

28 September 2020

Dear Parents

## SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021 - NEWSLETTER NO 5

**CERTIFICATES** – Well done to these children who received the certificates for the past week from their teachers.

Mrs Goode and Mr Allen	-	Freya Pearce
Mr Baykaa-Murray	-	Livai Smith
Mr Dean	-	Tobias Lazz-Onyenobi
Mrs Long and Mrs Duffy	-	Lewis Maddock
Miss Moore and Miss Ramli	-	Riley Jenkins
Mr Evens	-	Imogen Truscott
Mr Garcia	-	Ruhee Babariya
Mrs Leonard	-	Rory Smith
Miss Hake	-	Poppy Ford

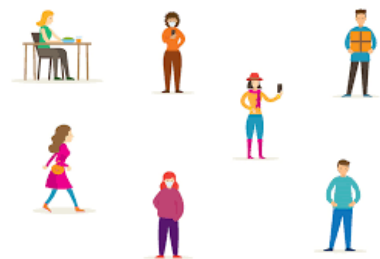
Reception classes will start to receive certificates when they start full time in school.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

**Thank you so much to those parents who are setting good examples for children and others to follow regarding social distancing.**

In light of the greater restrictions placed on the country as from last Thursday, it is increasingly important that we stick to all the social distancing rules and guidance wherever we are. Unfortunately, we received a complaint from a member of the community last week regarding this very issue when parents are leaving the school after collection. Whilst we are unable to do anything about this when you are not on school grounds, we can insist that the rules are applied. Thank you for your co-operation. Things are improving in the car park and playground, however we all have to be extremely mindful of the health and wellbeing of everyone.

I have to say that the children, when in school, have been adhering to the new routines, procedures and rules extremely well. They know the hand washing regulations, cleaning, staying within their class bubbles at play times and lunchtimes plus how to attempt to remain socially distanced. Their return to school has been very successful.



### PARENTAL CONSULTATION – ZOOM WITH MR SMITH

I would like to say thank you to all those parents who were able to join me on Zoom on Friday afternoon to discuss the communication, re-opening of school and next steps. I found it a really positive meeting with lots of useful comments. It was good to hear from parents, their experiences of the school closure but also how the letters and website have been received over the past few months. We discussed the level of communication from school regarding all of the changes to routines and information sent out over lockdown and returning to school. All parents were positive about this and welcomed the information despite there being so much of it.

We also discussed the work set during lockdown and contact between children and teachers. Most were happy with this but some would have liked to have seen feedback from teachers on work. During this time the letters did encourage parents to send in work and lots did. However, when it came to Term 6 all of the teachers were in the bubbles teaching so this may not have been possible.

The return to school has gone very smoothly for all and parents have appreciated this as well as their children enjoying being back with their friends. Positive comments are always appreciated by the staff so

thank you for those. One element highlighted was the amount of hand washing that is taking place. **Some children are finding that their hands are becoming dry or cracked and sore. If this is the case for your child then please do send them to school with a small tube of hand lotion that they will need to administer themselves. This can be kept in school if possible.**

