

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely summer break. The children have come back to school so eager & ready to learn in their new classes and it has been lovely to see them skipping in each morning. We would like to welcome all of the new Nursery, Reception and any other new pupils who have joined us this year; you are going to **LOVE** Aldersbrook Primary School!

Learning & Leading: When new Reception parents start with us, we always share our **vision** for the learners at Aldersbrook. We see this as two-fold:

Learning: To prepare the children to be *ready* for the world- to be resilient, academically able, socially confident, self- confident, mentally & physically strong. We want children (and adults!) to love learning and to see the benefit of being lifelong learners.

Leading: We want our learners to not just be able to 'cope' with the world and the challenges it brings, but to be the future generation of *leaders* that help change and improve our world for others.

Over the coming weeks we will be explaining ways that you can help us with this at home and help your child to be **Confident, Independent, Curious & Involved** at home as well as at school. We call this **CICI** at school in case you ever wonder what your child is going on about!

Over the summer, the site & cleaning team were busy fixing & improving things. Some of these jobs included:

- Early Years windows replaced and new canopy built
- Sash windows across the school repaired
- Guttering on the KS2 building repaired
- A new play trail constructed in the KS2 playground
- An upgrade to the teacher planning & preparation room
- Newly painted stairwells and entrance areas (Thank you Mr Fletcher!)
- Deep Clean of all classrooms & shared spaces (thank you cleaning team)

Thank you to Mr Fletcher and his team for their hard work over the summer.

Pupil Conference Day will be held on **Friday 20th October** (school is closed that day for Reception-Year 6) and we look forward to welcoming you on that day.

Mr Hughes & Mrs Crouch

18—20 September Year 5 camping trip

20-22 September Year 3 camping trip

21 September Year 4 British Museum visit

26 September Phonics Parents meeting

27 September—3 October Travelling Book Fair in school

29 September Macmillan Coffee Morning in school 3pm

4 October KS2 SATs meeting

5 October CENSUS day in school

13 October World Mental Health Day—wear yellow

13 October PTA cake sale after school

20 October Pupil Conference Day in school (school closed to all parents except Nursery)

21 October—29 October Half term holiday—school closed

Our Value of the month: is...



The World's Biggest Coffee Morning - for Macmillan Cancer Support

Ms Crouch has arranged to hold a Coffee Morning—well actually a Coffee Afternoon—in school on Friday 29 September from 3pm. Any donations of cake please drop into school on the morning of 29th September. These will then be shared from 3pm in the KS1 playground with all money raised going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The last couple of years I have been overwhelmed with your support for this as most of you know cancer has impacted my life significantly with the loss of loved ones. It would be wonderful if we can continue to raise money for this worthy cause. At the same time it will be a fantastic opportunity to have a chat, get to know new parents and eat cake!

Ms Crouch

PANTS

All children across the school have been talking about PANTS! PANTS is an NSPCC programme that helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

PANTS stands for:

Privates are private

Always remember your body belongs to you

No means no

Talk about secrets that upset you

Speak up, someone can help



Teachers talk about this with pupils in an age appropriate way and the message will be so much stronger if parents & carers can also talk with children at home. We want all children to feel safe and to know who to speak to if there is a problem.

The NSPCC have some great resources and advice that you can use at home at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Lost Property

Please ensure every item of clothing as well as water bottles, packed lunch boxes etc are all labelled clearly with your child's name & class. With almost 700 children, it is almost impossible to get items returned to people without this.

MOST items that we get in the lost property boxes have no labels or names on them.

Please see the 'Stickins' (<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>) site for labels that are very sturdy and will last through many washes! If you use the Code 292 when ordering, Stickins will make a donation to our PTA.



Thoughtful Thursdays

Our Thoughtful Thursday cupboard is full and ready to go to any families that might need a little support over the coming months.

The food is delicious, long-life and free to anyone that could use it.

In these hard times it is important that we all support each other and also seek out help if we need it— you never know when you will be able to help out someone else one day.

Please see Mr Hughes or Ms Crouch to make a time to come in and collect some food— it would easily help save £30-40 a week which you could then use for other things!

If you are struggling and need some help, please come and see us confidentially.

(Remember that Thoughtful Thursdays continue— please bring in pasta/ rice/ pasta sauces/ baked beans/ jams/ tinned soups or anything long life or bathroom products that could help another family!).

Secondary School Admissions

Year 6 parents! Don't forget that the deadline for secondary school applications is **31 October 2023**

Full details can be found on the London Borough of Redbridge website:

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/secondary-school-admissions/>

Please do call the school office or speak to your child's class teacher if you are having problems completing the application.

PTA Cake Sales

Our first playground cake sale is taking place on Friday October 13th at 3.20pm in the KS1 playground. As a reminder, we ask for donations of cakes to be dropped in to the school office or on the gate at drop off on cake sale day. The PTA team set the cake sale up for straight after school, with all cakes priced at 50p each.

Without donations of cakes, these sales can't operate so thank you to all the parents who donate so generously. Last year these sales raised thousands of pounds for our PTA funds—money which enables the school to give our children the best experience possible.





