



Newsletter

ALDERBURY AND WEST GRIMSTEAD CE VA SCHOOL

www.alderbury.wilts.sch.uk

Friday 9th September 2016

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and children,

Secondary School Application Form for Year 7 2017 entry

The secondary school application process is now underway for September 2017 entry. **The deadline for applications is 31st October 2016 and parents who fail to submit an application before this date are less likely to secure a place at their preferred school.** Wiltshire Council is promoting online admissions this year via www.wiltshire.gov.uk and has only sent us a small number of paper applications. If you do not have access to the online application system please let Mrs Agland know.

Primary School Application Form for Reception Year 2017 entry

The application process is now underway for Reception Year school places for September 2017. **The deadline for applications is 15th January 2017 and parents who fail to submit an application before this date are less likely to secure a place at their preferred school.** Wiltshire Council is promoting online admissions this year via www.wiltshire.gov.uk and has only sent us a small number of paper applications. If you do not have access to the online application system please let Mrs Agland know

After School and Lunch Time Clubs

A list of all clubs being offered will be coming home today with the majority of them starting next week. Please return the form on Monday 12th September, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Miss Page's Cookery Club will be offered on a rota basis each half term so if your child is unsuccessful in getting a place on this occasion they may well secure a place in November. We have asked for a £5 contribution towards ingredients for this club and also any volunteers to help run it. Mrs Agland will confirm places on Monday.

Big Fishes

Big Fishes – a monthly group for children in Years 3–6, run by St. Mary's Church, in St. Mary's, Whaddon takes place on the second Tuesday of the month in term time (6:30-7:30pm).

They offer a fun time exploring Bible stories and Christian themes through music, drama, craft and games and prayer.

New members will be very welcome on Tuesday 13th September.

Further information from Revd. Beth Hutton (01722 238504).

Our Hens

We had a wonderful group of volunteers during the summer holidays who took it in turns to care for our chickens and we were hoping that parents might be happy to help out with the feeding and watering on an on-going basis to cover their weekend and school holiday care. If we get enough people come forward it will hopefully only mean the occasional weekend or

day during the times the school is closed. Your reward, other than knowing you are doing a good deed free eggs! If you are able to help please let Mrs Agland know. Thank you.

Forest Schools – what’s that all about?

Last year we started running ‘forest school’ sessions at AWGS and they have been very well received. If you want to know more I encourage you to explore <http://blog.muddypuddles.com/10-benefits-forest-schools> or catch Mrs Wilkinson, Mr Beveridge or one of our many Teaching Assistants who have supported sessions. The aims of forest school and the main reasons we provide it are:

- To afford more opportunities for team work, partner work and team skills
- To engage with the outdoor environment
- To push oneself and manage risks appropriately
- To increase opportunities physical education and promote healthy lifestyles
- To develop self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth
- To have fun, explore, create, evaluate and learn from mistakes

Mr Nash (our forest school leader) keeps forest schools going whatever the weather “There is no such thing as bad weather, only wrong clothing!” *If torrential rain forest school can place as indoor science and nature challenges.* There are always at least 2 adults for supervision and safety, including any first aid needs.

Subsidiary advantages include the smaller class group that is left behind when the forest school group goes out – this is utilised for even further personalised learning in the core subjects. All pupils will experience a balance of forest schools and smaller group classwork across the year.

Forest schools 1st Half of Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday Year 4 Group A 9:15-10:30, Group B 10:45-12:00

Thursday Year 5 Group A 9:15-10:30, Group B 10:45-12:00

Friday Year 6 Group A 9:15-10:45 for 3 weeks (16th-30th Sept), Group B 9:15-10:45 for 3 weeks (7th Oct, 14th Oct and 4th Nov)

Forest schools 2nd Half of Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday Year 3 Group A 9:15-10:30, Group B 10:45-12:00

Thursday Year 2 Group A 9:15-10:30, Group B 10:45-12:00

Friday Year 1 Group A 9:15-10:45 for 3 weeks (11th-25th Nov), Group B 9:15-10:45 for 3 weeks (2nd-16th Dec)

Owls will have forest school sessions starting in the Spring Term.

Mrs Agland is sending out ‘kit list’ and ‘permission slip’ letters to relevant classes for the first half term.

