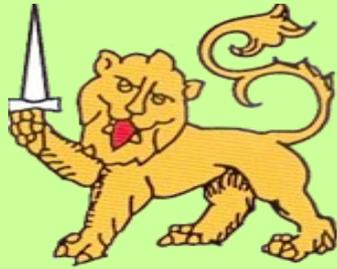


**Autumn
Term Value:
Hard Work**



AYLESTONE NEWS

Autumn Term 1



**43.8% of pupils have
achieved 100% attendance
this half term!**

Key dates

This half term ends:

Thursday 22nd October

Beginning of new half term:

Monday 2nd November

Please remember to up-
date your contact details if
you move or change your
telephone
number!

This term, we have
welcomed a number of
new members of teaching
staff. These include:

- Mr Varey (Maths)
- Mrs Weyman (French)
- Miss John (PE)
- Mrs Bird (German)

We have also welcomed a
number of teaching
assistants but we will
introduce these to you in a
future newsletter

A Welcome Back from the head

As we come to the end of our first half term of the year I wanted to say thank you everyone for their support throughout these challenging times, but in particular since September. It's been a new way of working for all of us and I'm really pleased with how the measures we have put in place have worked.

The full return to school has been challenging, but through the dedication and hard work of all our staff it has been successful. Our staff have been fantastic and I want to thank them for everything they have done.

We are extremely proud of all of the children and how well they have adjusted to our new ways of working. We really missed them during the partial closure and it has been lovely to see them back in school enjoying their learning. I regularly visit classrooms and it has been great to see the children working hard with smiles on their faces.

We are extremely proud of all three of our schools in our federation. Many of you will have seen the short films we have made for each school to celebrate our lovely schools. If you haven't seen them, they can be viewed on our Federation Youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFBs7e3zAXtFy-Ahm5BwXyg>

These films have also been useful for prospective parents and children to see our schools as we are unable to host open evenings. I have shown record numbers of parents and children around Aylestone during the school day and the feedback has been extremely positive.

Please continue to spread the positive messages and as always if there any aspects you are unhappy with please contact the relevant person so these can be addressed. Once again, thank you for your help and support.



Head Boy and Head Girl

We were a little later than normal choosing year 11's to be prefects, but we have finally made a decision and the Senior Prefects have also been chosen:

Head Boy: Angus Clarke

Head Girl: Millie Cook

Deputy Head Boy: Kamil Mikula

Deputy Head Girl: Minty Colbert

We spoke to the new Head Boy and Girl to find out more about what they will do in their new roles:

“Hello, my name is Angus Clarke. I am the new Head Boy at Aylestone School. My goals as head boy are to be a role model to others by working to the best of my abilities and help make our school an even friendlier, kinder and more supportive environment for you all.”

“I am Millie, Aylestone’s Head Girl. I am looking forward to completing my final year at Aylestone by fulfilling this role to the best of my ability. I am proud to have been chosen to uphold our school’s inclusive, caring and supportive ethos and uphold the values of respect and responsibility both within our school’s environment and outside, in the wider community. Although my role will differ slightly due to the situation we find ourselves in, I will still be an amiable and friendly face, who I hope you feel you can approach around school. “



Meet Miss Weyman

Miss Wyman is the new French teacher. This is what she said when we asked her to tell us a bit about herself.

“I have always loved languages and studied Law and French at Swansea University. After graduating I went to live in the French alps where I worked as a chalet host, snowboarding every day and immersing myself in the local culture. When I returned to the UK I eventually decided I wanted to go into teaching, so I completed a Secondary PGCE in MFL with the University of Worcester. I have really enjoyed my first term here at Aylestone. It is a great school and I am looking forward to the rest of the year! !”

Return To School

The last few weeks have been the first time that many of our students have been to a school setting since March. Returning back to school in the normal September way was therefore different to our previous normal. Here are some of the steps that Aylestone School has taken to ensure that our staff and pupils can attend school in the safest possible way:

- One way system around site
- Year group bubbles
- Areas of the school building dedicated to a specific year group
- Hand sanitizer at the entrance and in every classroom
- Facing forward in class rooms
- Dedicated outdoor areas and toilets for each year group
- Teachers moving to students

What did I do during Lockdown?

We asked the Year 7 form tutors to ask their students "What did they do during Lockdown?". Here are some of the replies that we got:

- I went on lots of bike rides with my family.
- I built a lot of Lego. Some of the sets that I built included some quite complex pieces.
- I enjoyed spending lots of time in the garden helping with the gardening.
- I did loads of drawing and artwork.
- I started writing a story. I have completed 12 pages so far.

We really enjoyed hearing about everything the students had done during lockdown. If you have any lockdown stories, let us know. We can include it next time.

Secondary School

This year, we were not in a position to welcome the new year 7's to Aylestone like we normally do. We asked the year 7 form tutors to ask their form how they are finding being at Aylestone:

- I am really enjoying myself at Aylestone, it is really fun, and I am chuffed as I have managed to get lots of house points!
- I have settled in well. I was nervous moving up to high school. But, I have made lots of friends and I am really enjoying myself.
- I was nervous as I am the oldest sibling in the family and was anxious to be the first to go to high school. But, I have been made to feel very welcome and have settled in well.

