbles – outside of the classrooms in well-ventilated spaces – to ensure children are not missing out on the extra provision they would usually have.

Times Table Rock Stars

One area where it seems children are a little rusty with their skills, and may have lost some confidence over the lockdown period, is in using times table facts. As a result, we have signed up for the Times Table Rock Stars website which allows children to practise times tables in a fun way so they become more fluent in their skills.

The logins for this site have now been sent home with our junior classes (Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings) and children have had a chance to use the website in school. I'm sure they will be happy to show you how it works and can use it as much as they would like at home.

Learning heroes

More than ever, we are supporting children to develop those skills, attitudes and behaviours in school which will support their learning. This term we have been focusing on the Investigator.

I am curious.

I ask questions and research.

I am enthusiastic and persevere.



The children who have consistently shown their skills as investigator heroes this term are Margot, Ben, Verity, Eloise and Grace.



Many, many congratulations to them all.

Harvest Festival

Today, the whole school has enjoyed an uplifting Harvest Festival Service which has been produced by our children in Kingfishers. The theme was 'Kind hearts are the garden' based on the Longfellow poem. The children praised the hard work of our farmers who produce the harvest and reminded us to plant seeds of kindness, respect and understanding in our hearts. The service also included a special blessing from Reverend Jane.



We were particularly proud of the way every child in the class spoke beautifully and our many talented Kingfisher musicians joined in with their different instruments to produce a unique version of 'We plough the fields and scatter'. Thank you so much to those parents who filmed these parts at home so they could be included in the final version. Thanks also to the Kingfisher's staff team for their creative approach to the challenges of socially distanced worship and their technical expertise.

Thank you for your generous Harvest donations to the Food Bank – a fraction of which are pictured above.

Road safety

Next Saturday night we will be setting the clocks back an hour as summer time ends. Statistically, this coincides with an increase in accidents on our roads. 58% of children injured in a serious accident are injured between 3.00pm and 7.00pm. It is well worth revisiting road safety with your children at this time of year. Here are some links which may help you.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/tales-of-the-road/> (A highway code for young road users)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42052163> (Newsround resources)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfcvbk/articles/z62nxyc> (EYFS)

Tomorrow, many of our staff will be pulling on their trainers for some PE training from Real PE with a focus on using our new Jasmine resource tool which the children have been enjoying so much this term.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher

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

Your local church services:-

Sunday 25th October—Morning Worship at St Mary's, Aldermaston at 10.30am.

Sunday 1st November—Holy Communion at St Mary's, Aldermaston at 10.30am.

All warmly welcome but please book a place via Eventbrite. A ticket represents a single person, a couple or a small household of 4 people. The Eventbrite links are below, or phone Michelle Galbraith on 07568 184704.

Aldermaston Eventbrite link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-marys-church-aldermaston-tickets-114472123202>

Contact Us:-

Tel: 0118 971 3362

Text: 0118 324 0216

E-mail: enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

Website: www.aldermaston.org.uk



School News

- We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Monday 2nd November after the half term break
- We are producing an increasing number of learning projects through video at school, especially using our brilliant new iPads and in finding creative ways to share while socially distanced. A number of children do not have permission to take part in videos. They will not be able to take part in these activities. We understand there are very good reasons why parents and carers may not wish children to appear in photos or video but it's important to understand that this has implications in the classroom. Please get in touch with the office if you wish to make any changes to your child's permissions.
- Please ensure children have warm coats for next term. We will still be aiming to give the children plenty of fresh air and time outside.



Dishwasher Wanted

Our Staff Room dishwasher has seen better days and we could really do with replacing it to help with the daily task of washing our cups etc. If anyone has a spare/old dishwasher they are not using and are happy to offer this free to a good home, please could you contact the school office. Thank you very much.

Reminders

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.

Rector's Corner

Dear All,

I do hope you all have a fun and relaxing half-term. Life is very demanding and tiring during these strange times and it is important that we look after ourselves and find opportunities to enjoy the countryside, be creative and rest. No doubt, during half term you will be enjoying Halloween. The word comes from Hal-low's Eve (ie the evening before All Saints and All Soul's time) when we remember all the good people we know and love. It is also a time for us to focus on light – the wonderful light of a sparkler lighting up the darkness around us, pumpkins shining on doorsteps. But also a time to think of the parts of our world where a light of hope is needed:

Lord of Light,
Shine in the darkness.

For those who live dark lives through poverty or hunger,

Lord of Light,
Shine in the darkness.

Lighten the hearts of those without a glimmer of hope.

Lord of Light,
Shine in the darkness.

Burn like a fire for those who are cold or homeless.

Lord of Light,
Shine in the darkness.

Help us to share your light with others.

Lord of Light,
Shine in the darkness.



With love
Revd Jane

PTA Update

Clothing collection

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to this. We raised over £700, which is amazing!

We have booked dates in for next year already with the first one on the 29th January, so if you missed this one just put your items to one side and we can all have a post Christmas/New Year clear out 😊.



New PTA members

We're looking for new members to join the committee. We meet about four times a year, although currently via Zoom, and it's really nothing over the top. It would be great to get representatives from each year group, including our new Year R parents/guardians, as it's handy to have fresh thinking. We're a friendly bunch and always happy for help and ideas.

Purchases

- New interactive audio-visual white board is in the school hall. This is a great resource and can link to classrooms.
- The PTA will continue to fund fruit snacks for children in KS2 (KS1 have this provided free).
- A suggestion was made by one of our lovely parents that the school could have a wish list, and parents and friends of the school could donate items or money towards purchasing the items – that way you can see exactly what fundraising has been spent on. Ideas for the list so far cover maths software for the children to use and some Chromebooks for the older children, however it can be anything from crayons and books to larger items. We will be pulling this together soon so will let you all know.

Christmas activities



School staff and the PTA are working to create some fun activities for Christmas, so keep an eye out!

Fundraising

With the world looking quite different over recent months, we have missed out on our big summer event, two clothing collections and will also miss the upcoming fireworks 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.

As always, 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. 😊