

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder



7th October

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Last week, we celebrated two staff members that have been employed at Aldryngton for 25 years (Mrs Stone and Mrs Janjua). I would like to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to the children at Aldryngton. This week, we have Middle School out on trips. I hope they have a great day!

Staffing Update

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Palmer is pregnant and is expected to go on maternity leave at the end of this year. We interviewed for a teacher to cover the maternity leave last week and we have secured an experienced teacher to cover Mrs Palmer's maternity leave. I shall share further details in due course.

Mrs Daniels, who has been a part-time teaching assistant at the school for a number of years will be departing at the end of October. I would like to thank her for all of her work and wish her all the best for the future.

PTA Save Our Pool Campaign

I shared news of the campaign last week and thank you to all of you that have donated already. We have now raised just over £1000 now, which means we will be able to afford a new pool cover to replace the current damaged one.

There are still a number of improvements required and the PTA have set up a Crowdfunder to fund the outstanding works. If you have any capacity to donate to this cause, it will be greatly appreciated. Full details can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/aldryngton-primary-school---save-our-pool#>

Attendance Update

Children that attend the most at school will make the greatest rates of progress with their learning, therefore at Aldryngton we track attendance rates very carefully. Where attendance drops below 90% it is of particular concern and we will usually write to you to inform you of this at the end of one of our monitoring periods.

The children have now been back over a month and the attendance data is becoming more meaningful. As a school, our average attendance is below our target of 97% and our percentile rank across the country is currently 42. We require your support in helping to improve attendance rates by:

- Not booking term time holidays- these will be unauthorised.
- Scheduling appointments out of school hours where possible.
- Using the NHS guidance below to help with decision making regarding whether your child is too ill for school or not.

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

Attendance across the school is mixed with particular strengths in Y5 and Y3. These year groups are above 97% and are within the top 25% of schools nationally for their attendance. Attendance is a massive concern in



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Y6, where it is within the bottom 3% of schools nationally compared to other Y6 cohorts nationally. It is appreciated that an above average number of children have been sitting grammar school tests, but there has also been a large number of illness reports shared just before test dates. As a result, the school reserves the right to seek medical evidence before making decisions to authorise absence or not.

I have included a table below with full details regarding how each year group currently compares to the national average for their year group as well as their percentile rank.

Year Group	Aldryngton Average	National Average	Percentile Rank
Reception	96.3%	95.3%	56
Year 1	96.7%	95.6%	63
Year 2	95.4%	95.8%	35
Year 3	97.5%	95.9%	76
Year 4	95.7%	95.8%	41
Year 5	97.2%	95.6%	78
Year 6	89.5%	95.2%	3
All Year Groups	95.4%	95.4%	42

Parent Survey 2025 Analysis

In July 2025, we completed our annual parent survey. This year, we received 28 responses, which is 20 fewer than last year.

The leadership team has reviewed the responses and can present the following headlines:

- Percentages in most areas are broadly in line with 2024 outcomes of the survey.
- The highest percentages agreeing or strongly agreeing were in the following categories: my child is happy; my child feels safe; the school has high expectations for my child; my child does well at this school; there is a good range of subjects at the school; my child can take part in clubs and activities.
- The biggest increase has been seen in my child can take part in clubs and activities

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 the largest number of responses:

- Academic excellence and strong teaching
- Staff are kind and approachable
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Engagement with families and sense of community

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

Improvement Area	Response
Tidy up of the grounds	There are a number of areas within the grounds that require work and as mentioned previously, we are constrained by our budgetary position. We

	have recently been informed that we were successful in a grant application from the University of Reading to develop the pond area again. We will use this grant alongside PTA funding to move forward with this project. There will also be a grounds working party for families on the 18th October to support with work on this redevelopment. The long jump track and pit is currently fenced off as the track has raised in several parts and has become a trip hazard in multiple places. The wooden frame of the sand pit has also rotted. We are looking at obtaining some quotes to remove this and we may have to approach the PTA for support with this project. We are also in the process of looking to find a solution to the flooring for the Lower School climbing apparatus as the previous repair to this flooring has broken and has become a trip hazard.
More spread of events taking place in the last half of the Summer term	I would agree that there are a large number of events particularly around the start of July onwards. A couple of years ago, we moved the Key Stage 2 Sports Day out of Sports Week to support with this. The main reason why the events are grouped so closely together is that the school diary is crammed with other commitments at other times. For example, Summer 1 is a short half-term and there is usually a lot of assessment activities taking place during this time. This also carries on into the start of Summer 2. It would be fair to say that at Aldryngton, the number of events taking place exceeds what would take place at a typical school. For example, swimming galas, cross-country, the large number of PTA events and the amount of school trips are more unique to Aldryngton. It is a very busy period of the year, but is not something that we would like to reduce our offer to the children by losing some of these events. To support with forward planning, we publicise the dates within the weekly update. The dates for the year are usually set within the first few weeks of September.
More sports clubs for Lower School and Foundation Stage children	We have looked at increasing this over the past year, but some of these clubs have later been cancelled due to low numbers making these financially unviable to providers. We are always prepared to trial new clubs and if there are some great providers that families are aware of, we would be interested to know.

