



9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start to the new school year at Alexandra Park Junior School. Children, including the new children in year 3, have settled in well. Staff have been busy preparing classrooms and exciting lessons and we are all happy to be back in school to make a difference to children's lives and education. It was lovely to greet all our families on Wednesday morning this week.

Our Vision is simple 'To Learn, Be Happy and Achieve our Best.'

In partnership with parents, carers and families we aim for our children to,

- * Be independent learners who are aware of their strengths and weaknesses and can motivate themselves to engage in and improve their learning.
- * Feel safe and therefore be happy because they are heard and understood and to have that understanding acted upon.
- * Achieve our Best because we 'Never, never, never give up!'

Communication and Home School Links

As communicated on class dojo we thank all our parents/carers for your understanding in the amount of messages sent out in this week with it being the beginning of the school term with no restrictions as in the past few years due to the pandemic. It is so wonderful to get back to school life again.

Just to inform you that children will no longer have planners in school. This is because our communication systems have developed and the best form of communication is through face to face, telephone and/or through Class Dojo/Texting.

Data collection forms were sent out with all children on Wednesday and thank you to all families who have returned these important letters so that we have the most up to date information to safeguard all children.

We are currently reviewing how teachers and families support and record home reading. The new system will be communicated with you soon and we hope to encourage a better way of engaging children in reading at home and in school.

We will soon be inviting parents/carers into school for our first initial parents meetings with teachers so that we can develop the relationships (in person) once again.

We also will be inviting parents/carers back into school for events such as celebrating your child's learning and supporting families through our drop in support sessions, coffee mornings and classes for families. If there are any parents/carers interested in being involved in school life then please do contact Miss Yasmin in the school office.

Mrs Seabright (Headteacher) will continue to send out newsletters every Friday and we will

continue to communicate through our text messaging service and through Class Dojo. Please do also visit our website:

<http://www.alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk/>

Together we will ensure that your child is safe and happy; is engaged in their learning and achieves their very best!

School Start and Finish Times

A reminder to our families that children must be in school at 8.40am. This will allow all children access to early morning interventions.

A reminder also that we have a breakfast club that begins at 8am.

Please read this advice sent out by Oldham Council:

Web information on when your child goes back, applying for a school place and help with school readiness.

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/back_to_school



Staffing Update

We would like to welcome four new members of staff to our team. A warm welcome to Miss Ali (Class 5), Miss Mahmood (Class 6), Mr Hilton our new Site Manager and Miss Choudhury our new office clerk.

School Payment

Just a reminder that we are a cashless school and that all monies will need to be paid online. The online system we use is Pay 360. Please ensure that we have your email addresses so that we can send you a personalised link to enable you to set up online payments.

Please do not send cash payments into school as we cannot accept it and will be returned home.

When signing in please press the G for gmail or the Microsoft button if you have an outlook or hotmail account.

<https://www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home>

If you have any questions or queries please do contact our office staff on 0161 770 8321.



ATTENDANCE

Our attendance continues to be a priority in order for our children to be successful in life. They need to take every opportunity with regards to their learning. All children should attend school everyday.



ASTHMA

If your child has asthma please make sure that they have their pipe (please check the date on this) and their spacer in school at all times.

All medical reviews are being carried out this week.

Flu Vaccinations

Our school will be participating in this year's nasal flu immunisation programme. This year children will be offered a non-porcine gelatine vaccine. We wish to ensure that parents have all the information that they need so please do either contact Miss Thompson or you can contact Intra health on 0333 358 3397.



Curriculum Newsletters

These are being sent out to parents and outline what your child/ren will be learning over the course of the term.

PE Kits

Information about school PE kits was sent out to parents on Class Dojo, children should continue to wear their PE kits to school.

CLUBS

We pride ourselves on our extra curriculum provision. We are excited that our after school clubs will be starting next week. A reminder that all children must be collected by an adult if they are involved in any after school club.

Family Support

Please find attached information to support families. Information attached includes:

Oldham Money Advice
Healthy Start
Learning for parents/carers
We can help families
We can help talk



Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II

Alexandra Park Junior School community share the sorrow of an entire nation today following the announcement on the passing of her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II.

We send our condolences to the Royal family.