Parents Lorraine & Neil are doing a run to raise funds for the National Autistic Society.

Please help if you can by visiting their JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/lorraine-butler-1690827844943?utm_term=kXjGNVyVY

Healthy Eating at Aldersbrook

Just a reminder, we are a Healthy Eating School and are trying to promote healthy eating routines for life at Aldersbrook. Please do not send in crisps/chocolate bars/sugary fruit rolls or drinks from **Monday to Thursday** each week. Friday is 'treat' day and **one** of these items could be included in packed lunches.

Please remember to send in a water bottle with your child, with their name on it.



Attendance

Please note that we will not be authorising **any time** out of term time for students this year for any holidays.

Families need to book holidays in the **thirteen weeks** of school holidays given. No exceptions will be made this year and you risk losing your child's school place and/or receiving a fixed penalty notice if holidays are intentionally booked in term time.

Every day of learning is important and we can see the gaps in learning that occur when attendance in low or school is missed!

Please see Mr Hughes, Mrs Crouch or Mrs Gritten in the office for further guidance.


Independence at Aldersbrook

At Aldersbrook, one of our main curriculum aims is to encourage INDEPENDENCE in all pupils as a skill they carry through life with them. Can you help us to start the year off by doing a couple of things:

1. Read the **Personal Development & Independence Milestones** document which we are sending out today. It has some great ways to encourage your child to become more independent at home and at school. See us if you need any help or support!
2. If your child is in Year 1 upwards, please let them walk into school independently from the gate each day. You would be amazed what a difference this makes to a calm & independent start to the day. As Nursery & Reception children settle in, parents are welcome to support them to classrooms.


Please remind your children not to cycle or scoot in the playground. As you know, our playground gets really busy at pick up time and so we ask that scooters and bikes are pushed rather than ridden. Thank you!





LEYTON ORIENT V DERBY COUNTY
SAT 9TH DECEMBER | 3PM KICK-OFF

*PLEASE COMPLETE BY 3RD DECEMBER 2023



**CLICK HERE TO CLAIM
YOUR FREE TICKET**

Leyton Orient have given the school 50 FREE tickets to watch them play Derby County on Saturday 9th December.

If you would like to be at the game, please scan the QR code.
Up the O's!!!

Something to occupy minds??

Parents often ask us for things they could do to occupy busy minds at home.
The following two things would be great to be **involved** in:

1. BBC 500 Words Competition <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>
2. Blue Peter Book Club: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>





Essex Fire Museum Open Days
Sunday 24th September 2023
(10.30am to 4.00pm)





Visits must be pre-booked via:
museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS



PUPIL PREMIUM
ALDERSBROOK

Your child could receive **extra funding** to support their learning.

Want to know more?



SCAN ME

Wanstead Park Wildlife threatened by Crazy Golf development

Sign this if you care about the environment and saving wild spaces in East London from bullying developers.

There is a family of foxes in the old Kearley and Tonge field (the re-wilded sports field that was previously used by Wanstead High School) as well as voles and hedgehogs. Parents take their children to the River Roding to fish for minnows on the edge of Wanstead Park and you can spend the summer spotting wildlife from ducks and geese to woodpeckers, kestrel, buzzards, egrets, moths, butterflies, bugs and bats. Rare birds such as the red-listed Green Finch have been spotted in this field, as well as a kingfisher down by the river. In short, the Redbridge end of Wanstead Park is a little slice of London Magic.

You can imagine the shock and disgust as workmen arrived in the old Kearley and Tonge field in the last week of August 2023 with chain saws and a digger, destroying years of growth of mature trees and thickets. This area is considered of great interest for biodiversity in the local area, yet without planning permission or any consultation with residents or locals whatsoever, habitats have been destroyed and decades old trees hacked down.

This has been reported to the council, including the head of the council, and these men have been stopped for now. It is still, however, highly concerning that this land is being overlooked as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the local area.

Councillors have stated that they have received a planning application for this land to be turned into a crazy golf/pitch and putt centre with a road, car park and restaurant. This will now presumably follow usual legal pathways, giving residents an opportunity to challenge the plan to have a tourist attraction in the land behind their houses, bringing hundreds of people and a huge amount of extra traffic to the already congested Redbridge roundabout.

This unnecessary project will be damaging to the local ecosystem, including habitat loss and urban drainage (this is also a flood plain). The space, which is currently used by joggers, dog walkers, nature photographers, ramblers, families and wildlife enthusiasts, is an area of interest for local conservation groups. Allowed to re-wild for over two years, this space has an abundance of insects, moths and butterflies, which attracts rare birds and bats.

Councils talk a good game about environmental issues, but in essence, it seems we struggle to get away from the idea that all land should be used to generate profit. If we are serious about climate science and managing the environment at a local level, wild spaces need to be protected and left to be just that. Please sign this petition to stop this development and influence the council to protect this valuable wild space on your doorstep.

If you feel strongly about this proposal, please follow the link below to sign the petition.

<https://www.change.org/p/wanstead-park-wildlife-threatened-by-crazy-golf-development?signed=true>

