



AYCLIFFE DRIVE NEWS #22

Head Teacher Newsletter #22

14th September 2026

Aycliffe Drive Primary School

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and thank you once again for all your support last year — I hope you and your families had a restful summer. It is wonderful to see our children return with smiling faces, ready to learn. We have started our year off smoothly and pupils are settling into class nicely.

At Aycliffe Drive we remain committed to a caring, nurturing environment where every pupil can achieve their best academically and grow as a kind, confident citizen.

This year we are asking parents to support three clear aims that will make the biggest difference to your child's progress:

1. Read with your child every day. Even 10–15 minutes makes a big difference. Listen to them read their levelled reading book, ask questions about what they've read and record it in their reading log.

2. Practise times-tables and spellings every day. Short, daily practice (10-15 minutes) builds fluency far faster than irregular longer sessions. Use quick games, apps recommended by school, or simple timed quizzes. Your child's teacher will send home the spellings and use TT Rockstars to practise timetables at their level.
3. Aim for 97% attendance (around 136 out of 140 school days) where possible. Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of progress. Arriving on time and attending every day (unless unwell) really matters. If there are barriers (health, appointments, travel, family circumstances) please tell us early so we can support you. We will contact families quickly when pupils are absent to check in and offer help.

New Staff and Welcoming Back Previous Staff

For families who have not yet met them, we are pleased to welcome the following new members of staff to Aycliffe Drive this term:

- Miss Collier, Class Teacher — Year 2 Chestnut
- Mr Mostyn, Learning Support Assistant — in-class provision and SEND support in Chestnut

We are delighted to welcome back Miss Malt from maternity leave at the start of October. Miss Malt will be working predominantly in Chestnut Class while also supporting colleagues across Key Stage 1. We're pleased to have her experience and enthusiasm back with us and know pupils and staff will benefit from her commitment to learning and well-being.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Aycliffe Drive Primary School is looking for a new parent governor.

Parent governors sit on the governing body to act in the best interests of all pupils and help shape school improvement. We welcome interest from parents or carers with any background. No formal qualifications are required — just commitment, good communication and an interest in supporting school leadership.

Time commitment: typically 6–10 meetings a year plus additional training; some preparation and occasional school visits. Training will be provided and you will be supported by other governors.

Look at for an email over the next few weeks on how to submit your nomination. If more than one parent stands, a ballot will be held.

MacMillan Run and Cake Sale

We are holding a Macmillan Run and Cake Sale to raise awareness and funds for Cancer Research — a cause close to our hearts.

- Run: Wednesday 23rd September at Margaret Lloyd Playing Fields (opposite the shops). Parents are welcome to watch from the playing fields. Pupils will commence running at 1:15pm. More details to follow. Pupils running outside the school at Years 1 - 6.
- Cake sale & Wear Green day: Friday 25th September — pupils and staff are invited to wear something green and bring a small donation to buy packaged cakes after school. Please can parents donate cakes like last year that are brought from a shop and have the ingredients listed. These can be brought from Tuesday 22nd September and handed to your child's class teacher.

We would welcome parent volunteers to act as stewards during the run on 23 September. If you can help, please contact the school office. Thank you in advance for any time, cakes or donations you can offer.

All monies raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. We look forward to seeing everyone supporting this important event.

Kind regards,

Mrs Atkinson

School Information



School Uniform

A reminder that all hair that is long enough must be fully tied up at all times in school. This means hair styles like 'half up, half down' are not acceptable. Children are allowed to wear small studs to school, however, small hoops or bigger studs are not permitted.

Please be aware that our uniform suppliers have updated there prices. Please see changes from Monday 14th September below

Elastic ties - £3.39 (new lower price)

Book bags - £5.80 (previously £4.54)

Swim hats - £1.95 (previously £1.37)

Shoe bags - £2.20 (no change)

Short ties - £5.49 (no change)

Long ties - £4.35 (no change)

When purchasing uniform at the office, please be aware that we only accept cash and paying with the correct money would be greatly appreciated as we do not have access to change.

Year 6's - Application for Secondary School

Please can all year 6 parents apply for a secondary school place for their children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016. All the information you need is available on the Hertfordshire County website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. The deadline to apply is 31 October 2026. Allocations will be sent to parents on 1 March 2027. We have previously sent out a 'Moving On' booklet which has further information, if you need another copy of this please contact the school office.

