

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

16th January 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The weather has certainly turned colder since the start of the year. Please could I take the opportunity to ensure that children come into school with hats and gloves.

Attendance Monitoring Procedures

We have recently completed another round of attendance monitoring and some families may have received a letter if their child's attendance is below 90%. Attendance below this figure is classified as persistent absence by the government and this figure is of particular concern. Of course, any child with absence to this point, the percentage will count as more and the impact of any absence will reduce if the child would then maintain a period of full attendance. One of the purposes of the letters are to draw to your attention that current attendance is particularly low. We also do not want children that have temperatures and sickness/ vomiting to be coming into school. The NHS have provided a useful summary of what to do with common illnesses below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There may also be wider issues impacting school attendance, so some families may have received a letter asking them to attend a meeting. The purpose of this meeting would be to explore the reasons for absence in more detail and put plans in place to support improvement.

We also have a termly meeting with the Education Welfare Officer, who provides advice and is a point to refer to where attendance concerns persist.

Attendance Frequently Asked Questions/ Clarification

Why can absence unauthorised if I have notified the school? For safeguarding purposes, families should inform the school by email when their child will be absent from school. If the school is not informed, we will chase this by calling all contacts and if necessary performing a home visit. It is then a school decision whether to authorise the absence reason or not. When there have been a lot of absences due to illness, we are advised by the Education Welfare Officer to seek medical evidence e.g. copy of prescription before authorising the absence.

To support with the decision-making process, we request families to be specific about the symptoms of illness rather than state unwell.

My child arrived late. Why are they marked as absent? Each school has to set a time where the official register closes. We set this time as 9:30am in our current policy. This means that any child that arrives after this time is given a U code. This is then counted as being absent for the morning session. Children that arrive after 8:45am and before 9:30am are given a L code. This shows that the child is late, but they are counted as being present for that particular session. The coding is set by the government.

How does my child's attendance compare to others in the school and others in the country? Our school management information system (Arbor) is able to collate up to date averages for both the



school and all other schools that use the same system nationally. Please see the table below for further details:

	Aldryngton	National	Aldryngton Percentile Rank
Average attendance	95.1%	94.4%	56
Persistent Absentees (% of children with attendance below 90%)	12.8%	17.8%	70

How are good levels of school attendance defined by the school? Please see the tables below that are taken from our attendance policy:

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
99-100%	Excellent	0-4	Less than 1
97-98%	Good	5-9	1-2
96%	Satisfactory	10-13	2-3
90-95%	Unsatisfactory	14-18	3-4
Below 90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19	More than 4
Below 50%	Severe Absence	More than 97	More than 19

How can I find out more about the attendance procedures at the school? The attendance policy can be found on the policies page of the school website. The direct link to this page is below:

<https://aldryngton.wokingham.sch.uk/school-information/policies>

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a parent governor vacancy and I will be sending out a formal letter to submit applications soon. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the role of a governor, then please contact the office to make an appointment. As of this 16th January, we haven't received any expressions of interest.

Events Update

Events List: Spring

Date (Time)	Event
Week beginning 8 th January	Team Newsletters out alongside knowledge organisers
Monday 29 th January	Chinese New Year Assembly
Tuesday 30 th January	Y6 trip to Maiden Erlegh
Friday 2 nd February	NSPCC Number Day (dress as a number in return for £1 donation to NSPCC)
Week beginning 5 th February	Mental Health Week
Week beginning 5 th February	Spelling Bee Finals
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day

Week beginning 12 th February	Half Term
Week 19 th February	Bike-ability week
Thursday 22 nd February	RE Inspired Foundation Stage
Thursday 22 nd February	PTA Disco
Tuesday 27 th February	AM/PM visits to Reading Museum (Upper School)
Wednesday 28 th February	AM visit to Reading Museum (Upper School)
Wednesday 28 th February (2:30pm)	Lower School Toy Museum
Wednesday 6 th March	Year 1 Scooter Training
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (Children can come in dressed as a book character)
Week beginning 11 th March	Neuro-Diversity Celebration Week
Thursday 14 th March	R.E. Inspired Lower School
Week beginning 11 th March	Parents evening
Tuesday 26 th March (3:30pm-4pm)	Y1-Y6 Topic Celebrations
Wednesday 27 th March	Foundation Stage Easter Performance
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Term Progress reports to parents

Events List: Summer

Date (Time)	Event
Monday 15 th April	Children Return to School
Week beginning 22 nd April	Team newsletters out alongside knowledge organisers
Monday 22 nd April	R.E. Inspired Foundation Stage
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 10 th May	Middle School Maypole Dancing
Week beginning 13 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Monday 20 th May	Class Photographs
Week beginning 20 th May	Multiplication Championship
Thursday 23 rd May	R.E. Inspired Upper School

Thursday 23 rd May	PTA Disco
Friday 24 th May	Cultural Diversity Day
Week beginning 27 th May	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June	INSET Day
Week beginning 3 rd June	Y6 at Little Canada
Monday 3 rd to Friday 14 th	Y4 Times Table Check Window
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June	Y1 Phonics and Y2 Phonics Retakes Window
Wednesday 12 th June	New EYFS Parent Meeting
Friday 14 th June (9:45am)	Middle and Upper School Sports Day at Palmer Park
Saturday 15 th June	PTA Try a Tri
Wednesday 19 th June	FS Summer Trip
Thursday 20 th June	R.E. Inspired Upper School
Friday 28 th June	Middle School Eid Assembly
Week beginning 1 st July	Sports Week
Monday 1 st July (AM)	Middle School Cross Country
Monday 1 st July (1:45pm)	Upper School Swimming Gala
Tuesday 2 nd July	District Sports (selected children)
Wednesday 3 rd July (9:15am)	Foundation Stage and Lower School Sports Day
Wednesday 3 rd July (11am)	Upper School Cross Country
Wednesday 3 rd July (1:45pm)	Middle School Swimming Gala
Thursday 4 th July (11am)	Middle School Cross Country
Monday 8 th July	Transition Morning (whole morning)
Monday 8 th July (2pm)	Upper School Production to Foundation and Lower School- dress rehearsal
Tuesday 9 th July (2pm)	Upper School Production to Middle School - technical performance
Wednesday 10 th July (3:30-4pm)	Y1-Y6 Topic Celebrations
Wednesday 10 th July (7pm)	Upper School Production to Families
Thursday 11 th July (7pm)	Upper School Production to Families

Friday 12 th July	PTA Happy Circus
Monday 15 th July	Reports Out to Parents
Tuesday 16 th July	Curriculum and Safeguarding Committee
Monday 22 nd July	Y6 Leavers Celebration-Pool Party
Tuesday 23 rd July (AM)	Y6 Leavers Assembly to Children
Tuesday 23 rd July (PM)	Y6 Leavers Assembly to Parents
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last Day of Term

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Wieder
Headteacher