



Head's

Update

September 2017

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MRS O'CONNOR

Welcome back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new and very exciting year for our school! A very special welcome to all our new families who have joined us. It has been a great start to the term. The children all look incredibly smart, so I would like to thank you all for supporting the new uniform expectations. Over the course of the year, I will send out regular Head's Updates in order to inform you of some of the new initiatives that are being put into place in order to improve outcomes for the children at Alfred Street. Hopefully the children will have already told you about some of the new rewards as part of the behaviour system that we have developed. As the new Headteacher, myself and the staff of Alfred Street have a great vision for our school, and that is to ensure every child reaches their absolute potential. We need to achieve this with us all working together.

This year, there will also be higher expectations and these have already begun (I'm sure you will have already been told that 'shirts must be tucked in!') This is to ensure we get all our children into the right mindset and are 'ready to learn'. Looking smart, makes you feel smart and therefore work smart. Of course, when children are out on the playground, their shirts will come out and that is no issue at all. Once the whistle goes, then every child needs to be thinking 'ready to learn'. We have also reminded the children that we are a Healthy Eating School; as a result children are encouraged to bring in pieces of fruit or vegetables for a snack at break time or to purchase them from our healthy tuck shop. We would ask that you do not send children with cereal bars or yoghurt for snack time. As parents and carers, your support with these initiatives would be very much appreciated. I must say, the children have been great and made a real positive impression so far.

This term we have also introduced **NEW!** presentation and book expectations and enhanced our learning environment so all our children have the resources that are right for them to develop their independence.

Your child may have also come out mentioning the **NEW!** 'Alfo Agreement'. As a whole school we had a wonderful assembly on Wednesday where everyone took part; thinking of ideas and writing out what they think Alfred Street Junior is all about and what the people inside 'Alfo' (as we like to call it) want to achieve and how they want to be every day. The ideas were amazing and it just shows the passion from the staff and children in making our school such a wonderful place to be. We have now collated all the ideas and took the 'best bits' to create our new 'Alfo Agreement':

“As a member of Alfo, I will come to school on time with a positive attitude, dress smartly and be ready to learn. I will try my best, be focused, concentrate and show determination in all that I do. I will never give up! I will be enthusiastic in my learning, challenge myself and have confidence and self-belief. By working together as a team, cooperating and listening to others, I will become a good citizen. As part of the Alfo family, I will be polite, kind, honest and treat others how I expect to be treated. Alfo is a school to be proud of. Once Alfo, always Alfo!”

We will all sign up to the ‘Alfo Agreement’ and live by it every day ensuring our school is the happy and successful place we all wish it to be. If any of us forget, we will have the written agreement displayed around the school to help remind us what we have said!

We have also launched our **NEW!** incentives scheme to the children so I wanted to share them with you first so you are aware of the rewards children can receive in school:

- * Individual ‘Dojo’ reward points—**NEW!** These can be exchanged for prizes such as pens, emoji rubbers, pencils, bouncy balls, bubbles, notebooks etc. from our prize cabinet
- * Team Points—the winning team will have a non uniform day each term
- * Fab Friday— **NEW!** A child from every class each week will be visiting me on a Friday to share their ‘Fab’ learning. They will then receive a certificate in achievements assembly
- * Pen licence— awarded for perfect presentation and to indicate that they can now write in pen
- * Attendance cup— the class with the highest attendance that week will keep the attendance trophy in their room.
- * Reading cup— a trophy is awarded to the class that has the greatest reading total that week
- * Reading rewards— **NEW!** Individual certificates, book marks and reading books will be awarded to children who regularly read at home
- * Attendance certificates— **NEW!** Each term children with good attendance will receive a bronze, silver or gold certificate
- * Tidy Broom— **NEW!** Mr Long will be choosing the tidiest and ‘ready to learn’ classroom and reward the new broom!
- * The Alfo Award **NEW!** Very special award half termly linked to the Alfo Agreement and parents will be invited to attend if their child receives an award!

These awards will be presented to children in our weekly Achievements Assembly. Children are also invited to bring in ‘out of school’ achievements e.g. awards for sporting activities or groups they attend e.g. certificates, grading belts, badges, trophies.

We have also revisited the consequences that are in place when a child makes the wrong behaviour choices and chooses not to follow the ‘Alfo Way’ and are working hard to make sure your child has a happy, safe learning experience. These are presented in the form of a ladder so that the children can see the steps that will be taken. This ensures a consistent and fair approach across the school. We shared some behaviours that are not acceptable in school (‘Red Behaviours’) such as hitting, kicking, swearing, stealing, bullying, consistently being non compliant and these behaviours will have a more serious consequence. Our full behaviour policy is currently under review and we will share this with you at a later date but wanted to give you a sneak preview.