World Homeless Day: 10th October

We will once again be running a non-uniform day to raise funds for local homeless charities on Friday 10th October. A donation of a minimum of £1 can be made directly to one of the two charities below:

New Beginnings

<https://www.newbeginningsreading.org/donate>

CIRDIC

<https://www.cirdic.org.uk/donation.html>

Individual Photographs: Monday 13th October

A reminder that individual photographs will be taking place on this date. The photographers will also be taking sibling photographs for anyone who would like them. These will be taken before school from 8am- 8:50am.

Due to tight timeframes, we will be unable to take any late arrivals and the closing time for sibling photographs will be 8.50am. If you would like your children to have a sibling photograph, please make sure you come to school between these times. You will also need to remain with your children until the start of the school day.

Accelerated Reader Presentation: Tuesday 14th October (8:50am)

Mrs Dunn will be running a face to face presentation on this in the hall. Entrance will be via the school office. Accelerated Reader is the scheme used from Y2 upwards to the end of Y6 for individual reading once the Read, Write, Inc phonics scheme has been completed. As children complete Read, Write, Inc at different points of the year in Y2, your child may already be on this scheme or due to move on to it later this academic year.

Children complete an assessment that determines the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) that your child can read from. Children can also answer comprehension questions on the books that they have read using their log in details. You can view how your child has performed with their log in details using the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/aldryngtonRL>

This link can also be used for your child to access the associated comprehension quiz for the book that they have read. There are options to search for the book by using the quiz number on the label or by searching for the title or author.

Harvest Festival: Wednesday 15th October

This is taking place on Wednesday 15th October and food is to be left in the hall. We will once again be donating the food to CIRDIC. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

PTA Diwali Fayre: Friday 17th October

This will be taking place after school on Friday 17th October.

Ground Working Party: Saturday 18th October (10am to 1pm)

We will be holding a grounds working party on 18th October. Any help would be greatly appreciated to help clear the pond area for a biodiverse garden. Please let the office know that you are coming as refreshments are provided.

Events List

This week there are two new events scheduled. These are highlighted in yellow.

Date (Time)	Event
Wednesday 8 th , Thursday 9 th and Friday 10 th October	MS trips to Reading Museum

Friday 10 th October	World Homeless Day (assembly to raise awareness and non- uniform day to raise funds for local charities)
Wednesday 15 th October	Harvest Assembly and Collection
Monday 13 th October	Individual School Photographs
Monday 13 th October (2:30pm)	Lower School Diwali Assembly
Week beginning 13 th October	PTA Wieders Bar Sales
Tuesday 14 th October (8:50am)	Accelerated Reader Parent Presentation (in person)
Thursday 16 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 17 th October (9:30am)	Prospective Parent Tour
Friday 17 th October	Show Racism the Red Card (children wear red)
Friday 17 th October	PTA Diwali Fayre
Saturday 18 th October (10am to 1pm)	Grounds Working Party
Tuesday 21 st October	Litterbug Club
Tuesday 21 st October (3:30pm)	RWI Parent Presentation (online)
Thursday 23 rd October	LS trip to Windsor Castle
Thursday 23 rd October	US RE Inspired
Thursday 23 rd October	PTA Disco
Week beginning 27 th October	Half Term
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day (No pupils in school)
Tuesday 4 th November	US Science Dome
Thursday 6 th November	Cross Country League at Cantley Park
Friday 7 th November	PTA Upper School Bake Sale
Monday 10 th November	Prospective Parent Tour
Monday 10 th to Friday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week (wear odd socks on the 10 th).
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need
Week beginning 17 th November	Road Safety Week
Thursday 20 th November	Cross Country League at Lightwater

Friday 21 st November	Junior Music Festival @ Hexagon
Week beginning 24 th November	Parent Evening Week
Week beginning 24 th November	PTA Wrap-a-Present
Tuesday 25 th November	Litterbug Club
Tuesday 25 th November	US trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Tuesday 2 nd December (9:30am)	Prospective Parent Tour
Thursday 4 th December	MS RE Inspired
Saturday 6 th December	PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 8 th December	FS RE Inspired
Wednesday 10 th December (9:15am and 2:30pm)	Lower School Christmas Assemblies
Thursday 11 th December	LS RE Inspired at church
Monday 15 th December (2pm)	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance
Tuesday 16 th December	Litterbug Club
Tuesday 17 th December (AM)	Pantomime
Wednesday 17 th December (2pm)	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of Term Progress reports to parents
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day
Friday 9 th January	Poetry Competition Launched
Wednesday 7 th January (9:30am)	Prospective Parent Tour
Week beginning 12 th January	Team Newsletters out alongside knowledge organisers
Friday 23 rd January	PTA Non-Uniform Day
Week beginning 2 nd February	Children's Mental Health Week-
Tuesday 3 rd February and Thursday 5 th February	US trips to Reading Museum
Thursday 5 th February	Cross Country League at Braywick

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
Thursday 13 th February	PTA Disco
Week beginning 17 th February	Half Term
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
Week beginning 16 th March	Neuro-Diversity Celebration Week
Thursday 19 th March	Cross Country League Relays at Braywick
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
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
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
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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Wieder", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Wieder
Headteacher