

# Alderman Pounder Infant and Nursery School

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Head Teacher: Miss J. Hemsley



10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Newsletter 1

Dear Parents/ Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our pupils and their families. I hope you have all had a fantastic break and are ready for the term ahead. Also a very warm welcome to all our new children and parents that have joined us in FS2 and FS1 and those children who have transferred from another school in years 1 and 2.

As always, we have a busy autumn term ahead. Below are a few regular reminders and some dates for your diary.

## Flying High Trust

It is with great pleasure that I can finally announce that, following a very long conversion process of nearly 17 months, Alderman Pounder is now part of the Flying High Trust. The Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of 23 schools who all work closely together to ensure that we are providing the best education possible for your children. Recently FHT was awarded with the title of the fourth highest performing Trust in the country and the highest performing Trust in the East Midlands.



**To celebrate this significant event, we would like to invite you to join us straight after school this Friday in the school hall.** All the children in school have been contributing to a display to mark the occasion and they would love to show you their work. We will be joined by the schools governing body and Paul Goodman, Deputy CEO and Nick Layfield, Operations Manager, both members of the Trust Central team. They would love to meet you and will be more than happy to answer your questions. Refreshments will be provided for all who attend.



### Mr Graeme Robins

Mr Robins will be our main contact with the Trust. His role is Director of School Improvement and Quality Assurance. Mr Robins knows the school and area very well as he was formerly Head Teacher at Chetwynd Road and Executive Head at Sunnyside for a number of years.

Mr Robins will be spending a day in school every half term so you may see him out and about in the school playground. Please feel free to introduce yourself and say hello.

## Values

Our values play a huge part in all that we do at Alderman Pounder. We will be using the analogy of a tree symbolising their growth during their time here with the six values positioned at the roots of their very own tree. Below is a reminder of our values that we will be working on over the year:

- |              |               |                 |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Happiness | 2. Friendship | 3. Perseverance |
| 4. Respect   | 5. Fairness   | 6. Honesty      |

## Communication

Where possible, newsletters and other communications from school will be sent via email, with reminders and alerts sent by text messages. Therefore please let us know if your details change at any time. Letters that

"Making a difference as we grow together."

require a return slip will be sent as a paper copy in your child's reading folder. Please check this daily. By now you should have received specific letters relating to your child's curriculum topics.

## **DOJO**

Dojo is our main method of communication and provides you with information about 1) The progress your child is making and the work they have been doing in class, 2) What's happening in your child's class and how you can support their topics at home and 3) Whole school news and event information. If you haven't connected please talk to your class teacher as soon as possible.

## **Clothing**

Thank you to all our parents for purchasing the school uniform. Everyone looks fantastic in our new navy blue colour scheme. Please can we just stress the importance of ensuring all items of clothing such as sweatshirts, cardigans, polo-shirts and even shoes are **clearly labelled** with your child's name. At this time of the year we have lots of clothes and shoes in the same style and size!

## **PE**

All school children will be doing PE lessons during the week and need to wear black, navy or grey shorts with a white T-shirt, which need to be clearly labelled. Their PE kit is kept in a drawstring bag on their pegs and taken home to wash each half term.

Jewellery (including earrings) **cannot be worn during PE** so please remove them before school. Unfortunately placing a plaster over newly pierced ears is no longer accepted as safe practice. If your child has just had their ears pierced then unfortunately they will have to miss PE until they are in a position to remove them. If your child wears jewellery for cultural reasons please could you have a conversation with your child's class teacher. Whilst we cannot insist that this jewellery is removed we do still need to draw your attention to the risks that it may present during a physical activity session. Please check with the class teacher to confirm PE sessions.

## **Harvest Festival**

We are holding our Harvest Festival on **Monday 8th October**. Donations of canned/fresh foods would be greatly appreciated. Once again we will distribute the produce to a shelter for the homeless run by Hope. We will also be raising awareness with the children that whilst we are fortunate in our harvests, other countries are less so. For this reason we also intend to support 'Thrive Village' a charity in Tanzania founded by Miss Towlson and her family, aiming to empower, educate and equip vulnerable disabled children and their families. This can be done by taping a coin to the top of a can of food and school will forward the donation.



## **Parent Consultations**

Teachers like to meet with parents in the new term so that any initial anxieties or concerns can be dealt with quickly. Your child's class teacher will outline the topics that will be covered during the year and how you can best help your child to settle into school.

