

27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



REMINDER - LAUNCHING PLAY AT LUNCHTIMES - 30.01.23

Remember we will be starting our outdoor play at lunchtimes next week to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children must have in order to be able to play.

Please can parents/carers ensure that their children have a warm coat, gloves and hat to wear outside in the playground.

Thank you to all parents/carers who have sent back their Play Questionnaires.

Choral Speaking Competition

Each class in school has been practising a year group poem and has performed this to the whole school this morning in assembly.

The poems were:

Year 3 'Egypt's' Rap'

Year 4 'Walk like a Roman'

Year 5 'The Godless Viking'

Year 6 'Raging Volcanoes'

The winners from each year group were classes 1, 6, 8 and 11.

It was tough to choose the finalists, however a huge well done to Classes 6 and 11. They will go through to the 37th Oldham Primary Schools Choral Speaking Festival at Oldham's Coliseum later in the year.

We thank our judges Mr P Widall (Chair of Governors), Miss Rashid (Co-opted Governor), Mr Unsworth and Miss Booth. Thank you also to Miss Varley for organising this very important event.

Teacher Strike Action - Wednesday 1st February

Please find attached to this newsletter more information about the planned industrial action next Wednesday and how this will affect Alexandra Park Junior School.



Should I keep my child off school?

We have questions involving illnesses and what to do in cases such as measles, mumps and chickenpox etc. We attach to this newsletter a useful leaflet which explains what to do and how long children should or should not be kept off school.

Let's get reading - BOOM Reader

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." - Roald Dahl

Well done to all the children and families who have logged onto Boom reader. We are pleased to announce the most home reading logs recorded on Boom reader this week.

Position	Name	Reads at home
First Place	Haroon Mohammad Class 6	33 home reads
Second place	Zakariyya Bin-Jahid Class 6	13 home reads
Third Place	Saaliha Gul Class 11	11 home reads

Spelling Shed Winners



Place	Total points awarded for correct spellings	Child
1st	58,344,216	Anus Khan Class 11
2nd	52,649,812	Saif Iqbal Class 10
3rd	32,863,194	Haroon Mohammed Class 6

TT Rockstars - CELEBRATIONS!



The most accurate Class	Class 9
The most active class	Class 5
The most improved speed	Khadija Noor (Class 4)
The most active player	Kaif Ahmed (Class 10)

Word Aware

This week's word is **'familiar'**. Please encourage your child to use this word when out and about and complete the activities, which Miss Varley will share on Class Dojo.



Attendance

Well done to classes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 9 and 12 for achieving over 95% attendance last week. Attendance is certainly improving and we are working closely with families to support this.

A reminder that school begins promptly at 8.40am.



Dates for next week:

Wednesday 1st February - Teacher Strike

Friday 3rd January - Year 6 Holocaust Visitor (9.30am)

Number Day - information has already be sent out about this Assembly at 2.30pm



26.01.23

Dear Parents/Carers,

In response to my earlier letter regarding the plans for strike action I am writing to inform you of how this will affect Alexandra Park Junior School on Wednesday 1st of February 2023.

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on the strike day.

It is therefore incumbent upon me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, partially open or closed. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of children and staff and whether the school can run a full curriculum or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As Headteacher, I and the Governing Board have decided that there will be a partial closure in all year 5 classes, the rest of the school will be open as usual.

- All classes in Year 3 will be open to all children
- All classes in Year 4 will be open to all children
- **All classes in year 5 will be closed – attendance will be prioritised for vulnerable children only.**
- All classes in Year 6 will be open to all children (in classes 11 and 12 they will undertake an amended curriculum to support them in the lead up to their Key Stage 2 SATs)

If your child is within years 3, 4 and 6 and has been notified of a place in year 5 then you must ensure that they attend school as usual.

If your child is in year 5, we apologise for the inconvenience and understand any frustration you may feel – the decision has not been taken lightly and is due to reduced staffing numbers which means we can only assure the safety and wellbeing of a limited number of children on these days. Work such as TT-Rockstars, Boom-reader and Spelling Shed will be available for children to access. Your child's attendance will not be affected due to their class closure. Any families who are eligible for FSM will be able to claim a voucher for the day through the usual WONDE system.



Alexandra Park Junior School

To Learn, Be Happy and Achieve Our Best

Clearly this is a difficult situation. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

I will of course keep you up-to-date with any further news or changes. If you have any questions or queries please do contact our office staff on the above phone number and email.

We thank you for your support,

Mrs. J Seabright
Headteacher





Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.