Meet the teacher

It was lovely to see so many of you at the first of our Meet the Teacher sessions. Just a reminder that the remaining sessions are as follows:

Year 2 (Miss Armstrong) Friday 9th Sept 3:20-3:40 in Penguins classroom

Year 3 (Mrs Pallas) Monday 12th Sept 3:20-3:40 in Lemurs classroom

Year 4 (Miss Parker) Tuesday 13th Sept 3:20-3:40 in Zebras classroom

Year 1 (Ms Rackham and Mrs Smith) Wednesday 14th Sept 3:20-3:40 in Elephants classroom

Year 6 (Mrs Gill) Monday 19th Sept 3:20-3:40 in Koalas classroom

These sessions will be about 20 minutes long and children can sit in with the parents. This is not an opportunity for formal 1:1 consultations, but rather an overview of the class and chance to say hello. We will also be offering parents another chance to contribute to our school ‘vision and mission’ – a project that started in July. Mr Beveridge would be pleased to

see any parents who wish to contribute from 3:40-4:00 pm after the meet the teacher sessions.

Reading Workshop

The Reading Workshop postponed today has been rescheduled for Friday 23rd September 9:00-10:00 am. The workshop is open to all parents, but may be particularly useful for parents new to the school and is aimed at supporting reading at home. Refreshments will be available, so if you are free please join us.

Red milk bottle tops

Our red milk bottle tops seem to be seriously depleted in number, if you have skimmed milk at home please save your lids and bring them into school (washed please). Thank you.

Thank you

We put out a plea last week for help transporting bookshelves. I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Nelson and Mr Anderson for the use of their vehicles and delivering these items into school. Thank you also to Mrs Compton for thinking of us.

Child of Hope

Further to our amazing fund raising for Child of Hope with our sponsored run at the end of last term, we have received a thank you from the charity as follows:

“Thank you for your kind donation of £1493.75 to Child of Hope, received by cheque for business start-up grants. Your support is very much appreciated and your donation will make a huge and ongoing difference to the lives of the children and families at the Child of Hope School”.

I would like to add an extra thank you to the parents and children who contributed and to Mr Malmberg for all his organisation, liaison and commitment to the project.

FAWGS

Our AGM will take place at **9:15 am on Tuesday 27th September** in the school hall. Please come along and support the FAWGS committee, we would love to see as many people as possible there. It is a good chance to hear what FAWGS have done over the last year and to have a say in nominating next year's committee. The current chairperson, treasurer and secretary will be stepping down so we will be looking to nominate new people into these posts with fresh ideas on how to take FAWGS forward!

The next exciting event will be the Fireworks Spectacular on Friday 4th November. More details to follow.

Cardboard please!

Mrs Pallas would like to request donations of cardboard to help Year 3 when they make Roman Shields later this term. Please drop donations to the office. Many thanks.

Department of Education School Census information

The Department of Education now requires that all pupils' country of birth and nationality be recorded. In order to collect this information for the next school census in October I have attached a sheet for completion to this Newsletter (**please note if your child is in Owls class you do not need to complete this**). Please complete and return to Mrs Agland as soon as possible. Thank you if you have already completed and returned your form.

Diary Dates – new dates underlines

September

Friday 9 th	3:20-3:40 pm Year 2 Meet the teacher
Monday 12 th	3:20-3:40 pm Year 3 Meet the teacher
w/b Monday 12 th	Clubs will start this week: separate letter to follow
Tuesday 13 th	3:20-3:40 pm Year 4 Meet the teacher
Wednesday 14 th	3:20-3:40 pm Year 1 Meet the teacher

Thursday 15th Photographer in school (am) for individual photos
Monday 19th 3:20-3:40 pm Year 6 Meet the teacher
Friday 23rd 9:00 am Reading Workshop

October

Thursday 6th 9:10-9:40 am New Owls' parents invited for a 'Day in the Life of Owls Class' with Mrs Tanner in school hall

Monday 10th-
Wednesday 12th Year 5 to Braeside – letter to follow shortly

Tuesday 18th Year 3 to Butser Ancient Farm – letter to follow shortly

Friday 21st TD Day - no children in school

Monday 24th-
Friday 28th Half term break

Monday 31st Return to school

November

Tuesday 29th Year 3 to Roman Baths, Bath – letter to follow shortly

Paul Beveridge
Head Teacher