



Manor Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1JZ 0161 643 6357
 email: office@alkrington.rochdale.sch.uk Website: www.alkrington.rochdale.sch.uk
 Head teacher: Mr. T. Barnes

5th September 2019

New School Year 2019 – 2020 General Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you had a good summer. The children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniform and ready to do their best. A number of matters for your attention:

Staffing Update - Welcome to those who are new to our school or have changed their role:

i.	Mrs Leigh	Teacher in the Nursery
ii.	Miss Ford	Teacher in Y1
iii.	Mr Torr	KS2 Assistant Headteacher and Y6 teacher
iv.	Miss Dean	TA3 in the Nursery
v.	Mrs Parkinson Jones	TA2 in Y1
vi.	Mrs Connor	TA2 in Y1
vii.	Mrs Bevan	TA2 in Y4
viii.	Miss Windsor	TA3 in Rising 3s
ix.	Mrs Orton	TA1 in the Nursery
x.	Miss Callaghan	TA1 in Y3
xi.	Miss Casey	TA1 in Y4
xii.	Miss Watson	TA1 in Rising 3s
xiii.	New Lunchtime staff	Ms Hunter, Mrs Jackson, Ms Crook
xiv.	Kitchen Assistant	Ms Marshall

Summer Holiday Works

School has been a busy place over the summer. My thanks to Mrs Cresswell, our Business Manager, and Mrs Hill, along with other staff who have worked through the summer holiday, and have coordinated and supported a range of improvements to our school, these include:

- Operating the Summer Holiday Club, childcare for four weeks of the summer break.
- Managing the Mark Allott Football School which operated here during the summer holiday and is booked for the middle three days of the October holiday too.
- Improvements to staff welfare facilities (new toilets)

Breakfast Club (BC) and the After School Club (ASC)

A reminder about the arrangements for before and after school childcare

Children in the **Nursery, Reception and Y1** year groups will attend in the Community Rooms – as used previously. Children in **Y2 to Y6** will be based in the small (infant) hall for the ASC and in the Main Hall for BC.

When collecting your child at the end of the day report to the door at the Community Rooms for the little ones; or the Y1 and Y2 door for the older children who are in the Infant Hall.

Outcomes for pupils at Alkrington in 2019

Here is a summary:

EYFS – 2019 60 Pupils Pupils with a Good Level of Development at the **end of the Reception year**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
% achieving a GLD	47%	57%	70%	61%	72%	65%
National Average	60%	66%	69%	71%	70%	71%

Y1 Phonics % of pupils achieving at the expected standard

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
School	88%	97%	95%	93%	92%	92%	90%
National	69%	74%	77%	81%	81%	82%	Not known

KS1 – 2019 55 Pupils % of pupils achieving at and above the expected standard **at the end of Y2**

	School at expected 2019	2019 NA at Expected	School at GDS 2019	2019 NA at GDS
Reading	75	76	22	25
Writing	69	70	7	15
Maths	75	77	20	22
R/W/M Combined	64	66	7	11

KS2 – 2019 60 Pupils % of pupils achieving at and above expected levels **at the end of Y6**

	At Expected School 2019	NA for 2019	School at GDS 2019	NA for 2019	Average Scaled score 2019	NA Scaled scores 2019
Reading	73	75	19	19	103	104
Writing	88	78	10	15	n/a	n/a
Mathematics	82	76	25	17	105	105
GPS	88	78	27	22	107	106
Combined R/W/M	68	65	5	5	105	104

- NA = National Average 2019 (where known) GDS = At greater depth / Higher standard
- All results are still provisional, NA = National Average
- Combined R/W/M is the proportion of pupils who achieve the expected level in all three subjects; reading, writing and mathematics. GPS is Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.
- Expected Scaled Score is 100

School Priorities for the new school year

Our Governing Board devised a plan from September 2016. This will be re-visited this term. The stated aim was:

'We will be the school of choice for parents, pupils and staff; regardless of religious belief, socioeconomic status or cultural background.'