We have also employed an experienced Behaviour Support Assistant (BSA), Mrs Hall, who will be working with the children, supporting them to make the right choices. She will be helping to improve the provision at lunchtimes and we will shortly be launching ‘Fun Club’ and intra sports competitions at lunchtimes.

Below is our **NEW!** Behaviour Board:

Good to be Green
Reminder
15 minutes Time Out (at Station)
Time Out during social time

If your child gets to red on the behaviour board or carries out a 'Red Behaviour' (unacceptable behaviours) you will be notified by the class teacher or Mrs Hall. We hope that these new initiatives will ensure that all children have safe and successful learning experiences.

Here are also a few other things to let you know about:

Attendance and Punctuality

All children should be in school every day at 8.50am unless they are ill. If this is the case please phone the school on 01933 353762 and leave a message before 9.00am stating a reason e.g. cough, cold, temperature or sickness. (If your child has a hot lunch at school please ensure that you go online and cancel their lunch for that day and any subsequent days that they are absent as otherwise there may be a charge).

If your child is off with sickness and/or diarrhoea, then to prevent the bug from spreading they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last time bout of sickness/diarrhoea.

If we have not heard from you by 9.00am then we will call you to find out the reason why your child is not in school.

Please ensure that we have up to date phone numbers for yourselves and an emergency contact. If you change your mobile number, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Holidays during Term Time

May we just remind you that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised by the school and due to changes in legislation, parents will be fined by the local Authority. A Leave of Absence form can be obtained from the school office, which needs to be completed. If no forms are completed and handed into the school office and your child is missing from school for a specific number of days then we are legally obliged to report them as 'missing from education'.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital to your child's success. Good attendance is classed as 96% and above. We will regularly inform you by letter if your child's attendance drops below this.

If there are any issues affecting your child's attendance or punctuality, please make us aware as soon as possible or you can contact our Lead for Family Support - Carol Hilbourne on 07565359547.

Doctors and dentist appointments should be made for after school if possible but if this is unavoidable please let us know.

Your continued help and support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Re: Complaints Procedure & Social Media Sites

Polite Reminder - If you have a complaint or concern about our school or about a child at our school please ensure that you follow our school procedures.

If you have anything you need to discuss with us please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Please contact the school office if you need to make an appointment to see myself or contact Mrs Carol Hilbourne our Lead for Family Support on 07565 359547.

It is important that we know of any issues that concern your child or any worries that you may have about school. Please remember we are here to help and ask that you would seek this in a polite manner. Abusive and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated on school premises and children do not need to witness this.

Please do not discuss any issues or concerns in the playground or by posting details on social media sites.

If the school is not aware of a problem or concern then we cannot help your child. It is only by working together that we can ensure better outcomes for our children. Quite often things are sorted in school that you may not be aware of.

FOAS:

We are looking for NEW! members to join our **Friends of Alfred Street School** partnership. If you are able to support with the planning and running of events throughout the year that will help to raise money for the school, please let the school office know. We desperately need some new members as unfortunately some of our key members have now left the school as their children have gone on to secondary school.

Dates for this term:

- ◇ Week Commencing 11th September—Music Tuition to begin, Guitar on Mondays (8.30am), Strings on Wednesdays and Woodwind on Thursdays
- ◇ Week Commencing 11th September—School Clubs to start (see separate letter)
- ◇ Week Commencing 18th September—Y6 Bikeability starts (letter sent in July)
- ◇ Thursday 21st September—Y3 recorders sessions start
- ◇ Friday 22nd September –Jeans for Genes, whole school
- ◇ Tuesday 3rd October—78th Anniversary of WW11 Bombing (information to follow)
- ◇ Wednesday 11th October—Harvest Assembly (information to follow)
- ◇ Thursday 12th October- Theatre Production of Beauty and The Beast for whole school
- ◇ Thursday 19th October—Disco! (TBC)
- ◇ Friday 20th October— Alfo Awards Ceremony

I hope you have enjoyed finding out about some of the new initiatives we have launched so far. I will send out regular 'Head's Updates' that will inform you of school improvement initiatives. You will also receive a half termly newsletter that will inform you of the events that the children have taken part in and any upcoming important dates.

Once again, thank you for your support and we look forward to a great term ahead.

Kind regards

Mrs O'Connor

Headteacher

