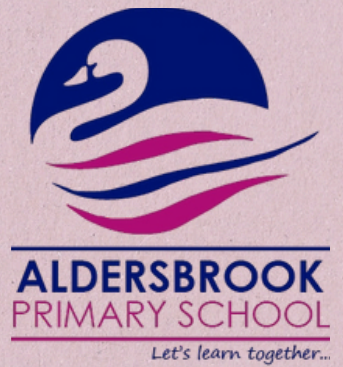


THE FRIDAY POST



READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE, CURIOUS, INDEPENDENT, CONFIDENT, INVOLVED

Spotlight: Reading Buddies Are Back!

We're excited to share that some of our enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 pupils have applied to become Reading Buddies this term! Starting next week, they will be paired with children from Years 1, 2, and 3 to enjoy reading together, build confidence, and share the joy of books. This initiative not only supports our younger readers but also helps older pupils grow as mentors and role models. Here's what some of our new Reading Buddies had to say:

Harriet (6B): "I am excited to help younger children learn how to read and become more confident talking to older people."

Ruby (6G): "I was a reading buddy last year. It gives you a chance to notice what they struggle with when they're reading. Reading is important!"

Summer Rae (5J): "I often read to my little brother, so I think I will be very good."

Wren (5H): "I am excited to be a good role model and teach younger children how to read."

Aleia (6B): "I am looking forward to helping younger children become more confident with their reading so they can read bigger words."

Maya (6B): "I'm excited to read with younger children, who might not be able to read as well as others, and help them to learn to read."

Theo (5J): "I really enjoy reading. I have younger friends and have always enjoyed reading books to them."

Umar (5J): "Younger children really like it when I read to them."

Mollie (5J): "I want to be a good role model. When I had a reading buddy, it was a lot of help. It helped me to develop confidence with reading."

Well done to all our new Reading Buddies. We can't wait to see the wonderful partnerships (and stories!) that grow from this.



European Day of Languages: A Message from Mrs Eley

Bonjour! At Aldersbrook, children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6) begin learning a modern foreign language – French. But French is not just spoken in France! From art galleries and shop names to restaurant menus and even your passport, the French language can be found all around us. In fact, 29 countries have French as an official language, and another 45 countries use French either officially or as an administrative language. It's a global language that opens many doors.

At school, our pupils practise French across four key areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing. But beyond just learning vocabulary, it helps them build confidence, memory, and concentration. And did you know? Around 45% of English vocabulary comes from French so it can even help with spelling in English! Today, we're celebrating European Day of Languages and this year's theme is:

"Languages open hearts and minds."

It's a powerful reminder that learning languages connects us, broadens our horizons, and inspires new ideas.

My own love of languages started in Primary School, learning to count in different European languages. I later studied French and Italian through Secondary School and university (a combined honours degree at UCL). I've lived in France, Italy and Japan, teaching English while learning Japanese for two years. I also speak some Spanish and I'm currently learning Polish! It's amazing how much technology can now support language learning – far beyond anything I had growing up. From Duolingo and Google Translate, to AI chatbots, Virtual Reality experiences, social media, and even subtitles on streaming platforms, the tools available are exciting and powerful. Already this year, I've been so impressed by the children's enthusiasm, confidence, and progress.

We begin by learning French phonics and build vocabulary through fun activities like songs and games. Some of our key topics include: numbers, days, month, time, weather, clothing, directions, arts, poetry, and the French-speaking world!

This year, we're looking forward to even more exciting experiences, including:

A shared French breakfast

A virtual trip to Paris

Learning through short films at the British Film Institute

We also offer a Fun French after school club for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children! Aldersbrook is such a multilingual community, and I love when pupils come to teach me a word in their home language, or one they're learning outside of school. Apprenons ensemble – Let's learn together!

– Mrs Eley

Our reading buddies begin next week, their passion and enthusiasm for reading was evident in their applications. They are excited about starting their role where they get the opportunity to support our younger children and help them develop their skills, while having fun! I am so proud of our buddies!

-Mrs Harlow, Reading Lead



The Book Fair is Coming!

We're excited to announce that our Book Fair will be arriving soon! This is a fantastic opportunity to choose a new book and support your child's love of reading.

Dates: After school on 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th October

Location: KS1 Playground

There will be a wide range of exciting titles available to purchase. Please note that this will be a cashless event. Payments can be made via QR code or card reader at the fair. Even if you're just browsing, we'd love for you to come along! Every book purchased earns the school a small commission, helping us to buy even more books for our school library. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Happy reading!

Learning French at APS!



Guess who Mrs Eley is dressed as in the picture above!

Congratulations to our newly elected Class MPs

Our 2025-26 MPs are: Ellery Farrell, Cassian Barker, Albert Wright, Arthur Smith, Bluenne Gregory, Otis Williams, Joni Ryder, Freya Dupont, Mia Capocci, Eli Williams, Aria Fenwick, Martha Harris, Reagan Brati, Frida Moore, Umar Patel, Adam Mayne, Jacob Khan, Levi Edwards.

