



# The Alton School Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup>  
November  
2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Colleagues,

## Rights Respecting School

Next week we are focusing on article 14: You have the right to think and believe what you choose, as well as practicing your religion as long as you do not stop others from enjoying their rights. The pupils will learn that with this right comes the action of making sure they respect each other and accept the differences that others may have.

Our Excellent Learner quality is: Excellent Learners listen well.

Please support us by using the language of Excellent Learners as well as rights and responsibilities with your children, asking them what they have been learning about.

## Beginning of the day

Thank you so much for supporting us with the new start to the school day. I am very pleased with how it is going and, having spoken with many of you by the school gate in the morning, you are too. The pupils have a calmer start to their day and those that are here at 8.45am have an extra 15 minutes of learning time.

## Goodbye!

At this time of year we sometimes have to say goodbye and good luck to some of our staff.

Goodbye to Mrs. Woods, our Speech Therapist who is leaving to spend more time with her baby and family. We wish her a happy time at home and thank her for all she has done for all of us.

## Special visitor

On Friday, we are hosting a visit from Justine Greening. She was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities on 14 July 2016 and she has been the Putney, Roehampton and Southfields Member of Parliament since 5 May 2005.

## Anti-bullying week

Next week is anti-bullying week. Your children will have opportunities to discuss what bullying is and how to deal with it. Please talk to your children and find out what they learnt.

## Next week at The Alton

On Monday at 2.30pm, we are running an E-safety workshop for parents. Please come and see how you can keep your children safe whilst they use computers, mobile phones and interactive games, to name a few of the examples we shall cover.

On Tuesday, Y5 are going on a trip to Kew Gardens. I am sure they will discover some interesting facts during the day.

On Thursday, the school Photographer will be taking photos of all of your children. Please make sure that they come to school in the correct uniform. If you want to have family photographs with younger brothers and sisters, we shall do those first so please wait in the school hall.

On Friday at 3pm it is the Early Years Assembly and everyone is welcome to come.

## Achievement Assembly

On Monday, in our Achievement Assembly, the following students were awarded their certificates:

**Big Writers:** Saim(R); Kara(Y1); Sabeeka(Y2); Wafaa(Y3); Christopher(RB); Naima(Y4); Elina(Y5) and Ghalib(Y6).

**Excellent Learners:** Adam(R); Cameron(Y1); Maeeda(Y2); Mahamud M(Y3); Celine(RB); Wamda(Y4); Dominic(Y5) and Adnyas(Y6).

**Reader of the Week:** Durriya (Y5)

**RRS Champion:** Charlie (Y3)

## Parent suggestion or question

Parents make many helpful suggestions and ask very good questions so I would like to use the newsletter to take one of these and answer it each week. There is an email address for you to send them to me. Please email: [gill.adams@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:gill.adams@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk)

This week a parent wrote:

“It would be nice for those working parents who do not drop off or collect their children to be able to communicate with the teachers using email. Also help or support with things such as changing books, checking book bags for homework etc”

Thank you for your suggestions and comments. I am very happy for teachers to communicate with parents using email, however we do not have all parents' email addresses.

If you want a teacher to use this to keep in regular contact with you, please ring us and ask to speak to the teacher to arrange it. The same with any support you may need, just speak to the teacher, or Ms. Thomson, or me and we will do whatever we can.

We also have a system in school which we use for communication with parents, called a Home Link Book. The teacher can write in this book and it comes home with your child in their book bag. You can then read it and write in the book and send it back with your child so the teacher can read and comment. Again, just speak to the teacher to set this system up.

Another parent wrote:

“I think after school clubs are too expensive and should cost less as they are not run by professionals and charge £40. I also think it is unfair for a child to have a detention when someone is racist to them.”

Thank you for your comment. The clubs that we had running last year were run by professional coaches, the same team as we asked to run our clubs this term. Unfortunately, not enough parents signed up for the clubs to make them viable. The charge was £37.50 per term for ten weeks of clubs, which works out at £3.75 each week. I think that is good value for money for an hour with a professional. Other professionals we approached were charging £6.50.

I am happy to talk to any parent who is unhappy with how we implement our behavior policy. We consider using racist language to be unacceptable and in direct contradiction to our Rights Respecting values and everyone's right to be free from all forms of abuse. Victims of racial abuse are always supported by us, never penalized by us.

There is also a suggestion box by the school office. I am sure your suggestions and questions will be useful to other parents as well.

With best wishes,

*Ruth Hudson*

Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.30pm Parents' e-safety workshop	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8am Breakfast club. 8.45am class doors open.
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y5 trip to Kew Gardens	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	3pm Y2 Class Assembly
16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School photographer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	3pm Y1 Class Assembly
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Justine Greening visit	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3pm EYrs Class Assembly
	3pm EYrs Assembly	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3.30pm School closes for Easter
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2pm Parents' Evening	<b>30<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April School is closed to pupils</b>	
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.30pm Winter Fair	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	School closed to pupils but open for staff training and buying uniform. (INSET)
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2pm School Christmas Play	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8am Breakfast club. 8.45am class doors open.
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12.15pm Christmas lunch	7 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed for Bank Holiday
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.30pm School closes for Christmas	25 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30pm School closes for half term
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 School is closed to pupils</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	School closed to pupils but open for staff training and buying uniform. (INSET)	<b>28<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June School is closed to pupils</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	8am Breakfast club. 8.45am Class doors open.	4 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed to pupils but open for staff training and buying uniform. (INSET)
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3pm Y6 Class Assembly	5 <sup>th</sup> June	8am Breakfast club. 8.45am class doors open.
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3pm Y5 Class Assembly	20 <sup>th</sup> July	12.15pm School closes for the summer holidays
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3pm Y4 Class Assembly		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	3pm Y3 Class Assembly		
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.30pm School closes for half term		
<b>12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February School closed to pupils</b>			