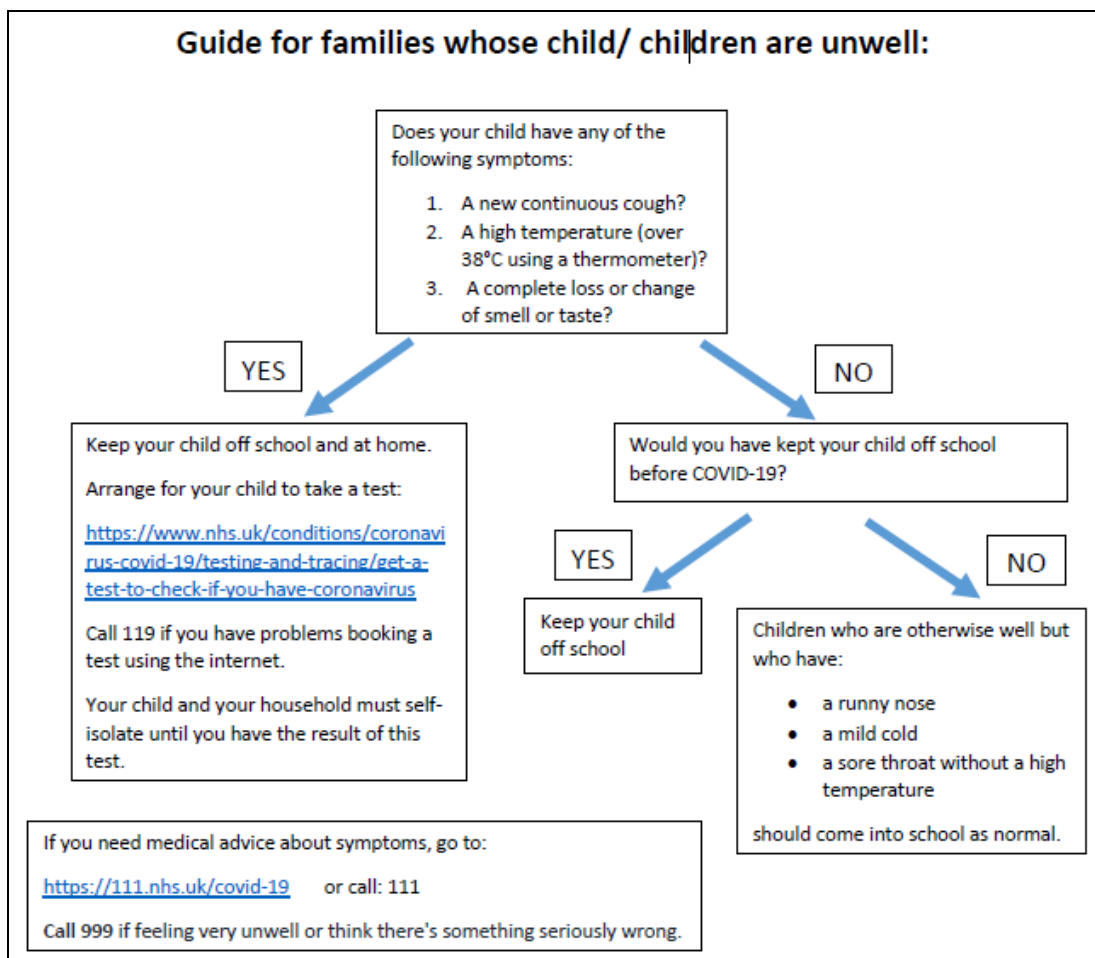
The next theme was regarding those children who are having to self-isolate or subsequent bubble or lockdown closures and work being set. The letter attached to this email will explain this further so please do make sure you read it.

One of the most discussed items was the **lack of social distancing from parents in the playground** and outside on the pavement. I appreciate that we have tried our best to provide these messages over the past three weeks. Many parents are abiding by these, however there are some who are still not. **There was a request and general consensus for the school to ask parents to wear masks on the school site.** This is being considered but if you would feel more comfortable wearing a mask then please do so. This may be a rule that we will have to enforce in the very near future. We discussed extending the bubbles to key stages and perhaps for the staggered collection times. We will have to see how this may work. We are also starting a trial of the children in Reception and Years 5 and 6 having lunch in the Hall this week (at different times). If this is successful we may be able to extend this to all children and offer a wider range of meals. I will keep you informed of how it goes.

There will be another session similar to Friday's either towards the end of this term or beginning of next term for us to catch up and for me to see how things are going from a parent's perspective. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

### **A reminder about when and when not to send your children to school**

If you or your child or older siblings at different school have symptoms of Covid 19 you must self-isolate immediately until you have have a test and the results have been returned. Please ensure you inform the school as soon as you can to inform the office as we have to report all suspected and positive cases to Public Health England on the same day. A letter is being emailed alongside the newsletter with information about work being sent home if your child has to self-isolate. Please note work will not be sent home for other absences as is normal practice unless due to a hospital stay and recovery for a specific reason. The government have written a letter to all parents setting out when you should and should not have your child tested. Please follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>



Email address: [office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

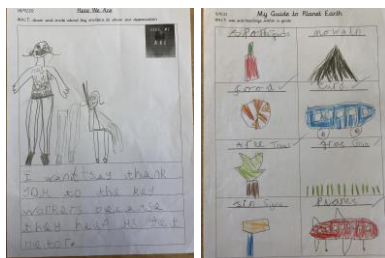
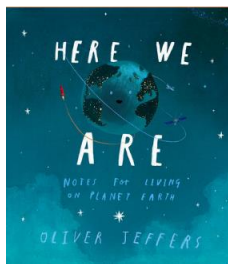
Website: [www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk](http://www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

## MEDICAL RECORDS

We are updating our medical records for the children. If your child has had a change in their medical status recently and we don't know about it already, can you please let either their class teacher or the office have the details. Many thanks.

