

19th July 2017

Issue: 153

Upcoming School Events

Thursday 20 th July	2pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Thursday 20 th July	3.15pm	End of Term
Thursday 20 th July	3.15pm	Sal's Shoes Collection
Friday 21 st July	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Monday 4 th September	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Tuesday 5 th September	8.45am	Children Return to School
Monday 11 th September	Afternoon	Violin Lessons Re-Start with Mrs Cane-Hardy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the academic year. It's been a busy year and one that has seen the children progress and grow in many ways, which is lovely to see.

Attendance

Our target is 96%.

Week Beginning	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
10 th July 2017	95.51%	2.76%	1.73%	1.12%

Below are our attendance figures for the complete academic year from 6th September 2016 to 14th July 2017.

Complete Academic Year	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
2016 - 2017	95.65%	3.11%	1.24%	1.96%

Our attendance figures for the year have been disappointing with an increase in children being taken out of school in term time for things such as holidays. Our attendance target is 96% and this year we have only managed to reach 95.65%.

When OFSTED visited in June last year, we were told that attendance was an area we needed to improve. Unfortunately despite the work we have put in to try and ensure children have good, regular attendance, the situation has not improved. Therefore the school Governors and Senior Leadership Team have been looking at what can be done to change this and from September attendance will be our main focus. The attendance policy and further information will be sent out early in the new term. **In the meantime please do not book any holidays or days out during term time and try to keep all appointments outside school hours.**

Good attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Good school attendance is something expected by OFSTED, the Government and the Local Authority and as such schools are required to ensure they meet strict targets. **We will only be able to achieve a 'Good' or better OFSTED grading when they next inspect if our attendance improves and we need your help with this.**

Parking

I am saddened to report that unfortunately this week we have received complaints from our neighbours regarding unreasonable parking. We really do urge parents/carers to park considerately when bringing and collecting children to and from school. Please do not park so that your vehicle is obstructing our neighbours' driveways, inconveniencing them as they are unable to access their property. We would also appreciate it if cars are not parked close to junctions as this obstructs visibility as people cross the road or are turning into/out of the roads. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Football Team Fundraising

As you may be aware, Mr Gratwick has been running a school football team this year, with training on Tuesday lunchtimes. He would like to raise a little money to buy some training equipment for next season. To that end, we will be holding a sale of second-hand sports clothing, sports equipment, football kits, football boots/astros, sporting books, etc. early next term. If you are able to donate items that your children (or you) have outgrown or no longer want, please give them to the school office or send it in to school with your child. Many thanks – the football team.

Transition

Yesterday and Monday the children experienced two days with their new class in preparation for September. This has enabled them to get to know their new staff members and class mates and will hopefully make the start of the new academic year in September a more smooth process for all. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a member of staff.

End of Year Celebration Assembly and Leavers' Assembly

This morning we held our end of year celebration assembly. It was lovely to have so many parents, carers, friends and family with us to share in the celebrations of the children's achievements. We also said a fond farewell to our caretaker, Brian Gown, who is retiring, as well as to Sylvia Daw who has been an amazing helper and Friend of Alfriston School for many years. Our heartfelt thanks go to both of them for all they have done for us over the years and we wish them well. We are now looking forward to the Year 6 leavers' assembly tomorrow at 2pm. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to attend this assembly as well.

Shirt Signing

Year 6 children are allowed to bring in an extra shirt (not the shirt they are wearing) to be signed as a keepsake tomorrow. They will also need to bring in a pen that can be used to sign the shirt. Staff will make sure they have plenty of time to sign the shirts during the course of the day.

Medicines and Inhalers

Please can parents/carers collect any medication and inhalers that are kept in school for their child/children at the end of the day tomorrow. Please see Mrs Townsend who will have them for handing out. All inhalers need to be washed through before returning them to school in September. Upon return of inhalers and/or medication at the start of the academic year, a new medication consent form will need to be completed. These are available from the school office.

Lost Property

As is usual at the end of term, unfortunately we have quite a collection of lost property. This is currently out on the fence by the path leading to the school office. Please do check if any of the items belong to your child/children as at the end of the week we will be disposing of any remaining items to charity.

INSET Days – Reminder

Just a reminder that we have INSET days this Friday, 21st July and Monday 4th September. On these days the school will be closed to the children.

Uniform

As the school holidays approach, I thought I would remind everyone of the school uniform requirements in case you need to organise items ready for the new school year. Children should always be neatly and tidily dressed and should be encouraged to take a pride in their appearance.

The uniform is based on the colours scarlet and grey and all items can be purchased from local chain stores. Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, PE t-shirts and shorts, fleeces and waterproof jackets, all with the school badge on (except PE shorts), along with PE and book bags, can be purchased from the school office.

- Red jumper, cardigan or school sweatshirt
- White shirt, or red or white polo shirt with collar
- Red or white polo neck
- Grey skirt, pinafore dress, culottes, plain school trousers or shorts – no jeans, tracksuits, combat style trousers, sports shorts or leggings
- School fleece for outdoor wear (optional)
- White, black, red or grey ankle or knee length socks or tights (no trainer socks)
- Plain dark coloured shoes with low heels; these should be fastened by means of buckles, velcro or laces to ensure a good fit (no trainers). Sandals may be worn in the summer during hot weather but should have a secure back strap and not have open toes.
- Red and white check/stripe school dress
- Sun hat

Children also need an art overall; an old large shirt is ideal.

PE Kit

- Black or white plain trainers with either laces or velcro fastening to ensure a secure and safe fit
- Red shorts
- White T-shirt with Alfriston logo
- Pair of white, black, red or grey socks (trainer socks may be worn for PE only)
- Track suit is optional during cold weather

These items are best kept in a drawstring bag, which should be brought to school on the first day each week and taken home at the end of the week for washing.

Shoe Collection

Tomorrow we will be supporting the charity Sal's Shoes who collect and distribute used, loved and outgrown children's shoes to those who need them. There are 300 million barefoot children worldwide for whom walking with shoes is a rarity. This makes them extremely vulnerable to infection by parasites, such as hookworm; while injuries to the feet and ankles can lead to ulcers and other conditions which are almost always left untreated. Without shoes, many children are not permitted to attend school. We would love it if your child/children could take part by handing in, at the end of the school day, a pair of shoes that they no longer need. This can be school shoes or even a pair of flip flops! Shoes can be handed to Mrs Ellis (Harriet's Mum) who will be on the playground at the end of the day. Please don't forget to bring in a spare pair of shoes for your child/children to go home in if they are taking part in donating shoes! Please visit www.salsshoes.com for more details.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder that if your child will be entering Year 3 in September, they will no longer be entitled to a free school meal as part of the government Universal Free School Meal Scheme. However, if they are entitled to Pupil Premium funding, then they will continue to qualify for a free school meal. Please speak to a member of the office staff if you think your child/children may qualify for Pupil Premium.

News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS) Email foaschool@gmail.com

Club 100 – congratulations to Michaela Madgwick and Mr Windsor who won the July and August Club 100 draws this morning.

Thanks and Goodbye – thank you and goodbye to Sylvia Daw who is stepping down as a committee member for the FoAS. Her help, support, enthusiasm and commitment have been invaluable and irreplaceable!

Finally can I wish you all a lovely summer holiday, all our leavers an amazing start on their new journey beyond Alfriston School and we look forward to seeing most of you back in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsey Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher