SCHOOL YEAR 2024/25- NEWSLETTER NO 6

Dear Friends,

We hope that 2025 has started well for you all and that 2025 is everything that you hoped it would be so far. The staff are certainly doing their bit towards getting the New Year off to an exciting start. Mrs O'Leary is beginning a new adventure (see below) and Mrs Edwards is expecting a new addition to her family in the summer (Congratulations to the Edwards family). As for the rest of the staff, we will quite literally be raising the roof (not quite as exciting as it sounds) over the next couple of months. Beginning in mid-February and finishing towards the end of April we will be replacing the ceilings in the Studio and then the dining room. There will be scaffolding in the playground and skips in the carpark to add to the excitement of the school day. Chestnut Class will be dressed as builders complete with hard hats no doubt and Mrs Cuthill will be hunting out every book that she can find on buildings to read to the Cherry Blossoms. By the time the work is finished we will have well-insulated ceilings in both rooms to help cut down on our energy bills. In addition to that energy saving project we also had all of our lighting system changed to an LED system over the Christmas holidays. We have all the benefits of our light, bright classrooms at a fraction of the cost!

In addition to our premises projects, we have had two exciting visits already this year. Last week Olly Day brought his travelling magic road safety road show to school. The children were treated to a morning of magic tricks and entertainment while learning many important rules for road safety. This will be reinforced for our Year 5 children later on this year when they complete their Bikeability course. Earlier this week we were visited by Rosie from the Norwich Science Festival who taught some of the children in KS2 how to become food scientists. Her combination of puppets and gigantic flowers were engaging and entertaining and fitted perfectly with our science curriculum and forest school.

Later on this term there will be trips to Norwich Cathedral to learn about world religions, Norwich Castle to find out about farming through history, Wroxham Barns to meet the animals and the ever resourceful Mrs Cuthill has the Henry Blogg Museum coming to her – despite it being closed for a year! Add a dodgeball tournament, a drumming assembly with a world renowned drummer, a touring opera performance and maths workshops for parents and it is shaping up to be a good year!

Wishing you a trip-filled, well insulated weekend,
With Best Wishes,
Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough team



Please go to: **www.aldborough.norfolk.sch.uk**



Aldborough Working Together

PARENTS' EVENINGS – CHANGE OF DATE – Our Spring Term Parents' Evenings will take place on Monday 31st March and Wednesday 2nd April (not Thursday 3rd of April as previously stated due to staff training). Please change the dates in your diaries.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK – We are very sorry to be saying good bye to Mrs O'Leary at the end of this half term. Since she first arrived at Aldborough wearing a magician's hat and cape (for her interview!) she has wowed us with her creativity and the excellent support that she has offered to the children in Oak Class. Not only has she provided us with beautiful back drops, props and Advent Calendars she has also kept Mr Hall-Galley organised which is a challenge in itself! We wish Mrs O'Leary all the luck in the world as she heads off to join her husband teaching on Alderney Island. I hope that the islanders are ready for a different Christmas outfit every day in December. Thank you for everything that you have done Kirsty – keep in touch and come back to see us soon.

VACANCY –We have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant in upper Key Stage 2. Further details can be found on our website in the Vacancies section.

CHESTNUT CLASS- The children in Chestnut Class have been treated to a very exciting start to the year. They have enhanced their learning on 'People who help us' with a wide variety of visitors who have shared their information and insight into the roles that they have. The visitors have included paramedics complete with ambulance; a Vicar who shared the many different ways that he helps people; a vet who helped the children to scan their classroom animals and left plenty of bandages and syringes should they be needed; an air ambulance pilot who wowed the children (and the staff!) with how fast she flies her helicopter – 150 miles per hour! Fingers crossed the fire brigade will be visiting soon too. Thank you to all of the parents (the paramedic, Vicar, vet and air ambulance pilot) who have helped to give the children in Chestnut Class such an amazing start to their learning.

JUNIOR DUKE AWARD – We are delighted that so many children have started to do their Junior Duke challenges. Tracy and Kerry have sampled cheese scones, cake pops and mini egg cookies while Mrs Colebrooke has scrutinised a beautifully hand sewn bag and Mr Hall-Galley has assessed the body strength challenge. The children can bring their books along to the office any day from Monday to Thursday so that their challenges can be looked at before celebration assembly on Friday. We are aiming for 10 of the 14 challenges to be completed before the end of the school year. Thank you to all of the parents who are supporting the Junior Duke Award – we hear that you are learning lots about resilience too!!

MOBILE PHONE USE – Could we respectfully ask that parents and carers monitor the messages that children are sending to other children on their mobile devices. A considerable amount of learning time is being wasted sorting out the upset that this is causing. We will continue to teach the children about respectable use of technology in their IT lessons.

