



# Aldington Primary School

## Nurture and Challenge

Newsletter 2 — Week Ending 17th October 2025

I want to start by expressing my thanks for completing the parent questionnaires at the end of last year. Your feedback has been incredibly valuable, and we've already begun implementing changes to enhance what our school offers.

We're committed to continuous improvement and hope you'll notice and appreciate the positive developments taking place. There's so much to celebrate at Aldington Primary: our vibrant school environment, our outstanding outside facilities, our upbeat and settled staff, our fantastic Forest School provision and supportive children and families.

The caring atmosphere created by our pupils and staff truly sets us apart. Our school's reputation continues to be something we're incredibly proud of, and initiatives like 'Aldington's Got Talent', our diverse trips and visits, and extensive extra-curricular opportunities demonstrate our commitment to holistic education. There were several comments relating to our wonderful initiatives like our Year 6 and Reception buddy system, our pastoral care - including ELSA support, our vibrant choir and the OPAL initiatives.

We've been working on several key areas based on your feedback. Homework, a topic that often sparks discussion, has been approached with our Nurture and Challenge philosophy, aiming to find a balanced middle ground. We'll be providing more frequent classroom updates to keep you informed about your child's learning journey.

Our arts and sports provision continues to expand. We've increased musical opportunities and have an exciting calendar of sporting events, both in-house and externally. We're also exploring more art opportunities for our pupils.

Following parent feedback, we've switched back to Nourish as our catering provider. We're also reviewing our transport arrangements for sporting events - if anyone knows of potential funding avenues for a minibus, please let me know!

Our website is currently under review, and we're working to make it more user-friendly. We've also comprehensively reviewed our behaviour policy, and we'll continue to monitor this closely. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with a member of our team.

We're excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing our journey together.

We have some staffing news, unfortunately Miss Nicholls is leaving us at the end of term for a new role at a local secondary school. I'm sure you will agree with me that Miss Nicholls will be greatly missed, her calm, friendly and supportive nature has had a huge impact on our school. I personally want to say a massive thank you for all the time and energy she has given to our school. We will be very sad to see her leave but wish her all the best for her new role.

Next term we will be welcoming Miss Jackson back from her maternity leave - she will be in school teaching in Otters on a Monday and Friday from later in November. We are looking forward to having her back in school and working within the team again.

Best Wishes

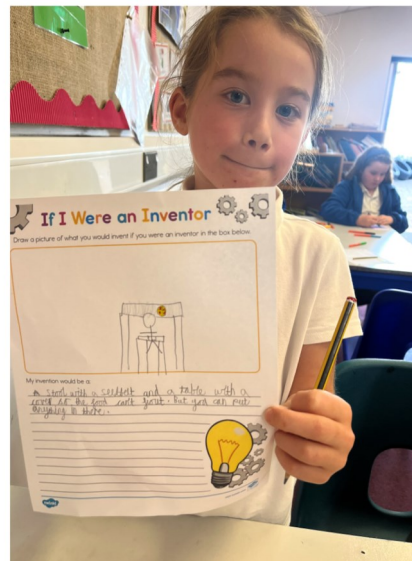
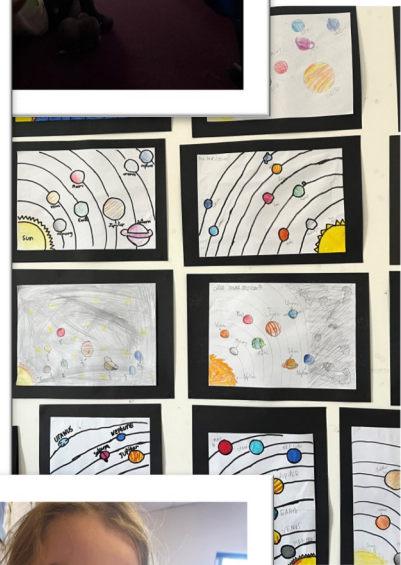
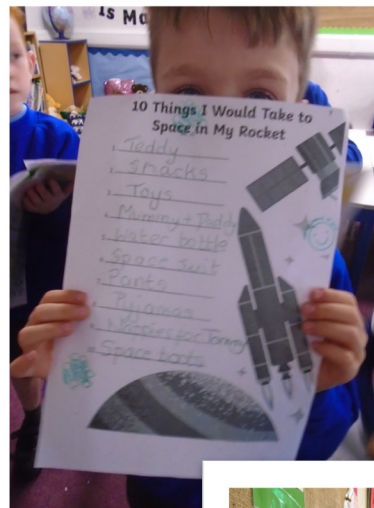
Ben Dawson

### Reminders...

- Fire and Lockdown Drills - At least once a term we will carry out Fire and Lockdown drills. Mr Dawson will be explaining to the children that it may sometimes be necessary to lock our classroom doors and stay away from the windows if there is something outside that we don't want to get in, such as a stray dog.
- Attendance/Late Procedure - Please advise us if your child is absent. If your child is unwell you must inform the school office via email or phone. Please be open and honest if you are planning on taking children out of school for a planned activity or trip. It is important from a safeguarding point of view that we know where children are and that they are encouraged to be honest with the adults in school.
- Image sharing - At public events such as sports day and productions, please try to only take photos of your own children. If images do include other children, please ensure they are not posted on Social Media.
- Parking - Please park considerately and safely outside the school.



# World Space Week



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