

# Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

Weekly Update: 18<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As many of you are aware, we have now passed what is typically referred to as 'Blue Monday' and in my assembly with the children yesterday I tried to reinforce the message of positive thought. It is also worth reflecting on the point that according to research, one in six children is suffering from a mental health difficulty at any given time. It was great today to welcome the iCATS team from Oxford University to the school to work on their ground-breaking research into supporting children with anxiety. As a school, we are continuing to invest in our wellbeing screening and support for children where required.

I would particularly like to thank Mrs Boba, our Wellbeing Lead for all of her work in this area. She has compiled a list of useful signposting links on our school website, which can be found using the link below:  
<https://aldryngton.wokingham.sch.uk/home/parents/wellbeing/>

I would like to remind families that we are here to support you, if you need us. If we cannot provide the support ourselves, we can signpost you to relevant agencies to arrange the support that you require.

A reminder that the PTA will be organising an outdoor coffee morning tomorrow from 8:50 to 9:30am. This will be a perfect opportunity to drop in, chat and meet some of the other parents and staff. This will be a perfect opportunity to re-connect with one another.

## Punctuality

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of children arriving after the gates close at 8:50am. I would like to remind families that the soft start exists between 8:40 and 8:50. Children should be ready to start in class by 8:50 to ensure an efficient start to the day. Lessons such as phonics are scheduled to start promptly after school starts and children that are regularly late are missing vital parts of the school day. Thank you for support with this.

## Covid Update

Since my last update, there have been five positive cases shared with the school. Three of which have been in Foundation Stage and one each in Middle and Upper School. Whilst at this point, rates of Covid transmission remain relatively low when compared to last term, it is worth pointing out that this is not the case in many other Wokingham schools. Yesterday alone, there were 707 cases of pupils testing positive in Wokingham schools.

To put things in perspective, this number reported yesterday is more than what is typically reported in a week. Feedback from other local schools where cases are high is that the infection spreads rapidly amongst a group. There are also many asymptomatic cases. For example, in one school, 44 pupils tested positive, but only 8 had any symptoms. Therefore, the importance of regular lateral flow testing for families is very important in infection control for the Omicron variant, which thankfully appears to be causing less side effects than other variants. Close contact tracing is now managed by Track and Trace and not the school. However, as there has been three recent cases in Foundation Stage and due to the close mixing of this group, **I would particularly encourage all families with children aged 5 in Foundation Stage to be alert and engage in regular lateral flow testing if not already doing so.**

Since my last update, there have been further changes nationally again. It is now possible to come back to school on day 6 after testing positive, providing there are two negative lateral flow test results. Another change is the day of self-isolating starting is now day 0 rather than day 1. Accompanying the letter today is an updated blue letter from Wokingham, which explains the updated processes more clearly.

For anyone struggling to obtain lateral flow tests, then they are available on Mondays to Fridays between 8:30am and 5:30pm (8:30am-3:15pm on Saturdays) at Shute End in Wokingham. I also believe that there may be some available at Lower Earley Library between 9am and 4pm on Wednesday.



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## Online Safety

As part of our computing curriculum we teach online safety and refer to the three Cs:

- Content
- Contact
- Conduct

We have filtering systems at school that flag any potential concerns. Incidents in school regarding online safety are as expected very rare, however from time to time, we are made aware of incidents that happen outside of school. We do encourage children to consider the Cs when engaging in any type of activity that uses a device either inside or outside school. When issues do emerge out of school that we are made aware of, we will follow up with children to educate and to work with families where appropriate.

At this time of year, your child may be using their devices more. Some of the children may also have a new device and I would just like to remind parents to ensure that parental controls are in place. Children are often moving on to the latest app and it can be tricky to keep with age limits for the many different apps that exist or emerge.

Internet Matters is a useful website for families to be aware of. This site gives practical advice on areas such as setting up parental controls, social media and balancing screen time. The link for this site can be accessed below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

The specific link for minimum ages on social media platforms can be found on the following link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

Yours sincerely

Mark Wieder  
Headteacher