BUILDING MATHS CONFIDENCE - TACT (Families) invites all parents and carers from Reception to Year 6 to a free workshop ' Building Maths Confidence'. Hannah Simpson is again leading the session and will work with parents/carers to develop a wider understanding of how math's is taught within the school setting including an understanding of the latest calculation methods used in primary schools plus strategies to support addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We hope that parents/carers will leave feeling more confident in supporting their child with maths within the home environment. At the end of the workshop there will be free resources including place value counters to take home! We do hope that as

many of you as possible will join us for the workshop, or feel free to send along grandparents, aunts or uncles.

All places must be booked using the link below:

Building Maths Confidence Workshops

COOKIES, COFFEE AND COUNTING – Thank you to everyone who was able to join the TACT Families team for the Cookies and Counting Maths workshop earlier this week. We had an amazing turn out and an informative and entertaining afternoon was had by all. We really appreciate all of your support in helping us to help your children in their learning. See details above for another opportunity to learn even more about how Maths is taught in school.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS – It has felt like a very long January with the cold and wet weather. We are sure that many of you, like the staff, are looking forward to spending time in warmer climates. However, we ask that you do not plan holidays in term times especially the children in Year 6 who will be working towards their SATs over the next few weeks. Statistics show that missing a week from school leads to a 10% lower score in any assessment and this is true for all children of any age.

FAMILY LEARNING DAY – Our next Family Learning Afternoon will take place on **Tuesday 18th March.** We will be full of the joys of Spring by then so we do hope you will join us.

DOGS ON THE PLAYGROUND – Just a gentle reminder that we are a dog free school. With the exception of Ozzie our reading dog who comes to work at school every Friday, we do not allow dogs on the school playground. We are a staff of dog lovers, however, we are aware that not all children or parents share our love of our four legged friends and therefore we ask that dogs are not kept by the school gates where children have to walk past them.

PARKING – We know that parking is a problem for many parents especially at the end of the day. We would be most grateful if parents and carers would avoid parking on the bridge as pedestrians have to walk in the road to get past parked cars. Hopefully the weather will warm up soon and more families will be able to park in the village and walk from there in order to avoid congestion.

JUNK MAIL – We have heard from some parents that some of the emails sent from the office go into their junk box and they have missed important information such as swimming session days. Please could you check your junk boxes and change your settings so that Mrs Knight doesn't feel ignored!

CLASS ASSEMBLIES – We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers to class assemblies this term. The assemblies will start at 9.05 a.m. and should last no longer than 20 minutes. Parents and carers are welcome to sign in at the Office immediately after school drop off. The dates for the assemblies are as follows:

Chestnut Class: Friday 28th March 9.05 a.m. (special invite to all Chestnut Mothers!)

Cherry Blossom Class: Friday 4th April 9.05 a.m.

Pine Class: Friday 14th March 9.05 a.m.

Willow Class: **Wednesday** 12th March 9.05 a.m.

Oak Class: Friday 28th February 9.05 a.m.

FOREST SCHOOL –Please make sure that the children have appropriate clothing for their Forest School sessions next half term. **Children need boots or sturdy shoes and gloves and hats.** The days for the Autumn half term are as follows:
Chestnut Class (C1): Wednesday
Cherry Blossom Class (C2 including yr 1 children from Chestnut Class): Thursday

PE KIT - A reminder that all KS2 children will now be coming to school in their PE kits on the day of their PE lessons.
Monday = Pine Class (C3)
Tuesday = Willow Class (C4)
Thursday = Oak class (C5)
Chestnut Class (C1) and Cherry Blossom Class (C2) will need their PE kit in school at all times.
PE kit is a white T-shirt, black or navy shorts and black or navy track suit bottoms/leggings and trainers. The children should wear a sweat shirt for outdoor PE.



Aldborough Information



AT ALDBOROUGH WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ALL CHILDREN WITH THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE NEED ALL CHILDREN TO ATTEND REGULARLY AND PUNCTUALLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MORNING PLAYGROUND DROP OFF – IF YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8.45 OR BEFORE THE MEMBER OF STAFF ARRIVES, PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN UNATTENDED ON THE PLAYGROUND.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL - If your child is absent from school, please call the office number 01263 761264 at the earliest opportunity and leave a message. Please call each day of your child's absence, giving your child's name and reason. Please do not email, although we appreciate it can be easier for you to quickly do this, we cannot guarantee that the email has been received and therefore your child would be registered as 'Missing in Education', which then prompts Safeguarding measures to be taken. **Attendance is reviewed regularly. ATTENDANCE AT LESS THAN 95% WILL INSTIGATE ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION**

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS –Please keep your eye on The Friends of Aldborough Primary School Face Book page for ways in which you can help. **Please speak to the committee about different ways that you could help us.** Thank you as always to The Friends for their enthusiasm and energy and for all of the parents and carers for supporting the different events.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL – Parents and carers are reminded that any medicine that comes to school must be handed in to the school office and the appropriate paper work must be completed. Please ensure that all prescription medication is in the original pharmacy container/packaging, which includes the child's name and the necessary dosage/instructions. If prescription medicines do not have this information then school staff are unable to administer the medication.

