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3rd September 2026

New School Year 2026 – 2027 - General Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you have had a good summer. In readiness for the start of the new school year, here are some of the key points:

School Attendance

Requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances, so please ensure that holidays are not taken in term time. Last year we issued a record number of Fixed Penalty Fines when children had a holiday in term time, and we will continue to do so this year if necessary.

If your child is absent from school for more than 3 days, you must provide medical evidence of the reason for absence, such as a note from the doctor or hospital. If medical evidence is not provided, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Parents and carers must contact school before 9.00 a.m. on the first day of absence and continue to update the school each day until the child returns. If no contact is made by the family, the school will carry out a welfare visit to the family home after the second day of absence.

Good attendance is vital to your child's education. Children who attend school regularly:

- make better progress with their learning,
- build stronger friendships and social skills,
- develop positive routines and attitudes to learning, and
- are more confident and settled in school life.

Even a small number of absences can add up and have a significant impact on achievement. By ensuring your child attends every day, you are giving them the best possible chance to succeed both academically and socially.

The Summer Holiday Club

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Aldcroft and all the staff who worked so hard to make our Summer Club such a success. Running over four weeks and often welcoming more than 80 pupils each day, the club was a wonderful opportunity for children to take part in a wide range of exciting activities, make memories with friends and enjoy their summer holidays in a safe and fun environment. We are very grateful for the dedication and energy of the team who made it all possible!

Building Improvement

Over the summer, we have continued to make a number of improvements to our school building and grounds to further enhance the environment for both children and staff. We are particularly pleased with the installation of new toilets for the Upper School boys, alongside the replacement of three phases of the school roof, ensuring our building remains safe, secure and well maintained. A number of classrooms have also been redecorated, creating brighter and more welcoming learning spaces for our children. In addition, several areas of the school's external walls have been redecorated, further improving the appearance of our school building. We are delighted with the progress made over the summer and look forward to continuing to develop our school environment throughout the year.

Back to School Reminders

Here are some reminders about kit and school uniform for the start of this new school year. It is important that all children stick to the rules regarding uniform so please make every effort to ensure that your child comes to school each day appropriately dressed and equipped.

If you need any help with uniform, we have supplies of pre-loved uniform which is clean and in good condition. These are available at no charge. For families that may be struggling to equip their children with all the uniform, we

have several brand-new coats for families to take – free of charge. Ask at the school office. Make sure that you label items of clothing, packed lunch bags, PE kits etc. with your child's name and class.

Uniform for children in Y1 to Y6:

- White shirt (Not a 'polo' shirt please)
- School tie
- Trousers, long or short, or grey skirt, with grey, navy or black tights
- Navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper (Not a hoodie)
- Plain coloured socks – white, navy, black or grey
- Black shoes (with black laces if required) – Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their school shoes
- No extreme haircuts, tramlines or logos shaved in.
- Long hair should be tied back, to reduce the risk of the spread of head lice. Use only plain hair bobbles and bands
- Jewellery is not allowed, with the exception of a watch. Children should not wear earrings, but if they must, a small discrete stud should be worn which should be removed or covered for PE or other activities where the risk of injury is greater
- Make sure that your child has a coat, with a zip or buttons, not just a hooded top

For new starters in the Reception year group:

- A pale blue Polo shirt can be worn instead of the formal shirt and tie
- All other uniform is the same

Nursery uniform

For children in our school Nursery, we're slightly more flexible, please refer to your transition pack.

PE kit consists of:

- Navy blue printed Alkrington T shirt and navy/dark blue or black shorts
- Black pumps or trainers

We provide a free PE t-shirt for Reception new starters; parents will need to provide black pumps or trainers.

Children should come to school in their PE kits on their PE day. The days are:

Monday	Y3
Tuesday	Y1
Wednesday	Y5, 6W, Reception
Thursday	Y2, 6M & 6T
Friday	Y4

Reception children begin in a few weeks' time on Thursdays. Nursery do not wear PE kits for PE activities.

Children may wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings which are dark coloured and plain. They should wear their school jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan or a plain sweatshirt/hoodie.

Links with Parents and Carers

We will be having a **Welcome Event** starting the week – beginning 14th September. I hope that you are able to join the class staff for 20 minutes from 3.30 p.m. on the following days:

Monday 14th September – Y4
Tuesday 15th September – Y1, Y2, Y5 & Y6
Thursday 17th September – Y3

Arrangements for **Reception and Nursery** will be different and will be shared with you later.

