

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 2020 No. 5


Dear Parents and Carers

I know that the half term break seems like a while ago now, but I hope you managed to enjoy some time together as families even though the weather was a little damp.

Termly value and learning hero

This term our Christian value is courage. In the bible, the words 'do not be afraid' are repeated throughout. Our focus on this value allows us to explore what it means to be courageous, celebrate examples of courage in history and current affairs (by individuals and groups) and look at how our own actions demonstrate courage too. It is a value particularly well matched to our work this week on Remembrance.

Our learning hero for the term is the thinker.

Thinker Firefly		I solve problems. I use learning and imagination to plan. I can explain my ideas.
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We will be using work on explaining ideas to really develop children's speaking skills as part of our whole school priority of oracy within the curriculum.

This learning hero also champions the British value of 'tolerance of different cultures and religions'. This term children will have the chance to focus on how we celebrate diversity and welcome opportunities to learn about ideas and beliefs that are different from our own.

Remembrance

I know many of you will have observed the two minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday at home with your families. In school this week, every class has spent time reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who fought and their families and what it means for us now. We were proud to lay poppy wreaths, made by our children, at the lych gate memorial at St Mary's Church.



On Armistice Day, our collective worship was led by Reverend Jane with additional contributions from Starlings Class who helped everyone to understand the history behind this day and the symbolism of the poppy.



Our Year 6 children had clearly thought carefully about how to explain their ideas to our younger children and they also shared some beautiful poetry. Thank you to all the adults in school who supported them to make their video.



The whole school was really moved by Grace and William’s performance of the Last Post. Thank you both for your hard work in learning and rehearsing this important piece of music.

Helping others

We have received a lovely thank you from the West Berkshire Food Bank for your Harvest Donations. Your donations weighed an amazing 93.2kgs which is equivalent to about 200 meals. We’re really proud to have been able to support our local community in this way.

Tomorrow is the annual ‘Children in Need’ fundraising event which is being promoted by our Year 6 children. We’re looking forward to seeing a fine range of pyjamas and some awesome dance moves across the school.

We appreciate that the pandemic has had a devastating effect on finances for many families. Please be assured that collections of donation money are discreet, suggested donations are exactly that and no child will be excluded from enjoying our fundraising events in school regardless of whether they were able to bring in any money.

Real Legacy PE



We are very excited to announce that for the next two years, our school will be part of the “REAL Legacy” programme, an extension to our current use of the Real PE syllabus. Real PE focusses on embedding the Fundamental Movement Skills that are essential in all sporting activities, whilst also ensuring development of the whole child. You may hear about "cogs" in relation to PE and wonder what it is all about! Each half term, a class works on developing skills related to a different cog, for example social skills, or cognitive skills. Being a Legacy school provides us with training and support that should allow all our children to thrive in PE. Following our whole-school training on our inset day before half term, these are exciting times for PE at Aldermaston!

Here’s some more information about REAL Legacy: <https://jasmineactive.com/solutions/real-legacy/>

[Reported by Mrs Hatton]

Thank you

Thank you so much to Mr Angell – the staffroom has a functioning dishwasher again which is hugely appreciated.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher

School Holiday and Term Dates 2020/2021

- 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

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School News

Games online



Please check your children's use of online games. It's easy to assume that any online chat is with people they know and any linked content will be child friendly and safe. However, popular games like Roblox and other similar platforms allow children to talk with strangers and any application that allows users to comment can contain scary, upsetting or inappropriate comments. Even with all the work we are doing in partnership to keep children safe online, they will still sometimes make mistakes in sharing their personal information. You can restrict what your children can do when they are online. Reviewing

settings will really help you ensure their safety. For more information:-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Covid safety measures

Masks are very useful to help control the spread of Covid when people are unable to maintain 2m distance from each other. Hopefully, on our school grounds you feel able to maintain a safe distance from other parents. However, you may also feel more comfortable wearing a mask when you visit the school site at the start and the end of the day, especially during this period of national lockdown.



Please ensure that when collected, your children remain next to you and under supervision if you need to wait onsite to collect a sibling. This not only keeps your children safe from the danger of moving cars, it also supports everyone's efforts to maintain social distancing. Many thanks.

Rector's Corner

Remembrance Day was on Wednesday when we remember all those who have died in wars. Last week we remembered people we love and the opportunity to thank God for memories



Loving God, we thank you for memories
We remember when we were little
our first day at nursery, at school, our first friends
We remember having good times on holidays
We remember those we can't see anymore
We thank you that in our memories we can enjoy all these people and places again
and help us when we feel worried, confused or afraid
to remember the most important thing – that you are love and you love us
Thank you, God, for loving us.

Amen.

With love
Revd Jane