



Newsletter

ALDERBURY AND WEST GRIMSTEAD CE VA SCHOOL

www.alderbury.wilts.sch.uk

Friday 14th October 2016

Newsletter 7

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and children,

This is our last Newsletter of this term as we have a teacher training day next Friday 21st October followed by half-term week. Children return to school on Monday 31st October.

Secondary School Application Form for Year 7 2017 entry – DEADLINE APPROACHING

A reminder that the deadline for applications to Year 7 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. If you do not have access to the online application system please let Mrs Agland know.

SIAMS report October 2016

I am very pleased to attach our SIAMS report as a result of our inspection on 29th September. This reports confirms that the school is 'Good' in all areas which is a great achievement given the criteria that needs to be met to satisfy this. Attainment, progress, behaviour, nurture, care, values were all acknowledged and I feel it is a very fair summary of the hard work we all put into this school community. The report confirms we are doing the right things and need to continue to embed them to move the school on over the next 3-5 years. My favourite quotes from the commentary are:

“The quality of behaviour across the school is rising steadily, where there are issues the school responds swiftly and effectively. Parents praise the school for the high standard of behaviour that is expected. Relationships across the school are at least good.”

“Teaching and learning in RE is now consistently good and has risen well during the last year with more teaching being outstanding.”

“This is an ambitious school and, though all its initiatives are not yet fully embedded, it is making very good progress in many areas.”

If you have any questions about the inspection process and report please do get in touch with me.

St Marys Church, Alderbury

Join us this Sunday 16th October at St. Marys for our Family Service at 9:30 am - all welcome - no matter how noisy!

Walking in the light party

This week the children should have brought home their invitation to this year's WALKING IN THE LIGHT PARTY. It will be held at AWGS on 31st October from 4:30pm–6:30 pm. The cost for the afternoon will be £2 per child.

As a church community we want to celebrate the good things in our lives so we are asking the children to come dressed in bright colours – no witches, ghosts etc. Please fill in the registration and consent forms and return them to the AWGS office as soon as possible and before the end of this term! For more info contact Alison Larkham 01722 710123.

Year 5 trip to Braeside

Our Giraffes had a truly memorable time at Braeside on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, enjoying all the activities on offer. The feedback from staff was exceedingly complimentary with all the children behaving exceptionally which makes me extremely proud. I would like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs Hill, Mr Malmberg, Ms Page, Mrs Potter, Mrs Telfer and Mrs Wilkinson for all their care and hard work during the children's time away and on the run-up to the three days to ensure everything went smoothly and for giving up their own family time.

New lunch menu

HC3S have issued new menus starting on our return to school on Monday 31st October – children will be bringing these home today. A new jacket potato menu has been put together as well which HC3S are now extending to all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Please see the options attached to this newsletter. Jacket potatoes are priced at £2.50.

Headteacher's blog – WOW work

I am often visited by children who have worked hard and to further acknowledge this I have started using my blog to photograph them with their work. I will not put a child's name with their photo as this is against safeguarding advice, but I will endeavour to put their initials and a comment about their fantastic work. If your child says they went to Mr Beveridge with good work, keep your eye on the blog so you can share with friends and relatives through our website! <http://www.alderbury.wilts.sch.uk/page19.html> (accessed through 'OUR SCHOOL' and then 'Headteacher' on the cascading menu)

Parent/teacher consultations

On Wednesday 9th November we will be offering 10 minute appointments to discuss your child's work and progress so far this year. Appointments will run from 1pm-7pm and sign-up sheets will be available in the school hall from Tuesday next week. These can be filled in in person or by contacting Mrs Agland in the office. Please do sign up from next week for this important opportunity in the second week after half term.

Awards

Congratulations to Penguins: **EB, EL, JM, OM, AP, EP, ES and OT** on gaining their "25 Home Reads" Certificate. Well done!

Penguins' Worship

Penguins will be leading Worship on the theme of "Creativity" on Thursday 20th October at 9:10am. Parents, grandparents etc of Year 2 children are very welcome.