On that afternoon, come into school, through the entrance/exit your child uses, and to the classrooms. Adults can join the teacher in one room whilst your children can go into the other classroom with the Teaching Assistant.

Teachers will explain their class routines and priorities for the year and share with you the relevant Skills Passport, Curriculum Newsletter, explain about Homework and PE and any other important information. I hope that you can attend. I appreciate that you may, for instance, have children in different year groups on the same day and will not be able to attend both. I suggest that you attend the younger siblings Welcome Event and approach the teacher of any others later, and they can share some of the information with you.

The **weekly Newsletter** is produced and distributed each Thursday afternoon. You can find a copy on the school website and Twitter pages. You can sign up on the website to have a copy emailed to your inbox, look in Newsletters/Weekly Newsletters

Classes from Y1 to Y6 use Class Dojo to communicate with parents and in the Early Years they use Tapestry. I encourage you to sign up.

Each child from Y1 to Y6 will be given a Home-School Planner as a means of communication between parents and staff. This is an important item which should be brought into school and taken home each day. We ask that you regularly contribute to, and check the planner. We ask that you sign the planner each week and the class adults will stamp the planner each week to show it's been received and read. If lost or damage beyond repair, a replacement costs £3.50

Parents' Evenings will take place in person, with the first planned for Wednesday 4th November. Details to follow.

Homework

Homework for children in Y1 to Y6 will be given each week. The detail of the homework routine for each class / year group will be on the Curriculum Newsletter. They will consist of:

- **Spellings – given out to be tested later**
- **Reading activities – we expect that you support your child at least 3 times each week in listening to him/her read and sharing books and stories. Make sure that you record this in the 'Planner'.**
- **Maths – Basic skills practice**

Skills Passport

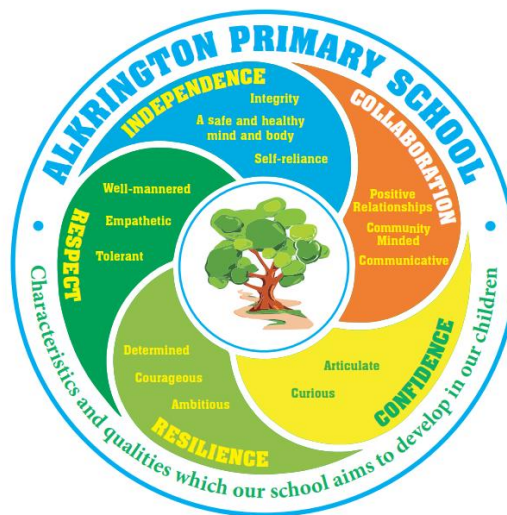
Inside each planner, on page 3, you will find the Skills Passport for the relevant age group. This has been devised by school staff and identifies the key personal and social skills which we believe will help your child to be successful in school and in life.

You will note a column where parents can tick off if your child has already acquired that skill and we encourage you to practise with them. From time to time in school, staff will assess the children and we will highlight the successes and achievements of pupils to encourage the acquisition of these skills. Here's the one for children to aim for by the end of Y2

By end of Y2	Skills
1	I can write my full name
2	I know my home address and postcode
3	I know when my birthday is
4	I can tie my shoelaces
5	I can work and play with others successfully
6	I can dress and undress for P.E.
7	I know my right and left direction
8	I can brush my own hair
9	I can log onto a computer
10	I can use a ruler correctly
11	I have an awareness of fire and road safety
12	I can cut up my food and use cutlery correctly

Characteristics and Qualities

We believe in providing a well-rounded curriculum and we are passionate about developing the children's character. Working with our Governors, staff, children and parents we developed 5 key Characteristics & Qualities that we feel are fundamental in the children's futures. These Characteristics and Qualities are explored and developed across our curriculum and regularly celebrated in class and during whole school assemblies. As an extension to our work in partnership, we ask that you also focus on these important aspects of your child's personal development.



School Lunches

The menu for school meals goes in a 2 weekly-cycle and the two weeks' menus are on the website and on our social media pages. Next week will be Week 2.