The main areas of focus for this year will be:

Draft Key Priorities from Sept 2019

- Improving outcomes in reading
- Improving outcomes for higher attaining pupils – especially in writing and mathematics
- Further improving the range and quality of activities and experiences for our pupils

As last year we will have a theme week each term on the following areas of the curriculum:

1. Be Healthy and Stay Safe - week beginning 4th November 2019
2. Community Contribution – week beginning 2nd March 2020
3. Outdoor Learning – week beginning 8th June 2020

We welcome, as always, the views of parents and carers about our school, and we believe strongly that your opinions are important. If you have comments or suggestions which might help to improve the provision at Alkrington Primary School, please let me know, in person, on the 'phone or by email, for my attention at **office@alkrington.rochdale.sch.uk**

Back to School Reminders

Here are some reminders about kit and school uniform for the start of this new school year. It is important that all children stick to the rules regarding uniform so please make every effort to ensure that your child comes to school each day appropriately dressed and equipped.

Uniform consists of:

- White shirt (Not a 'polo' shirt please)
- School tie
- Grey skirt or trousers, with grey or navy tights
- Navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper
- Plain coloured socks – white, navy, black or grey
- Black shoes (with black laces if required) – Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their school shoes.
- No extreme haircuts, tramlines or logos shaved in. If children come to school with such haircuts, they may be sent home until the haircut is 'corrected'.
- Long hair should be tied back, to reduce the risk of the spread of head lice. Use only plain hair bobbles and bands
- Jewellery is not allowed, with the exception of a watch. Children should not wear earrings, but if they must, a small discrete stud should be worn which should be removed or covered for PE or other activities where the risk of injury is greater.
- Make sure that your child has a coat, with a zip or buttons, not just a hooded top.

PE kit consists of:

- New navy printed Alkington T shirt and navy/dark blue or black shorts
- Black pumps for indoor PE, trainers for outdoors

For new starters in the Reception year group a free PE kit, consisting of t-shirt, shorts and PE bag will be provided, parents will need to provide black pumps.

Dinner money The cost of a school dinner is £2.20 per day or £11.00 per full week – due on the first morning of each week. We no longer send dinner money change home – any change due will be credited to the following week. Please send money in an envelope marked with your child's name. We encourage payment online.

If you would like some help please let us know and we will be happy to assist.

Links with Parents and Carers

There will be opportunities for parents and carers to visit their child's new class and meet the teacher and support staff at a **Welcome Event**. This will be next week; beginning 9th September. You are welcome to visit your child(ren)'s new class(es) from about 3.25 p.m. for around 15 minutes, meet the staff and listen to their advice. The days are:

Monday **Y3** Tuesday **Y4 and Y6** Wednesday **Y1 and Y2** Thursday **Y5**

The meetings for Reception and Nursery Parents and carers will be later in September, once all of the new children are in and settled.

Each child will be given a Home-School Planner as a means of communication between parents and staff. This is an important item which should be brought into school and taken home each day. If lost, a replacement costs £3.50

Homework

Homework for children in Y1 to Y6 will be given each week. The detail of the homework routine for each class / year group will be on the Curriculum Newsletter. They will consist of:

- **Spellings – given out to be tested later**
- **Reading activities – we expected that you support your child at least 3 times each week in listening to him/her read and sharing books and stories. Make sure that you record this in the 'Planner'.**
- **Mathematics – Basic skills practice**

Each class will also have topic work homework to be completed over a period of a number of weeks or a half term, building up to a Gallery of work from home and class to be displayed for viewing by other children.

School Lunches

Each child in the Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes is entitled to a free school meal. I hope that you choose this provision. This would be a saving of almost £400 per year compared with the cost of a paid meal each day.

Children in all year groups may be entitled to a free school meal (FSM), subject to their circumstances and income. Parents and carers can apply for this, and school will help. Please ask if you need it.

School receives additional funding for each child who is entitled so we want to encourage as many to do so as possible. Often, because a child is in R, Y1 or Y2 and is receiving a free meal, parents do not bother to apply.

