

Dear parents,

I am delighted to be able to report that I am taking my first collection of food to Aylesbury Food bank. Thank you to those of you who have donated. Our Pupil Premium £15 food vouchers will also be distributed from Monday.

More electronic devices have been distributed; this makes a total of 10 children who now have technology at home that they can keep. If you do not have a laptop or tablet at home for your child's use and haven't yet contacted the school, please let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike, our IT technician who not only donated his time for free, but rebuilt a laptop for a child to use at home.

We are now in the fortunate position to be able to offer additional devices to families who are struggling due to the demand on laptops in a household being unmanageable, because of learning commitments of older siblings. If this applies to you, please email me and we may be able to provide an additional device. In most cases this will be a loan and the device will need to be returned to school.

Have a good weekend. The children in school are excited about the prospect of snow!

Stay safe,
Mrs Price

Bags to School

Wow! Clearly everyone had cleared out old clothes but had nowhere to send them because the charity shops were closed! I have taken a picture of the Junior site donations which I will tweet, and Mrs Wilde will put on the website. I was told that one parent had put a request on their road's WhatsApp and a car full of bags arrived!

Lateral flow testing for school staff

I will be emailing parents of children who are in school separately about Lateral flow COVID testing in Primary schools for all staff. For general information, staff will be opting into a twice weekly home testing regime to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID 19.

Home learning

Please don't spend more than 20 minutes (Infant children) - 40 minutes (Junior children) on a task, particularly if your child is struggling. Clearly if they are enjoying the activity then 'go with it'!

All children need to have time when they are not doing schoolwork, for their (and your) mental wellbeing. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help with home learning. We have asked Parent Forum reps to 'keep us in the loop' if they see anything on the class WhatsApp page that we may need to know about.

We are under no illusion that things are difficult for some families at home: juggling online meetings, workload, home learning and mental wellbeing. In addition, the financial situation for some of our families is also challenging. We have continued to update our website with useful links to support networks for yourself, as well as your children.

Below are a few new things to help you at home:

- BBC helping your child with their mental wellbeing
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-55620288>
- eBooks at Aylesbury Library <https://buckinghamshire.overdrive.com/library/kids>

Sporting events

Just in the nick of time, before Christmas and lockdown, we had the opportunity to enter a dance and gymnastics competition virtually through the Mandeville Sports Partnership.

Gymnastics

I am delighted to announce that the school came **1st** in the gymnastics competition! This is an amazing achievement given the short time we had, and I am so proud of all our Year 6 gymnasts. A huge well done to: Izzy, Courtney, Greta, Nadia, Sophia, and Betsy

Dance

I am doubly delighted to announce that the school came **1st** in the dance competition too! We entered three dance pieces and I am so proud of the dancers who created their own routines and interpreted the music in their own unique way. A huge well done to all the dancers:

Group Red: Emma, Calli, Hannah, Mary, Milly, Jessica, Polly Ann and Abigail.

Group Blue: Holly, Sophie, Gabriel, Artie, Freya, Xavier, Annabel and Elsie

Group Green: Blake, Ryan and Ross.

Certificates will be presented as soon as possible!

And finally...

Congratulations to both the Knight and Hanson families on the birth of their new babies.