



Head's

Update

October 2023

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MRS O'CONNOR

Alfred Lord Tennyson School Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy first few weeks we have had. The children came back in September full of smiles and looking very smart and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for supporting our new uniform expectations. We have also been delighted with how well our new reception intake have settled into the Infant School site and our Year 3's into the Junior site.

Communication

I would also like to thank you for your patience with any communication difficulties you may have experienced. When our systems were merged, it resulted in a number of technical difficulties but we are hoping that they have now been resolved. Our main form of communication will continue to come to you through Parentapp. Each half term, I will also send you a Head's Update to outline some of the developments and initiatives that have been put in place to improve our school further. At the end of term, you will also receive electronically our ALTS newsletter (ALTS Gazette). Our ALTS newsletter will share with you all of the fantastic learning opportunities that the children have taken part in. In addition, you will receive each big term a curriculum newsletter that will inform you of the key areas of learning for that term. If you require any of our communication in a paper copy or a different language, please inform the school office.

Our new Facebook Page is also up and running please like and follow us and our website which is still in development can be found at <https://alts.northants.sch.uk>.

Staffing Update

We have recently appointed Mrs Bunker as our Family Support Worker. Mrs Bunker will work across both sites. Her working hours are 8.30am-4.00pm. If you wish to speak to Mrs Bunker, please call the school office at our Alfred Street Site and they will get a message to her. As part of Mrs Bunker's role, she will be working with parents to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. She will work alongside children and parents/carers to support with accessing external services or putting support in place. Mrs Bunker also oversees attendance and will be working with families to ensure children have good attendance. She is also one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads so any concerns we have regarding the welfare of the children will also come to Mrs Bunker and it will be her responsibility to look into these concerns and help to put the required support into place for our children and families. This may mean at times that Mrs Bunker will have to have some challenging conversations with parents as we have a duty of care to ensure the children are kept safe.

Our Senior Leadership team are also working across both sites. I aim to be at the Tennyson Road site on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon and at Alfred Street Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. I am often stood on the gate at the start and end of the day. If I am not on a site, Mrs Appleby our Inclusion Manager, Mrs Smith our Assistant Head or Mrs Bunker our Family Support Worker will be and are happy to help in any way.

Children with Additional Needs

Mrs Appleby our Inclusion Manager is in the process of reviewing the needs of the children and is getting to know our Infant children. We will then be putting additional provision in place for those who need it. For some children, they will have a learning plan that outlines their targets and steps to address these targets. These will be shared with parents and carers at our parents evenings in November. Learning plans will be reviewed regularly throughout the year and parents will be informed of the progress being made. We will also inform parents and carers of any additional interventions that we are putting in place either pastoral or academic, in coming weeks, once the children have had an opportunity to settle into their new classes. Mrs Appleby will also meet with parents of the children who are on our SEND register at parents evening. However, if you have any additional concerns regarding your child please call the office and ask for an appointment to speak with Mrs Appleby - has her allocated time for inclusion during the mornings as she teaches in the afternoons. If you are awaiting a diagnosis for your child, please be aware that we have been informed by the Local Authority that this is a very lengthy process and in some cases is taking up to 3 years.

Building work

As you will be aware, both of our sites have had some building works carried out over the summer including the addition of privacy fencing on the playgrounds. This has helped to enable the children to play safely without witnessing any events that are taking place outside the perimeter. It also helps our children to play safely without the concern of being watched by members from the general public.

After October half term, our Alfred Street site will be having a new roof and scaffolding will be installed. This work is a large scale project lasting for several months and will take place in 3 phases in order to keep disruption to the children. A risk assessment and safety measures will be in place and part of the playground will need to be screened off for the workers and their equipment. There may be occasions where children need to work in a different classroom but this will be short term and we will do our best to prepare the children for this in advance.

Up Coming Dates:

Thursday 12th October—KS2 Halloween and Firework Safety Assembly

Thursday 12th October—Y3 Blue Butterfly Project with our PCSO

Thursday 12th October—Cluster School Council Meeting (selected children)

Monday 16th October—Harvest Assembly 1.30pm (please book a place to attend)

Tuesday 17th October—Y5&6 Cross Country Competition (selected children)

Friday 20th October—ALTS Awards, 9.30am (invitation only). Last day of Term

Monday 30th October—Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 31st October—Children return