

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term News, Reminders and Dates

Please note, there has been some date changes to this newsletter since it was last emailed to you all this morning. Therefore, please ignore that one and use this one for future reference.

Thank you.

On this occasion, there is great deal of information to share in my News, Dates and Reminder letter. A copy will be posted onto the school website which may make it easier for you to read on a PC rather than on a mobile telephone.

News

Staffing news – Miss Mrozek has had her baby, he is called Toby Daniel. Congratulations to Ms Mrozek and her partner. Welcome Toby!

PTA – 9:00am Friday 23rd September

Our PTA meets on Friday morning in the community block in the Junior playground. All Alma Park parents and carers are automatically members of the PTA – you don't need to do anything to join! Please try to come along to the meeting; I hope we see you there.

Alma Park Breakfast Club (daily 8:00am to 8:45am) – Complimentary introductory offer

Families new to Alma Park will soon receive a complimentary breakfast voucher, courtesy of Manchester Fayre, our school dinners and breakfast club provider. Alma Park's breakfast club is quite unique because children eat their breakfast alongside other families. I hope that the vouchers will encourage new families to become breakfast club regulars.

Friday toast – rewarding great punctuality

We are always looking for exciting ways to reward great attendance and punctuality. Every Friday morning our random name generator picks a name from a list of all of the children with perfect punctuality for the week. 'Winning' children are given complimentary breakfast club vouchers, awarding them and their family a free breakfast.

This year our Governing body has agreed to extend the punctuality reward to whole classes. The class with the best weekly punctuality record will be given buttered whole meal toast just before morning break. We are confident Friday toast will be well received by our children and encourage them to 'Be in the line at ten to nine'. I hope you agree.

NB It is important that you have informed school of any special dietary requirements preventing your child from having toast.

Forest Schools

Mr Grant, our Forest School Co-ordinator, has been timetabled to provide Forest School days for each of our classes. See the dates below. He has worked with 4 classes so far and we have consistently received positive feedback on these sessions from our children and staff.

I am keen to know your views on our Forest School provision. Please ask your children about their Forest School experiences and let me know what you think. You can e-mail your opinions

to: admin@almapark.manchester.sch.uk. Your comments are extremely valuable in helping us shape future Forest School provision.

Also please let me know if you are interested in Mr Grant running an adult Forest School taster session or if you would be available to help clear and tidy our woods later in the term. You can find out more about Forest Schools by visiting: <https://www.forestschoools.com>

School Priorities for school year 2016-17

Reading – We want all children to develop a love of reading and believe this can be developed through effective teaching to improve children’s comprehension skills. Consequently, Mrs Losada, English co-ordinator, and teaching staff will be working on a project with Dr Wayne Tennant, Senior Lecturer at University of East London University. We believe this project can help us achieve our ambition for our children’s reading. You can find out more about Dr Tennant and his work at:

<https://uk.pearson.com/primary-educators/making-an-impact/research-summaries/effective-guided-reading-theory-and-practice.html>

Writing – last year we started Talk for Writing, a strategy which helps children to become confident and effective writers. The strategy encourages children to talk through and act out stories before writing them down. In Spring 2017, we will extend our Talk for Writing development by joining the Primary Writing Project (PWP) led by Pie Corbett and John Stannard CBE.

Visit : www.primarywritingproject.org.uk to learn about the PWP.

The focus on reading and writing will be supported by a series of opportunities for our children to meet a range of successful children’s authors. Mrs Losada has liaised with the Manchester Literature Festival Team to ensure an exciting programme of events.

Mathematics – Ms Murray, Assistant Headteacher has become our Maths co-ordinator. This year she will roll out our calculations policy showing our strategies for the four number operations. The calculations policy will be made available on our website and will supported with a workshop for families.

Ms Murray has purchased Mathletics, an online maths application, for all KS2 children. Mathletics workshops will also follow.

Other areas for development include: marking, homework, times tables, handwriting and spelling.

Please keep an eye out for further information.

