

# Aldryngton Primary School

Silverdale Road,  
Earley,  
Reading,  
RG6 7HR  
Telephone (0118) 926 5843  
E-mail [admin@aldryngton.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aldryngton.wokingham.sch.uk)



Headteacher: Mark Wieder

7<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The weekly update is slightly longer than usual this week as I am including a response to the parent questionnaire that was completed by families just before we broke up for the Summer.

Yesterday, we had a photographer come in to capture photographs for our new school website, which is due to launch later this month.

Parent evening appointments have now opened and as of this morning, we have already had 288 appointments confirmed. A reminder that if you have not already booked your appointment then to do this as soon as possible.

This week we have special assemblies for remembrance and Diwali. We will also be completing the silence together on Friday with a bugle player from Maiden Erlegh performing the Last Post.

Looking ahead to next week it is Anti-Bullying Week, so to kick the week off, **we are encouraging children to come into school wearing odd socks on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**

## Lockdown Drill

Today we completed a lockdown drill at the school. It was explained to children in advance that this was a drill and some of the reasons why we may have a lockdown. It was kept low key and the children all did amazingly well.

A lockdown is implemented when there are serious security risks due to, for example, nearby chemical spillage, gas leak, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions, a reported incident/civil disturbance in the community or attempted access by unauthorised persons, intent on causing harm/damage.

## Flu Immunisations: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

A reminder that these are taking place on Friday and the deadline for signing up for these is on Thursday. So far only 44% of families have completed the form.

## Children in Need: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

We will once again be supporting Children in Need this year. Children may come into school wearing non-uniform or dotty clothes if they wish to do so. Please could donations be made to Children in Need directly via the link below:

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

## Mobile Phones in School

A reminder that mobile phones may only be brought in by children in Upper School who are walking to/ from school by themselves. These are to be handed in to the teacher with the phone switched off at the start of the day and are then handed back at the end of the day.



The phone should not be used by your child whilst they are on the school site either at the start or the end of the day.

For PTA events where your child is not directly supervised by the parent e.g. a disco, a mobile phone should not be brought to the school site. At the end of the disco, all children are expected to be collected, which would mean that a mobile phone would not be required.

### **Parent Questionnaire Results**

Thank you for all of you that took the time to complete this questionnaire at the end of the Summer term. This year, we had 64 responses compared to 41 responses in 2022. The leadership team has reviewed the responses and can present the following headlines:

- Percentages in most areas have either increased or stayed broadly in line with 2022 outcomes of the survey.
- Biggest increases have been in my child can take part in clubs and activities; my child is happy; Aldryngton makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
- We have seen a slight increase in the proportion of families that agree the school makes me aware of what my child will learn. However, this still remains below other categories.
- We have seen a reduction in the number of families that agree the school supports the wider development of my child.

Like any survey, there was a varied range of comments regarding what families thought was working well and what they felt required improving. However, the following areas were shared as strengths of the school by a larger number of responses:

- PTA engagement and sense of community at the school.
- Plenty of sporting opportunities and a range of clubs on offer.
- Good communication between home and school.
- Phonics
- Embracing diversity
- Experienced staff and high-quality teaching.

Please find a summary table of the areas most identified by families of requiring further improvement and the associated response:

<b>Improvement Area</b>	<b>Response</b>
Better and healthier school lunches	<p>We have been working with Caterlink (our caterers) to make further improvements over the last year or so. This has included the introduction of a salad bar amongst other changes.</p> <p>I have been sampling the menu on a daily basis and provide feedback to the caterers every week. For its price, the meals are high quality. There are of course some menu items that are more popular than others.</p> <p>The menu has to be approved in line with nutritional guidelines and is the same as in other Caterlink schools. We do feedback what is popular and what is not. Caterlink are then known to make changes in response to this.</p>

