



Newsletter – 11 December 2023

Welcome

Although the weather may be getting colder, the warmth of our school community never fails to amaze me. I'd like to start by taking this opportunity to extend my thanks to all of the families and volunteers who have helped make the past two weeks truly special. Your support really makes a difference, and we are grateful for your contributions. This is a wonderful time of year where we can come together and celebrate as school community.

It's not just one-off events which are well supported – we are truly fortunate to have some amazing volunteer readers who continue to dedicate their time to help our children develop their love for reading. To our volunteers, thank you. If any other members of our community are able to volunteer their time on a regular basis to read with children, please speak to your child's class teacher.

In addition to the events we have organized ourselves, we also joined in with a virtual author visit with Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt about their new book 'You Choose Christmas'. It was an amazing opportunity for our children to engage with two renowned authors and learn about how they wrote their book. There was also a lesson in how to draw illustrations just like Nick!

You may also have seen some commotion at the end of school on Friday as children from Key Stage 1 took to the playground to mark the end of their current enquiry. After 12 weeks studying their 'What impact do our choices have?' enquiry, they applied their learning to speak out about climate change and protecting the environment. Take a look at the last page of this newsletter for a photo!



– Mr A Butterworth-Drury

Headteacher

Proud to be
part of the



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12 Days of Christmas



The festive season has well and truly arrived at our school, and we want to extend our thanks to members of our community who have helped make it happen.

We would like to say 'thank you' to all the volunteers who helped walk the children to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Barnabas Church. Your support is invaluable, and we couldn't have done it without you. We also want to thank everyone who brought in donations for the food items that went on the tree. These donations will be given out to members of our community in need by the members of St Barnabas. The trees at the festival were simply amazing, and we were so proud of how well-behaved our children were during the event.



Last week, saw the start of our 12 Days of Christmas festival with 'Sleigh and Play', Christmas Jumper Day and Film Club. These were a great success, and it was heartwarming to see the school filled with so much Christmas cheer. We hope that the rest of our 12 Days of Christmas festival is just as wonderful as the start has been. Let's continue to spread joy and cheer throughout our school community.



Reading at AP



We want to start by thanking you for your patience while our teachers updated reading and phonics assessments. Using the updated approach recommended to us has taken longer than expected but we are happy to say that all children have been given new books on the appropriate bands. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

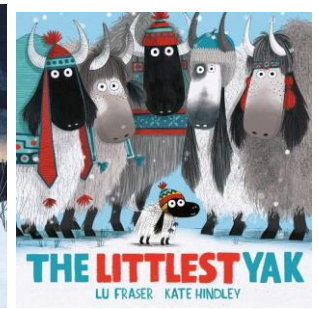
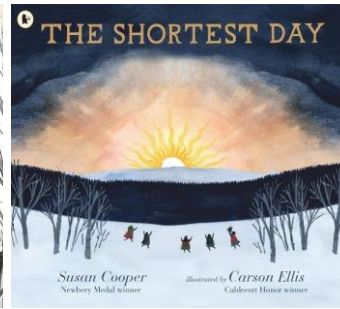
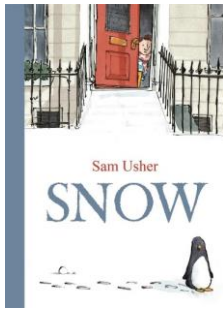
All children in school have three books which they bring home. Two of these books are fully decodable phonics books to support children in practicing the codes they know. We encourage you to ask your child to read one of these books to you every day, as they are kept for two weeks to build up fluency. The third book is from our library and is a free choice book to develop your child's love of reading. This book may require an adult to read to them, as children can choose any book that interests them.

Reading is a priority at Alderman Pounder, with a large amount of time set aside for it. Children read at multiple points in the school day including during phonics and reading lessons (and others) and after lunch. All children also read with an adult in school every week, usually during phonics lessons. At the end of every day, teachers read a story to their class. We want all children to love reading and believe in themselves as a reader. Thank you for your support in helping us achieve this goal.

Alderman Pounder Virtual Library



Click below for links to some super reads to share and watch at home!

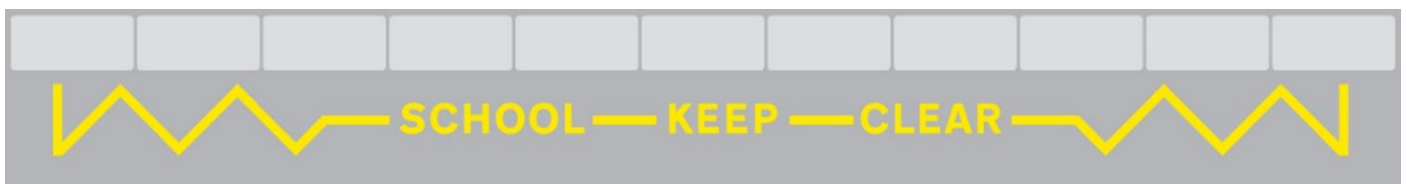


Safety at drop-off and pick-up



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.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of cars that are stopping on the yellow KEEP CLEAR markings to drop off children. This causes congestion and reduced visibility resulting in a near miss on Friday. We kindly request that all drivers park safely and responsibly by avoiding dropping off, idling, or parking on yellow KEEP CLEAR markings. Additionally, we encourage families to turn off their engines while waiting to prevent pollution.