Educational trips and visitors

We encourage educational trips and school visitors to stimulate our children’s learning. We know from our pupil voice surveys that the children really love these memorable opportunities and that they have a positive impact on learning. Regrettably Alma Park’s budget does not cover the cost of such trips and we have to turn to you to help fund them. I am aware this is an additional expense and that it is always best to let you know in good time when we are asking you for your

contributions. Consequently, I have asked class teachers to do their best to plan out in advance the trips and school visitors for the year. An overview will follow.

All trips should offer good value for money and must cost less than £10 per child including transport. Walking or public transport are strongly encouraged.

Theme Days

Alma Park has always had a fun range of theme days to promote creative learning, a sense of school community and occasionally to support national/international causes. Our first theme day this year will be Humphrey's Pyjamas Day on Thursday 6th October. Children will be encouraged to wear their pyjamas to school instead of their uniforms in return for a small financial contribution to The Children's Trust.

As usual Brenda our school cook will complement this themed day with a themed lunch. Packed lunch children will be welcome to enjoy a school lunch – information on how to order a lunch on Humphrey's Pyjamas Day will follow.

You can find read about Humphrey's Pyjamas Day and The Children's Trust at:

<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk>

Autumn Dates

Please put these dates in your diaries:

20.9.16 – Y3 visit to The Royal Exchange Theatre to see Valerie Bloom children's poet

– Y4 Manchester museum

21.9.16 – Valerie Bloom workshop

22.9.16 – Forest schools – 2L

23.9.16 – Assembly – European day of languages

– Forest schools – 6H

– Nurse Robert Chapman – Drop in workshop - Asthma

26.9.16 and 3.10.16 - Bikeability Course for Y5 and Y6 children (this course is repeated throughout the year so that all children have the opportunity to take part)

29.9.16 – Forest schools – 1L

30.9.16 – Forest schools – 5H

3.10.16 – Class 5H Central Library – Black History – music/poetry

4.10.16 – Class 5S Central Library – Black History – music/poetry

6.10.16 – Theme day – Humphrey's Pyjamas

– Forest schools – 1C

7.10.16 – Assembly – National Poetry Day (Y1 and Reception)

– Y2 visit to the Z-Arts, Hulme Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake & Bad Things – Michael Rosen

– Forest schools – 5S

- 13.10.16** – Forest schools – Reception – HS
- 14.10.16** – Assembly – Black History Month – Y5 & Y6
– Forest schools – 4B
- 19.10.16** – Parents’ evening 1 – 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 20.10.16** – Forest Schools – Reception L
– Parents evening 2 – 4:00pm - 6:00pm
- 21.10.16** – Assembly – Black History Month – Y3 & Y4
– Forest schools – 4M
– Fire Service – ‘Safer Autumn’ Y6
– School closes at 3:15pm for half-term holidays
- 31.10.16** – School reopens at 8:50 a.m. – ‘Be in the line at ten to nine’
- 11.11.16** – Assembly – 6H
- 14.11.16** – Y2 Staircase House – Stockport
- 18.11.16** – Assembly – 6G
- 25.11.16** – Assembly – 5H
- 2.12.16** – Assembly – 4B
- 15.12.16** – KS2 afternoon and evening performances
- 19.12.16** – EYFS/KS1 concerts – afternoon
- 20.12.16** – EYFS/KS1 concerts – morning
– EYFS/Christmas parties (party clothes welcome)
- 21.12.16** – KS2 Carols
– Christmas lunch
– KS2 Christmas parties (party clothes welcome)
- 22.12.16** – School closes at 2.15pm
- 9.1.17** – School reopens at 8:50am – ‘Be in the line at ten to nine’

Reminders

Safeguarding

As I make frequent references to Safeguarding, I feel it is timely to remind you that our guide to Alma Park’s Safeguarding Policy is available on our website in Urdu and in English.

http://almapark.manchester.sch.uk/serve_file/45193

http://almapark.manchester.sch.uk/serve_file/45192

Dinner monies

School dinners cost £2.20 per meal, £11.00 per week – payments are made via SIMS Agora.
Please remember that all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to free school meals; sadly junior and nursery children are not.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Parfitt, Headteacher