	<p>Caterlink are open to parents feeding back specific issues/ requests relating to school dinners and there is an option do so via a survey that they are currently running and this can be found via link further down in this weekly update.</p>
<p>Shortening/ condensing the number of communications being sent out by the school.</p>	<p>It is recognised that parents are sent a number of communications. Some from school and others from external organisations.</p> <p>We will review if further options are available once we have fully migrated to using the Arbor app for communications.</p>
<p>Challenge for most able children, particularly in mathematics</p>	<p>This was one of the focus areas in our first round of teacher observations this academic year. Further ideas have been shared with teachers about how the level of challenge can be increased further.</p>
<p>Improve outdoor area/ grounds maintenance</p>	<p>Over the Summer, we did increase the number of hours for the grounds maintenance company that the school uses to tidy areas of the school.</p> <p>We do have a limited budget area for this and will potentially look to request further volunteers next year in the growing season to support with this.</p>
<p>More sports clubs for Lower School and Foundation Stage children</p>	<p>We will investigate to see if further options are available. Some of the external clubs that the school uses have had to either merge with more year groups and in some instances have not been cost-effective to run due to fewer children attending.</p>
<p>More feedback on homework tasks completed.</p>	<p>It is recognised at a national level that teacher workload is an issue and research in recent years has questioned the impact of written comments. Therefore, we adjusted our approach to marking and feedback several years ago. There is now a greater emphasis on verbal feedback and future plans being adjusted in response to the findings of the teacher as they mark the work.</p> <p>It is also understood the challenges sometimes faced by families in ensuring that their child completes the homework and therefore it can be understood why families may want more feedback. However, teachers can often have up to 90 books to mark per day in addition to the teaching commitments, planning the lessons, attending training and staff meetings as well as running clubs. We have made the strategic decision to focus the teacher efforts on areas that are known by research to have a greater impact on pupil progress.</p> <p>We did trial online systems such as MyMaths and homework on Teams, but in general this was less popular than the approach currently used.</p>

	Our Homework Policy is due to be reviewed in July 2024, so I am likely to ask for your feedback on the way that we set homework then.
More days that the SEN Leader is working	The proportion of children on the SEN register has increased from 5.2% in 2021 to 11.8% in 2023. The proportion of children with an EHCP plan increased from 2.2% in 2021 to 3.8% in 2023. Due to this increase in numbers, when we advertised our SEN Leader position last year, we were looking for a three-day position, rather than two days which Mrs Tomsett worked. Our new SEN Leader, Mrs Blakely has been working three days a week since September.

In addition to the above, we have planned to address that fewer families believe that the school supports the wider development of their child. Please see a summary of actions taken:

- We have further refined our wellbeing support using a wave-based system depending on the needs of the child. We maintain a register of children with mental health needs and the actions currently being undertaken under the specific waves. We currently have 37 children on this register. Please see a copy of the wellbeing pathway attached with the weekly update.
- Introduced an updated PSHE scheme this academic year. We have also introduced a new system of capturing the impact of this in lessons.
- Teachers will be asked to report back the wider development of the child alongside the academic performance during the parent teacher meetings.

Thank you once again for all of you that completed this survey. As the survey was anonymous, it was not possible to provide individual feedback. However, if there is anything that you wish to raise specifically, then please contact the school office and we can triage your email to the most appropriate person to respond to you.

### **School Dinners Survey**

Caterlink, who supply our school dinners, are currently running a survey on school dinners. This is an opportunity for you to complete the survey with your child if you wish to do so. This will help inform future menu choices. The link to complete the survey is below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G9VWNSR>

### **Forthcoming Parent Governor Election**

So far, we have not had any potential governor with financial expertise to step forward, therefore we are encouraging anyone who would be interested in becoming part of the finance committee to come forward. 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:

<b>Date (Time)</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November (2:30pm)	Lower School Diwali Assembly
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Jabs
Week beginning 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week (wear odd socks on the 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Read, Write, Inc Parent Workshop
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Week beginning 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Road Safety Week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Foundation Stage to Maiden Erlegh Lake
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Cross Country race at Light water
Week beginning 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Evenings
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	R.E. Inspired Lower School
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	US trip to Buster Ancient Farms
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	R.E. Inspired Middle School
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December (9:15am and 2:15pm)	Lower School Christmas Assembly
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December (9:30am)	Prospective Parent Tour
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	US online session about the House of Lords
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	R.E. Inspired Foundation Stage
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December (3:30pm-4pm)	Topic Visits to Classes
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December (2pm)	Foundation Stage to parents
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December (2pm)	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Term Progress reports to parents

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Wieder  
Headteacher