

3 November 2020

Dear Parents

## SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021 - NEWSLETTER NO 9

**LETTERS OF COMMENDATION** – Well done to these children who received the Letters of Commendation for last term from their teachers. They were awarded for many different things including: positive attitudes to learning, being conscientious, behaviour and kindness.

Mrs Goode and Mr Allen	-	Loujain Kaimouz	Freya Pearce
Mr Baykaa-Murray and Miss Winter	-	Evie North	Ruby Williams
Mr Dean	-	Kaden Lillis	Florrie Wrigley
Mrs Long and Mrs Duffy	-	Dylan Gale	Oliver Mancey
Miss Moore and Miss Ramli	-	Olivia Beard	Sebastian Timmins
Mr Evens	-	Rosie Rimmer	Eloise Payne
Mr Garcia	-	Eli Gardner	Marshall Haines Woodhouse
Mrs Leonard and Miss Harvey	-	Hugh Watson	Jessica Price
Miss Hake	-	Effie Macleod	William Jarvis
Mrs North	-	Ameera Rowe	Elaya Merlino Thompson
Miss Wingett	-	Oli Vornicu	Eddie Acford

### COVID UPDATES

We had hoped to extend our outside bubble groups to include the key phases. However, due to the national lockdown that will begin on Thursday we have postponed this until the new year. This means we will still need to use the field at lunch times to accommodate all the children outside. Therefore, we will need all of the children to have a change of footwear in school to enable them to use the field. Thank you. Lunches in the Hall have gone particularly well and it will be the turn of Year 3 and 4 for the first fortnight of November to have lunch in the Hall.

As part of our school risk assessment we have to ventilate the classrooms, as per the guidance from the DFE and HSE. Therefore, despite the heating being on in school, the classrooms may become colder than normal. Therefore, please ensure that the children have plenty of layers to keep them warm.

I am pleased that our efforts are keeping Covid at bay within the school. There have been no positive test results for any pupil or adult working in school and I am hoping that it remains that way. This is down to the sensible approach and strict application of our risk assessments in school.

### PARENTS EVENING NOVEMBER 2020

I can see that 70% of parents have now booked their slots for the upcoming Parents Evenings. **You have until this Friday 6 November to book.** I hope that you found it easier to use and book. If you are unable to join us on the Zoom call then please call the office to request a telephone conversation with your child's class teacher instead.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

The last week of Term 1 saw the children investigate lots of different themes around Black and Ethnic Minority history including famous people from around the world. The children found out what influences have been left as part of a legacy through books, actions, campaigns and changes to the law. Most of the classes created artwork linked to this theme and wrote poetry inspired by authors such as Benjamin Zephaniah.



## BOOK WEEK

We are really looking forward to our Book Week this week. Today has been 'Drop everything and read'. This evening we start our Book at Bedtimes. These will be held tonight, tomorrow and Thursday at 6.30pm. As there is a wide range of ages we have decided that each key phase will have their own story time. Please look out for the text message with the Zoom code and password on to join in with us. We also look forward to seeing the book character day on Friday and the efforts that the children (and their parents) make. The Book Fair will be an experiment this year with only children allowed. I hope you were able to have a good look through the catalogue that was sent home. The children will be visiting the Book Fair in school in small groups over the fortnight we have the fair. You will then be able to talk to your child/ren about the books and buy these through the online purchasing order system. Everything we do is to encourage your child's reading.



A plea from the English team – There are quite a lot of library books which are at home. Please could you look for these and return them so they can go back into the library stock as we will be starting to use the library after half term. Thank you.

## RECEPTION AUTUMN DAY



On Wednesday 21 October Reception took part in an 'Autumn day'. They began by following clues around the field to find Leafman, who had gone missing the day before! They were very excited when they finally found him in the vegetable patch in between the pumpkins! The children then had great fun getting muddy and digging up the carrots, potatoes and pumpkins.



Once back inside, the children learnt how to safely use peelers and knives to prepare the vegetables to make their own vegetable soup.

To celebrate finding Leafman, the children made their own leaf crowns by collecting leaves and sticking them onto a headband. They also used clay and twigs to make their own clay hedgehogs.



In the afternoon, the children learnt how to make bread and cooked it on long sticks around the firepit. They enjoyed their homemade soup and bread around the fire whilst singing lots of songs. Despite the rain they all had a fantastic day!



## POPPY SALES AND MERCHANDISE

We do have poppies for sale in school and associated merchandise (see the image below). These will be on sale at the end of the day at the front of the school for parents and children to buy. There are suggested prices for the merchandise and a suggestion of 20p for a poppy (or more if you would like to donate more). Although there won't be the usual services up and down the country with different uniformed groups we will still be completing activities next Wednesday to mark the day.



**ATTENDANCE** – I am pleased to let you know that our attendance for last term was at 97.3%. This is above the national and South Gloucestershire average. I do hope that we continue to enjoy a high attendance. Well done to Mr Evens's class who have the highest class attendance at an impressive 98.5%!

