

Aldryngton Primary School

Silverdale Road,
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Telephone (0118) 926 5843
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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

Weekly Update: 29th June

Dear Parent/ Carer,

It continues to be a busy time of year with lots going on behind the scenes with preparations for the next academic year. Our new website is coming along, we are continuing to develop our curriculum offer further and working on some new approaches to launch throughout the next academic year in several areas.

We are currently in the process of reviewing our existing behaviour policy. Staff have been receiving training on the Therapeutic Thinking Approach and in due course we will also be looking at approaches suggested by Paul Dix in the book, 'When the adult changes, everything changes.' As part of this process, we will be beginning to trial some changes with managing behaviour at lunchtimes. I will be providing training to lunchtime staff and running an assembly for children to introduce 5 pillars of behaviour practice for staff to follow and three simplified new rules to take place from Monday 5th July. Please find a summary of the pillars and the new lunchtime rules below:

5 Pillars of Behaviour Practice	Lunchtime Rules
1. Consistent calm adult behaviour.	Be Ready
2. First attention for best conduct.	Be Respectful
3. Relentless routines.	Be Safe
4. Scripting difficult interventions.	
5. Restorative follow up.	

I have several updates for you this week:

Traffic Control Behind Silverdale Road Shops

Earlier this term, you may recall that I wrote to you to explain that I had written to Wokingham to see if in controls could be put into place to control this dangerous bend where cars would often come round both sides of the shops. Thank you to all of the families that supported the school community by either stopping this practice or writing into Wokingham yourselves. After some lengthy conversations by email and a successful meeting with Wokingham Highways last week, the agreed solution for now would be to cone off a crossing area during pick up and drop off that provides a walk way for families to cross the road safely and prevent vehicles from travelling around the shops. The cones arrived on Monday morning, so you may have noticed the cones being put in place. Thank you for your continued support in making this area safe.

Car Free Friday: 16th July (Update from Mr Vinulan)

As part of the school's commitment to promote a healthy lifestyle, on Friday 16th July, we are going to run a "Car Free Friday". The aim of this is to get as many people either walking, cycling or scootering to school on that day. Where we understand that this is not always possible and people require their car to travel to work after school drop off, there is a possibility that you could park away from the school and walk the rest of the journey.

It would be a great achievement if we could get all pupils in the school to do this.

Miss Nowell

Unfortunately, Miss Nowell has broken her collar bone and has been unable to be in school. We all wish her well and a speedy recovery. We have been and will continue to cover her absence with staff from Aldryngton that children are familiar with until she is ready to return. At this point, we are unable to specify an exact return date. Please note that pupil reports for Miss Nowell's class will also be delayed and they will be circulated to you in due course.



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Mrs Fenning and Miss Morgan Returning

Next week we will welcome back both Mrs Fenning (Monday 5th July) and Miss Morgan (Thursday 8th July) from their maternity leaves. We will be continuing with the existing class teacher arrangements in class for the remainder of the year. I would like to thank all of the staff that stepped up to cover both maternity leaves and in particular Mrs Culham and Mrs Dunn who both did a great job in their role of Acting Deputy Heads.

Covid Update

Schools and communities up and down the country continue to be impacted by Covid-19. For example, over the last week at Aldryngton, we have three members of staff currently self-isolating after being contacted by Track and Trace. You may have also read in the press about a 70% increase in cases in schools recently. Wokingham is not as affected as other areas of the country, but we all need to remain vigilant.

We all long for a return to more normal practices and as a country we have got to learn to live with Covid. However at this stage of the pandemic, there are still levels of control that schools need to have in place and I appreciate your support with this.

Nationally, the amount of pupils that were required to isolate from schools in bubble closures increased from 40,000 on the 10th June to 172,000 on the 17th June. Having personally experienced several bubble closures at the nursery where my children go, I am well aware of the sudden chaos that this causes for families. We will do all that we can to try and reduce the risk of this happening. Our risk assessment will be under continuous review, but at this stage, could I remind families:

- Adults to wear face coverings unless exempt on entrance to the school grounds.
- That we will not be accepting forgotten items to the office in order to distribute around the school.
- Complete leave of absence requests in advance for any potential off-site transition/ taster days, so that we can contact the school to check that we are satisfied with the Covid arrangements in place. We will work with secondary schools to ensure that any particular Y6 transition arrangements could take place, however at this stage, we would strongly encourage any Y5 taster days during school time to be deferred until after the 19th July. Leave of absence requests can be requested electronically from the office.
- To engage in the twice weekly lateral flow testing programme.

I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support.

Yours sincerely

Mark Wieder
Headteacher

