

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

31st October

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope that all families had a great break. It was a busy end to the last half-term with trips and the PTA disco. We also start this half-term busy with a Science Dome in school today for Upper School and Reading Museum visits for Middle School.

We have also had work completed in our library area outside the hall and the outside Early Years environment during the half term break.

Uniform Reminders

Staff have been noticing that not all children are coming into school wearing the correct uniform. Therefore, I would like to remind families of the following:

- School shoes should be worn from Year 1 upwards and that trainers may be worn for when playing outside or travelling to/from school.
- Only stud earrings are allowed and these should be able to be removed by the child for P.E. lessons. If the child is unable to remove them, they should not be worn.
- Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied up.
- Nail varnish and acrylic/gel nails should not be worn to school.
- In the colder months, children may wear a dark tracksuit for outside P.E. lessons. Children will require trainers/ plimsolls for outdoor P.E. lessons.

Is my child too ill for school?

We have reached the season where children may pick up bugs and other illnesses. The NHS has compiled a useful guide, which can be found below:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

In summary, the main messages are:

- Children can attend school with coughs/colds and sore throats.
- Sickness and diarrhoea requires a minimum of 48 hours since the last episode.
- If your child has a high temperature, they should be kept off until the temperature has gone away.
- If your child contracts chickenpox, they should be kept off school until the spots have crusted over. This is usually 5 days after the spots have first appeared.
- Children are no longer required to do a lateral flow test for COVID symptoms, but if you decide to test your child and they test positive, then they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days after they took the test.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature and/or do not feel well enough to do their normal activities, they should also be kept off until they feel better and/or their high temperature has gone away.



Attendance Update

Attendance at school is key to educational success. During the last half-term, overall attendance was 95.4%, which is below our school target of 97%. Our school management information software is able to break the attendance down into year groups from and the corresponding percentile rank from Y1 upwards (1 being the lowest and 99 being the highest). Please see the table below:

Year Group	Average Percentage	National Percentile Rank
Foundation Stage	95.1%	N/A
Year 1	96%	62
Year 2	97.8%	92
Year 3	96.7%	70
Year 4	95%	36
Year 5	97.1%	86
Year 6	91.4%	7

Well done in particular to both Y2 and Y5 children, who are above 97% and are within the top 15% in the country when compared to other similar aged children. Y6 attendance is particularly low and a concern, although I am aware that there have been grammar school tests and secondary school visits at the start of this year. We will be reviewing each child's attendance individually and will be sending out letters to inform you if your child's attendance is below 90%.

For safeguarding reasons, families are required to notify us before 8:40am if your child is not in school due to illness. The best way of communicating absence is via email. It is a school decision whether to authorise or unauthorise the absence. In order to make an informed decision to authorise or not, we require families to be specific regarding the symptoms. Unwell is not a specific reason. The guide provided by the NHS above should be a helpful reference point.

For planned visits/ appointments, these are encouraged to be out of school time, but we do recognise that this is not always possible. For planned absences, a leave of absence form should be completed. This is available on the website and on request from the office. Again, the decision to authorise or not will be at the discretion of the school. Typically, the only types of absences that will be authorised are:

- Religious observance (maximum of two days per year).
- Exceptional circumstance e.g. death/ serious illness of a parent, carer or sibling of the child.
- Medical/ dental appointments that cannot be made out of school time.

Punctuality

First of all, I would like to thank and acknowledge the very large majority of families that have ensured that their child is in their classroom by 8:45am each day. When a child arrives late into school, this can unsettle their start to the day. In some instances, children are not arriving until nearly 9:30am. Being 45 minutes late each day is equivalent to being absent for 29 school days per year. Please could families ensure that children who are late are signed in at the office and reasons are provided for the lateness. We will be sending out letters to families where we have a concern about punctuality soon.

Autumn Photography Competition

Hopefully your children managed to get out and about to explore nature over the holidays! This is a reminder that if they took a photo they wish to enter in the photography competition, the deadline for submissions is **Friday 3rd November**. Please could your child pass their entry to their class teacher or submit via the following email address autumnphotography@aldryngton.wokingham.sch.uk. Please ensure any entry has your **child's name, class and house** on it. The house captains and Miss Stroud look forward to seeing all the entries!

Forthcoming Parent Governor Election

So far we have not had any response to this advertisement, so I am including this once again:

We are due to have a vacancy for a parent governor in December. The governing body would particularly welcome a potential governor with financial expertise. If you would be interested in finding out more about this role, then please speak to the office, so that an appointment can be made to discuss this further with the Chair of Governors and myself.

Events List: Autumn

Please find key dates for the Autumn term below:

Date (Time)	Event
Tuesday 31 st October	US Science Dome visit
Tuesday 31 st October, 1 st November and 2 nd November	Middle School visits to Reading Museum
Thursday 2 nd Nov	Cross country Race at Bluecoat school
Thursday 9 th November (2:30pm)	Lower School Diwali Assembly
Friday 10 th November	Remembrance Day
Friday 10 th November	Flu Jabs
Week beginning 13 th November	Anti-bullying Week (wear odd socks on the 13 th)
Tuesday 14 th November	Read, Write, Inc Parent Workshop
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Week beginning 20 th November	Road Safety Week
Thursday 23 rd Nov	Cross Country race at Light water
Week beginning 27 th November	Parent Evenings
Thursday 30 th November	R.E. Inspired Lower School
Tuesday 5 th December	US trip to Buster Ancient Farms
Thursday 7 th December	R.E. Inspired Middle School
Thursday 7 th December (9:15am and 2:15pm)	Lower School Christmas Assembly
Friday 8 th December (9:30am)	Prospective Parent Tour
Monday 11 th December	US online session about the House of Lords

Monday 11 th December	R.E. Inspired Foundation Stage
Monday 11 th December (3:30pm-4pm)	Topic Visits to Classes
Monday 11 th December (2pm)	Foundation Stage to parents
Tuesday 12 th December (2pm)	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13 th December	Pantomime
Thursday 14 th December	School Christmas Dinner
Friday 15 th December	Last Day of Term Progress reports to parents

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Wieder
Headteacher