

THE FRIDAY POST



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

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms. At Aldersbrook Primary School, we marked this occasion with reflection, creativity, and remembrance.



Our youngest pupils in Nursery shared photographs of special memories with their class, while Reception drew and wrote about cherished moments. Year 1 created a beautiful "Memory Tree," with leaves describing their own special memories.

I can always smell a strong, revolting odor of death in the trenches but life can be cruel here beside no-man's-land and I'm not complaining. We swore an oath that we'd serve our brilliant country. I really miss you guys this other life doesn't feel right without you all! I always wonder when the war will end so we can all be reunited some day.

Years 2 and 4 wrote acrostic poems on the theme Lest We Forget, and Year 3 composed rhyming poems reflecting on the same theme. Year 5 explored history through the eyes of a soldier, writing letters home from the trenches during World War I. Year 6 paid tribute to local heroes who lost their lives in the war by writing heartfelt letters to the soldiers themselves.

I love learning about history because it helps us reflect on the human experiences that got us here today - Mariella, Y6

Through reflection, writing, and art, our pupils honoured those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms.

Every night they save someones life, so lets,
 Make this happen tonight,
 Be the ones we hold to the bright light
 Every day we respect there love so lets,
 Remember the day they fought for us. ♡
 WRITTEN by Marigold -Clementine ♡
 This poem was created by marigold -Clementine and Willow Baker

Lest We Forget

Dear A. Dainbon,

I am here to write you a letter of gratitude. You fought during the war and died so the country could live and thrive. I understand that you can't see this, and that it is nowhere near as much ^{appreciation} gratitude as you deserve, but I hope you accept my letter of thanks.

First of all, I am writing this congratulating you for your hard fought service in the Royal Flying Corps to make this world a better place. I was saddened to hear of your plane crash while fighting bravely for the country you loved, and the country that now sees you as a hero and will always admire your service in the great war. I am so sorry that you died at only 22.

Spotlight: Community Celebration

We are incredibly proud of Oliver Joynes for representing both Aldersbrook Primary School and Eton Manor Rugby Club in such a meaningful way last weekend.

On Saturday, Oliver played an important role for Eton Manor Rugby Club, where he was presented as the club mascot. It was a very special day as the match was between two local rivals, Wanstead and Eton Manor, and included a Remembrance Day tribute. Oliver carried and held the poppy wreath during the moment of silence before kick-off, showing great respect and maturity.

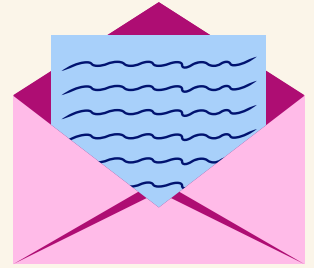
He demonstrated the Aldersbrook values of confidence and respect throughout the day. Although he was a little nervous, Oliver found his courage, took a deep breath, and carried out his role beautifully. We are all so proud of the way he represented our school and community.

Eton Manor Rugby Club are also keen to welcome more children to come along and give rugby a try. Oliver's team in particular is looking for more Year 5 girls to join, as they currently have just four girls among twenty-eight players. Rugby is a wonderful way for children to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience while having fun and keeping active. Well done, Oliver – you have made Aldersbrook very proud!



Ever Improving Spaces for Curious Minds

We are very excited to share that our Year 1 outdoor area is being refreshed to create an even more engaging and inspiring space for our children to play and learn. To help bring this project to life, we would be so grateful for any donations that could support our plans. We are particularly looking for a mud kitchen, a water tray, pots, pans and utensils for the mud kitchen, as well as wooden train sets and trains.



If you have any larger items to donate, such as a mud kitchen or water tray, please email the school office for the attention of Mrs Hunt, including a photo and the dimensions of the item so that we can ensure it will fit in the space. Smaller items can be placed in the Year 1 Donation Box, which will be in the Science classroom (accessible from the KS1 playground) every morning next week.

Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. Your contributions help us make our learning environments creative, exciting and full of opportunities for our children to explore and grow.



Exploring the Wonders of the Animal World

Our recent school trip offered the children a fantastic opportunity to learn about animals and their behaviours firsthand. They were able to observe a wide variety of species close up and active, which sparked lots of curiosity and questions. The lions were a particular highlight, and the children were excited to share their observations throughout the day. A special shout out to our staff and family volunteers who support our trip experiences with such care.



