



Newsletter – 28 March 2024

Welcome

As we wrap up the Spring term, it's a great opportunity to look back on some key events of the last term with pride. We want to extend our sincere appreciation to each member of our community – our wonderful children, committed families and dedicated staff. Your steadfast encouragement truly makes a difference. Without your support, this learning could not take place as it does.

This break offers a timely opportunity for everyone to recharge, bask in the good weather (hopefully!), and cherish quality time with loved ones. We wish you all a fantastic Easter filled with joy, perhaps a bit of adventure, and plenty of chocolate-induced smiles. It's a great occasion to create lasting memories, and we eagerly await hearing all about them.

Over the past few weeks, all teachers have had additional time out of class to map out the learning for our new enquiries and we're brimming with excitement for the upcoming term. Rest assured, we have a lineup of engaging activities and inspiring lessons to ensure that learning remains both enjoyable and impactful. We look forward to welcoming children back in two weeks on Monday 15th April, ready to embark on another enriching journey of growth and discovery together.

- **Mr A Butterworth-Drury**
Headteacher



Proud to be
part of the



**Flying
High
Partnership**

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Classroom update



This term has been nothing short of extraordinary, a true celebration of imagination, creativity, and learning! Our corridors and classrooms have been buzzing with excitement, showcasing the incredible talents and inquisitive minds of our learners.

Hopefully you'll already be aware that we LOVE reading at Alderman Pounder and so for World Book Day this year, our school community joined us in celebrating this love and embracing the magic of storytelling by cozying up in comfy clothes.

One of our favourite and most unforgettable moments was when we joined in with a virtual visit from the beloved Children's Author, Ian Eagleton. Alongside over 300 classes in different schools we were captivated by Ian's journey, his books, and even learned some sign language! It was a fantastic opportunity to inspire our future authors.



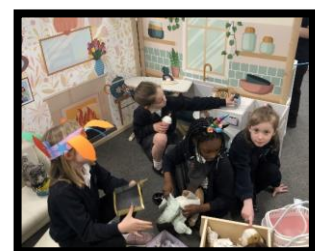
Speaking of which, did you know that KS1 had an article published in the Beeston Breeze? We're thrilled to announce that they even made it onto the front cover! Our children's passionate voices and ideas about climate change have not only been recognized but published, inspiring our community to take action for our planet. If you haven't already read it, you can see the full article in the 'Community notices' section of this newsletter.



In the Early Years, learning through play is a fundamental part of our practice. Our FS2 learners have truly outdone themselves, turning their continuous provision into a lively Boots Chemist. This wasn't just play; it was an adventure in learning, embodying their "What makes a place special?" enquiry. Through role-play, they've shown how creativity and learning can go hand in hand, exploring the world of medicines, health, and well-being with enthusiasm and curiosity.



The journey of discovery didn't stop there! Our KS1 children embarked on an imaginative expedition with Imagine Avenue Role Play as a part of their "What lies beyond?" enquiry. Thank you to all families who generously donated to allow this to go ahead. They brought the vibrant cities of Rio De Janeiro and Eyam to life right within our school walls, transforming into expert Tourist Agents. This experience was not only a blast but an incredible opportunity to apply their skills in communication, critical thinking, and, of course, creativity.



We also can't forget the rhythm and energy of Brazil they experienced through an exhilarating Samba drumming workshop, diving deep into the heart of Brazilian culture! (Again, thank you to KS1 families for your donations towards this.)



Thank you to each and every one of you – children, families and staff – for making this term truly special. Your support, enthusiasm, and participation bring our learning adventures to life. Here's to many more moments of creativity, discovery, and joy at Alderman Pounder Infant School!