We thank the Queen for her utter dedication and services to the country, the world and all its people - she did this right until the very end!

She will be remembered in our hearts forever.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.





Alexandra Park Junior School

To Learn, Be Happy and Achieve Our Best

DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 13th September - Year 3 Freddy Fit

**WELCOME
BACK**



How to access services

WR

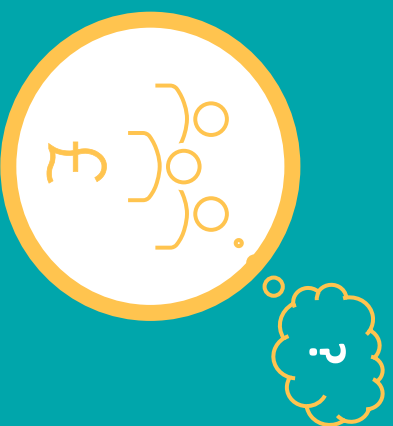
Oldham Welfare Rights Service

We offer free specialist advice and support to Oldham residents on welfare benefits issues, including challenging benefit decisions and providing representation at appeal tribunals. We help in identifying and applying for benefits, starting with benefit calculations and advice/assistance in initially making the claim.

Online Form –

www.oldham.gov.uk/welfare/rights

Open Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm



Money Advice Referral Tool Oldham

Online version available at: www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp

CA

Citizens Advice Oldham

Free, confidential advice on welfare benefits, financial capability, immigration & residency issues, human rights, family & personal issues. We offer specialist services in debt, housing and employment.

Adviceline: 08082787803

For universal credit support: 0800 144 8 444

Textphone: www.casort.org

Open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm

SI

Support Inclusion Team

If someone has Council Tax arrears they can be referred to our team for support and advice. We will also assist with budgeting advice

Tel: Through the Customer Support Centre

0161 770 6622

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

WH

Warm Homes

Free boiler replacements, Green Homes Grants, energy vouchers, support with maximising income, claiming benefit entitlements, getting out of energy or water debt and making trust fund applications for furniture and white goods.

Freephone: 0800 019 1084

www.warmhomesoldham.org

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

CAP

Christians Against Poverty

Free debt help from a friendly team. We help you to find the best route out of debt, work out a budget for you, and walk with you every step of the way. We support anyone regardless of their religion.

Tel: 0800 328 0006

www.capuk.org

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Other support

Support Finding Employment

Get Oldham Working	Help with writing CVs and job applications. A personal learning mentor will help you improve your job prospects. Information about local jobs and training/apprenticeships opportunities.	07970966527 employability@oldham.gov.uk
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Support for over 50's

Age UK	Information and advice on for the over 50s. Benefit support for those above state pension age.	0161 6330213 info@ageukoldham.org.uk www.ageuk.org.uk/oldham
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Gambling

Beacon Counselling Trust	A counselling charity providing support to people with mild to moderate mental health issues, including problematic gambling.	0151 226 0696 beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk/problematic-gambling/
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Drug and Alcohol

Turning Point	The adult substance misuse treatment and support service for Oldham.	0300 555 0234 wellbeing.turning-point.co.uk
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Mental Health

Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind	A range of support including counselling and 'listening spaces'.	0161 330 9223 Office@togmind.org
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Domestic Abuse and Violence

Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline	For people over 16 experiencing or who have previously experienced domestic abuse & violence.	0800 254 0909 Or for a 24-hr service, National Domestic Abuse Helpline, 0808 2000 247
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Homelessness

Housing Options Oldham	Advice and support to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.	0161 770 4605 housing.options@oldham.gov.uk hpa2.org/refer/OLDHAM
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Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds

- 1) Local Authority Asylum Seeker Liaison Officers provide support for asylum seekers and refugees due to leave Home Office/Serco accommodation
E: Narcisa.Trozic@oldham.gov.uk, Suzanne.Fields@oldham.gov.uk
- 2) The Migrant Destitution Fund can make grants to destitute migrants with no leave to remain – contact sawn.org@gmail.com
- 3) GMIAU can help with applications to have the "no recourse to public funds" restriction lifted and also help people with asylum support applications
www.gmiau.org

Tenants of Housing Providers

Registered social landlords provide many of the advice services described throughout this tool. Tenants of these providers may want to check first with their provider what support is on offer there.

