



Aldington Primary School

Nurture and Challenge

Newsletter 1 — Week Ending 20th September 2024

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

I would like to take this opportunity to again welcome our new families to Aldington. The Panda children have settled in really quickly and we are so proud of how well they are doing, as you can see they have already been hard at work.

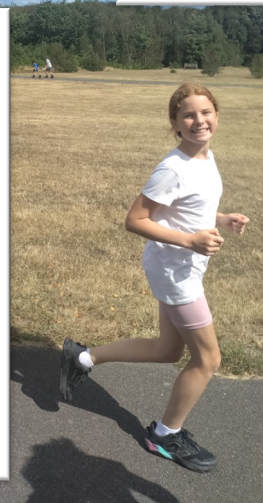
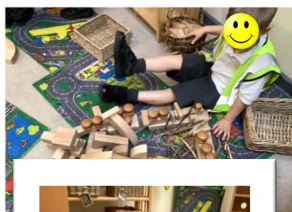
We have made some changes to our behaviour policy, this will continue to evolve as the year goes on. Every class will have its own three step reward system for children that go over and above, these have been tailored to be age appropriate for each class. We will no longer be doing the weekly star of the week certificates, however we will be having a special celebration afternoon tea with Mr Dawson and parents for two children per class per term that go over and above. One child will be selected for their academic achievements and one will be for demonstrating the school values.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) remains a key focus for us this year and we will be adding new and exciting things for the children to play with during breaktimes.

Lastly, I would like to say a massive thank you and well done to Yeala and Fred. They raised over £1000 for the school by completing a marathon each! Yeala ran a mile a day for 26 days and Fred roller skated his marathon in one day. They will be meeting with me shortly to discuss how we spend the money on OPAL.

We are looking forward to the new year and your continued involvement and support which is what makes us such a great school. As always, if you have any suggestions or would like to discuss anything my door is open.

Best Wishes
Ben Dawson



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Dates for your diary...

Tuesday 3rd September
First Day of Term 1

Thursday 12th September
Kent Test

Friday 13th September
Celebration Assembly Eagles

Friday 20th September
Celebration Assembly Jaguars

23rd to 25th September
Individual School Photos

Friday 27th September
Celebration Assembly Bears

Wednesday 2nd October
Residential Trip Meeting 5pm

Friday 4th October
Celebration Assembly Owls

W/C 7th October
Space Week

Friday 11th October
Celebration Assembly Otters

W/C 14th October
Bikability Bears and Jaguars

Friday 18th October
Harvest Church Walk

W/C 21st October
Book Week

Wednesday 23rd October
Parents Evening

Thursday 24th October
Last Day of Term 1

Forest School

Friday 13th September - Dolphins
Thursday 19th September - Otters
Friday 20th September - Owls
Friday 27th September - Jaguars
Thursday 3rd October - Eagles
Friday 4th October - Bears
Friday 11th October - Pandas

PE Days

Panda — Tuesday
Dolphin — Monday & Thursday
Otter — Tuesday & Wednesday
Owl — Monday & Thursday
Bear — Tuesday & Wednesday
Jaguar — Monday & Wednesday
Eagle — Monday & Wednesday

Eco Committee

If your child would like to be on the Eco-Committee, they are invited to make a poster or write a poem that shows why the environment is important to them and why they would be a good member of the committee. Year 4, 5 and 6.

School Council

To be on the School Council children are invited to present their application in any way they wish for example poster, speech, poem. Year 1 to Year 6.

Applications by Monday 23rd September please

Meet the House Captains..

Bodiam



Dover



Leeds



Walmer



We would like to start the walking bus again. A walking bus is a supervised group of children walking to or from school along a set route and picking up or dropping off 'passengers' at specific points along the way. It's a fun, healthy and sustainable way of getting to school. A walking bus can:

- ✓ promote exercise, health and wellbeing
- ✓ help the environment
- ✓ improve attendance and punctuality
- ✓ reduce traffic and congestion around schools
- ✓ save time for parents and carers
- ✓ teach children key road safety skills

If you are able to volunteer please let the office know. If you would like more information please see the link below:

[Set up a walking bus - Kent County Council](#)



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At Aldington..

This years Forest School sessions are in full swing. As you can see Dolphins enjoyed the new digging area and the hammock that Miss Cope installed over the summer.



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When I play outdoors ...



Supporting school improvement through play

I'm really active

I sleep better

I make friends

I fly!

I learn to trust myself and feel trusted by you

I fall ... and I get up

I explore

I learn about nature ... and learn to care for the planet

I work out my problems

I try out 'real life'

I get to know how my body moves and where it ends

I am LOUD

I am quiet

I build GRIT

I get dirty

I have lots to talk about

I'm sick less often

I am happy ... and when I'm happy, I want to keep playing



Play is what I do when grown-ups stop telling me what to do.

For those parents that are new to Aldington, here is a little bit about OPAL and some pictures from this week. OPAL is an award winning programme that helps schools improve children's play experiences by planning and investing in play the same way they would other areas of the curriculum. The children have been given more space to play, more stuff to play with, more time to play and a risk-benefit approach. Children are still given plenty of time to eat their lunch, once they have finished they are free to go straight out to playtime. Children are called into the hall to have their lunch when there is space. We currently have the following OPAL play areas:

- ◆ Quite Zone
- ◆ Wheels (next week)
- ◆ Trim Trail
- ◆ Ball Games
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Small World
- ◆ Art



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