## CURRICULUM

At Almondsbury we pride ourselves on our curriculum and how well the children learn. As you know we have been implementing our 'Re-engagement' curriculum, which at the heart of it is the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. This has taken the children's imagination and the work completed has been excellent. We are creating long standing displays from this work across the school. The book *'is a tour through the land, the sea, the sky, our bodies; dioramas of our wild diversity and a sense of unity of everyone on the planet'*. The children have completed artwork, poems, letters, creative writing and much more. This has been complemented by the use of the children's 'Happy boxes' and scrapbooks which they



eagerly shared with each other at the start of the term.

The children have also been working through back to school transition units in mathematics based on number, explanation or reasoning of how calculations are solved. This has enabled the teacher to assess where the children's learning 'gaps' which are to be addressed over the coming weeks and term.



Our focus has also been on the wellbeing and mental health of all children as well as their understanding of the times we are living through. The activities have provided them the time to reflect on their wellbeing and how well they are interacting with others as well as their own thoughts and feelings. These have been very successful with the children reporting that they have helped them return to school easily.



It is now time to restart our normal curriculum offer which has changed for this year. We have a few new topics that the children will be able to learn about. The learning has been re-sequenced to enable the children to have more reinforcement and re-visiting of concepts before embarking on new ones. The Knowledge and Understanding curriculum team (Mrs Goode, Miss Wingett, Miss Hake and Mr Garcia) worked tirelessly during the partial closure of school during the summer term to put the final touches for the rest of the teachers to then plan their weekly learning from the overviews. These can be seen on the Knowledge and Understanding page on the website. They are also included in the class jigsaw curriculum maps on each class webpage.

Please do make sure you have a read of these to know what the children will be learning this term. We are very excited by these new aspects of learning and look forward to the children's work.

There are many updates on the website which have been uploaded over the past few months relating to the curriculum. Thank you to all the teachers in each of the curriculum teams for their hard work. Please do have a look at <https://www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum&pid=7>

Each fortnight the newsletter will feature an aspect of the curriculum across the school for you to see how everything is working.

## PA NEWS

Don't forget the AGM and PA meeting on Thursday 8 October at 7.30 via Zoom.

The children are busily creating designs for this year's Christmas card fund raiser. The designs will be sent home next week for you to look at. Please complete the order form if you wish to see your child's design on your very own Christmas cards for 2020.



This term we are delighted to be participating in the IQ Card fundraising project. Funds raised through your purchases will be used to the benefit of the school. The festive card designs will be sent home with your child/ren before the 2nd of October. IQ Cards will print this design into a high quality greeting cards. Postcards, Gift Wraps and Sticky gift labels are also available. Your child's name will be printed onto the products for that personal touch. All completed order forms and payments must be returned to your child's class teacher by the 16th of October. The quality and price of these products is fantastic and they are perfect to send to friends and family, please support the school by ordering. All ordered products will be back in school by the beginning of December.

## PA 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](http://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](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)

## 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.


We sadly have had to say goodbye to one of longest serving lunch break supervisors Mrs Jenny Banks. Mrs Banks has worked for Almondsbury since 1998 – that is an impressive 22 years looking after the children. We will all miss her and wish her all the very best for her retirement.

## 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.bbc.co.uk/education/highlights/sections/primary>

LETTERS SENT OUT LAST WEEK AND POSTED ON WEBSITE		
CONTENT	YEAR GROUP	INFORMATION OR ACTION
Letter re Mr Baykaa-Murray's absence	Mr BM's class	Information
Letter re learning when absent from school	All	Information

Best wishes



Mr Paul D Smith  
Head Teacher

## DATES 2020/21

### TERM 1

Monday 28 September

Friday 2 October

Tuesday 6 October

Thursday 8 October

Monday 12 October

Tuesday 13 October

Wednesday 14 October

Monday 19 October

Friday 23 October

### 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

Reception children start full time

Trial music lessons for drums start today

Reception parents Funky Fingers workshop via Zoom 9.30am

PA AGM AND Committee meeting 7.30pm via Zoom

Rags 2 Riches collection (Before 9am)

Virtual Harvest Festival during the afternoon

Reception parents Mathematics workshop via Zoom 9.30am

Black History Month themed week of activities

End of Term 1

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

Email address: [office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk](http://www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

**Term dates for 2020/21**

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