Application for leave of absence forms - Online only

All application for leave forms must be submitted online. Forms can be typed straight onto by parents and returned to admin@aycliffedrive.herts.sch.uk. We will be unable to accept any paper forms. Please find the application for leave form on our website - [Aycliffe Drive Primary School - Attendance](#)

Individual and Sibling Photos - Tuesday 22nd September

The photographers, Van Cols, will be in on Tuesday 22nd September to take individual and sibling photos. These will start promptly at 8.30am, therefore it is important all children arrive to school on time and in correct uniform. Nursery and Reception children (with siblings), will have their photo taken first, then we will work our way from year 6 to year 1. Please ensure the uniform policy is followed, e.g. hair tied up, small stud earrings, etc. **If Tuesday is your child's usual PE day, please send them to school in their school uniform, not the PE kit.**

Amazon Wishlist

Please take a look at the books we currently desperately need on our Amazon Wishlist. Any donations of these would be greatly appreciated, new or if you already have these at home in good condition that you no longer need.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/29SVDG2EPKGBK?ref=abls_nvfly_yl

Thank you for your support in this!

Key Dates



Key Dates - Please keep an eye as these dates as they are updated throughout the term. Further information for events will be shared closer to the time.

22/09 - Individual and Sibling photos

23/09 - Nursery Parents invited to Forest School 8.15am

23/09 - Macmillan Fun Run

25/09 - Wear Green for Macmillan

25/09 - Cake Sale for Macmillan

29/09 - Year 6 Height and Weight

06/10 - Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

16/10 - Flu Vaccinations - Reception - Year 6

23/10 - INSET Day - pupils not in school

26-30/10 - October half term

31/10 - Deadline to apply for secondary school

02/11 - INSET Day - Parent Consultations

13/11 - World Kindness Day

13/11 - Deadline to return Christmas Card Designs/orders

16/11 - Anti-bullying week

16/11 - Wear odd sock/pink for Anti-bullying week

26/11 - Flu Mop-up session

27/11 - Occasional Day

09/12 - Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

09/12 - Nursery performance to parents at 9.00am

11/12 - KS1 pantomime trip

18/12 - School closes at 1.30pm

Forest School Dates

Nursery has Forest School every Friday morning from 02/10.

Birch - 28/09 PM

Reception Group 1 - 01/10 AM

Nursery (all children) - 02/10

Sycamore - 05/10 PM

Reception Group 2 - 08/10 AM

Nursery (all children) - 09/10

Chestnut - 12/10 PM

Reception Group 3 - 15/10 AM

Nursery (all children) - 16/10

Birch - 19/10 PM

Reception Group 1 - 22/10 AM

Reception Group 2 - 05/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 06/11

Sycamore - 09/11 PM

Reception Group 3 - 12/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 13/11

Chestnut - 16/11 PM

Reception Group 1 - 19/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 20/11

Birch - 23/11 PM

Reception Group 2 - 26/11 AM

Sycamore - 30/11 PM

Reception Group 3 - 03/12 AM

Nursery (all children) - 04/12

Chestnut - 07/12 - PM

Nursery (all children) - 11/12

Star Awards and Kindness Catchers

2026-2027

Star Awards

Birch: Graham

Sycamore: Logan

Chestnut: Rosie

Mia's Club



Mia's Club launched at our school after the Easter holidays in response to feedback from parents who were looking for afterschool childcare. The children who attend the club have given fantastic feedback and many have even asked to come on additional days. During the sessions, children have the opportunity to complete homework, enjoy creative activities, have a snack, and spend time playing with their friends in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

If you would like your child to attend Mia's Club or would like to find out more, please contact Mia at miacub2019@gmail.com.

Safeguarding



Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team is:

- Miss Fitzsimmons - Assistant Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead (Child Protection)
- Mrs Atkinson - Headteacher & Safeguarding Lead (Overall school safeguarding)
- Mrs Long - Assistant Headteacher & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead & Designated Teacher for Children who are Looked After.
- Miss Rumph - Mental Health Lead & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead & Prevent Duty Lead

All members of the Designated Safeguarding Team complete Level 3 training. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of a child please speak to one of the members of the team.

Ms Robson is our attendance lead, and will be in contact with you if concerns arise over your child's attendance. Remember there are new regulations on school attendance, which came into effect as of 1st September 2024.

Aycliffe Drive Primary School is part of Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is a national Police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children and young people who experience Domestic Violence and Abuse, and which is in place in every Police force in England and Wales.

External Flyers



Theatretrain Hemel Hempstead

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FROZEN MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

👑 3 YEARS

🕒 9:15–10:00am | £7

🌟 4–5 YEARS

🕒 10:00–11:30am | £10

🎭 ACT • SING • DANCE 🎵

Come dressed as your favourite Frozen character! ❄️

THEATRETRAIN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

📍 Astley Cooper School

@ hemelhempstead@theatretrain.co.uk

LIMITED PLACES — BOOK TODAY!

LITTLE STARS WANTED!

SING • DANCE • ACT • BELONG

THEATRE TRAIN

DANCE
ACT
SING

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD



AGES
3-5
YEARS

SINGING

DANCING

ACTING

CONFIDENCE

FREE TRIAL
SATURDAY
12TH SEPTEMBER

TINIES
AGE 3
9:15 - 10:00AM

MINIS
AGES 4-5
10:00 - 11:30AM

ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY 

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED | JUST BRING YOUR ENTHUSIASM!