

Aldermaston CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2020 No. 6



Dear Parents and Carers

Anti Bullying Week

Every year we take part in the national anti-bullying week. This year, the theme was 'United against bullying' and every class revisited the definition of bullying and how to get help if they are worried about bullying. Children took part in a range of activities to help them understand this issue and we linked these to our school value this term of being courageous in order to stand up for ourselves, help others and tell an adult when something is wrong. Some thoughts from our Robins below.



We want every child in our school to feel safe and happy so that they can focus on their learning and enjoy their childhood. Our school definition of bullying is 'a persistent action taken by one or more people with the deliberate intention of hurting another, either physically or emotionally'. All staff working in the school are committed to listening to children when they are unhappy and need help.

Bullying is not acceptable and the long term effects of being bullied can be extremely damaging.

In addition to children being able to speak to a trusted adult (at school or at home) we also display posters in school with the Childline number. This year, we are adding some extra posters around school which are written by our children in child friendly language to signpost how to get help if they feel they are being bullied just to ensure the message is really clear.

Coming soon

Normally, I try to limit references to Christmas until we've reached December. However, I wanted to reassure you that we are determined to provide plenty of festive cheer for our children this term.

Many thanks to Wasing Estate who have, once again, donated a Christmas tree to the school. We have organised a morning of Christmas crafting next Friday to ensure it's fully dressed with beautiful homemade decorations. The children always love this event and it allows us to focus on developing their art and D&T skills to great effect. I will share a photo of the outcome in our next newsletter – prepare to be wowed.

Although we can't visit the Watermill Theatre this term, we will be enjoying a pantomime in school. Thanks to the contribution of our PTA, children will be treated to a virtual pantomime performance of 'Robin Hood and his socially distanced men'.

Our Wrens and Robins are in the process of rehearsing their nativity which we will be filming for the whole school and their families. The nativity has been written especially for them (thank you Mrs Ebrey) and contains lots of lovely Christmas songs.

We are working with Reverend Jane to ensure that we contribute to Advent and Christmas events in the parish. You will also see later in our newsletter that preparations for Christmas lunch are in full flow and children will be invited to wear their own Christmas jumpers or t-shirts as part of our celebrations on this day.

We will be allowing children to bring in and exchange Christmas cards for children and adults **in their class**. Any cards must be brought in by Friday, 11th December so we can quarantine these before handing them out in the final week of term. Thank you.

Good taste and great skills

Our Starlings have been working on their cookery skills this term. Despite having to follow some additional hygiene measures, they have been producing tasty recipes which we hope will inspire them to get busy in their kitchens at home too.



New entrants for September 2021

We were disappointed that we couldn't meet prospective new parents and carers in person to show them our school. Despite the limitations, we've really enjoyed the information meetings for new starters that we've held so far. We're adding an additional meeting date in response to demand. The meetings are held by Zoom with lots of opportunities for questions and discussion. Our next one will take place on Thursday, 10th December at 10am. Please do spread the word to any local families who may have missed the previous events.

School Improvement

Another adaptation to school life is how staff are able to access training. Staff training is a really important part of our school improvement plans. It's essential that we keep up to date on key skills and current best practice in how we teach different subjects. The externally run courses we use for continuing professional development (CPD) are now mainly delivered by Zoom and similar. During the Autumn Terms so far, we have been engaged with training relating to safeguarding, phonics, mastery mathematics, attachment theory, PE, history, geography and relationships, health and sex education. It's great that we're able to keep moving forward with our school improvement work and ensure that staff development remains a high priority.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs M Higgs
Headteacher

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School News

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.



School Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16th December

We are looking forward to our School Christmas Lunch. Meals can be ordered online via the usual route but in order to get an idea of numbers, we would appreciate it if you could indicate on the attached reply slip what your child/children would like for their Christmas Dinner. Please complete the slip below to confirm and return this to us no later than next Friday, 4th December. Please complete the slip attached even if your child is having a packed lunch on the day as this helps us to organise numbers and seating arrangements for the day.

On offer again this year is the traditional fayre of Roast Turkey with stuffing, gravy with roast potatoes, fresh carrots and garden peas. Alternatively, the vegetarian option is a Roasted Vegetable and Stuffing Tart with the same trimmings. For dessert, there is a choice of Festive Syrup Sponge with Custard or Neapolitan Ice Cream.

Christmas lunch is free to all children in Years R to 2 and at usual price for all other year groups.

School Christmas Lunch Order Form

Please return to school no later than Friday, 4th December

Child's Name					Year				
Roast Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Syrup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Packed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child's Name					Year Group				
Roast Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Profiteroles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Packed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child's Name					Year Group				
Roast Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Profiteroles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Packed Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rector's Corner

Next week we will be starting Advent (Sunday 29th November). Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas and Jesus coming into our lives and world. Advent is about looking forward with hope: hope for our world and all people.

As we begin Advent,
we light a candle of hope,
knowing that in dark times
there is always a light that can be lit.
Let us, people in dusk and dawn,
light the light of vigilance,
knowing that God is always calling us
to justice, mercy and humility –
at this time of year,
and all times of the year.
Amen.



Services for December & January

With the current lockdown and uncertainty over the future, it is difficult for us to plan for public worship in December and January.

When we have a clearer idea of the future, we will release information via our website, Facebook and newsletters.

In the meantime all of our services are online via the Youtube link below and on the front page of our website.

There will be a Carol Service online for each of our parishes which will be released on the 20th December.

When our churches open again for public worship all will be welcome at any of the services, but please book a place via Eventbrite. A ticket represents a single person, a couple, or a small household of 4 people. The Eventbrite link for Aldermaston St Mary's is below, or phone Michelle Galbraith on 07568 184704.

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

Face masks are a legal requirement for all services.

Online Worship

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9.30am Morning Prayer Via Zoom
2nd and 4th Thursday mornings 9.30am Holy Communion Via Zoom
Thursday evenings 8.30pm Compline Via Zoom
Sunday services via YouTube Service: shorturl.at/jyEZ2

Please see our website for all the zoom links or email the Rector jmanley.awb@gmail.com
Each of the churches are currently open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am – 5pm for private prayer



Aldermaston Parish Hall Virtual Christmas Bazaar.

Christmas is still on in Aldermaston and
we're going to have some fun in a socially distanced way.



From 20th November to 20th December there
will be the following activities.....

- A Christmas Raffle, lots of lovely prizes.

- Guess the soldier's name - Hint, it's not Tommy 😊



- Guess the address of the Gingerbread House.



- Fun Village and Wharf walking quiz for children and
adults.

- Lots of surprises for you and the children. Keep an eye on our
Facebook page @AldermastonParishHall

To take part in these activities email:

fundraising@aldermastonparishhall.co.uk

We will send you an entry form and instructions.

Donations can also be made via online banking, bank details on
request. All profits go to Aldermaston Parish Hall. Charity

Number 300110



**Aldermaston
Parish Hall**

Thank you

