

# Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

Update: 21<sup>st</sup> January

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Since sending out the weekly update on Tuesday, we've had no further positive cases in Foundation Stage. However, there have been four cases reported from Middle School and one case further case reported in Upper School. I would like to reiterate the importance of regular lateral flow testing to pick up asymptomatic cases. We are also finding that children and staff that test positive are having a wide range of symptoms that stretch beyond the three main symptoms. Therefore, if your child is feeling unwell but without the three main symptoms, we would also encourage a lateral flow test.

We have also received several communications from families and are aware of other queries being raised via the various What's App groups that I would like to clarify:

## **Middle School and Upper School Lunchtime Arrangements**

In recent years, children in Middle School and Upper School eating packed lunch have had the opportunity to eat their lunch outside if they wish throughout the year. Myself and Mrs Oliver meet regularly and we thought it would be best to clarify with families what the arrangements are throughout the year as several tweaks have been made over recent weeks. Whilst I acknowledge that it will be impossible to please everybody, the following processes will be in place until further notice. We have trialled and discussed a number of options recently and the following approach is deemed the most appropriate when considering all aspects such as the children's preferences, club arrangements, Covid measures, cleaning requirements and staffing ratios.

- In the Summer term and Autumn first half term, packed lunches will be able to eat their lunch outside first if they wish. If they wish to eat their lunch in the hall, they can get wait until their individual class is called into the hall and eat in the hall.
- In the second Autumn half term and the Spring term, packed lunches will eat their lunch at the same time as school dinners. If the weather is deemed warm enough, then children will be allowed to eat their lunch outside if they wish. This will be communicated when the board for lunch is shown to the children. There is also an outdoor thermometer displayed, so the children can also check this early if they wish. The rationale for this change is that when we trialled with children being called in when it was too cold, many had already eaten their lunch. Therefore, we returned to the arrangement that all children are called for lunch altogether.
- In order to minimise the amount of time waiting, children are called in by class and two signs are displayed: café and lunch. If a child is having a school dinner, they go to the café sign. If they are having packed lunch, they go to that particular sign. At this point, children enter their hall.
- Having reviewed where the picnic tables are located with Mrs Oliver and the number that may possibly opt to eat their lunch outside, I am able to confirm that there is sufficient capacity for children to sit and eat at the benches if outside. Lunch staff will encourage children to sit at benches when they see children sitting on the ground particularly in winter months, however some children prefer to sit on areas such as the astro-turf or grass in summer months.
- Children in Middle School and Upper School are called in to eat from 12:25pm. Lunchtimes begin at 12:15pm. Tables are cleaned between each different user and we keep teams in separate areas of the hall. We also try to reduce contacts by calling children in within classes. On a typical day, the last class from Middle or Upper School will enter the hall for their lunch at around 12:40pm.
- In order to ensure that it is not always the same children going in last, we have adopted the following schedule: Middle School classes will go in earliest on Monday and Friday. Upper School classes will go in earliest on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, children in clubs will be called in first, so on this one day, children will eat with fellow club members in their team rather than their usual class.
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This schedule has been designed around the current lunchtime club timetable and is likely to change if the club timetable changes.

## Spelling Bee Final Arrangements

The trophies have now arrived and today the leadership team met to clarify the final arrangements. A reminder that this is a fun competition and we would like all children to enjoy taking part. Therefore, each child competing will receive a special sticker for participating. Please find the final arrangements below:

Area	Final Arrangements
Foundation Stage	Final on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February. No preceding qualifier
Lower School	Qualifying round on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February. Children asked to spell words as previously communicated, but may have access to a whiteboard and pen to record before saying the spelling. Top 15 in each class go through to the final on Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February at 9:45am in the hall. In the final, children will not have access to the whiteboard and pen.
Middle School	Qualifying round on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February. Children to be given 10 random words from the first three levels stated (30 spellings in total) to spell on paper. Top 15 scores in each class out of the 30 spellings go through to the final on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February at 9:45am
Upper School	Qualifying round on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February. Children to be given 10 random words from the first three levels stated (30 spellings in total) to spell on paper. Top 15 scores in each class out of the 30 spellings go through to the final on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February at 9:45am

I hope that families all have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mark Wieder  
Headteacher