If your child has a packed lunch, please bear the following advice in mind:

A balanced meal would consist, in the view of the Rochdale Healthy Schools group, of:

- A drink
- A carbohydrate food, such as bread, potatoes, rice, pasta or noodles
- Fruit and vegetables – try to include 2-3 different fruits or vegetables each day
- A protein food – such as chicken, turkey, fish, ham, egg, cheese or hummus
- A dairy food such as milk, yoghurt, cheese or fromage frais

Packed lunches should **not** include:

- Fizzy drinks – or glass bottles for safety reasons.
- Chocolate bars (e.g. Dairy Milk, Mars Bar etc. – Kit Kat, Blue Riband, Penguin bars etc are OK) or Sweets

The cost of a school dinner is now £2.95 per day or £14.75 per full week – due on the first morning of each week. We encourage payment online using the ARBOR App. If you would like some help please let us know and we will be happy to assist.

Each child in the Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes is entitled to a free school meal. I hope that you choose this provision. This would be a saving of around £400 per year compared with the cost of a paid meal each day.

It has come to our attention that there are families missing out on their entitlement to Free School Meals and the wider benefits that come with this. By registering for Free School Meals, even if your child currently receives the universal access to a free school dinner in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, you will have access to a range of support that would otherwise not be available.

Specific help for children entitled to Free School Meals includes:

- Reduction in cost to access our Breakfast Club
- Free access to the Easter and Summer clubs taking place at school
- Pupils in Key Stage 2, years 3, 4, 5 & 6, will receive a Free School Meal every day
- Benefits when paying for school activities, such as the residential trip to Robinwood
- Free music lessons in Key Stage 2

To be entitled, the parents or carers of the child will be in receipt of income support or other benefits. If you are at all unsure, we encourage you to apply anyway – there is nothing lost if you are not successful.

What do I need to do?

Applications for Free School Meals can be made via the Rochdale Council website (even if your address is in Manchester):

<https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/benefits-money/free-school-meals>

We will help you!

If you require any support with the application process, please contact the school office who will pass your details onto Mr Richards or Mrs Hill. We will be more than happy to help before, during or after school, including the use of school IT equipment should you need it.

Lateness

School opens at 8.45 a.m. If your child arrives after 9.00 a.m. at school they will be recorded as 'late' and if after 9.30 a.m. this is recorded as an unauthorised absence. I encourage you to drop your child off as the doors open at 8.45 a.m. School gates will be opened from 8.40 a.m. onwards. If you arrive at school after 9.00 a.m., please sign your child in using the electronic system in the school office. Please collect your child promptly at the end of the school day, 3.20 p.m. unless they are attending the After School Club or an after school activity, most of which finish at 4.00 p.m.

Mobile Phones – Years 5 and 6

We would like to remind parents and carers that, in line with recent changes to national guidance, mobile phones are not permitted to be used on school premises. This includes before and after school, so children should not use their phones on the playground when arriving at or leaving school. Children in Years 5 and 6 who bring a mobile phone to school will be asked to place it in a secure location when they arrive in class. At the end of the school day, phones will be returned to children, who will be asked to put them straight into their bags before leaving school. We appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that our school remains a safe, focused and positive environment for everyone.

Extra Curricular Activities

All activities after school will go live on ARBOR on Monday 7th September at 6.00 p.m.

Wraparound Care (Breakfast and After School Club) Prices for 2026-2027

Due to increases in a number of our costs, including staffing, food and other overheads, we have had to make some changes to our prices. We have carefully considered these increases and have worked hard to keep them as reasonable as possible, while ensuring that we can continue to maintain the high standards of provision and service that we want for our children and families. We really appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Provision	Charge
After School Club	£11.00
Early Breakfast Club (from 7:30am)	£5.50
Breakfast Club (from 8:00am)	£4.00
Pupil Premium Rate	£0.60
Holiday Club (8:00am – 4:45pm)	£30.00

Other News

- Children in **4B** begin their **swimming lessons** on Tuesday 8th September. They can come in PE kit on the day, bringing their swimming kit with them (towel, trunks, swimming costume – no bikinis please). Children in 4G will start swimming after the February half term holidays.
- Friday Achievement Assembly** - Should you receive a text message on Thursday afternoon; you are invited to come to assembly on **Friday**, starting at 2.45 p.m. to see your child receive their award.

I am looking forward to a successful year at school for all staff and pupils.

Yours sincerely,

A Nott

Andrew Nott - Headteacher