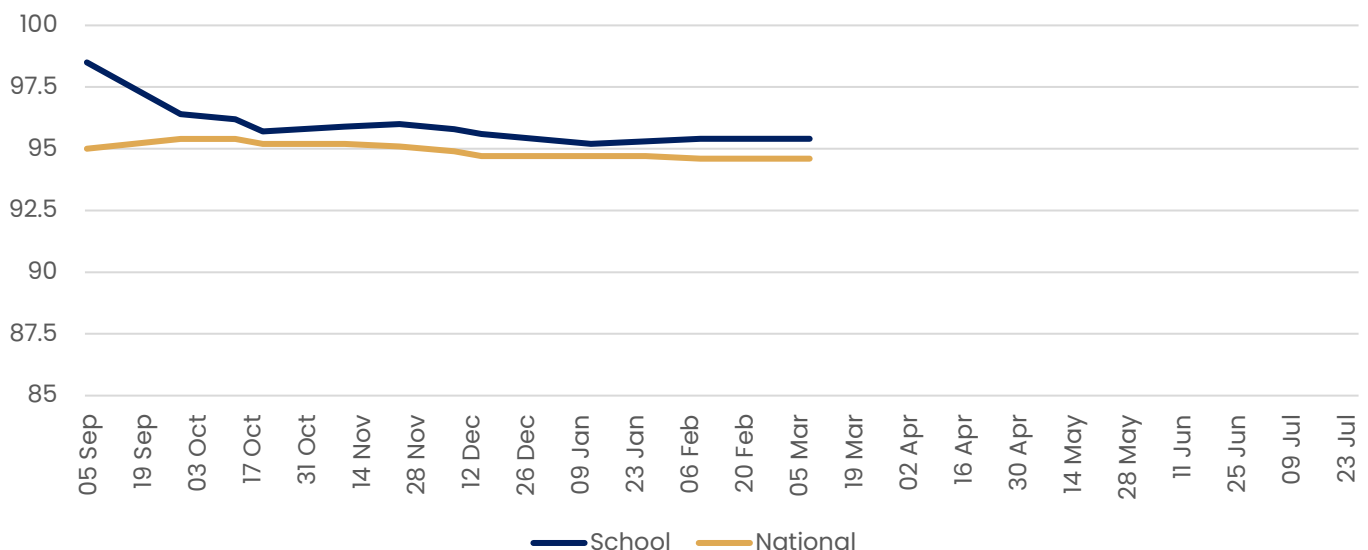
Attendance matters



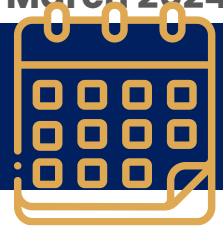
We are incredibly proud of our consistent record of attendance, surpassing national averages. This is a remarkable accomplishment! When our children attend school regularly, they have more opportunities to learn and achieve their best.

Children who attend school regularly not only benefit academically but also socially and emotionally. Regular attendance also sets the foundation for a successful future and helps children develop important life skills such as responsibility and perseverance. Thank you! It truly makes a difference!

School attendance (Year to date)



Key dates



Monday 15th April 2024 – Children return to school

Friday 17th May 2024 – Sports Day

Monday 20th May 2024 – School photos – Class groups

Thursday 23rd May 2024 – Back-up date for Sports Day

Thursday 23rd May 2024 – Break up for half term

Friday 24th May 2024 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 3rd June 2024 – Children return to school

Monday 17th June 2024 – Stuart Robinson MBE (Wheelchair Rugby Paralympian) visiting the school! More details to follow!

Transition dates will be added when confirmed

Friday 26th July 2024 – Break up for summer holiday

Comic Relief thanks



Thanks to the generosity of your donations, we were able to raise £157.65 for Comic Relief.

This achievement showcases the power of coming together for a great cause. Your kindness and support have made a significant impact in helping those in need. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Admissions for September 2024

APPLY NOW



Although the main application window for school places closed back in January, if you are aware of anyone who is still looking for a school place for next year, please encourage them to apply for a space with us via the [school admissions hub](#).



We believe that our school is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow, and we want to share that with as many families as possible. We know that word of mouth can be a powerful tool, so we ask that you help us spread the word about our school – places are available in all year groups for next year.

Safety at drop-off and pick-up



As a school, we take the safety of children and families seriously, and we are very appreciative of the number of families who choose to walk to school when they are able.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all families for your swift adaptation and support regarding our decision to keep our car park gates closed during drop-off and pick-up times. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Support and Safeguarding



During school holidays, please remember that although our building may be closed, we are still here to help (although our response time might be slightly slower than normal). If you would like to get in contact with us about a safeguarding concern, you can contact our Safeguarding team (made up of Mr Butterworth-Drury, Mrs Ingram, Ms Goodyear and Miss Begley) on safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk This email account is checked at least once daily (Monday to Friday) all year round.