News From the Communications Faculty

Something that has impressed you about year seven;

The Communications Faculty have been impressed with the way in which year 7 have settled into life at Aylestone under the current restrictions and how keen they are to contribute to lessons

A key piece of advice for year seven;

Keep smiling, working hard and keep trying your best

Something that has impressed about y10 as they embark on GCSE;

The Communications Faculty have been impressed with the way in which year 10 interact in lessons and respond to questions

A key piece of advice for year 10;

Year 10 need to ensure that they prepare properly and thoroughly for all end of unit tests

Exciting faculty news!!

Miss Weyman joined the Communications Faculty in September to teach French while Mrs Jarvis is on maternity leave. Mrs Jarvis had a baby boy in June.



Star Artist

Matas in year 11 has produced some seriously inspired graphics work using the theme identity. All work has been printed by hand and has been through digital processes.



News from the P.E Department

It was been wonderful seeing our students becoming active once again, after such a long time away from school. Our new look curriculum sees Year Groups coming down to PE for 2 hour sessions. This can be challenging for some, but all have risen to that challenge, and been wonderful to work with. We have a new member of staff in the department, Miss John. Miss John is taking responsibility for Girls PE whilst Mrs Collier is on Maternity Leave. So, an official welcome from the team!!

Our BTEC Students have made a fantastic start to the year, in particular our Year 10s, who are showing the absolutely necessary work ethic which will lead them to success in their course. Keep it up guys!

Ready, Set Bake

This September the nation saw the return of the much-loved show, The Great British Bake Off. To celebrate this, the school has given pupils the opportunity to compete against one another for the chance to be crowned the winner of THE GREAT AYLESTONE BAKE OFF. The contestants have been given weekly challenges to bake at home and then the entries are judged. So far, contestants have made Harry Potter and Minions out of cake, coffins and houses out of biscuits, and staff have shown their support with some beautiful Battenberg cakes and Florentines. We will update you with more of the challenges and who the winner of the Great Aylestone Bake Off is in the next Newsletter!



A step into the Wilderness

“Three of our boys – Tommy, Oscar and Ollie - from year 8 successfully completed the Explorers Programme with Dynamis Adventures over the summer.

During their 3 months they lit fires to cook on, built shelters, camped out, cooked roast chicken and apple crumble, canoed 20 miles down the river Wye including a wild camp and completed more team building activities than we can count!

Throughout their time the boys grew so much in confidence, developed many new skills and embraced every opportunity to try something new.”



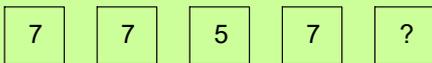
Maths Challenge

Hello all you happy puzzlers! For those of you who enjoyed the daily maths puzzles during lockdown here are a couple for you to try. Any answers can be given to your maths teacher. Make sure you include your name and year group. Keep smiling!

Brain teaser

The mean, median and mode of the numbers in the boxes below are the same.

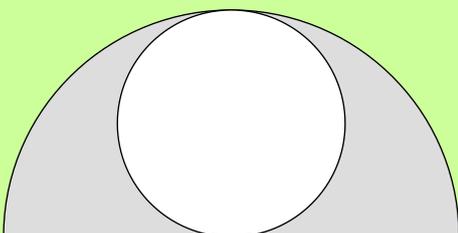
What is the missing number?



Brainbuster

The diagram shows a semicircle containing a circle which touches the circumference of the semicircle and goes through its centre.

What fraction of the semicircle is shaded?

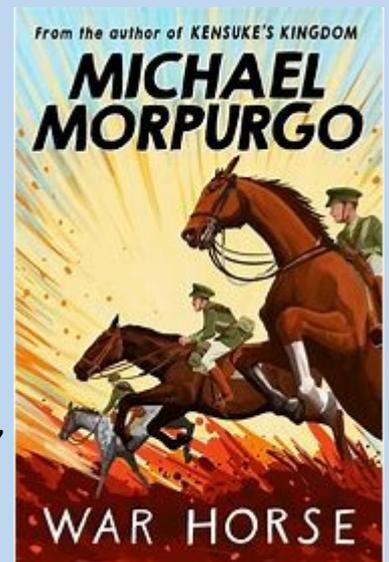


Let's Get Reading!!!

We are all very much looking forward to the re-opening of the library. In the meantime, we are hoping that the Aylestone tradition of a shared story at the start of year 7 has helped to support our younger pupils' enjoyment of reading. This year, our shared story has been Michael Morpurgo's "War Horse". Teachers have been popping up and reading chapters in different lessons. It's been lovely to see the children's focus and reactions as we have travelled with Joey to France, made a firm friend in Emilie, been lost in No-Man's Land, suffered the terrible loss of Tophorn and been reunited with Albert.

If you have enjoyed "War Horse" and want to read more fiction set during the First World War, here is a recommendation from Michael Morpurgo himself:

"I recommend The Amazing Tale of Ali Pasha, written and illustrated by Michael Foreman, the remarkable and true tale of the young sailor, Alf Friston, who found a tortoise on the beach at Gallipoli in 1915. Beautifully illustrated and sensitively told, this story will live on for generations to come.



Can you talk the talk?

On the 20th of October, Year 10 took part in a workshop ran by Talk the Talk. During the day, the students took part in lots of activities and played some games so that they could grow in confidence and learn how to talk confidently in front of an audience. At the end of the day, their skills were put to the test when they all delivered a speech to everybody in their form.