

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder



20th January 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We had a successful Governor Day last week and as usual the children really shone. The children were polite, courteous and engaged fully with their learning.

I would like to apologise for all of you impacted by the email communication issue with Arbor. Some families had not been receiving email communications and a fix was attempted by the company. However, this has resulted in all of our communications going into junk folders. We are still working on a fix, but the Arbor in app messaging will be used to send out some information in the meantime. I would highly recommend downloading this app if you haven't done so already.

Eco Council update - Big Birdwatch 2026

Eco-Council would like to draw your attention to the **Big Birdwatch 2026** that is happening this weekend (23rd - 25th January). **Big Birdwatch 2026** is organised by the **RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)** and provides valuable information about how birds are doing in our gardens. As well as being beautiful creatures, birds are indicators about the health of our environment. They also contribute to the diversity of plant life through pollination and seed dispersal, control insect outbreaks, create important nesting areas for other species and help get rid of disease through scavenger "clean-up" services (magpies, crows and red kites).

By taking part in the **Big Birdwatch 2026** and observing birds in your garden, you will be contributing to national data collection of birds in our country, and cataloguing the number and types of particular birds. You will also get the chance to observe the nature in your garden, learn about different types of birds and even make bird feeders.

In order to take part, you need to register on the **RSPB Big Birdwatch 2026** website and they will email you an e-instruction guide about how to tally the birds you have seen, a bird identification guide and how to submit your data. The email link is below:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

The Eco-Council would like to encourage you to take part in this important data gathering event and would love to see any drawings, photographs of any activities you have been inspired to do or make as a result of taking part. We would be happy to display the on our Eco-Council display board.

Happy bird watching! - The Eco-Council

Attendance Update

Our current whole school attendance for the year to date is 94.5%, which is broadly in line with the national average of 94.6%. As a whole school, our percentile rank is 44 and we require your support in improving this figure. Well done to children in Y1, Y3 and Y5 as their attendance is within the top 33% of schools nationally. Attendance for Y6 children remains a concern as it is within the lowest 10% nationally when compared to other Y6 cohorts nationally.



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We have just completed our latest round of attendance monitoring and later this week notification letters will be sent out to most families where attendance is below 90%. Our process is to send a first letter to notify that attendance has dropped. When the first letter is reviewed, it will result in either a well done still monitoring letter if attendance has improved or a second letter. The second letter will ask families to arrange a meeting with myself, so that barriers to attendance can be discussed and a plan to move forward.

Wellbeing update from Mrs Boba

I hope your children have had a good start to the new year and the new term in school. There are a few updates to share with you:

Children's Mental Health Week -2 - 6 February 2026

This year you may have noticed the end of this half term is quite busy, so we are celebrating Children's Mental Health Week a week early! The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and the aim is to support children to help them feel they belong.

Here is a breakdown of the events planned for our school community across the week:

- Mr Wieder will be starting off the week with an assembly to introduce the week to the whole school on Monday
- We will be hosting our usual Children's Mental Health Week coffee morning in the hall on Wednesday morning this year. This is open to all parents and will be hosted by myself and Mrs Blakely. We will also be sharing a presentation as normal. The hall will be open to parents from 8.45 - 10am and we'd love you to join us. Entry will be via the front office as normal for these kinds of events.
- Across the school, classes will also be participating in relevant activities where timings allow during the week.
- Friday the children will be able to dress as a number to celebrate NSPCC Number Day.

We hope you can join us for the coffee morning!

Healthy snacks

Please could you encourage your children to bring in healthy snacks and food for breaktime and lunchtime? Children should not be bringing chocolate bars or packets of sweets to school as they offer no nutritional value. We understand children can be fussy eaters, and the NHS have some suggestions for healthier swaps here: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-food-swaps/>

Events List

Date (Time)	Event
Tuesday 27 th January	Y1 Scooter Training
Week beginning 2 nd February	Children's Mental Health Week-
Tuesday 3 rd February and Thursday 5 th February	US trips to Reading Museum
Wednesday 4 th February (8:45am)	Mental Health Parent Coffee Morning
Thursday 5 th February	Cross Country League
Friday 6 th February	NSPCC Number Day (dress as a number in return for £1 donation to NSPCC)

Week beginning 9 th February	Poetry Competition Finals
Monday 9 th February	Chinese New Year Assembly
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 th February	Litterbug Club
Thursday 13 th February	PTA Disco
Week beginning 17 th February	Half Term
Week beginning 23 rd February	Year 5 Bikeability
Tuesday 3 rd March and Thursday 5 th March	Middle School trips to Waltham Farm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (Children can come in dressed as a book character)
Thursday 5 th March	US RE Inspired
Week beginning 9 th March	PTA Mother's Day Gift Sales
Monday 9 th March	Lower School Toy Museum
Week beginning 16 th March	Neuro-Diversity Celebration Week
Tuesday 17 th March	Litterbug Club
Tuesday 17 th and Wednesday 18 th March	PTA Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 19 th March	Cross Country League Relays
Week beginning 23 rd March	Parents' Evening Week
Monday 23 rd March	Foundation Stage RE Inspired
Wednesday 25 th March (2pm)	Foundation Stage Easter Performance
Thursday 26 th March	Middle School Eid Assembly
Friday 27 th March	Last Day of Term Progress reports to parents
Monday 13 th April	Children Return to School
Week beginning 20 th April	Team newsletters out alongside knowledge organisers
Tuesday 28 th April	Litterbug Club
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Week beginning 11 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Thursday 14 th May (6-8pm)	PTA Disco

Friday 15 th May	Middle School Maypole Dancing
Weeks beginning 18 th May	Y6 at Little Canada
Week beginning 18 th May	Multiplication Championship
Tuesday 19 th May	Litterbug Club
Friday 22 nd May	Cultural Diversity Day
Week beginning 26 th May	Half Term
Monday 1 st June	INSET Day
Monday 1 st to Friday 12 th June	Y4 Times Table Check Window
Thursday 4 th June	LS RE Inspired at church
Thursday 4 th June	MS trip to Wisley
Saturday 6 th June	PTA Try-a-Tri
Monday 8 th June	FS RE Inspired
Monday 8 th to Friday 12 th June	Y1 Phonics and Y2 Phonics Retakes Window
Wednesday 10 th June	Class Photographs
Friday 12 th June	KS2 Sports Day
Week beginning 15 th June	PTA Father's Day Gift Sales
Wednesday 17 th June	FS trip to Wooley Firs
Tuesday 23 rd June	Litterbug Club
Week beginning 29 th June	Sports Week
Monday 29 th June (AM)	Inter-House Cross Country- Middle School
Monday 29 th June (1:30pm)	Upper School Swimming Gala
Wednesday 1 st July (1:30pm)	Middle School Swimming Gala
Wednesday 1 st July (AM)	Upper School Cross Country
Thursday 2 nd July (2pm)	Foundation Stage and Lower School Sports Day
Thursday 2 nd July	US RE Inspired
Friday 3 rd July	PTA Make the Rules Non-Uniform Day
Monday 6 th July (2pm)	Upper School Production to Foundation and Lower - dress rehearsal
Tuesday 7 th July	Transition Morning

Wednesday 8 th July (7pm)	Upper School Production to Families
Thursday 9 th July (7pm)	Upper School Production to Families
Tuesday 14 th July	Litterbug Club
Tuesday 21 st July (AM)	Y6 Leavers Assembly to Children
Tuesday 21 st July (PM)	Y6 Leavers Assembly to Parents
Tuesday 21 st July	Last Day of Term

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Wieder
Headteacher