

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Achievement through Commitment

Headteacher: Mr P Mandelstam

27 August 2026

Dear Parents,

RETURN TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

We are all very excited about the return of the children and looking forward to welcoming them back on Thursday 3 September.

As always, there is a lot to remember about the return to school, therefore we have put together some key reminders.

Uniform

- Children must return in their full autumn/winter uniform not the Summer Term option; therefore, **no shorts or summer dresses**. As in the Summer Term, separate arrangements will be made if we enter unusually warm spells of weather.
- **Socks** should be **plain, matching grey, black or white**. They should not have sports logos or branding such as Adidas stripes or Nike ticks.
- **Shoes should not be trainers or sports branded with logos. Please also ensure that you have not purchased shoes with flashing lights as these are both clearly not accepted in our policy.** If you are in any doubt as to whether something is acceptable, please contact myself via the School Office.
- Children moving from Year 2 to 3 should have a normal tie, rather than the elasticated version. Each child was given one of these at the end of the Summer Term and spent some time practising with them in class. Hopefully they have had further time to practice during the holiday and should be confident with them when getting changed for PE lessons.
- **Ear-rings should be studs only; these must be small, plain and discrete and children should only wear one pair.** If your child has had their ears pierced over the holidays, they should be able to remove them for PE lessons; if not, please provide them with tape in order for them to cover them.
- Any hair accessories should be small and discrete and suitable for keeping hair back; not worn as a fashion accessory.
- Other than a bag for their PE kit, children do not require any other bags. As in previous years, children in Years 1 – 6 will be provided with a House Team coloured bag which is sufficient to transport reading books, homework and letters.

Our School Uniform and Property Guidance is available on our website.

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Water bottles

We encourage children to bring water bottles for use in the classroom. These **must be clear or transparent plastic, or if you prefer, stainless steel**, but should contain **only water**, unless agreed with myself for medical reasons. If you wish for your child to bring a stainless-steel bottle it must be a bottle and not a Stanley Cup. If your child brings an additional drink for lunch, this can be any other bottle (not glass) of their choice may contain juice/squash. Again, if you are unsure, I am happy to advise. We still have some House Team water bottles which were tested by our pupils to ensure their robustness; these are £3.00 and available to order via +Pay.

Mobile Phones

Please remember that children are not allowed to bring any sort of mobile phone into school for any reason. Air Tags or other kinds of tracking devices are also not permitted. If you wish your child to walk to or from school alone, this is not an acceptable reason to have a mobile phone or tracking device.

Watches

Children may wear a simple analogue or digital watch to enable them to tell the time. They must not bring in any items e.g. smartwatches, Fitbits, fitness trackers or any item which has connectivity with the internet.

PE Kits

Please ensure that your child returns to school with the correct PE Kit, including **indoor and outdoor shoes** in a labelled bag. There are no PE lessons taking place until Week 2, which gives you the opportunity to get PE Kits assembled and into school before Monday 7 September.

School Dinners

A reminder that following our tendering process we have a new catering provider. Please check the new menus which were sent out to you in July (copies also on School Website) so you know what the new choices are.

Dinner Money

Please remember that if your child has dinners from our kitchen, these should be paid for in advance using the +Pay system. We ask that you regularly review your accounts, as last year we had quite a few parents unaware of amounts owed and a great deal of time and effort was spent chasing payments. We do have a No Debt Policy which is enforced after two weeks of meals not being paid for.

A reminder that children moving from Year 2 to 3 will no longer receive the government's Universal Free School meals. This means that unless you have already applied for benefits related Free School Meals you will need to pay for your child's school lunch. The criteria for benefits related school meal has changed and if you are unsure about if you qualify please visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>. All families previously in receipt of this should already have applied again for the new system.

Inhalers/Medications

If your child requires any medication, particularly inhalers, please ensure that you bring these to school straight away on Thursday and give them to the designated adult who will be located at the Key Stage 1 and 2 entrances to collect these. Children requiring inhalers should also have a spacer, and both items should be clearly labelled. **Please do not send medication with your child.** Forms for medicines are available to be downloaded from the website and copies will also be available on Wednesday for you to complete onsite. If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, you will also need to complete an asthma registration form which provides us with greater detail about your child's condition how it affects them and permissions for the use of our emergency inhaler if required.

Contact Details

If any of your contact details or arrangements for end of day have changed, please ensure that you pass this information on to the School Office as soon as possible. We should have at least two people who are contactable by mobile phone in case of emergencies and a reminder that we will only release your child to those on your end of day arrangements list. Please also check that this information is correct to avoid delays at the end of the school day. If you wish to check who is listed, you may call the admin team or request a copy of this to be forwarded to you. This paper copy can then be amended and returned back to us.

Should you have any queries or concerns about your child's return, please do not hesitate to contact us via the main Reception number or Admin e-mail.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Randall

Joanne Randall
Assistant Headteacher