The children were a real credit to the school, showing excellent behaviour and engagement. The zookeeper in the squirrel monkey enclosure even commented on how thoughtful and inquisitive the class was, including asking questions about the life cycle of the animals.

We took some photos on the trip. While they capture some of the excitement, we were a little disappointed with the quality that came from iPad photos on the move. This has highlighted how useful it would be to have a dedicated school camera for trips, allowing us to capture clearer and more memorable images of the children's learning experiences. If any families happen to have a point-and-shoot or SLR camera that they no longer use and might be willing to donate to the school, we would be incredibly grateful. Any contribution would help us capture these special learning moments more effectively for everyone to enjoy.

A message from Mrs. Gandhi

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Parent View Questionnaire. Your comments and opinions are invaluable to us, and I'm delighted to share some key messages from what you told us.

What's Going Well

The strongest theme in your feedback was that our APS children are happy and feel safe in school. Behaviour and kindness were highlighted as real strengths. Thank you for recognising the joint effort of pupils, staff and families in making this part of our culture. Many of you spoke about the support, care and communication you receive from staff and leadership. And one statistic we are incredibly proud of: 100% of parents said they would recommend our school to another family!

What's New and Next

A number of parents told us they'd missed Forest School. As you may have seen in last week's newsletter, I am delighted to share that sessions are now up and running again, and the children are already thoroughly enjoying being back outdoors. Likewise, our trips are now running full steam ahead! Some families said they would like more information about what their children are learning. Our Website is a great place to get an overview of learning. I recommend starting in the Curriculum Area, exploring year groups and checking out the Curriculum Maps for a whole year picture or the Termly Overviews for more specific details about learning this term e.g. which phonics sounds are being learned. Your feedback helps us celebrate what is working well and informs what we improve next. We are so proud of our wonderful Aldersbrook community and, at the same time, we are committed to getting better every day.

IN THIS SECTION

- NURSERY
- RECEPTION
- YEAR 1
- YEAR 2
- YEAR 3
- YEAR 4
- YEAR 5
- YEAR 6

Year 6 Curriculum Map (2025/2026)

Curriculum Area	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	Tuesday Scary Stories	Macbeth Non-fiction writing	Mahinder's War	Sustainability Evolution	Editing and redrafting	Macbeth Script writing
Guided Reading	A Monster Calls (6I) Skellig (6G) Trash (6B)	The Works (Poetry) War Horse (6R) Skellig (6G) A Monster Calls (6M)	Goodnight Mr Tom (All)	A Monster Calls (6G) Skellig (6M) Coraline (6R)	Exploring different text types (Newspaper, Play script, Poems, Letters)	War Horse (6G) Trash (6R) Coraline (6M)
Maths	Number and Place Value	Addition and subtraction Multiplication and Division Position and Direction	Fractions, Decimals & Percentages Area, Perimeter & Volume	Fractions, Decimals & Percentages Shape	Algebra Ratio and Proportion	Theme projects

SUPERSONIC
Phonic friends

Spotlight on Success: Brilliance Boards Inspire Positive Behaviour

Last week, children were introduced to our refreshed behaviour system, the Brilliance Boards. This system recognises pupils who consistently demonstrate our school expectations of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe (RRS).

Children can also earn recognition for showing our key learning values: Curiosity, Independence, Confidence, and Involvement (CICI). Pupils who maintain these values throughout the day receive additional recognition, and we have been impressed by their interest and sense of ownership.

It has been wonderful to see pupils not only working towards their own success but also noticing and celebrating the achievements of others.

This week, Mr Palmer met with the first group of Gold Raffle Ticket winners, pupils who have consistently shown our values and had their name drawn from the Gold Raffle Jar. They enjoyed a hot chocolate together on Thursday afternoon to mark their success.

Our Senior Leadership Team so enjoy spending time with pupils to recognise their positive choices, and we incredibly are proud of how our children are showing CICI and RRS.



In our first ever weekly hot chocolate celebration, pupils got to spend time with each other and Mr Palmer discussing why and how they'd shown golden values!



Last week, we included our local community group, Mother Love, flyer in our newsletter. Here's a little more information for those who are curious!

