



Key changes and information

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, welcome to the academic year 2022-2023. We have been so lucky to have gained so many new additions to our school family and the teachers and I have absolutely loved getting to know all of their individual personalities. It has been excellent to see so many of you at the information events. As a school, we want to nurture the special relationships between our staff, children, parents and wider community and please do continue to stop to talk to us for a chat - we LOVE getting to know you all, too! To this letter, we are attaching a home school partnership agreement for you to read. We wanted to make promises to you all, as our family of parents and carers, and we wanted to agree promises between school and home. This agreement will come out to you, in paper form, and will have been pre-signed by your child's class teacher.

As you are all aware, we are now going paperless for the vast majority of letters. Most letters will be sent to your email address. Therefore, it is so important that if you change your email address, you notify the office. We will always send a text out to say when a letter has been sent to you, so please also ensure we have your most current contact number. We will also put the letter on Dojo but we are aware things can get lost on this page.

In this letter I will remind you of the key dates, make you aware of key changes that we are proposing and will invite you to give your views on these.

Calm Starts - School Aged Children

As always, we are constantly looking for ways to improve the school. Many parents have become upset about the congestion in a morning and as a result families and children arrive to school feeling a little unsettled! Parents have also said that the morning lines can be a bit chaotic. Over the summer, we have wracked our brains and we would like to suggest that we introduce a new 'Calm Start', every day. The suggestion would be that from Monday 26th September, the school gates will open at 8:45am until 9:00am for school aged children. Children will be welcomed, at the door, by their class teacher. They will be invited into the school, and a teaching assistant will be stationed in the classroom. In the classroom, children will calmly hang their coats, help themselves to a bagel (or you can send a healthy breakfast snack) and they will begin the day with a calming activity. We are hoping this suggestion will mean that the staggered entrance will ease congestion on the roads and will allow children to come in, when they arrive, calmly and that this will help set them up for a positive day. **Please note, the gates will be open from 7:15am to allow Breakfast Club children to come onto the school grounds. They will close at 8:20am and will NOT open before 8:45am. Teachers will not be expected to admit any child into school before this time. If your child comes after 9:00am, they will be classed as being late and will be missing out on their education and will need to be brought through the school office.** Please note, all nursery session times will remain the same. **Please follow the link below to offer your thoughts on this and other areas, stated below.**

Behaviour and rewards

Over the course of last year, all staff have received training regarding behaviour and rewards. Many parents spoke to me last year about the 'Star Of The Week' assembly and the reward systems that we have. Mrs Carnall and I are in the process of re-writing our behaviour policy and wish to rename it the 'Relationship Policy,' as, as a staff body we believe excellent relationships underpin how children and adults behave. We have thought about how stickers de-motivate some children, and giving stickers to all children loses value. The proposal is that the 'Star Of The Week' assembly is replaced with a 'Spot On' assembly. The teachers will 'spot' 3 children, each week and there will be clear criteria for how they can be spotted. The criteria for spotting will be a child who:

- has worked on their individual **target** (children can ask what their target is to try to be noticed for this).
- has shown great **improvement** with something.
- **always** does the right thing.

Children who have been 'spotted' will be given a certificate, which will link to the schools attitudes. Whilst we know children can't all be 'spotted', we feel it is important for children to develop resilience when they do not always 'win' or when they aren't always chosen, as this sets them up for survival in life. In addition, as a school, we are aiming to give specific praise and we will do this both in 'public' and in 'private' depending on the child's wishes. Instead of stickers, we propose that we give out postcards, which will be sent home and will document exactly why your child has 'wowed' us. We hope that we do not have to sanction children, due to the excellent relationships we foster but should this be needed, we will always seek to 'reprimand' in private, as the first step to alleviate any shame a child may feel. The Relationship Policy will be sent out for you to read, shortly but before we do this, we would love to hear your views. **Please click the link below to give your views on this.**

Reading and Maths Afternoons

Another change we are suggesting based on the power of parent voice!! Parents have stated that they love being invited into school every week to complete activities with their child. However, some stated it was hard when they had to go to work or had other commitments and stated their child would often get upset. We recognise this and understand it sets the day off to a shaky start. Therefore, we would like to propose that we host 'Reading/Maths Afternoons' on a Friday from 2:45pm. Parents will be invited to attend and would be welcome to take their child, from the classroom after this event. **Once again, your thoughts on this suggestion will be incredibly helpful, please see the link below.** Should this be agreed, we will start this on Friday 30th September at 2:45pm.