Please be aware that as a school, we have no authority over roads and parking however we have requested that the CCTV vehicle enforcement team provide their support with this. If any member of our community has concerns about parking, these can be reported directly to the Nottinghamshire On Street parking team (0115 8040410). Concerns about unsafe driving can be reported to the police. Let's work together to keep our children safe.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school a safe environment.

Attendance matters



We are delighted to share that our school attendance continues to be higher than the national average! Great attendance is key to ensuring that all our children achieve well, and it's clear that great attendance is valued by families, children and staff.

School attendance (Year to date)



Notices and reminders



Don't forget that the school admissions application window is now open! If your child is due to start in Reception next year (or will be moving up to Year 3), please apply for school place on the [school admissions hub](#).

The deadline for applications for primary school places for September 2024 (both Reception and Year 3) is Monday 15 January 2024.



A number of children are using Prime bottles as water bottles in school. Although we recognise that these will have been refilled with water, as Prime is not recommended for Primary-aged children, we request that either the outer label is removed (so it is not branded) or another plain water bottle is used.



THANK YOU! 98% of our families are now signed up to ClassDojo which is an incredible achievement! It's a great way to stay in touch as you can message your child's class teacher with any questions you may have. Messages are only checked during working hours when not in class and we aim to respond within 2 working days.

Support and Safeguarding



In recent years, streaming services such as Netflix and Disney+ have become increasingly popular among children and families. While these platforms offer a wide selection of shows and movies for young viewers, it is important to ensure their safety while using them.

Here are some tips to help keep your child safe while using streaming platforms:

- Set parental controls: Most streaming services offer parental controls that allow you to limit the content your child can access.
- Monitor usage: Keep an eye on what your child is watching and how much time they spend on these platforms.
- Discuss online safety: Talk to your child about online safety and the importance of not sharing personal information with strangers.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that your child has a safe and enjoyable experience while using streaming platforms.

We're also really pleased to say that Miss Begley has now been with us for a couple of weeks and is settling in well to her role as our Pastoral Lead, working with children across the school.

Our safeguarding team

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child at Alderman Pounder, please speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team. Any member of the team can help you including by providing you with advice and signposting to other agencies, however, we all have areas of focus:

- Mr Butterworth-Drury leads the team and has oversight of all areas.
- Mrs Ingram a focus on children with SEND.
- Miss Begley mostly works directly with children in school (such as talking about their emotions)
- Ms Goodyear mostly works with our families to support adults (such as parenting advice)

- Making a difference as we grow together -



Click picture to enlarge (external link)



Mr A Butterworth-Drury

Headteacher

**Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead
and Designated Teacher for LAC**



Mrs S Ingram

Deputy Headteacher / SENDCo

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead**



Ms C Goodyear

Extended Services Manager

Safeguarding Lead



Miss C Begley

Pastoral Lead

Safeguarding Lead

Our school safeguarding team can be contacted for non-emergencies, including during school holidays on safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk.

If you have urgent concerns 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.

Key dates



Monday 11th December 2023 – Visit Santa (pre-booking required)

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – Stories with Mrs Claus

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – National Measurement Programme (Reception children)

Wednesday 13th December 2023, 10.00am – Nursery (FS1) concert ([book here](#))

Thursday 14th December 2023 – Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 15th December 2023, 9.30am & 2pm – Reception (FS2) concert ([book here](#))

Monday 18th December 2023 – Deadline for decorating a toilet roll competition, please send in your £1 with your entry.

Tuesday 19th December 2023 – Bubl  and Bacon (pre-ordering required)

Wednesday 20th December 2023 – Prize Day

Thursday 21st December 2023, 2pm & 5pm – KS1 concerts ([book here](#))

Friday 22nd December 2023 – Party Day

Friday 22nd December 2023 – Break up for Christmas holiday

Thursday 4th January 2024 – Children return to school

Monday 15th January 2024 – School admissions application deadline

Monday 5th to Friday 9th February 2024 – Children’s Mental Health Week

Tuesday 6th February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 9th February 2023 – Break up for half term

Monday 19th February 2024 – Children return to school

Monday 26th February 2024 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Thursday 7th March 2024 – World Book Day

Friday 15th March 2024 – Red Nose Day

Thursday 28th March 2024 – Break up for Easter holiday

Monday 15th April 2024 – Children return to school

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

Friday 26th July 2024 – Break up for summer holiday

(INSET days for 2024/25 academic year will be shared during the spring term)



Thank you for reading



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www.aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk