



Aldington Primary School

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Welcome Letter

My name is Charlotte Nicholls and I am the Family Liaison Officer here at Aldington Primary School. My role is to provide pastoral support to parents/carers and their children ensuring that they flourish during their time with us.

Much of my work is around encouraging parental involvement within school, by doing this we aim to remove potential barriers to learning, empowering parents/carers to take an active role in their child's social, emotional and educational development.

I liaise with all school staff where necessary and appropriate, always in the best interests of the children and their families. I work impartially and confidentially in a non-judgmental manner, providing an understanding 'listening ear' if you ever need advice or support. Any query, large or small that you may require assistance with, I am here to help.



I will be on the playground before school on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and after school on these days in the main school office next to the school reception area. I am happy to chat with you then or arrange a time to meet you. I may not have all the answers but we can work together to find them and move forward positively – I find just by starting a conversation we can start to feel better!

If you wish to speak to me and do not manage to catch me on the playground, you can make an appointment via the school office, please pop in, call or email office@aldington.kent.sch.uk.

Top Tips for new Year R Parents/Carers

1. **Label everything!** It sounds obvious but the children and staff often have to play detective to work out whose shoe belongs to whom. When my daughters started school, I found this company really good as we were able to custom-make them to include a picture (we went for unicorns and fairies) and more importantly it didn't involve any ironing! We have a school fundraising account with Nametags which you can access using this link <https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=72167>
2. **Uniform**, it sounds a bit simple, but buy uniform which is easy to put on. fiddly buttons, buckles, zips and fasteners can actually end up being the cause of tears of frustration every time they need the toilet or to change for PE lessons. Similarly, buy them shoes with Velcro and not with laces. It really is hard work for them and they take their shoes on and off more often than you would think!!
3. If your child is particularly anxious, give them a little token to remember you by, this can be a heart drawn on their hand, a cross stitched onto the sleeve of their jumper or a **favourite teddy**
4. If you can, come along to our **'Warm Welcome to Aldington'** coffee morning straight after drop off on the first day. The first day of school is a wonderful, memorable one, but it is completely understandable for parents to feel tearful. We run the coffee morning straight after drop off in order for you to meet other parents, and leave us feeling positive about your child's new, exciting chapter.
5. **Talk to us.** If ever there is anything worrying you, or if circumstances change for you as a family – we are always here. My job is to be the bridge between home and school and we strive to make our families feel supported.

I really hope you and your child(ren) enjoy your time with us. Best wishes and I look forward to meeting you all!



Nurture and Challenge