Diversity Committee

Our school family loves to celebrate diversity. As a school, we are conscious that the vast majority of our school children are classed as being 'White British'. As a result of this, we would like to set up a committee of parents, who could work alongside me to champion diversity in the school. This may involve planning events, sharing ideas and monitoring resources in school. I have a vision that I will work with staff, children and other professionals to use arts, drama, music, storytelling and other media to put together a Diversity Show. This would aim to be held at the Robert Ludlam Theatre in Derby and all children would be able to perform. The school would sell tickets and all families would be invited. At the moment, this is a dream and I would love to work with parents to make it a reality. If you are interested, please do come and speak to me!

Holiday Club

We are looking at offering a Holiday Club for October half term. This of course will depend on the interest and whether we can allocate staff to run it. Please note, the club will be run by staff who work at the school but they may **not** know your child. Therefore, it is important that you feel your child would benefit from attending this club and you know your child would be settled in the provision. There will be fun activities planned and the feedback from the Holiday Club in summer was exceptionally positive! It was great to see the children toasting marshmallows, making pizza and being pirates! If you would like to register your interest, please click the link and complete the form by Wednesday 21st September. <https://forms.gle/L5W7LV7cv9UcDURB9>

I am very aware that I have shared lots of proposed changes with you in the letter and sincerely hope that you give your views so we can agree the actions going forward. I have attached two appendices to this letter. Appendix one is the Home School Partnership Agreement. Appendix 2 is the proposed dates that were sent at the end of last term, with added dates of when the new changes may come into place, depending on parent feedback.

Please see the link to a survey to give your views on all of the above: <https://forms.gle/XVxQQvmUWPgbFTHN6>

It would be amazing if as many of you as possible could follow this link.

Thank you for being the best school family and I am so excited to see all of the magical things that this year will bring for our very special school family.

Sending so much love to you all,

Miss Allen



Appendix 1

At Alvaston Infant and Nursery School, we value our parents and carers as equal partners and aim to set out the expectations for both the school and families so that we can ensure there is mutual respect and understanding between us all.

Our children will agree to follow the Golden Rule 'Being The Best That You Can Be.' They will also agree to follow the Alvaston Attitudes, which will equip them with lifelong skills in a safe environment, where mistakes are made, reflected upon and learnt from.

