



### Christmas Updates

Dear parents,

What a term it has been, filled with LOVE and KINDNESS and EMOTION! It has been incredible to welcome so many of you through our doors for many of our events this term. A particular highlight for me were the kindness cafes and the family 'gift it' event. The generosity, kindness and care you have all shown to our school family and our community really is commendable and I can honestly say I feel really honoured to be a part of a school family, where we treasure and look after everyone. The PTFA and school families have worked so hard to ensure there has been discrete help given to those who have asked/ needed it and for that, we are hugely thankful. With the challenges of the cost of living and many other challenges we face in our lives, the school has become a hub of support and we hope this will continue forever more. Asking for help and accepting help is brave and is something we all need to do from time to time. We are always here, we are always ready to listen, to support you and to do anything we can to help. I would like to thank our amazing staff family who I truly believe go above and beyond to give the right support, at the right place at the right time as well as driving the school forward and providing the best possible education and care for your precious children. Last but by no means least, I would like to wish you all a very restful and magical Christmas, spending time with those who we love, cherish and care for.

### Attendance:

Attendance remains a major part of our school improvement journey and we continue to work with the Educational Welfare Officer and the Local Authority to try and improve this. Class teachers will now be having half termly meetings with your child so that they can share their attendance with them and so that they can make them aware of how many lessons they have attended / not attended. It is imperative that you notify the school if your child can not attend as if they are off school without a reason, this is a safeguarding concern. Please see a link to our policy page, where you can find out about our most recent attendance policy:

<https://www.alvastoni.derby.sch.uk/policies>

You are (use arrow)	Attendance rating (out of 100%)	How many lessons have I not attended, this half term?	Over a school year (this is the average)	Has my attendance improved from last term?
	Above 95%	2-5 lessons	9 days - 38 lessons	Yes No
	90%	6-10 lessons	19 days - 78 lessons	
	85%	11-15 lessons	24 days - 93 lessons	
	80%	16-20 lessons	29 days - 108 lessons	
	75%	21-25 lessons	34 days - 123 lessons	
	70%	26-30 lessons	39 days - 138 lessons	
	65%	31-35 lessons	44 days - 153 lessons	

Additional notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge / target: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Staffing updates:

Miss Hancock will be starting her maternity leave after Christmas and we will look forward to meeting her new baby in the new year. Miss McCready and Miss Jeffers will be joining our teaching assistant team. We are also welcoming a new teacher, Mrs Newman, who will help children with their reading recovery and phonics. Mrs Newman will also lead RE within the school. Mrs Dhinsa will now be supporting in Class 6 and Mrs Meakin and Miss Jeffers will be in Class 7. Miss McCready will be going into Year 2.

### Our School Improvement Plan

We are so pleased to see some of the school improvements having such a positive impact on children and families! The children are loving using the reading pod and the computing classroom and the skills and knowledge children have gained has been pleasing to see. Our 'Spot On Assembly' was taking a very long time having 3 children from each class – this meant 33 awards each week. Therefore, we have adapted this to 2 children from each class – one child will be spotted for 'always' doing the right thing and the other would be a child who has 'improved' with something.

### Safeguarding During the Christmas Break

Safeguarding the children is always of paramount importance to us. If you are in need of any help over the Christmas period, or if you have any concerns, if urgent, please contact the police or social care directly on 01332 641172 or, if it is not urgent, please contact me on: [head@alvastoni.derby.sch.uk](mailto:head@alvastoni.derby.sch.uk) and [safeguarding@alvastoni.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@alvastoni.derby.sch.uk)

### Holiday Club – February Half Term

Holiday club for February half term is now live on School Money and as before, you can book half days or full days. Please log on if you wish to book this service as numbers are limited due to staffing. This is currently open to children in Reception to Year 2 only. Nursery children must take this as part of their funded entitlement. Please find next term's provisional dates attached.

Wishing all a really special Christmas with your loved ones – what a school family we are...

Kindest regards,  
 Miss Allen

Date:	Spring Events
9th January	Back to school
16 <sup>th</sup> January	SATs information session 9:15am and 5:30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1 Animal Exhibition all day
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception to visit the library
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Phonics screening check workshop – two sessions 9:15 and 5:30pm – more details to follow Year 2 library visit
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Chinese dragon workshop – EYFS
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery Show Around 3:30pm and 5:30pm
w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Mental Health Week Aspirations Week – visitors in school to talk about job roles
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents invited to school improvement review – speak to Miss Allen if you would like to attend 3:30pm
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Aspiration dress up day – whole school
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Nursery Open Day – 9:30am
17 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Holiday Club in School for 5 days – book on School Money
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Back to School
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents' Evening
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day