

8 February 2021

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021 - NEWSLETTER NO 21



REMOTE LEARNING

Once again, thank you for all your support and work with your children at home on the home learning. I know that the teachers are working hard in school with both supporting the children here as well as remote learning at home, but we are in awe of you trying to juggle your own jobs and helping your children at the same time.

I hope that the lessening of the afternoon session on a Friday has enabled some of you to catch up and also have some family time, if

possible. The afternoon session catch up chats were popular last week so will be a key feature of the afternoons going forward.

Well done to all of the children who are uploading all of their work on a daily basis as it's good to see how they are getting on. Don't forget you can always email the work to your child's teacher if you struggle with Google Classroom. Keep going with it. As with our Value for Life theme this term in worship it is all about 'perseverance' and I am so pleased with everyone for displaying this value with excellent outcomes. You are all stars!



SURVEYS



Thank you to those parents and children who have responded to the surveys about our Remote Learning. The overwhelming responses were extremely positive and we are appreciative of the lovely comments for the teachers, which I have shared with them. The live teaching sessions are much welcomed by children and pupils as is the engagement with these. We are very pleased by the responses and how the remote learning and quality of teaching on the live

sessions is helping everyone at home. We know that this is not the first choice for anyone but unfortunately there is no option currently for whole school learning in school so we are making the best of what we can do. There were some aspects where parents and children had queries regarding some elements of the remote learning. I think that some of these have been addressed over the past week already in terms of class chats in the afternoons, having an afternoon for 'catch up learning or family time'. Others asked about the organisation of Google Classroom and some rejigging of these has now taken place to help both children and parents. We are also using more breakout rooms and small group sessions with those who require these. Due to the number of staff in school it is not always possible to have every child in a breakout room or a small group. Hopefully, at some point everyone will have had the opportunity for this.

With regards to feedback of work, the system has been shared a few times now with the focus on whole class feedback as well as some individual feedback to pupils as required. I know that the teachers are sharing this on a daily basis for all the children and identifying where they have done well and what needs to be improved. This is a system we use in school when all of the children are in learning, so they should be used to this.

If there are aspects of the remote learning that parents have 'dissatisfaction' with please do contact me as those who responded as such were anonymous and we can't address any issues that may be personal unless we know who to speak to. This also includes the clarity of and regularity of communication. Again if you don't think this is sufficient please let me know what is missing for you and we can rectify it. We want to work with parents to get things right for your children and yourselves. However, I do think (and I know I am biased) that we are providing an excellent remote learning offer and in my work around the local authority in comparison with other schools it holds up very well.

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

The results of the survey are posted on the website for you to look at.
<https://www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=71>

SAFER INTERNET

This week is Safer Internet day. This is taking place on Tuesday 9 February. I have included some links for parents to look at before then. The first one provides you with some 'at home' activities and the second one contains some videos highlighting the importance of safer use of the internet for both parents and children.

[I am a parent or carer | Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Safer Internet Day 2021 films | Safer Internet Centre](#)

Remember if you feel that there are suspicious online activities please report to the CEOP website <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and also look at the Think U Know website for more details of keeping safe online. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

The children will be doing something related to e-safety and reliability online this week in their live lessons. We have also shared zoom protocols with the children in cartoon form.

FENCING

Those of you who are coming to school or have walked past the school will have noticed the difference in the front of the school. We have now installed new railings along the KS1 playground and rest of the wall to the gates. Alongside this we have also replaced the fencing along the boundary between the school and the adjoining field by the KS2 playground – not only does it enhance the security of the school but it looks great! We have saved up the 'capital funds' (funds for building improvements at £7,000 per year) we are provided by the DFE for the past two years to be able to pay for this. We were fortunate to receive a £1,000 grant from the owners of the land next to the school Mactaggart and Mickel, so thanks to them. Hope you agree that it looks so much better.

Before



After



PA NEWS

February Half Term Fun:

As a PA, we always aim to generate much needed funds, but with Feb half term being in lockdown, we wanted to provide some fun options for families too (within the current restrictions).

Valentine's Virtual Balloon Race

Design and watch your 'virtual balloon' set off from the Eiffel Tower on 14th Feb for a 7 day race.

1st prize for the balloon that travels the furthest is £500, 2nd prize is an Apple iPad and although we take part with other good causes, the Almondsbury Balloon that wins will receive a giant teddy!

Balloons are £3 and can be purchased here. <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/1360>

GPS Art Challenge

Using a mobile GPS tracker (e.g. Strava or MapMyRun) walk, cycle or run to create a masterpiece with the family whilst enjoying the outdoors.*

Most creative entry wins a family home entertainment hamper. 2nd and 3rd Prize: Cupcake delivery.

£5 entry fee. To enter Text: GPSART to 70490. Send your entries via email to almondsburyschoolpa@gmail.com by 21st Feb. Winners will be announced on Monday 22nd Feb. Enjoy!

LOTTERY NEWS

You can still sign up to the lottery by going to www.onelottery.co.uk and searching for Almondsbury School.

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: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Best wishes



Mr Paul D Smith
Head Teacher

LETTERS SENT OUT LAST WEEK AND POSTED ON WEBSITE

CONTENT	YEAR GROUP	INFORMATION OR ACTION
		Information and action

DATES 2020/21

TERM 3

Monday 8 February

Thursday 11 February

Friday 12 February

Safer Internet Week

PA meeting – held via Zoom 7.30pm

End of Term 3

TERM 4

Monday 22 February

Thursday 11 March

Start of Term 4

Parents Evenings 4-7pm

PA meeting – held via Zoom 7.30pm

Tuesday 16 March

Parents Evenings 4-7pm

Friday 19 March

Comic Relief Day

Monday 29 March

Arts themed week in school

Wednesday 31 March

End of Term 4

Thursday 1 April

INSET DAY – School closed to children

TERM 5

Monday 19 April

Friday 28 May

Start of Term 5

INSET day – school closed

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 Thursday 1 April 2021 Friday 28 May 2021	