Parents agree to:	School staff will agree to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be positive members of our school family and support your child with their learning journey - attending parents' evenings and supporting with reading, spellings and targets • Support and adhere to the school rule: 'Being the Best We Can Be, the school's 'Attitudes for Learning' and the behaviour/relationship policy • Contribute any new ideas via the online suggestion box or in person, which will help us improve the school • Support the school's values (respect, resilience, teamwork, reflection, creativity, independence) and ensure positive relationships are maintained • Ensure children are brought into school, on time and are collected on time, so learning is not disrupted • Send children into school in the correct uniform and bring the correct equipment, as often as possible • Talk to staff calmly and respectfully • Listen to concerns that the school raises in a calm manner, responding respectfully and fairly • Use appropriate language in school and its grounds • Raise concerns calmly, either by requesting an appointment with the Class Teacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher by making contact Class Dojo, email, telephone or in person • Communicate any change in arrangements in advance so that staff can make preparations e.g. early collections, appointments, change of person collecting, if needed • Agree/decline permission for your child to attend school events by the deadline specified and ensure payments are made via the school systems • Return all relevant paperwork e.g. consent forms for photographs and collection of children in good time • Inform the school of any medical changes e.g. allergies as soon as practicably possible • Drive around the school community with care, respect and caution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome all parents and fully involve them in all areas of school life - recognising them as equal partners • Treasure every child, making them feel safe, reminding them that they belong and helping them to be happy, thriving individuals who become positive members of society • Celebrate every child, sharing successes with families • Seek the child's voice and involve them in decision making, where appropriate • See parents as the experts for their child and be willing to learn from them, take advice and accept their views in order for decisions to be made in the best interests of their child • Do their utmost to offer all children the very best provision and education, this includes teaching them about how they can keep themselves safe, form positive relationships and live a healthy life (mind and body) • Be open and honest and willing to learn from mistakes, should they occur • Make reasonable adjustments to practice and policy in order to ensure an inclusive school, where everyone can thrive • Respond to children's needs, putting additional support in place when it is needed • Ensure that families are given a voice that will always be heard • Welcome new ideas and be willing to make changes, where appropriate • Communicate events and dates effectively with parents by ensuring letters are sent home and reminders are given • Be professional and respectful at all times • Communicate well with parents, informing them of what their child has been learning and addressing any areas of concern or need in a timely manner - e.g. not waiting until parents' evening to have conversations • Arrange appointments for parents, should they wish to raise a concern • Provide parents with opportunities to network with each other • Help educate parents regarding how to help their child, if needed • Promise they will try to be the best that they can be, daily in order to positively impact the lives of children, their families and their colleagues

Signed (parent/carers) _____ Date: _____

Signed Class Teacher: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 2

Date:	Autumn Events
1 st September	Back to School!
5 th September	Year 2 Information Session 9:15am in the hall and 5:30pm via zoom (link to be uploaded to dojo)
6 th September	Year 1 Information Session 9:15am in the hall and 5:30 via zoom (link to be uploaded to dojo)
12 th September	Nursery Information Session 9:15 am in the hall and 5:30pm via zoom (link to be uploaded to dojo)
13 th September	Reception Information Session 9:15am in the hall and 5:30pm via zoom (link to be uploaded to dojo)
16 th September	Non uniform – wear red, white or blue to celebrate the Queen's life
19 th September	School Closed – Queen's Funeral
21 st September	School Improvement staff meeting, parents invited to attend 3:30m-5:30pm
23 rd September	Reading and Phonics Workshop for Parents 9:15am via zoom (link to be uploaded to dojo) and 5:30pm in the hall
26 th September	Proposal to start 'Calm Starts' – see information in this letter
27 th September	Parents' Evening
28 th September	Parents' Evening
30 th September	Reading/Maths afternoons to begin 2:45pm**
7 th October	Harvest Festival Service at St Michael's Church (times to be confirmed)
10 th October	INSET DAY
12 th October	Individual Photos to be taken
17 th October	KS1 Maths Information Session 9:15am in the hall and 5:30pm via zoom
20 th /21 st October	Halloween Disco – raising money for Kenyan Trip
2 st October	Last Day of Term
W/C 24 th October	Half Term Break
31 st October	Back to School
7 th November	EYFS Maths Information Session 9:15am via zoom and 5:30pm in the hall
11 th November	Remembrance Day Service on school playground 10:45am Deadline for talent assembly – please feel free to nominate your child, to the class teacher, should they have done something special
18 th November	Festival of Light after school (arrangements to be confirmed) – Kenyan Fund
25 th November	Talent Assembly 2:00pm – parents whose children have been selected to be invited
9 th December	Christmas Service at St Michaels' Church (times to be confirmed)
9 th December	Christmas PTFA Fayre
13 th December	Nursery Christmas Performance 9:30am
14 th December	Reception Christmas Performance 9:15 am and 2:00pm
15 ^h December	Nursery Christmas Performance 2pm
16 th December	INSET Day
20 th December	Year 1 Christmas Performance 9:15am and 2:00pm
21 st December	Year 2 Christmas Performance 9:15am and 2:00pm
22 nd December	Last day of term
9 th January	Back to school