



New Headteacher for AIS in September.



As you know, I will be retiring at the end of this academic year and the governors have now recruited Mrs.Stacey Serdet to be the children’s new Headteacher from September. Mrs Serdet has written a lovely message to the children which was shared with them this week. I have therefore copied the message below alongside some photographs of Mrs Serdet for you to share with your children.

Dear Children,

My name is Mrs Serdet, and I am very excited to be joining your school as your new Headteacher in September. I have already heard so many wonderful things about the school, and I feel very lucky that I will soon be part of such a special community. I am really looking forward to meeting you all soon and finding out about the things you enjoy learning and doing at school.



A little bit about me: I love reading books, going for long walks with my dog, and spending time with my family. I also enjoy growing my own vegetables in the garden and cooking with them – it’s very satisfying to eat something you have grown yourself! I have recently started to keep chickens and enjoy making friends with them and collecting their eggs.



When I arrive, I hope to get to know you all quickly and hear about your ideas, interests and achievements. I am very excited about the adventures and learning we will share together.

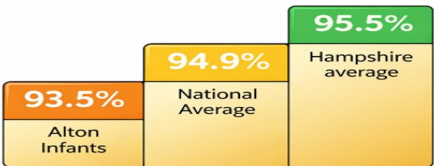
I can’t wait to meet you all very soon.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Serdet*

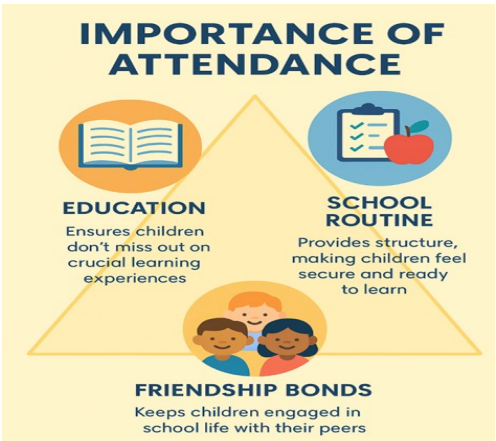
School Attendance.



We are still doing well with our attendance compared to last year, but we can still do better!



Let us all do what we can to ensure our children are in school every day and on time!



We are always here to support parents, so please do get in touch with us if you are experiencing challenges in getting your child to school on time, and if you are unsure if your child should be at school due to illness, the following useful link can help: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS.](#)

Diary Dates

- Monday 13th April** - Children return to school after the Easter Holiday.
- Wednesday 29th April** - Year 1 trip to Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Friday 15th May** - H S A May Fayre - after school - more details to follow.
- Thursday 21st May** - Nest Class trip to the Watercress Line.
- Thursday 21st May** - Break up for the May Half Term.
- Friday 22nd May** - **INSET Day.**
- Monday 1st June** - Children return to school after the May Half Term Holiday.
- w/c Monday 1st June** - Alton Arts Week.
- Friday 12th June** - Class photographs.
- Wednesday 17th June** - Year 2 trip to Harold Hillier Gardens.
- Friday 19th June** - H S A Marvellous Men Sale.
- Friday 26th June** - **INSET Day.**
- Friday 3rd July** - Moving up to new classes and schools day for the children.
- Wednesday 22nd July** - Break up for the Summer holidays.

More dates to follow as we move through the Summer Term.

A message from one of our Vice Chair of Governors, Amy Rowland

Having been a part of the Alton Infant School community for nearly a decade, first as a parent and now as a governor, I have seen the school through many changes. It is a school that is constantly evolving and adapting to best support the ever-changing needs of its children and community. But it is also a school that has above all, always put the children first and that is one thing that hasn't changed over the years. The time, effort and dedication to the children's learning, safety and wellbeing has never wavered.



One of my privileges as a governor is to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding at school and I am pleased and proud to say that this is also a real strength of the school. Each term I come in, and look at record keeping systems, statutory documents and check staff's understanding of their role in safeguarding; but my favourite part of the visit is always when I get to speak to the children and chat to them about how they feel safe. I speak to different children in different year groups each time I visit and whenever I ask them if they feel safe at school the answer is always a resounding yes! I then try to dig a bit deeper and ask them how or why they feel safe, and their answers are both heart-warming and hilarious in equal measure. I end up finding out all sorts of random things I didn't ask about, but I also find out that the school is doing exactly what it needs to. Ultimately, the children always report in some way that it is the adults at school, their peers around them and the other systems in place at school that help them to feel safe. This is so important because it is only when children feel safe that they are able to learn and thrive. Meeting this need is literally the foundation for everything else. This strength is one of the reasons why I feel so privileged to be part of the Alton Infant School family.

Being involved in the Headteacher recruitment process has also, as well as securing a new Headteacher for September, demonstrated how the whole school community can come together as a family. It was truly amazing to witness first-hand how the staff, children, parents and governors all worked as a team to support each other through the next chapter of this journey we're on. All families need time together to rest and recuperate and I, and the other governors wish everyone that is part of the AIS family a joyful and restful Easter break.

Farewell!!

As you know and as we come to the end of term, it is time to say 'farewell' to three members of staff. Mrs Nicky Leach (Reception Teaching Assistant), Mrs Hollie Stefanini (Elm Class Maternity Cover Teacher) and Mr Peter Davies (Site Manager).

Mrs Leach has worked at Alton Infant School since 2008 and has supported many children over that time. She has particularly enjoyed supporting children with outdoor learning and occupational therapy based activities. Mrs Leach is very much looking forward to spending more time in her garden and visiting the theatre. Happy retirement Mrs Leach!



Mr Davies has worked at Alton Infant School since 2018. He has been a wonderful Site Manager and has been very much part of the wider team. Mr Davies has particularly enjoyed the school's team spirit and is looking forward to not getting up so early to open up the school! Happy retirement Mr Davies!

Mrs Hollie Stefanini has been teaching Elm Class whilst Mrs Grimes has been on maternity leave. She has enjoyed her time teaching in Reception and has particularly enjoyed seeing the children make progress. Mrs Stefanini is now looking forward to teaching her Year 1 class at her new school after the Easter holiday.



HSA News

- Well Done to the winners of the 'Once upon a Spoon' competition, the judge was impressed by the efforts of all the entrants and the huge range of designs and materials which were used. This made £46.
- Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Wonderful Women Breakfast Bags' sale - we raised over £250! The children had a brilliant time carefully choosing the items for the special people in their lives.
- A reminder to take part in our sponsored litter pick over the Easter Break. Litter picks and bin bags are available to borrow from various locations in town - please see the dojo post for more information. Sponsorship via Superkind: <https://superkind.org/campaign/alton-infant-school-hsa-sponsored-litter-pick> to be completed by Friday 17th April please.
- Our May Fayre is fast approaching (Friday 15th May). If you work for, or have a business that would be able to donate a raffle prize, please let us know via altonhsa@gmail.com. We will be asking for lots of helpers for the event - please do consider offering a little bit of your time, it's a lot of fun and all of the money raised goes to the school.

Wishing you all a very Happy

EASTER