If you have urgent concern for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) team on 0300 500 80 80. If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (08:30-17:00), contact the MASH Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 4564546. In an emergency call 999. To report a crime, call 101 or 999.

In today's fast-moving world, filled with new cultures and technologies, the way children experience life is quite different from how we did. It's not always easy to chat with them about things, especially the tricky subjects. Many children might also try to keep things smooth, avoiding topics that could stir up trouble. This can make it a bit tough for us to keep up with what's happening in their lives.

But, it's super important for us, as grown-ups they trust, to be there for them. We should always be ready to listen and encourage them to share about their daily experiences. The poster below from [Wake Up Wednesday](#) offers ten great tips to help have open conversations with children. It's all about making sure they know they've got someone to talk to, no matter what.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Community notices



Messy Easter

St Barnabas
Inham Nook

**Fun crafts, activities and
Easter refreshments.**

**Tuesday 2nd April from 2pm to 4pm
(join us anytime)**

EASTER EGG HUNT

**All children to be accompanied by
a parent or carer please.**

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR EVERY MONTH

breeze

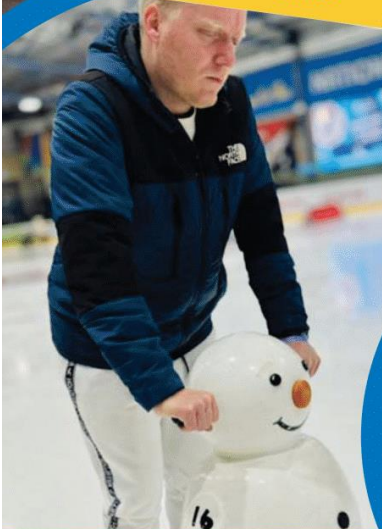
MARCH 2024

ISSUE 255



Local Activities

Local Talent



Local Arts

Local Business



YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE SINCE 2002

- Making a difference as we grow together -

climate change

keeping it
local
SINCE 2002



In the Autumn term children in Key Stage 1 at Alderman Pounder Infant school explored the thought-provoking enquiry question “What impact do our choices have?”. Through this question they were able to learn about the effects of the choices we make on our environment.

The children were inspired by the remarkable story of Greta Thunberg and were excited to learn about Greta’s school strike for climate and the amazing impact that her small voice had on the world. Her quote ‘nobody is too small to make a difference’ empowered the children to want to take action to make their own difference!

This led to the children designing and making their very own protest placards with slogans including ‘If you want to be cool, cycle to school!’, ‘Don’t drop litter, be a picker!’ and many more! The children loved sharing these with their parents when we invited them to our very own climate change protest!

We also learnt all about Sir David Attenborough and the impact his actions and documentaries have had on the environment over his long life! He helped us to learn about the 3 R’s; reduce, reuse, recycle and we enjoyed learning about the different ways we can reduce and reuse our own waste. We were lucky enough to be joined by a scientist and PHD student from Nottingham university who came to speak to the children about climate change and the importance of reducing plastics. The children were shocked to find out how long it takes for different waste items to break down and we couldn’t believe that it could take up to 1000 years for a mobile phone to decompose!

At the end of our enquiry we wanted the children to have a chance to have their passionate voices heard, so through our English lessons the children wrote persuasive letters to the people of Chilwell to persuade them to make changes to protect our planet!



Here is what some of the children had to say:

‘Greta taught us no-one is too small to make a difference and you can make a difference too! Did you know that climate change is destroying the homes of poor animals, and our spectacular world is getting hotter? I am urging you to stop creating horrible gases like carbon dioxide and methane!’

Joseph Year 2

‘I hope you know about climate change because it is destroying our beautiful planet, and you are making it happen by throwing plastic in our oceans!’

Annabelle Year 2

‘I am desperately writing to you because you need to help me save the planet now! You should not use plastic bags, because it will save money and will help our poor planet!’

Orion Year 2

‘Dear adults, I want to save the planet so don’t waste plastic! Turn off lights because it helps climate change.’

Ruby Year 1

‘We need to recycle because if we don’t recycle it will hurt our animals!’

Isla Year 1

Through these letters, our children hope to inspire their community to make more environmentally conscious choices in their daily lives.

We also hope that all our learning has helped to nurture a generation of passionate and empowered individuals who will go on make great choices to shape a brighter and more sustainable future for us all.



Thank you for reading



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www.aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk