

Aldrynton Primary School

Silverdale Road,
Earley,
Reading,
RG6 7HR
Telephone (0118) 926 5843
E-mail admin@aldrynton.wokingham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mark Wieder



21st September

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I would like to start off this week's letter by thanking the PTA and anyone who volunteered on Saturday for the Try-a-tri event held at the school. It was my first experience of a fantastic event that brought the school community together. I know that the children really enjoyed the event. The PTA work together closely to organise events such as Try-a-tri and it would be great to get more families involved. The PTA will be having their AGM held over Zoom on Thursday 7th October at 7pm. It will be an opportunity to find out more and sign up to various roles. Your help would be greatly appreciated by the school.

National Fitness Day: Wednesday 22nd September

A reminder that tomorrow we will be celebrating National Fitness Day at Aldrynton. Children will take place in fitness activities throughout the day and may come dressed in their P.E. kit for the entire day.

Parent Governor Vacancies

A reminder that we are currently advertising for parent governors and a separate communication was sent out last week regarding this. If anyone is interested in the role, then I suggest either speaking to me informally on the gate or by making an appointment via the office. The deadline for applications is 9am on Wednesday 29th September.

COVID Update

Following up from my letter yesterday, just to remind families that if you received communication from Track and Trace that you are close contact, you should obtain a PCR test for your child. Providing that your child does not have any of the three main related Covid symptoms, your child is able to attend school as usual whilst you obtain, submit and wait back for test results. We are aware that the availability of PCR tests can vary on each day and I know that each of our families are doing all that they can to obtain tests.

Whilst lateral flow tests are useful for picking up asymptomatic cases in the first instance, a PCR test is far more reliable and should be used when any Covid symptoms are present or when you have been alerted to being a close contact.

I would like to express my thanks to families for supporting the school with seeking PCR tests for their children if they are required to do so.



Online Safety for Pupils

We live in an ever-changing world with our children today having far greater access to online based systems. Like me, most of you in your childhoods would have lived in a world without the internet and with Commodore 64s, Amstrads and ZX Spectrums with stripy loading screens and cassette players. Now there is social media and wide range of different sites and apps that your children may use. Of course, the advancement in technology has brought many advantages, but has also produced some additional risks with it. A sensible starting point for most families is to implement a system of parental controls on the home network. However, to further protect our children from risk of abuse online, I would suggest the following advice:

Be

- Curious about their online lives
- Available
- Honest
- Open to listen and learn
- Reassuring
- Patient

Avoid

- Overreacting
- Judging or blaming them
- Getting emotional or angry
- Assuming you know how they feel
- Threatening to or taking away their access to the internet

This advice comes from the DeShame project led by Childnet (link below). This project was set up after looking at why online abuse is often not reported by children. There is also a section for teenagers, which can be accessed via the link also.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-sexual-bullying-advice-for-parents-and-carers-of-9-12-year-olds>

As part of our computing curriculum we teach about online safety to the children. Some useful websites for parents are:

Think you Know

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

This website gives age appropriate information for children and families. There are also activities that support the learning of online safety for children in most year groups.

Net Aware

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

This website is useful to keep families up to date with the ever-changing sites and apps that children may use. It is run by the NSPCC and there is also an option to search for information by the picture of an app.

Chess Update

Thank you to all the families that have expressed an interest in chess. In the email sent last week nearly 100 children have so far registered their interest. I will work out a schedule over the year, so that all children get an opportunity to participate in chess. I will share this with you next week once final numbers have been confirmed. The first lunchtime clubs will begin in the week beginning Monday 4th October.

Question and Answer session with the Leadership Team via Teams

Next week, I will attach a form with the opportunity for families to submit questions in advance to the leadership team at the school. This event will then be broadcasted to families via Teams on Monday 4th October at 4pm. A recording will then be made available to anyone unable to attend at that particular time.

Events

Please find an updated version of the events calendar published from last week. Changes and new additions have been highlighted in yellow. Please note we have moved the Reception Christmas performance due to a clash with the pantomime booked for the children. We have also put in a repeat session of our school tours for Reception and Y1 families on Tuesday 19th October as I was aware that there was more interest than places available on Monday.

Date	Event
Week beginning 20 th September	Recycling Week (activities/ discussions within classes)
Wednesday 22 nd September	National Fitness Day (children arrive and stay in P.E. kit for the day and complete additional fitness activities)
Tuesday 28 th September	Prospective Parent Tours for 2022-23 cohort
Monday 4 th October (4pm)	Question and Answer session with members of the school leadership team via Microsoft Teams
Thursday 7 th October	Middle School visit to St. Peters Church
Monday 11 th October	World Homeless Day (assembly to raise awareness and non- uniform day to raise funds for local charities)
Wednesday 13 th October	Harvest Festival Collection (please bring in cans and dry food for re-distribution)
Tuesday 19 th October (Arrival from 8:50, 9am start)	School Tours (current Reception and Year 1 only)

Thursday 21 st October	Upper School visit to St. Peter's Church
Week beginning 25 th October	Half Term
Monday 1 st November	INSET Day (No pupils in school)
Tuesday 2 nd November	Science Dome in school (Upper School)
Thursday 4 th November	Lower School R.E. Inspired Visit
2 nd , 3 rd and 5 th November	Reading Museum School Trip (Middle School)
Friday 5 th November	Lower School Diwali Assembly
Week beginning 8 th November	Parent Evenings
Thursday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Friday 12 th November	Windsor Castle Trip (Lower School)
Week beginning 15 th November	Anti-bullying Week
23 rd November	Junior Music Festival at Reading Hexagon (selected pupils)
Thursday 2 nd December	Middle School R.E. Inspired Visit
Monday 6 th December	Foundation Stage R.E. Inspired Visit
Monday 13 th and Tuesday 14 th December (PM)	Foundation Stage Christmas Performances
Wednesday 15 th December	Scroogical Pantomime
Friday 17 th December	Last Day of Term

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Wieder
Headteacher