A letter regarding the consultation meetings will be sent home shortly, which will need to be returned stating your preferred date and time. Please make a note of the dates in your diaries.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** from 2.15pm – 3.00pm & 3.30pm – 5.45pm

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October** from 2.15pm – 3.00pm & 3.30pm – 5.45pm

## Phonics

For the last two years we have been using a phonics scheme called Story Time Phonics. For those who are not familiar with the scheme, **StoryTime Phonics** is a phonics programme which uses 'real' books to teach phonics and give children a love of reading.

Phonics is delivered daily as a whole class session. All the sounds that children need to learn remain the same as before and can be found in the front of their reading diaries. There is an expectation that by the end of FS2 (Reception classes) children will know the words and sounds from phase 2, 3 and 4 and that by the end of Year 1, children will have completed phase 5. Year 2 children will build on phase 5 and complete phase 6. In Year 1 and 2 there are common exception words that children will need to read and write, these can also be found in the reading diary, which will be sent home soon.



To find out more about how you can support your child with reading, phonics, and spellings we will be running a **'Loving Literacy' evening for parents** on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 from 5.00pm – 6.00pm**. This will also be an opportunity for you to see how we teach literacy in school.

## Enhanced Provision Money

We would like to continue to offer activities in addition to the core curriculum to enhance the children's learning and development. This could include baking, gardening, food tasting and discovery weeks. We are asking for a **small donation of £5.00 per child**, in line with the DfE Charging for School Activity policy, to be paid as soon as possible. This will cover enhanced provision for the whole school year.

As for any money that you are sending into school e.g. paying for an afterschool club, could you please ensure that it is in a **sealed envelope with your child's full name and class on the front**, along with information about what this money is for.

## School Dinners

As mentioned in the introductory meetings, all FS2 (Reception) children will be offered a hot meal regardless of whether they bring a packed lunch into school or not. This allows them to try new foods without the worry of them going hungry. This is something we have done for the last two years year and was very successful in encouraging children to opt for a healthy hot meal. We will, of course, be mindful of food allergies.

## Individual / Siblings Photos

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018** children will have their individual photographs taken in school. There will also be an opportunity first thing in the morning for photographs with siblings. We will send a reminder nearer the time.

## Absence notification

It is very important that you inform the school office if child is going to be absent from school or nursery by **10.00am on the first morning of absence.** If we are not notified by that time then office staff will contact you to ensure your child is safe. If we fail to hear from you and cannot make contact with you, school have the right to make reasonable enquiries to ensure your child's safety, this could include visiting the home address or contacting neighbours.

## Punctuality

Doors open at 8.50am for FS2 (Cherry, Sycamore and FS2 children in Chestnut class) and 8.55am for KS1 (Beech, Alder, Oak, Maple and Year 1 children in Chestnut). **Registration is a 9.00am** when the doors are locked. The first part of the morning is crucial to settle the children and brief them of the lessons taking place during the day. Please make every effort to get your child into school on time and avoid disruption to their class. If children are late, parents will be asked to provide an explanation for them being late.

## **PTFA**

We are extremely lucky to have a fantastic PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) group that work tirelessly behind the scenes raising funds for the children.

They are a friendly group who meet on the first Wednesday of every month and who are looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please come along on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** at 9.15am in the school hall - all welcome!

## **Online Safety**

Using the internet is now well and truly embedded into everyday life. Children as young as 2 years old have access to an iPad/ tablet and can navigate their way round numerous websites and apps. It is therefore crucial that we take our responsibilities seriously and teach all children how to stay safe online. Last year we had a large number of safeguarding alerts, some extremely serious relating to inappropriate content and groomers abusing children's apps as a means of making contact with children.

Once again, Alderman Pounder will be running a parents information session in school between **5.00pm-6.00pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. The session will be delivered by Lorna Naylor, Anti-bullying and Online Safety Coordinator working for the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team. Last year this session was well attended and feedback was hugely positive. **If you would like to attend please contact the school office.**

## **Family Worker**

Finally, this year we have appointed the schools very own family worker, Mrs Hibbert. Whilst teaching and learning is still our core focus it is essential that we recognise that our child's health and well-being is fundamental to their academic success and overall happiness. Mrs Hibbert is based in our brand new community room, The Pulse, located off the main school entrance. Mrs Hibbert will be there to work with and support children and their families, who, for whatever reason may need some additional support or advice.



Mrs Hibbert is a trained emotional literacy support assistant as well as being the schools very own behaviour champion – she is also really good at making a decent cup of tea and being a listening ear. Mrs Hibbert will be running a free drop in session every Monday morning from 9.00am – 10.00am but if you would like to discuss something more personal please feel free to email her on [lhibert@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk](mailto:lhibert@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk), drop her a message on Class Dojo or make an appointment at the school office.

We look forward to another brilliant year ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miss J Hemsley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss J Hemsley  
Head Teacher