

Alderbrook School

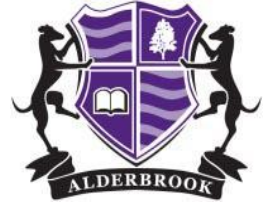
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12 September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

It has been fantastic to see everyone back at school and excited about the new year ahead. I hope you and your children have settled back into the routine of school life again. I would like to once again welcome parents and carers of Years 7 and 12, and of any other year group, that are new to the school. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming years.

Queen Elizabeth II

We were all deeply saddened to hear the news on Thursday, that Queen Elizabeth had passed away after reigning for an incredible 70 years. The death of HRH Queen Elizabeth is a very significant moment of shared sadness for our country. There are very few of us who can remember any other monarch and whilst she lived a full life, her loss will be felt by us all. When we had the pleasure of celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, we did not think we would be mourning her death so soon afterwards. Throughout this week, we will be holding assemblies to talk to the students about the significance of this point in history, as well as what will be happening over the upcoming days and welcoming our new monarch, King Charles III. The History Department will be delivering lessons to Key Stage 3 students on the reign of the Queen and we will be working with students in a number of ways to commemorate her reign. Next Monday, 19th September, the school will be closed as it is a Bank Holiday for the Queen's funeral.

If you wish to lay a floral tribute for the Queen, there are two areas identified by the council locally to do so: They are Jubilee Gardens, behind Touchwood on Homer Road in Solihull and on Bosworth Drive near the junction with Pine Square roundabout in Chelmsley Wood. The Council has also placed two Books of Condolence for members of the public to sign at The Core and Chelmsley Wood Library. The opening times for the condolence books are:

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm

Saturday - Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

In the meantime, we will echo the words of Paddington Bear during the jubilee celebrations 'Thank you Ma'am, for everything'!

Communication

Thank you to those of you who completed the end of year parent/carer survey back in July. While the responses were overwhelmingly positive, we have taken your valuable feedback on board as we strive to improve our school. One of the areas we are continuing to focus on is in our methods

of communication with parents/carers. We have introduced a new page on our website with the names and roles of all staff, so if you have any queries you know exactly who to direct them to. The best method to communicate with staff is still via the office email or the contact form on our website, available here: <https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/contact/> (Please state which member of staff the email is for the attention of in the title). You will receive a response within 48 hours, even if it is just to acknowledge your email and give you the confidence that action is being taken.

We are also introducing 'Well Done Wednesdays' this year. Every teacher will contact three parents/carers each Wednesday to highlight achievements and celebrate successes.

New behaviour procedures and uniform

As outlined in the consultation before the summer, we have introduced new behaviour procedures this September. Thank you for your feedback; this has been taken on board and we will soon be publishing the new procedures on our website. As part of our expectations, uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school and setting an appropriate tone and we ask all students to wear the full school uniform. It has been great to see the large majority of students looking very smart in their uniform at the start of the school year. A couple of key reminders:

- Students should wear their blazer to school every day. If a student is seen with a coat on without a blazer, the coat will be confiscated. Similarly, if a student wears a sports top or hoodie over their shirt, this will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day – it is not part of our school uniform.
- Any students wearing trainers will be asked to change into school shoes. We have a stock of school shoes in school, so if students do not bring appropriate shoes into school, they will be asked to change into shoes that we have purchased.
- We have clear guidelines on what jewellery students are allowed to wear; if students are wearing jewellery outside of these guidelines we will ask them to remove it and it will need to be handed in to be collected at the end of the day. For further information please see the guidelines here: <https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/school-uniform/>

School buses

We are aware that last week some students were not able to get onto their bus to either get into school or home again as they were full. This is not acceptable. We immediately contacted the Local Authority (SMBC) to ascertain why this happened and they have asked me to pass on their sincere apologies. An extra bus was put into service on Friday afternoon so that all students could get home, and this service will continue until issues are resolved. Solihull Education Transport has asked us to share the following message with you:

Solihull Education Transport are experiencing unprecedented demand for bus passes and the following services are at full capacity: 821 / 822 and 894 / 895

Consequently, they have suspended further purchases whilst they review capacity. You may find that a public bus service meets your needs. If you wish to purchase a pass from Network West Midlands – please visit: <https://ticketing.networkwestmidlands.com/Home/SearchResults>

For parents that wish to revoke their SMBC school bus pass in order to opt for a cheaper and more flexible annual/termly pass for Network West Midlands, please contact edtrans@solihull.gov.uk by 30/09/2022 to let them know and they will not invoice you for your SMBC bus pass.

Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and parents to our annual Open Evening which is taking place on Wednesday 21st September 5.30-8.30pm. We thank you for your support in allowing our current pupils to come along and help on the evening itself; whether that be in the role of a tour guide or being an ambassador in a specific subject area. Just a reminder that school finishes at 2pm on this day. Unfortunately we have been informed that the school buses are now not able to pick up students until the normal time that afternoon; students are either able to make their own way home or students can stay at school until the normal finish time; all students who are staying at school should go to Malley Hall where they will be registered and supervised.

School Photographs

On Wednesday 14th September, Year 7, 10 and 12 students will be having their school photograph taken.

Step Together

The 'Step Together' project, organised by West Midlands Police Violence Reduction Partnership, will be back supporting the local community for this academic year. FITCAP CIC have once again been appointed to deliver the Step Together project, and we are in the process of organising for them to come into school to introduce themselves to the students. For those of you who aren't aware of this service, the Step Together project arranges for fully trained practitioners to be a presence on the streets surrounding local schools at the start and end of the school day. They are positive advocates for the students, and support the reduction of any violence on our streets.

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher