



Newsletter



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ISSUE 33

17th July 2020

Dear Children, Parents, Friends and Carers,

This is the final newsletter of the strangest and most challenging year that I have ever experienced in my working career.

As a school, we have had challenge after challenge. It seems a distant memory now, but it was only a few months ago that we were inspected by Ofsted, happily achieving the best outcome possible available to us. Shortly after that, Covid-19 hit and since then we have had a relentless whirlwind of changes to deal with. The school community had to change the way it worked, not once, but three times to date – moving to four in September. The pressure on parents, staff, and most noticeably the children has been, and continues to be, huge.

However, this week, the Transition Mornings have been fun, and have lifted all - totally superb! Meeting up with the children that have not been in school for months was a very special moment for me and the staff at Alford. The children came in showing the courage and resilience of youth – smiling and excited to meet their new teachers. I wonder if the adults would have been so brave in a similar situation! Children – you make me proud!

As we move into what would have been the summer holiday period, we will not be setting any online work. We hope that families will use the extra time to enjoy-safely- the relaxed lockdown. We none of us can predict what next term will bring, but I for one am embracing the plan that finally we will all be back together in school.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the parent community for your positive messages and unerring support throughout

the last four months. The staff, when times have been tough, have been repeatedly lifted by your kind words, messages and emails – it has meant a lot to them – and to me.

A last note: over the holiday period, school will not be open at all, so any messages will need to be sent by email. Please keep checking Parent hub for any updates and reminders about returning in September but other than that, fingers crossed, that we will all be back on Thursday 3rd September.

Keep safe and well,

Mrs Ross

September Opening

Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – 'it's completely fine to feel like that at the moment' or 'I can really understand why you would feel like that'



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your 'goodbye' routine and create a 'hello' greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.



Goodbye and Goodluck!

This week we say goodbye to Mrs Evans who has been with us since 2012. Mrs Evans started with us as a midday meal supervisor and then became a learning support and teaching assistant in class. Her warmth and kind manner has help many children to learn and be happy. We wish her well as she moves on to pastures new. Good luck, Mrs Evans – we will miss you!

End of Year Reports

If you have not yet been able to collect your child's report, it can be collected from the school office between 11.00am and 3.00pm on Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st July. Any reports not collected after this date will be posted to parents.

Keyworker Places

If your child has pre-booked a place for Monday 20th/21st July, they should be dropped off and collected from the hall door, via the front gate. Please note the back gates will not be open.

There are now no more spaces available.

Uniform Shop

shop.alfordprimary.co.uk

Please be aware that the school office will be closed from Thursday 23rd July and will not re-open until the new school year, so no uniform orders will be processed after that date until school re-opens. Therefore, you may wish to place an order for collection from the office by Thursday 23rd July 2020.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to phone or email the school office.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS

All parents, who supplied us with an email address will have received details from the Government about the FSM summer voucher

scheme today. Please read your email very carefully about activating the ecode and follow the Government instructions. **Please note that the expiry date to activate your ecode is 17th August 2020.** Any queries must be directed to Edenred as this is a Government scheme.

Classes for Next Year

The classes for next year will be as follows:

Current Class	New Class	New Teacher
Butterflies	1H	Miss Hicks
Ladybirds	1W	Miss Wakelin
1H	2CH	Mrs Cooper and Mr Hextall
1W	2HW	Mrs Hall and Mrs Williams
2HW	3L	Mr Le'Gate
2CH	3B	Mrs Beezer
3L	4BS	Mrs Bailey and Mrs Simons
3B	4K	Miss Kerr
4BS	5S	Mr Smith
4K	5M	Mrs Murray
5S	6HS	Miss Hill and Mrs Simpson
5M	6D	Miss Dawes

THOSE ISOLATING IN LOCKDOWN

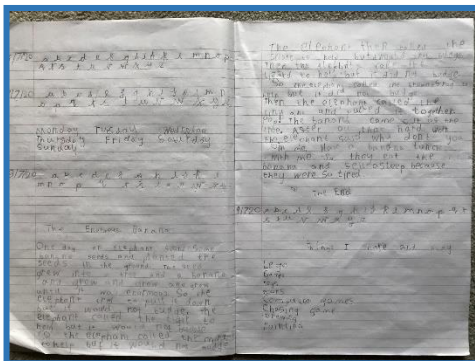
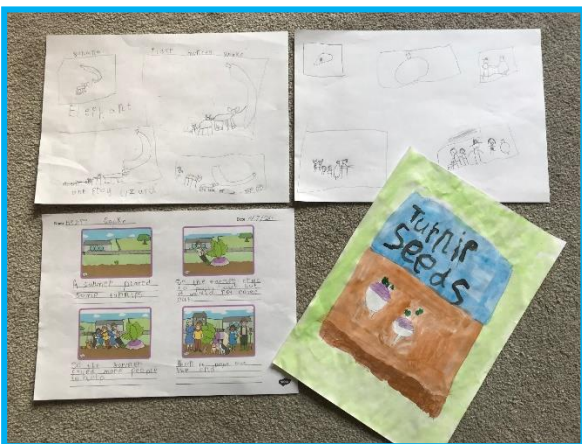
It has come to light that some people testing positive for Covid aren't aware of the services available to them to support them and their families whilst isolating. The numbers isolating is likely to increase with track and trace so here are the numbers for the Alford Hub – a dedicated team who can help you if isolating,



Some final learning from the children...

I had a few emails from teachers and parents with some last learning for the newsletter. A massive well done to all the children that have worked so hard to complete the online work set for them. Well done and thank you to the staff for their hard work producing it and well done to the adults at home that have worked so hard to support their children with it....

A selection of Henry's work from this week.



An Amazing Achievement from Kirsten...

'Earlier in lockdown I entered some sports competitions being run across the county - I did an athletics pentathlon, cricket, tennis and golf and we had to do different challenges for each sport. I was really excited because I won the cricket and tennis for the coastal area and my entries went to the County Final.

In the county finals, I came 5th in the cricket, and I came 2nd in the tennis!

Kirsten'

We are very proud of her.

Pirate Bubble have made beautiful lizards...



...and Enola was really interested in the CAM work she covered in home learning and she has made her very own cam operated toy.