Motherly Love is a community meet-up for mums, run by Gemma Capocci (BACP Counsellor & Psychotherapist) and Milli Richards (Specialist Peer Support Worker). It's a relaxed, honest space to talk about the real side of motherhood - no filters, no judgement. Being a mum can be brilliant, but it can also feel heavy, isolating and overwhelming. When we say things out loud, we remove the shame and remind each other that we're not doing this alone. Motherly Love meet every Monday (term time), 11-12:30pm at The Duke Pub, Wanstead. Drop in when you can - there's no such thing as late. There is space for buggies, toys available for babies up to 12 months, and a hot drink is included. Booking is encouraged by the Motherly Love team with a few drop-in spaces available. <http://bit.ly/3Lq9kxt>



**MOTHERLY LOVE IS
COMING TO WANSTEAD ON
17TH NOVEMBER!**

**COME FIND US AT THE DUKE PUB
(NIGHTINGALE LN, E11)
EVERY MONDAY (TERM TIME ONLY),
11-12:30 IN THE GARDEN ROOM**

**REAL MOTHERHOOD,
REAL CONVERSATION,
WITH PEOPLE WHO GET IT.**



**SCAN THE
CODE TO
SECURE
YOUR SPOT!**

The **DUKE**
WANSTEAD



FESTIVE UPDATES



This **Wednesday 10th December 2025** we are linking our Christmas and Winter jumper day to Save The Children's campaign. This special Jumper Day is a fantastic fundraising event for schools because it balances letting our pupils have fun and get creative with their jumpers (there's no need to buy a new one), while also helping them develop empathy by learning about the lives of other children, and how their fundraising can help them overcome challenges.

This year, Save The Children are collaborating with Aardman to run an exciting prize draw for all primary and secondary schools taking part - this includes us! Aldersbrook could win a clay modelling workshop where pupils learn how to make characters like Gromit or Shaun the Sheep, as well as a selection of runner up prizes.

We've got lots of special resources that we make for schools to ensure the day is fair and inclusive for everyone. Pupils will have the opportunity to have a special assembly presentation, a fun activity and a story linked to anti-bullying provided by Save The Children. We are looking forward to seeing lots of jumpers on the day. If you would like to donate to our Save the Children Jumper Fundraising Page before Wednesday 10th December, please do so by clicking [here](#)!

Carols at St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

	Monday 15 th December	Tuesday 16 th December	Wednesday 17 th December	Thursday 18 th December
AM	Nursery & Reception	Nursery & Reception	Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4
	10:15 – 11:00	10:15 – 11:00	09:30 – 10:15	09:30 – 10:15
PM	Year 5 & 6	Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
	14:15 – 15:00	14:15 – 15:00	14:15 – 15:00	14:30 – 15:15



This year, our Christmas Lunch Day will be on the same day as our Jumper Day to help lunch feel even more festive. Thank you to families who shared feedback on last year's Christmas Lunch experience from a sensory perspective. We are actively taking this into account as we plan for this year's festive lunch.

Aldersbrook Community Events

**St Gabriel's Church
Aldersbrook Invites
You To Join Us...**

**Saturday 15th
November
2025**

Messy Church

Anticipate!

All Ages Welcome!

Arts & Crafts 2-3.20
Story & Singing 3.20-3.30
Food & Fellowship 3.30-4

Free, small donations are welcomed

Aldersbrook Primary School PTA presents:

Almost Date Night

Cheese & wine 30th November 4 - 6 pm

For the adults
Tasting and socialising
KS1 hall

MOVIE AND SNACKS
For the children
Supervised fun
KS2 hall

Save the date!

It's Almost Date Night, and no one needs a sitter!

We are trying a new kind of family event:

- Adults get to sample delicious La Fromagerie cheese and Majestic wine (as well as other drinks and non-alcoholic options) in the (totally child-free) KS1 Hall, while...
- Your children are entertained with a movie in the (supervised) KS2 Hall

Free entry for parents who prefer to watch the movie with their kids.

Two rooms, one great evening.

We hope you will join us!

Tickets on sale after Half Term)

Come and Join...

St Gabriel's Children's Choir

Join us on Sundays from 11.30am - 12.15pm for our next series of fun sessions. Open to ages 6+.

Rehearsal Dates: 23rd Nov, 7th & 14th December

Performances: Christingle Service - Friday 19th December 6.30pm
Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

For more information or to book a place, call or email Fr Martyn:
07743 785884 stgabrielsvicar@icloud.com

Christmas

at VALENTINES MANSION

Sunday 7th December ✨ 10am-6pm

Artists Open Studios ✨ Craft Stalls
Carol Singing ✨ Festive Music
Children's Activities ✨ Refreshments

FREE ENTRY

valentinesmansion.com

on Road, Ilford, IG1 4XA

VISION
REDBRIDGE
CULTURE & LEISURE