SCHOOL WEBSITE – We are continually updating our school website to include information about the children's learning in each term and in each class. Please do familiarise yourself with the website as it provides lots of information about the curriculum. You will also find our

safeguarding, SEND and behaviour policies on the website along with many others. **We are often asked to provide work for children who are going on holiday during term time.** This is not something that we do due to the pressure that it puts on teacher workload in addition to the additional workload involved with helping the children to catch up when they return to school. The website is an excellent source of information for those parents who wish their children to work during term time holidays. **AT ALDBOROUGH WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ALL CHILDREN WITH THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE NEED ALL CHILDREN TO ATTEND REGULARLY AND PUNCTUALLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**

HEALTHY SNACKS, LUNCHES AND BIRTHDAY TREATS – Please ensure that the snacks and packed lunches that the children bring to school are healthy and nut free. We work very hard as a school to support health and well-being and the contents of some lunch boxes make consistent messages difficult for the children to understand. It would be much appreciated if birthday treats, which are shared with the class, are also sugar free and consistent with children's health and well-being. Please avoid sugary lollipops in particular. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

JEWELLERY AND HAIR - The only jewellery allowed in school is one pair of stud earrings and these are not allowed to be worn on PE days. No other jewellery is allowed. For your child's comfort and hygiene please ensure that all long hair is tied up every day.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT –Aldborough Primary now has 3 'Mental Health First Responders' on site to help members of our community should they have a need. If you think we can help you in anyway please do not hesitate to contact either via email: office@aldborough.norfolk.sch.uk or phone 01263 761264. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

ALDBOROUGH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – Please email enquiries/bookings to afterschoolclub@aldborough.norfolk.sch.uk Further information and booking forms are available on the school website. There will be plenty of outdoor play and art activities available with ASC staff working hard to plan and provide activities. The team continue to provide tasty snacks.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Breakfast Club is available daily from 8am in the dining room. Pre-booking is advised to be guarantee a place, however children can attend on the day without the need to pre-book. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE DOORS TO BREAKFAST CLUB WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL 8.00a.m

FSM APPLICATIONS – Have your family circumstances changed? If so your child/children may be eligible for Free School Meals. Money provided to the school can also be used to provide additional support for a child's learning or financial help with learning opportunities/resources. It is always worth making an application. Please go to: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk If you need help or have any queries, please contact Mrs Knight in the office who will be very happy to help you. All information will be treated confidentially.

FOOD BANK- If you aren't already aware, Aldborough Primary is able to refer families in need to the Foodbank; please don't hesitate to contact us if you need some help. All support is provided confidentially.

DATES LIST 2025	
	JANUARY
Wednesday 29th January	**Dodgeball Tournament Bure Valley (invited players from KS2)**
Friday 31st January	**Pine Class Cake Sale after school**
	FEBRUARY
Tuesday 11th February	**Henry Blogg Museum to visit Cherry Blossom Class in school**
Thursday 13th February	**Building Maths Confidence Parent/Carer workshop 1.30-3.00**
Monday 17th – Friday 21st January	**HALF TERM**
Friday 28th February	**Oak Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. All Oak class parents and carers invited.** **Cherry Blossom Class Cake Sale after school**
	MARCH
Wednesday 12th March	**Willow Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. All Willow Class parents and carers invited.**
Thursday 13th March	**The Vanishing Forest Touring Opera (Yrs 4,5 and 6)**
Friday 14th March	**Pine Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. All Pine Class parents and carers invited.** **Trip to Wroxham Barns for Chestnut Class**
Tuesday 18th March	**Family Learning Afternoon**
Wednesday 19th March	**Norwich Cathedral Trip – Pine Class**
Tuesday 25th March	**Year 6 STEAM visit to Gresham**
Friday 28th March	**Chestnut Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. All Chestnut Class parents and carers invited especially the Mums!** **Chestnut Class Cake Sale after school**
Monday 31st March	**Parents' Evening 3.30 p.m. 5.30 p.m.**
	APRIL
Tuesday 1st April	**Norwich Castle Trip – Willow & Oak class**
Wednesday 2nd April	**Parents' Evening 3.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**
Friday 4th April	**Cherry Blossom Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. All Cherry Blossom Class parents and carers invited.** **Last day of Spring Term**