

14 September 2020

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021 - NEWSLETTER NO 3

CERTIFICATE - Well done to these children who received the certificates for the first week of the new school year from their teachers.

Mrs Goode and Mr Allen	-	Loujain Kaimouz
Mr Baykaa-Murray	-	Evie North
Mr Dean	-	Jack Baines
Mrs Long and Mrs Duffy	-	Emilia Weaver
Miss Moore and Miss Ramli	-	Alessia Merlino
Mr Evens	-	Caitlin Davis
Mr Garcia	-	Layla Rew
Mrs Leonard	-	Harper Stewart
Miss Hake	-	Henry Millman

Reception classes will start to receive certificates when they start full time in school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

As you will know the need for social distancing is becoming very much part of the Covid safe plan for all environments. The 'rule of 6' is an important part of this plan. School is no different to anywhere else. Although the news stated that schools were exempt, this actually means inside school not outside. Therefore, when bringing the children to school and collecting at the end of the day there is a greater need to social distance yourselves unless you are in the same household. One of the main car park gates will be open in the morning and end of school to alleviate the pinch point at the pedestrian gate. Please use this as an exit rather than entry. Please be respectful of the risk assessment that we have sent to all parents, which asks everyone to maintain social distancing. We all need to play our part to keep the children, adults and parents with our school community safe and well. Thank you in advance for your co-operation. Attached to the newsletter email are two documents sent by South Gloucestershire Council for parents on this issue.

ATTENDANCE

The school is asked to set an attendance target every year. We have always maintained high overall attendance throughout my time here at Almondsbury. The target for the year is 97% and we would be really pleased to achieve this during the current climate.

A reminder that the children should be in school, however if they are not well enough to be here then please keep them at home. You need to ring school to let us know of an absence as soon as possible. When you leave a message or speak to either Mrs Heaps or Mrs Ashenden please let them know why your child is not in school. If you feel that any symptoms your child/ren may have is Covid related please book a test for the whole family. All the children will need to stay home until you have the results of that test (as stated in the letter dated 1 September). If you are in need of booking a test please follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

I also need to remind you that **no term time absence for holidays** will be authorised. I look forward to reporting another high attendance year and even higher achievement by the children.

Lateness can also cause the children to have an unsettled time during the first part of the morning as they miss the social interaction at the start of the day as well as registration and the first part of the lesson. It is very important that the children arrive on time in the morning at the allotted time. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL NEWS APP

We hope that you are all enjoying our new website and all the features that it has to offer. One of the features we have available is the School News App. It is very easy to download onto your smart phone from either Google Play (for Android) or the App Store (for iPhones) and it's free! Once downloaded, search for Almondsbury Church of England Primary School and add it to 'Your Schools'. Any information we need to send you is pushed out from our website to the app. It's a great way to keep informed and in touch. Just look for the orange icon.



PARKING

This is the usual plea for all parents to please park sensibly and safely for the good of all the children. These are difficult times and the parking issue should not be adding to them. Therefore, I am asking every single parent to really think carefully about where and how you park your car. Be considerate of others and be aware of the time you need to be at school so plan ahead and ensure you leave yourself plenty of time to park safely to drop off and collect your children. Thank you in advance.

MESSAGE FROM THE ROAD SAFETY TEAM

Would you like to help the children from your local community travel to school safely? We have a vacancy for a school crossing patrol at the school. It is for 5 hours per week, working morning and afternoon shifts Monday – Friday, 8.30 – 9.00 am and 3.25 – 3.55 pm, term time only. Training and uniform are provided. Rate of pay is £8.72 per hour. Please contact Wendy Feltham on 01454 863611 or at wendy.feltham@southglos.gov.uk for an informal discussion and an application form.

PA NEWS

LOTTERY - We have now signed up to a new lottery. Tickets are still £1 each but you now have the opportunity to win £25,000! There is also the usual guaranteed weekly pot to win. Please support the school by signing up. Visit www.onelottery.co.uk and search for "Almondsbury School". Link on the attached leaflet. https://www.onelottery.co.uk/cause-data/9162d0cf-c448-4965-88cf-832f84d78318/leaflets/8de17454-9873-426e-80bb-96c1158a05a4/one_lottery_we've_launched!%20-%20digital.pdf?updated=637353178038100000

PA FUNDS RAISED – The PA would like to say a huge thank you for your help in raising funds for the last academic year. See poster attached for details.

BOTTLE BUDDI - Safely attach a drinking bottle to your child's book bag, helping to avoid bottle spillages and free hands, available to purchase from the school reception. SPECIAL PRICE £6.50, RRP £8.99. All proceeds raised will go towards Almondsbury School Parents Association, who are currently raising funds for new school laptops and library books.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES - We currently have vacancies for two lunchtime supervisors. If you are interested in becoming part of our lunchtime team, then please contact the office for more details. The hours are 12 noon to 1.30pm Monday to Friday. I hope that we will be able to recruit very shortly.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are a number of websites that will be helpful for each child to investigate to help them with their home learning. This week's website is: <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

LETTERS SENT OUT LAST WEEK AND POSTED ON WEBSITE		
CONTENT	YEAR GROUP	INFORMATION OR ACTION
Letter for Parents	Mrs Leonard's class	Information and action
Flu Vaccination Letter	All year groups	Information and action

Best wishes

Mr Paul D Smith
Head Teacher

DATES 2020/21**TERM 1**

Thursday 17 September
 Friday 18 September
 Monday 21 September
 Tuesday 22 September
 Wednesday 23 September
 Thursday 24 September

Virtual Pedestrian training for Year 5
 Virtual Road Safety training for Year 3
 Reception in for lunch all week
 School cross country for Years 5 and 6
 School cross country for Years 3 and 4
 Reception parents Reading and Phonics workshop via Zoom 9.30am

Friday 25 September
 Monday 28 September
 Friday 2 October
 Tuesday 6 October

School cross country for Years 1 and 2
 Virtual Parents meeting re start of term with Mr Smith 2.00pm
 Reception children start full time
 Trial music lessons for drums start today
 Reception parents Funky Fingers workshop via Zoom 9.30am
 Virtual Harvest Festival during the afternoon

Thursday 8 October
 Wednesday 14 October
 Monday 19 October
 Friday 23 October

PA Committee meeting 7.30pm via Zoom
 Reception parents Mathematics workshop via Zoom 9.30am
 Black History Month themed week of activities
 End of Term 1

TERM 2

Monday 2 November
 Tuesday 3 November
 Tuesday 3 – Friday 6 November
 Thursday 5 November
 Wednesday 11 November
 Thursday 12 November
 Friday 13 November
 Tuesday 17 November
 Tuesday 15 December
 Friday 18 December

INSET DAY – School closed to children
 Start of Term 2
 Book Week
 PA committee meeting 7.30pm
 Remembrance Day and activities
 Parents Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm
 Children in Need Day
 Parents Evening 7.30pm
 Christmas Lunch day
 End of Term 2

Term dates for 2020/21

Term	Starts	Ends
Term1	Tuesday 1 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Term 5	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021
INSET DAYs confirmed	Tuesday 1 September 2020 Monday 2 November 2020 Monday 4 January 2021 Friday 28 May 2021	1 more date to be confirmed