



Staff News

On Friday 9 October, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Weston-Bartholomew, who is retiring from Alwoodley Primary School after an incredible 22 years of dedicated service. Since joining the school in 2004, Mrs Weston-Bartholomew has been a friendly and familiar face in the school office, supporting countless children, families and staff members. Her commitment, care and professionalism have made a lasting impact on our school community, and she will be greatly missed.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Shaw, our Family Support Worker on Friday 9th October. Mrs Shaw has secured an exciting new role at GSAL as part of their Attendance and Safeguarding Team. Since joining us in 2021, Mrs Shaw has provided invaluable support to many of our children and families, always going above and beyond to ensure pupils receive the help they need. We are delighted for her as she takes this next step in her career and wish her every success in her new role.

We would like to thank both Mrs Weston-Bartholomew and Mrs Shaw for their dedication and contribution to Alwoodley Primary School, and we wish them every happiness and success in their next chapters.

We are also pleased to welcome a new member of staff to our team, Miss Shaw (no relation to our departing Mrs Shaw), who will be joining us as our new Family Support Worker. Miss Shaw brings a wealth of safeguarding knowledge and experience from a successful career in policing. We are excited to have her joining our school community and look forward to the expertise and support she will bring to the role.

Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind all families of the importance of clearly labelling every item of school uniform, including jumpers, cardigans, coats, PE kit and water bottles. When items are named, it is much easier for

us to quickly return them to their owner if they are misplaced.

You can also help by checking that your child has brought home the correct uniform at the end of each day.

Occasionally, items are picked up by mistake, and we do receive reports of children inadvertently wearing clothing that belongs to another pupil.

By ensuring that all belongings are clearly labelled and checking uniform regularly at home, we can help reduce the amount of lost property and make sure items are returned to the correct child as quickly as possible.

Shelly's Adventures!

Shelly is certainly living her best life! Over the past few weeks, she has been enjoying weekend visits to pupils' homes, and we have loved hearing all about her adventures.

Families often tell us that they have had such a wonderful time with her that her stay has ended up being extended!

It has been lovely to see how much excitement and enjoyment Shelly brings to our children and their families. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed her into their homes and shared updates and photographs of her latest adventures.

If your child would like to host Shelly for a weekend, we are more than happy to keep arranging visits.

Thank You, FOA

A huge thank you to our wonderful Friends of Alwoodley for organising our recent Break the Rules Day, and to all of our families for supporting the event so enthusiastically. We are incredibly grateful for your generous donations. We made a phenomenal £800!

Every penny raised through FOA events is reinvested back into our school community, helping to fund further improvements to our school grounds and the continued development of our OPAL provision.

Diary Dates

5th October – School is closed to all pupils – Training Day

13th October – Y6 parent meeting

16th October – Nursery to Y6, Flu Immunisation

20th October – Y1 stay and play

22nd October – Year 6 to Armley Mills

23rd October – Teacher Training day (children not in school)

Saturday 7th November – School Open Day. Please promote this with any families who you know are looking for primary school places. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.alwoodleyprimary.net/open-day>

Safeguarding Team: Mr. German, Miss Hill, Miss Pattenden, Mrs. Wray & Mrs. Shaw.



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FOA are already busy planning a range of exciting activities and fundraising opportunities throughout the academic year, and we look forward to working together to make these events a great success.

Safeguarding Corner: Respectful Relationships

At Alwoodley Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on helping children develop respectful, positive relationships with others. Learning how to communicate kindly, listen carefully, respect differences and resolve disagreements appropriately are important life skills that help children thrive both in school and beyond.

Throughout the year, children will learn about respectful relationships through our curriculum, assemblies and everyday interactions. We encourage pupils to show kindness, empathy and consideration towards others and to understand that healthy friendships are built on trust, honesty and mutual respect.

Families play an important role in reinforcing these messages at home. Simple conversations about being a good friend, respecting personal boundaries, using kind words and considering other people's feelings can have a significant impact on children's social and emotional development.

We also encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about a friendship, feel uncomfortable about how they are being treated, or see behaviour that is unkind towards others. By working together, we can help ensure that every child feels safe, valued and respected.

Top Tips for Parents

- Model respectful behaviour in your own relationships and conversations.
- Encourage children to listen to others and value different opinions.
- Talk about how to resolve disagreements calmly and respectfully.
- Remind children that kindness, both online and offline, matters.
- Encourage children to speak up if something doesn't feel right.

Attendance

We would like to say a big thank you to all our families for such a positive start to the new school year from an attendance and punctuality point of view.

Our whole-school attendance currently stands at an encouraging 95.8%. A special well done to our highest-attending classes:

KS1 – Poplar R: 98.15%

KS2 – Hazel 5: 97.34%

Well done to both. From 1 September 2026, schools have been given individual attendance targets. As part of our continued focus on improving attendance, we need to ensure that we have clear and accurate information regarding any absence or time taken out of school.

We therefore kindly ask families to provide a clear reason and, where appropriate, supporting verification for absences or requests for children to leave school during the school day. This includes appointments that take place during school hours.

We appreciate that there will, of course, be occasions when children genuinely need to be absent or attend an appointment.

Reading at Home

Reading is one of our Golden Threads and sits at the heart of everything we do. Reading opens doors to new knowledge, develops vocabulary, sparks imagination and supports success across all areas of the curriculum.

One of the most valuable things you can do at home is to make time for reading. We encourage all children to read regularly, whether that is independently, reading aloud to an adult, or sharing a book together. Hearing your child read allows them to practise fluency, accuracy and expression, whilst giving you the opportunity to celebrate their successes and support them when they encounter unfamiliar words.

Equally important is reading to your child, regardless of their age. Children benefit enormously from listening to stories, poems and non-fiction texts. Being read to introduces them to rich vocabulary, broadens their understanding of the world and helps foster a lifelong love of reading. Even older children who can read independently still enjoy and benefit from sharing a book with an adult.

Reading together for just 10-15 minutes each day can make a significant difference. Whether it is a bedtime story, sharing a favourite chapter book, reading a magazine or discussing an interesting article, these moments help children develop not only as readers but as confident learners.

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