



Monday 15 December 2014

Dear Parent and Governors,

The last week of term is upon us. We say a sad farewell to Mrs Stone, a dedicated Midday Assistant. We will miss her and wish her good luck in her new job. In January we welcome a new MDA, Mrs Finn.



FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

School will close at 2.00pm for the Christmas holiday. Barley Barn will also be closed that evening. Children can wear party clothes to school as Krazy Kat Theatre Company is booked for a pantomime performance.

We wish all our families a happy, peaceful Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed the many Christmas concerts we organised. School re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 5 January 2015.

LUNCHES

Thank you to Debbie Mechell and her team for cooking so many Christmas turkey dinners. The children had such a good time and so much to eat! Thank you to the many staff who gave up their lunch hour to serve and entertain the children.

Next week's menu is subject to change. A roast dinner will be served on Thursday. Ask the office for further information.

READING and HOMEWORK

Even during the holidays children should be reading every day at home and writing in their reading diary once a week please. Do note down when you hear your child read.

Each child also has access to a web based learning space. The staff have chosen new activities and resources for the children to access on their class page. Please ask Mrs Garrard if you cannot find the login details which were distributed earlier this term.

PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Christmas Bazaar on 29 November was a real success. Thank you to all those who helped before the event and on the day itself. The atmosphere was great and the total amount of money raised was in the region of £1,500.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVE MARK AWARD

We have been awarded this prestigious award as we continue to provide and deliver high quality PE and a wide range of activities for the children. Well done!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Parking outside school can be congested at peak times. If you wish to complain about the situation do email parking@colchester.gov.uk. Your support is appreciated. Zigzag restrictions will be situated outside our new gate. We are chasing this with ECC.

CHARITY APPEAL

The Children in Need appeal in November raised £165.80. Well done and thank you. At the Year 2 Christmas Concerts we will be collecting for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal and to enable us to purchase more costumes for the children to wear at concerts. We hope you will support these two worthy causes.

P.E. KIT

During the holiday please check your child has plimsolls that fit comfortably. Children grow so quickly!

YEAR 1 and 2 CLUBS

Look out for details of clubs and dates early next term. Flyers will be sent out.

LOST PROPERTY

Pop in to have a look through the box if your child has lost something. Please make sure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

BAD WEATHER

With the winter months upon us, we think this is a good time to remind you of our bad weather arrangements. The Alderton Infant and Junior Schools will make every effort to open unless snow is **severe and heavy**. The problem we have is that a number of our staff live some distance away and may have difficulty travelling. We will only close as a **last resort**.

- We will post any information about closure on our websites at www.alderton-inf.essex.sch.uk AND [Twitter@AldertonInf](https://twitter.com/AldertonInf)
- Parents who have signed up to Parentmail will receive information through e-mail from school if we have to close. Please ensure that you inform the School Office of any changes of contact numbers.
- If the school is closed Barley Barn Club will also be closed.

INSET DAYS 2014-15

The remaining INSET days have been agreed as Friday 13 February, Monday 1 June and Friday 3 July.

DIARY DATES

Monday 5 January 2015	School re-opens for the spring term 2015
Friday 9 January	Drama workshops for all children – no charge
Tuesday 20 January	Year 1 Toys in the Past workshop – no charge
Wednesday 21 January	Individual photographs
Monday 16 Feb to Friday 20 Feb	Half Term holiday

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,
S A Dalby