Created by Greater Manchester Poverty Action in collaboration with Oldham Council and Oldham's VCSE sector. With thanks to everyone who contributed, particularly Oldham's food banks.

What's the problem?

I suddenly have no money

- Lost job
- Benefits stopped (sanctioned/failed a medical)
- Emergency/disaster (fire, flood, lost money)
- Relationship breakdown
- No recourse to public funds (NRPf)

See options **1** **2** **4**

I'm waiting on a payment/decision

- Made a new claim for benefit
- Benefit is delayed
- Waiting for benefit decision to be reassessed

See options **1**

My money doesn't stretch far enough

- Deciding between food and fuel
- Low income or zero hours contract
- Not sure if eligible to claim for benefit
- Change of circumstances (e.g. new baby / bereavement / illness / reduction in benefit)
- Unsure how to manage my money/overspending

See options **3** **4** **6** **7**

I have debt

- Rent, Council Tax, gas or electricity arrears
- Payday loans or owing friends and family
- Benefit repayments

See options **5** **6** **7** **8**

I have other problems that are affecting how I manage my money

For support with employment, mental health, addictions, resettlement, or other support needs see section on 'other support' overleaf.

What are some options?

1

Benefit advance or hardship payment: If you have applied for benefits and are waiting for your first payment you may be able to get an advance. This will have to be paid back. If you have no money because of a sanction, you may be able to claim a hardship payment from the Jobcentre. Hardship payments of Universal Credit need to be paid back, but hardship payments of JSA or ESA do not. You should get advice before accessing either of these.

Who can help: **SI** **CA**

2

Challenging a decision: You can challenge a benefit decision if your benefit has been stopped, sanctioned, or reduced and you believe the decision is wrong. Most decisions need to be challenged within one month, or within 13 months if there are special reasons for delay.

Who can help: **CA** **WR**

3

Budgeting: Advice and support to manage the money you have more effectively.

Who can help: **SI**

4

Benefit check: A benefit check can ensure you are receiving your maximum entitlement and you can receive help to claim benefits. If you're pregnant or have a child under four years old you can also ask the advisor about healthy start vouchers: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Who can help: **CA** **WR** Self-check online: benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk

5

Debt advice: Advice & support including financial assessments, solutions, debt recovery options available to creditors, income maximisation, budgeting advice & Financial Statements.

Who can help: **CA** **CAP**

6

Energy advice: If you're struggling to pay your energy bills you may be able to get support to reduce your bills, apply for a warm home discount, or access other grants.

Who can help: **WH** **CA**

7

Discretionary Housing Payment: Payments may be awarded if you are struggling to pay your rent and do not already receive full housing benefit. You must already be in receipt of some Housing Benefit, or the housing element of Universal Credit. For full eligibility go to: www.oldham.gov.uk/info/100001/benefits_and_money/1780/housing_benefit_and_help_to_pay_your_rent/4

Who can help: **SI**

8

Council tax arrears: Receive help to claim benefits and Council Tax Reduction and that the appropriate discounts have been applied to your account.

Who can help: **SI**

Who can help?

SI

Support Inclusion Team

0161 770 6622

CA

Citizens Advice

08082787803

WR

Welfare Rights

www.oldham.gov.uk/welfarerights

WH

Warm Homes

0800 019 1084

CAP

Christians Against Poverty

0800 328 0006



What is Healthy Start?

Healthy Start is a [scheme](#) that provides financial support to eligible young families with children under the age of 4 and pregnant women for fruit, vegetables, pulses and milk, as well as providing FREE vitamins.

The scheme has moved to digital, with families receiving a pre-paid card with money added every 4 weeks to help families who are most in need to buy healthy food and drink including cow's milk, infant formula, fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried and tinned pulses.

Applying for Healthy Start

Signpost families to the website [How to apply – Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)

When can women first apply for Healthy Start?

Women can apply for Healthy Start from confirmation of pregnancy at 10 weeks. After the baby is born, parents must notify the Healthy Start Issuing Unit to continue receiving payments for the baby.

How much will recipients of the scheme get each week?

