

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

Weekly Update: 12th October

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I would like to start by thanking all the families for their support especially over the last week with requests to seek PCR testing for their children in both Lower and Middle School. I am hopeful that this measure will be able to break the lines of transmission.

Thank you also to all of the families for their donations for World Homeless Day yesterday. We will be donating the funds raised to New Beginnings.

LFT and PCR Covid Testing

I have been made aware of some confusion in our community between the difference between using PCR and LFT (lateral flow) testing for Covid. Public Health England particularly recommends the use of PCR testing in an outbreak situation as it will pick up more asymptomatic cases. I have been informed that a PCR test is 50% more effective at picking up asymptomatic cases than a LFT (lateral flow). Whilst lateral flow tests are great as an extra measure for quick and straight forward routine testing, they cannot beat the reliability of a laboratory PCR test. This is why we have requested that families use the PCR test to manage the outbreaks currently in Middle and Lower School.

I am aware that there have also been some issues recently where there has been a difference between the results on a PCR and lateral flow, particularly for people with symptoms. Therefore, if anyone finds themselves in a similar situation, I would suggest continuing to isolate and then obtain a further PCR test.

I know that the PCR test brings more work for the families to do and also brings in a waiting time for results, however in order to break lines of transmission, we need to identify as many asymptomatic cases as possible. Thank you once again for your support with this.

Your PTA Needs You!

Our PTA is at risk of folding and we urgently need people from our school community to stand in key roles for our PTA that enable it to function in its charitable status. We currently require a Chair and a Secretary. At our Annual General Meeting last week, nobody at the meeting stepped forward, therefore an extraordinary meeting has been called for on Wednesday 20th October. If nobody steps forward at this meeting, then the PTA will be called to suspend all activity with immediate effect. This means all of the events planned will have to stop until a new Chair steps forward. I can completely understand that people may feel apprehensive about taking on this role. Many of you already have the very difficult task of balancing demanding jobs, extra-curricular activities for the children and having quality family time together. However, the role can be very rewarding and helps ensure that our thriving PTA committee can continue to organise exciting experiences for our children. It is not a significant time commitment, although there are times of the year where it is more busy than other times. Our outgoing Chair, Anil Madineni has explained the role below:

As the Chair of Aldryngton's PTA, you are considered to be the key representative of the organisation from the Charity Commission's point of view. The Chair is generally involved in making decisions around the events/activities which the PTA does throughout the year. This



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could involve liaising with the school, other PTA members or officers or even external vendors. Apart from that, you chair all the PTA meetings too alongside producing reports when needed, and troubleshooting any query or issues if they arise.

I would urge anyone who wishes to help the children in our school community consider this vital role to ensure that the PTA can continue its great work. We are all members of the PTA at Aldryngton and we already have a team of volunteers who are willing and able to run all of the activities. If you haven't done so already, I hope that you consider attending and standing for key committee roles in our extraordinary PTA meeting on Wednesday 20th October.

Parent Governor Elections

A reminder that the ballot will close at 9am on Monday 18th October.

Harvest Festival Collection

This year we will be collecting dried food on Wednesday 13th October. Please could families bring food in on this day only. We will be donating all food to local homeless charities. **Please could all food be left in the gazebo on the playground near the netball court please.**

Yours sincerely

Mark Wieder
Headteacher