If your child has a packed lunch, please bear the following advice in mind:

A balanced meal would consist, in the view of the Rochdale Healthy Schools group, of:

- A drink
- A carbohydrate food, such as bread, potatoes, rice, pasta or noodles
- Fruit and vegetables – try to include 2-3 different fruits or vegetables each day
- A protein food – such as chicken, turkey, fish, ham, egg, cheese or humus
- A dairy food such as milk, yoghurt, cheese or fromage frais

Packed lunches should **not** include:

- Fizzy drinks – or glass bottles for safety reasons.
- Chocolate bars (e.g. Dairy Milk, Mars Bar etc. – Kit Kat, Blue Riband, Penguin bars etc are OK) or Sweets

School Attendance

See the attached holiday schedule for the new school year. Notice that the schedule for this school year 2019 – 2020 has some changes from that previously published:

- The February holiday is from Monday 24th to Friday 28th 2020, in line with other local schools, though different from other Local Authorities (and perhaps a cheaper holiday option).
- The May Day Bank Holiday closure has been moved to Friday 8th May 2020 (to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day)

Requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised unless in very exceptional circumstances, so please ensure that holidays are not taken in term time. Last year we issued a record number of Fixed Penalty Fines when children had a holiday in term time.

If your child is absent from school for more than 3 days you will need to provide medical evidence of the reason for absence, i.e. a note from the doctor or hospital.

Well done to those children, who during 2018 – 2019 had 100% attendance: They received a golden 100% badge and I posted a list of their names on the school Twitter account.

Lateness

If your child arrives at school after 9.15 a.m. this is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

If your child is not collected by 3.25 p.m. at the end of the school day, they will be taken to the library, in the middle of school and this recorded in the Late Book. If there is no-one to collect your child by 3.30 p.m. they will be taken to the After School Club and you will be expected to pay a charge. We appreciate that there are, on occasions, emergencies and difficult family situations and if your child will be collected late please 'phone the office to explain.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. T. Barnes - Headteacher

Alkrington Primary School



Holiday Schedule 2019 / 2020

Holiday	School Opens	School Closes	Pupil Days
	Wed 4th Sep 2019	Fri 18th Oct 2019	33
Autumn Half Term	Mon 21 st Oct to Fri 25 th Oct inclusive		
	Mon 28th Oct 2019	Thurs 19th Dec 2019	39
Christmas	Mon 23 rd Dec to Fri 3 rd Jan inclusive		
	Mon 6th Jan 2020	Fri 21st Feb 2020	35
Spring Half Term	Mon 24 th Feb to Fri 28 th Feb inclusive		
	Mon 2nd March 2020	Fri 3rd April 2020	25
Easter	Mon 6 th Apr to Fri 17 th April inclusive May Day Bank Holiday – Friday 8 th May		
	Mon 20th Apr 2020	Thurs 7th May 2020	24
	Mon 11th May 2020	Fri 22nd May 2020	
Summer Half Term	Mon 25 th May to Fri 29 th May inclusive		
	Mon 1st June 2020	Thurs 16th July 2020	34
		Total pupil days	190

Holiday Schedule 2020/2021

Holiday	School Opens	School Closes	Pupil Days
	Thurs 3rd Sept 2020	Fri 23rd Oct 2020	32
Autumn Half Term	Mon 26 th Oct to Fri 30 th Oct inclusive		
	Mon 2nd Nov 2020	Fri 18th Dec 2020	40
Christmas	Mon 21 st Dec to Fri 1 st Jan inclusive		
	Mon 4th Jan 2021	Fri 12th Feb 2021	30
Spring Half Term	Mon 15 th Feb to Fri 19 th Feb inclusive		
	Mon 22nd Feb 2021	Thurs 1st Apr 2021	29
Easter	Friday 2 nd to Fri 16 th April inclusive May Day Bank Holiday – Mon 3 rd May		
	Mon 19th April 2021	Fri 30th April 2021	29
	Tue 4th May 2021	Fri 28th May 2021	
Summer Half Term	Mon 27 th May to Fri 31 st May inclusive		
	Mon 7th June 2021	Fri 16th July 2021	30
		Total pupil days	190