

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! 2024 has finally arrived. We all hope you had an enjoyable break and also a good rest during this time!

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It really has been a great week here at Alderwood. At the end of my first week as Head of School, I would like to thank you all sincerely for your good wishes, handshakes, and warm smiles every morning. It is an absolute honor to lead this school and I will try with every fibre of my being to ensure that your child has the very best enabling, exciting, supportive, and nurturing experiences here at Alderwood. As a team, we will certainly be aiming high, now and in the years ahead, building upon the existing strengths of our wonderful school.

Despite the VERY cold weather outside (and, yes, the snow!) there has only been warmth inside – literally and figuratively speaking! Our value this month is unity and this has been the theme for our assemblies. This week we have looked at stories that celebrate the theme of 'togetherness' and your children have certainly been displaying this value in their classrooms and communal areas. In our singing assembly on Thursday, Mr. Gregory performed an arrangement of a song, which supports our key value this month. Over the next few weeks, our violinists will be accompanying him. We are really looking forward to this!

This week, some of you may have noticed that I was joined on the gate by Alderwood's new Executive Headteacher - Ross Silcock. He was formerly the Headteacher of Wingfield Primary School. It was a joy to welcome him to Alderwood. He is certainly looking forward to joining us on our Alderwood journey.

Please can we ask that if your child does wish to bring their scooter into the KS2 playground, that they park it by the main gate, or in the bike shed, as they enter. I know it is very tempting to zoom around on the main playground, but we wouldn't want any accidents to occur. Your support in relation to this would be very much appreciated from Monday.

Finally, After School Clubs start next week. There are still spaces in Archery club (Years 1-6), Football (Years 3-6), Gymnastics (Reception to Year 2), and Gymnastics (KS2). Do sign up to these clubs, if your child is keen to attend.

Thank you again to everyone – children, parents, and staff – for your contribution in making our first week back such a wonderfully calm and purposeful experience.

Have a great weekend!

## **Dates for your Diary**

Monday 15th January
After school sports clubs start.

Monday 22nd January Year 6 residential trip

Wednesday 31st January
Birch class assembly

Wednesday 7th February
Palm class assembly

HALF TERM BREAK 12th— 16th February

Children return on Monday 19th February

**Monday 19th February**Beech class (FS2) Vision screening

Wednesday 21st February
Doctor Bike Day



'Never underestimate the power of music.'

Our value of the month:

## UNITY

Thought for the week: How can we further promote unity within our school and community?