High attendance is very important for all of the children to be able to achieve and do well throughout their time at Almondsbury. This is particularly important after the events of the past year and children missing out on full learning in school. As usual any child's attendance that falls below 90% will be contacted by myself to discuss how we can make sure the attendance improves. I am sure that this will not be the case and I do hope we will be able to see all children's attendance at a high figure and that they are able to succeed in their learning. There will be circumstances taken into account should as periods of self-isolation if necessary to maintain a Covid free school.

Just a reminder that **no term time absence for holidays** will be authorised.

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. Thank you for your support.

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

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

## STAFFING CHANGES

There are a few staffing changes just to note from this week. Mrs Carolyn Hill, who was supporting Mrs North's class will be sharing her time between the two Reception classes from this term. Mrs Beckie Jones will be moving from the Cwtch to Mrs North's class as the permanent class teaching assistant. Mrs Leonard is still recovering from her operation and we have welcomed Miss Olivia Pope to teach the class until her return.

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2021

If you have a child aged 4 by 31 August 2021 you will need to apply for a primary school place by 15 January 2021. The admissions portal is now open for applications. Due to the changes brought about by the national lockdown, we will not be able to invite prospective parents into school. Therefore, all tours will now be held online as follows.

### Small school tours

Thursday 5 November 4.30pm	Tuesday 24 November 4.30pm
Tuesday 10 November 4.30pm	Tuesday 8 December 4.30pm
Monday 16 November 4.30pm	Thursday 7 January 4.30pm

If you would like to join one of these tours then please email the office to book. The codes for the Zoom meetings will be sent to those who require them prior to the meeting.

## PA NEWS

Due to the lack of cake sales this year, the funds that are collected for each class are now not being able to be funded. Therefore, we have decided to create Amazon wish lists for each class. These wish lists have many different resources that can be purchased for the class to use. There are lots of different items for you to look at and purchase. Please follow the link below and look for your child's class wish list.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/HUHI47QHQPJD?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/HUHI47QHQPJD?ref=wl_share)

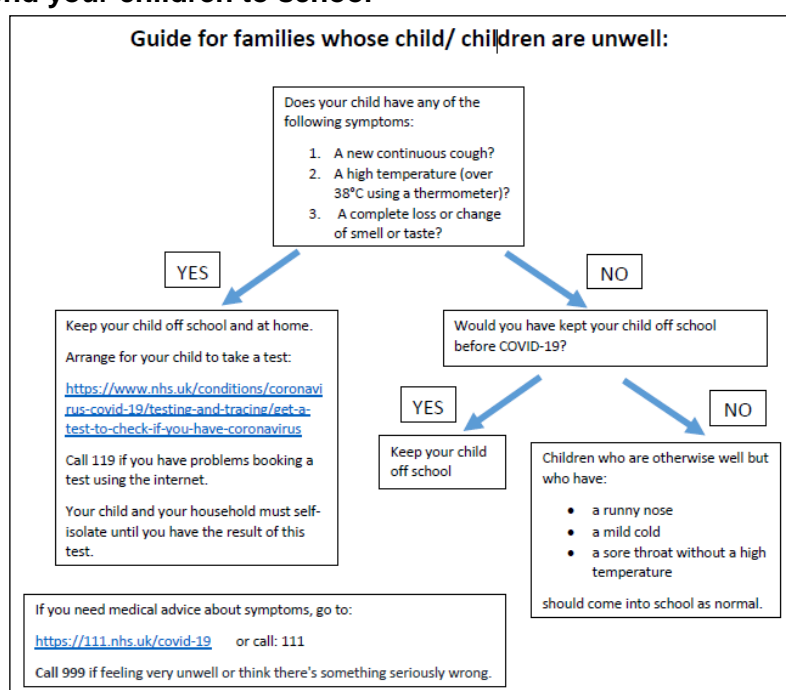
**We would like to thank those parents who have already purchased some of the items. This support is much appreciated.**

## LOTTERY NEWS

We've had our first 2 winners each winning £20!! You can still sign up to the lottery by going to [www.onelottery.co.uk](http://www.onelottery.co.uk) and searching for Almondsbury School.

## 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>

## LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES


We currently have a vacancy for one lunchtime supervisor. 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.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/>

LETTERS SENT OUT LAST WEEK AND POSTED ON WEBSITE		
CONTENT	YEAR GROUP	INFORMATION OR ACTION
		Information
		Information

Best wishes



Mr Paul D Smith  
Head Teacher

### DATES 2020/21

#### 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**

**Flu Immunisations**

**Book Week**

**Explorer Dome Experience visit for Reception and Year 1 and 2**

**Remembrance Day and activities**

**Individual photographs**

**Parents Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm**

**PA Meeting 7.30pm**

**Children in Need Day**

**Parents Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm**

**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