



THE ALDGATE SCHOOL

Friday 20th November 2020

Faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are staying safe. This week we have had reports of a few family members who have contracted Covid-19 so I would like to extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery to all of you. We have not yet had an instance of anyone in school with Covid-19 but we continue to ensure the building remains cleaned thoroughly and regularly and it is kept well ventilated throughout the day. Please can I ask that you all continue to be sensible in your approach, maintaining social distancing as far as possible at drop off and pick up times in particular. I know it can be incredibly frustrating however it is one step in ensuring that we can keep the school open to all children for as long as possible. For families who are having to isolate currently, children's learning can be accessed from the home learning page of the school website and further instructions can be found on your child's Google classroom account. This is the home learning procedure we would follow in the event of a bubble or whole school closure—further details would be published at that point in time.

In more positive news, you might recall that we had an RE assessor in school last month to see if we were eligible for the national RE quality mark. Yesterday we received our outcome. Not only were we eligible for the quality mark but we were awarded the Gold quality mark. This was incredibly welcome news for all of our staff, who have continued to work tirelessly on the curriculum despite the circumstances we are currently in. The feedback can be read below:

Good strategies for planning learning and sharing focused intended outcomes with teachers and pupils, which has now been extended across the school. Various methods to promote, record and share spiritual reflection, and extensive consideration for developing higher order/deeper questioning with pupils. Pupils and teachers share a huge enjoyment of the subject, and teachers are all active in personalising the provided/required schemes/units of learning. The SLT lead has been praised highly in SIAMs reports and has disseminated materials and training several times to/with the deanery.



Our Early Years are becoming mad about animals at the moment. Last week they had a visit from a dog to help them understand how to handle animals safely and approach dogs if they are out and about. This week they have had 3 rabbits come and stay. These rabbits will be with us until the end of term.

Please see over for further information about upcoming events. Best wishes, Miss Allan

Uniform: All families with children in Reception up to Year 6 should have received the letter (via email) inviting you to submit your child's top size in order for us to purchase an item of the new school uniform for them. If you have not filled in your form, please do so this weekend in order for us to place the order at the start of the week.

Christmas: All parents from Nursery to Y6 should have received a letter about our Christmas initiative this year. In order for us to be able to share a snapshot of our usual Christmas concerts and nativities, we are having to do this through video. The letter requested that if you do NOT want your child on any video footage then please let the school know. I would be grateful if you could let the school know if you are not giving permission by the end of the weekend as filming is already starting. Our proposed schedule of events is below. This is subject to change in the event of bubble closures etc due to Covid-19.

Date	Event	Who for
Wednesday 2 nd December	Advent Clergy Service Christmas Card making activity	For pupils only
Thursday 3 rd December	Bedtime Stories event	For pupils and parents
Friday 4 th December	Year 1 and 2 drumming	For pupils and parents
Monday 7 th December	Year 5 and 6 choir	For pupils and parents
Tuesday 8 th December	Year 3 strings	For pupils and parents
Wednesday 9 th December	Year 4 choir	For pupils and parents
Thursday 10 th December	Year 4 strings	For pupils and parents
Friday 11 th December	Year 5 & 6 strings	For pupils and parents
Monday 14 th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity	For pupils and parents
Tuesday 15 th December	Y6 poetry	For pupils and parents
Wednesday 16 th December	Nursery and Reception song and dance	For pupils and parents
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas service	For pupils and parents

Children's Christmas lunches and their Christmas party will take place in the last week of term. More details of these events will be sent out closer to the time.

This year we are not having our usual Christmas post box in school. This is due to our Covid restrictions. Each child will make a card on 2nd December that will go on display in the main corridor for all the school to see and receive their seasonal greetings. Please don't send your child into school with cards to hand out.

Admissions for Reception in September 2021: All parents with children who are due to start in a Reception class in September should complete a primary school application form. As Reception is compulsory school age, all parents must apply even if they are currently in our Nursery setting. Details can be found on our website, by speaking to Claire in the office or by visiting the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/education-and-learning/schools/starting-school> The closing date for applications is 15th January.