

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder



7th July 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Well done to the children for all of their efforts during sports week. Thank you to the PTA for the two events that ran last week- Try-a-Tri and Make the Rules. I am pleased to announce that the non-uniform day raised £274.23 in total and as a result the children will receive ten minutes extra break time.

It has been a hot start to the week and this is likely to continue throughout the week. Children are welcome to wear their P.E. kits if they wish. A reminder to bring water bottles, sun hats and to ensure that your child has either sun cream applied or has a supply that they can apply themselves.

Today, we have our transition morning taking place and your child will spend time with their new teacher today. I will provide details around our staffing arrangements to start the year further down in this update.

Good luck to Upper School, who will be sharing their production with families this week on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

Key Stage 2 SATS Results Update

As you may be aware from recent press coverage, the results that were due to be published today have been delayed. They will now not be published until Thursday 16th July.

Staffing Update

There are no teachers leaving at the end of this academic year. Mrs Culham remains on long term sick leave and I am unable to confirm a return date at this point. Mrs Culham's leave will be covered by Mrs Olive until she is ready to return. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Verdon is pregnant and is due in December 2026. Mrs Palmer is scheduled to return from her maternity leave in January 2027.

We have one teaching assistant leaving at the end of year- Mrs Deepa. Mrs Deepa will be leaving to pursue a career in teaching and we wish her all the best for the future.

Due to our financial position, we have reduced the number of teaching assistants across the school in recent years by usually not replacing a member of staff when they leave. We now have a dynamic and centralised timetable for the deployment of teaching assistants that is managed by members of the leadership team. Many of our teaching assistants are timetabled to work in different parts of the school at different times of the day.

Please find a table below of the named teachers for each class below:



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



In partnership with the
Institute of Education
 **University of
Reading**



Foundation Stage	
Elm	Mrs Verdon
Oak	Mr Gillard
Lower School (Y1/2)	
Ash	Mrs Marion
Fir	Miss Finn
Lime	Mrs Moore
Middle School (Y3/4)	
Beech	Miss Saunders
Cedar	Miss Beckett
Willow	Mrs Culham (covered by Mrs Olive)
Upper School (Y5/6)	
Juniper	Mrs Dunn
Maple	Mrs Woolston
Sycamore	Miss Stroud

Respectful/ Considerate Behaviour and Communication

Following on from my email last week, I would also like to draw attention to comments made on private WhatsApp groups involving parents. I fully recognise that parents will naturally discuss school matters, share views, and seek support from one another. Open communication and constructive feedback are important parts of a healthy school community. However, when discussions within any group moves beyond constructive dialogue and into criticisms of any particular staff member, this is unacceptable.

Our staff work extremely hard to support and educate every child in our care. Like all professionals, they have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. Comments that are personal, hurtful, speculative or damaging can have a significant impact on an individual's wellbeing and professional reputation, particularly when shared widely, even within private forums.

If parents have concerns about any aspect of school life, including concerns relating to a member of staff, I would respectfully ask that these are raised directly with the school through the appropriate channels. Doing so enables us to listen, investigate where necessary, and work towards a resolution in a constructive and respectful manner.

As a school, we are committed to fostering a culture based on mutual respect, kindness and partnership. We ask all members of our community to model these values, both within school and in online communications.

While private social media and messaging groups are outside the school's control, the manner in which we speak about others reflects the standards we wish to uphold for our children.

I appreciate your support in helping to maintain a positive and respectful environment for staff, pupils and families alike. By working together and addressing concerns through appropriate channels, we can ensure that our focus remains firmly on providing the very best education and care for our children.

Changes to Free School Meals

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility in England is being expanded to include all households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of household income. If you previously missed out due to the old £7,400 income cap, you can apply now for the start of the 2026/27 school year.

The expansion creates two categories of free school meals:

- **Targeted Free School Meals:** For households earning £7,400 or less on Universal Credit. This category continues to include the following benefits: extra Pupil Premium funding to the school and Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme support (organised by Wokingham Borough Council).

The new category from September is:

- **Expanded Free School Meals:** For households earning more than £7,400 on Universal Credit. This covers school lunches only; it does not trigger the extra benefits or HAF programme support.

Please note that **Universal Infant Free School Meals** remains available to all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 regardless of benefits.

What do parents need to do now?

Although the national changes do not take effect until September 2026, it is important that families who may be eligible register their entitlement as soon as possible. Parents are now required to complete an annual eligibility check.

We ask all parents and carers to:

1. Complete an annual eligibility check even if your child:

- Already receives school meals;
- Is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals;
- Has previously been assessed for eligibility.

2. Inform the school if your circumstances have changed and you are now receiving Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit.

3. Complete the eligibility check through the Wokingham Free School Meals Eligibility Checking System. This quick online check helps determine whether your child qualifies for Free School Meals and enables the school to claim additional government funding where applicable.

The link where you can check eligibility is below:

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/>

The link to the form that needs to be completed and sent to the school if you believe you are eligible can be found on the following web page:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals>

Why is it important to register?

Even if your child chooses to bring a packed lunch or already receives a free meal through another scheme, registering eligibility can provide additional funding for the school. This funding helps us support pupils through additional resources, interventions and wider educational opportunities.

Looking ahead

The Government has confirmed that from September 2026 all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals. Schools are being given time to prepare for the increased number of pupils expected to benefit from this expansion. Schools need to know whether families are eligible by the end of September so numbers can be included in the October census when funding is allocated.

Need help?

If you are unsure whether you may qualify, please complete the eligibility check please contact Wokingham Council. All information provided is treated confidentially. Thank you for taking the time to complete this important annual check and helping us ensure that all eligible families receive the support available to them.

Household Support Fund- Information from Wokingham Council

Apply now for money to help with cost of living

You can get money to help with the cost of food, bills and other essentials through the [Household Support Fund](#).

Families with children who receive means-tested free school meals should apply for Holiday Food Vouchers. You'll get £20 per week, per child, during the school holidays, so apply now in time for this year's summer holidays,

If you have successfully applied for Holiday Food Vouchers since April 2023, you do not need to reapply

Everyone else should apply for a Household Support Grant if they're struggling. Get £70 or £140 depending on your situation.

Support is available to households who feel they are struggling with rising costs of living as well as people in receipt of benefits.

[Apply now for the Household Support Fund.](#)

How registering for free school meals helps us

We want to make sure we are providing your child with the best education and support we can.

Healthy school food has obvious benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life and can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. To qualify, your child must be in school and you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)

- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If this applies to you but your child isn't registered for free school meals, complete a form and return it to your child's school.

[Download the form and apply for Free School Meals](#) on Wokingham Borough Council's website.

Events List

Date (Time)	Event
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