Our MPs were democratically elected after giving speeches to their classmates. Mrs Gandhi is looking forward to meeting with School Parliament MPs next week for their very first meeting of the year.



Hello from our new Chair of Governors

Hi everyone, my name is Manny. I am the new Chair of the Governors board at APS. The governors are here to improve educational standards so that children and young people have the chance to realise their full potential. We are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders. We meet together in the school twice a term, and talk about things like the school budget, school improvements and the achievements of all the children.

The thing I like the most about being a governor is when we hear directly from the school council. We've heard some great ideas about how to improve the school. The thing I dislike? We have our meetings in classrooms and the chairs are tiny!

My youngest daughter is in year 5 and my eldest left the school last year to go to Wanstead High. They both love the school and I'm really grateful for everything the school staff have done to make APS so good. Our job as governors is to help this continue and, with the help of Mrs Gandhi, maybe get even better!



Today, on National Teaching Assistant Day, we take a moment to shine a spotlight on the incredible work of our Learning Support Assistants here at Aldersbrook.

From running CiCi clubs and supporting with duties, to playing games, leading small group work, and crafting tailored learning activities, our LSAs are at the heart of school life. They make a real difference every single day, not just in the classroom but across the wider school community.

We are endlessly grateful for their dedication, creativity, and care. While we value their contributions throughout the year, today we say an extra big thank you to each and every member of our LSA team.

Please join us in showing your appreciation for this fantastic group of individuals who help make Aldersbrook Primary such a special place for pupils to learn and lead.



Finally, a big well done to our Y4, 5 and 6 pupils who acted with such respect, readiness and safety as we reintroduced football to the playground.



Pupils experienced our new code of conduct for ball sports which was introduced in assemblies, reviewed in class and signed by pupils. This introduction has seen pupils respectfully ending matches by shaking hands, listening to the referee and understanding the importance of respecting team sizes, team make-ups and the length of our mini matches. We are so proud of our pupils for such showing such brilliant effort in sharing their play spaces with each other.

Dear Aldersbrook teachers, staff and parents,

For those who don't know me, my name is Noel Anderson, and I am the Chair of the PTA. My wife and I live on Herongate Road, and we have two children at the school, Esmée (Year 3) and Victor (Reception). I have been involved with the PTA since Esmée started school, and this will be my second year as Chair.

The PTA organises events throughout the school year with three main aims: raise money to support the school, create a sense of community and make the kids happy.

Recent projects funded by the PTA include the new KS2 and KS1 playgrounds, the KS1 bike storage area, new Chromebooks and teacher training. We are working on new projects with the school's Senior Leadership Team, such as the Nursery playground, development of a Year 1 Montessori area and more play equipment and seating for the KS2 playground.

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Following our AGM on Wednesday, the PTA committee currently comprises:

- Secretary: Mart Peers, teacher in nursery and mum to Doris (Y3) and Fiona (Y1)
- Treasurer: Louise Hammond, mum to Kytt (Y4) and Thara (Y1)
- Chair: Noel Anderson, dad to Esmée (Y3) and Victor (R)
- Deputy Chair: Louise Herington, mum to Otis (Y4) and Indiana (Y1)
- Nathalie Priem, mum to Eli (Y4) and Eva (Y2)
- Jack Noble, dad to Arthur (Y3) and Florence (N)

However, we can't do this alone! All teachers and parents are automatically members of the PTA. We need you to get involved by suggesting ideas and volunteering to help at events.

Please join our PTA Whatsapp Community for regular updates on our activities:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KZ9K1IAL7zV1RS98ChQYfa>

We'd love you to get in touch with any ideas and offers of support – either by approaching one of the committee members or emailing us at aldersbrookpta@gmail.com

If you'd like to donate to the PTA, you can do so here at any time: www.aldersbrookpta.org. The PTA is a charity and is eligible for gift aid on all your donations.

Finally, some dates for your calendar:

- Autumn Disco – Friday 7 November
- Winter Trail – Saturday 13 December

I wish you all the best for the school year and look forward to meeting you at one of our events!

Noel



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Aldersbrook Primary School

Date: Friday 3rd October 2025

Time: 08:30 - 09:30

We'd love your cake donations
to make this fundraising morning
even more special. Cakes can
be dropped off at school from
08:00 the day before (Thursday)
- we will keep them safe and
ready to sell for a great cause.



Redbridge Mental Health Support Team presents...

PARENTS & CARERS COFFEE MORNING AT ALDERSBROOK

You will hear from mental health professionals about how to promote your child's emotional health and wellbeing.

JOIN US



INTRO TO EMOTION COACHING: RESPONDING TO BIG EMOTIONS

An opportunity to learn how to use Emotion Coaching to foster positive connections, improve behaviour and build emotional resilience in your children and family.

THURS 2ND OCTOBER 8:45-9:30 AM



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WWW.REDBRIDGE.GOV.UK AND SEARCH 'MHST' OR GO TO LINKTR.EE/REDBRIDGEMHST

London Borough of **Redbridge**



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