Pets as Therapy www.yours.co.uk/PATDogs

Barbara Borwell and Daisy Dog have been providing reading therapy at AWGS for a few years now. We are very lucky to have them as they mainly cover the Dorset area. Now is our chance to say 'thank you'. By clicking on the link above, or copy/paste the address into the usual window, entering your address and email address we can vote for Daisy as best P.A.T

(Pets as Therapy) dog around. Please vote for Daisy Dog, our friendly Cavalier King Charles Spaniel – results announced at Crufts on 11th March 2017! Cr-ruff-ts!

FAWGS News

Thank you to all of you for your support towards FAWGS events. It was decided at the Extraordinary Meeting that we would continue to use monies raised to **fund coaches for school trips** this year. (For those of you that have already had to pay coach fares for your child, please accept our apologies. This will either be reimbursed or will enable your child to have another funded trip(s) this year). We also have ambitious plans to help fund a **much-needed extension to the school building**, which we hope will be in place by next September, and to **replace the touch-screen boards** in our children's classrooms. We are convinced that these improvements will have a significant impact on our children's learning, but we don't have the total funds required yet, so your continued support is very much appreciated!

This half term, we would like to continue with the success of **'Helping Hands'**. Please look out for gloves to be sent out in book bags. The idea is that the children should aim to fill these with the coins they have earned by completing odd jobs during the holiday. These should then be knotted/ bagged and returned to school after half term. It's been decided that the monies raised from this event will be used to fund a whole-school reward, along the lines of a theatre company production in school. (If ever an incentive was needed to immerse your child in the world of work)!

Hopefully, you should all have received flyers in book bags this week for the **FAWGS Fireworks Spectacular** on **Friday 4th November** (gates open at 6pm). Tickets are available to order now at the price of **£12 per family** of 2 adults and 2 children. Tickets for additional adults are £4 each and £3 per additional child. You don't have to be a 'school member' to come, so please feel free to bring along grannies, aunts, neighbours, etc.

This year, it will be possible to beat the queues & **pre-order your food** (details on flyer). We will also be providing seating in the hall for you to enjoy your meal in (relative) comfort! To order tickets and/or food, please complete the details on the flyer and return in an envelope, along with the correct money (no change can be given)/cheque (made payable to FAWGS). Envelopes should be addressed for the attention of FAWGS (Fireworks) and posted in the box in reception. Additional flyers are available from the school office for those that get 'eaten by the dog' etc!

Plea for help: If anyone is able to offer their support with marshalling on the evening, please contact Claire Hall or Paula Dean. It's worth remembering that you get to wear a Hi-Vis jacket!

Finally, I think I have obsolete contact details for some committee members, so please be aware that the timing for the **Fireworks Meeting** on **Monday 17th October** has been brought forward to **7pm** (in the school hall).

Harvest Service

A big thank you for all the donations of food brought in for our Harvest Service yesterday. Mrs Hill is hoping to arrange a visit accompanied by our Head Boy and Head Girl to the Trussell Trust Food Bank. It was great to see so many adults supporting the children in this Christian celebration.

Save the Elephants

An Enormous Elephant art exhibition is being held at Lyndhurst Community Centre in The New Forest on 29th and 30th October to help save elephants from extinction. For more information please go to www.enormouselephantart.com.

Opening of the Alderbury Circular Walk

Would you like to show your appreciation and support for all the volunteers who have made the many recent path improvements around the parish possible? Then do please come along to our Grand Opening. Meet in the Village Hall at 2:00 pm on Saturday 15th October for a brief chat then join us to walk the recently completed three mile circuit. Returning to the

hall for around 4:00 pm where light refreshments will be available. Phil Spooner, Alderbury Paths Group – alderburypathsgroup@hotmail.com.

Diary Dates – new dates underlines

October

Monday 17th Values worship inc presentation of bookmarks (parents by invite)

Tuesday 18th Year 3 to Butser Ancient Farm

Thursday 20th 9:10 am Penguins' Worship

Friday 21st TD Day - no children in school

Monday 24th -

Friday 28th Half term break

Monday 31st Return to school

November

Friday 4th FAWGS Firework Spectacular

Wednesday 9th 1:00-7:00 pm Parent/Teacher Consultation

Friday 18th Children in Need Day

Tuesday 29th Year 3 to Roman Baths, Bath

Paul Beveridge
Head Teacher