£4.25 each week of their pregnancy (from the 10th week of pregnancy)
£8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old
£4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old

When is money paid?

Every four weeks money is paid onto the pre-paid card.

Collecting vitamins from Oldham Right Start Children's Centres

Healthy Start women's vitamin tablets or children's drops can be collected from [Oldham's Children's Centre](#) (except Stockbrook) by showing pre-paid card.

Vitamins can be purchased for those not eligible for Healthy Start:

- Vitamins tablets for women - 80p
- Vitamin drops for children - £1.60



Children having 500ml or more of formula milk a day do not need Healthy Start vitamins

Babies having more than 500ml (about a pint) of first infant formula a day, do not need a supplement because formula is fortified with vitamin D.

After 12 months when infant can be offered cow's milk Healthy Start vitamins can be given.

For more information visit

[Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)



PARENTING LEARNING

VOUCHER for parents, carers & grandparents for online courses to help with children from bump to 19

Use access code **DAISY** and go to inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning

£100



Oldham
Family

one hundred pounds
pre-paid voucher for online parenting learning



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We Can Help Families

Oldham Family



This is a tough year for families in Oldham, but we can help.

We've all faced difficulties, coming out of the Covid pandemic, and the rising cost of living. That's why Oldham partners are working together to offer families a little more help to get them through the tough times.



We've put together our top tips for families as part of our We Can Help campaign.

Simply visit: www.oldham.gov.uk/We-Can-Help-Families for links...



1. **Mental health** — Our mental health is equally as important as our physical health. We have resources such as [5 steps to mental wellbeing](#), or [Kooth](#) which is a service for 10-25 to talk confidentially with trained professionals and peers, and you can take your child to a [Take5](#) drop-in session run by MIND. You can also visit your GP, or if in immediate danger call **999** or go to A&E.



2. **Parenting** — We've pre-paid for every parent, grandparent and carer to access £100 of [parenting courses](#). You can claim yours today with the code "DAISY". Courses cover all ages from bump to 19. Get tips to manage challenging behaviour. Also see our Oldham [speech and language](#) resources and GM [10 Tips for Talking](#).



3. **Community support** — Oldham has lots of amazing voluntary, community and faith groups which provide help and run activities. See the Action Together [Community Activities Directory](#) for more information.



4. **Activities** – [Holiday Activities and Food](#) will be available over the Summer for children aged 5-16 who are receiving free school meals. For younger children, download the [50 things to do before you're five](#) app, and young people can check out local [youth groups](#). Oldham's [family information service](#) includes support and activities for all children including additional needs.



5. **Food** — We don't want any Oldham child to go hungry. There is direct help such as [free school meals](#), and you can also find your local [foodbank](#). If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be able to access vouchers from the NHS [Healthy Start](#) food and milk scheme.



6. **Financial help** — If you've lost your job or are struggling with [rent](#), [heating](#), [debt](#) or [benefits](#) we can help. There are people to talk to so you're not alone.



7. **Domestic abuse** — If you or your family are affected by domestic violence or abuse you can get advice through the Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline on **0800 254 0909** or [End the Fear](#) website. You can [ask for ANI](#) to get help confidentially in any pharmacy. In an emergency, call **999** to contact the Police. If it isn't safe to speak and you have called from a mobile, press **55** when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police.



8. **Problems with drugs or alcohol** — [Turning Point](#) offer advice and support if you want help about drugs or alcohol. You can call them on **0300 555 0234**. The national charity [Smart Recovery](#) also provides help and support in recovering from addictive behaviour.



9. **Safeguarding** — If you have a concern about the safety or welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please contact the Oldham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on **0161 770 7777**. If you believe they are at immediate risk of harm, contact Greater Manchester Police on **999**.

Pin to your fridge!



We Can Help Families

Speech, Language & Communication



How your child communicates is really important for their life, including school, jobs and friendships

We've put together our top tips for speech, language and communication as part of our We Can Help campaign. Simply visit: www.oldham.gov.uk/talk for links...



- 1. Babies and pre-school** – Parents and carers play the most important part in helping their child's communication and talking in everyday life. Children learn through daily life, play and reading together. Please try to reduce the time you spend looking at your phone or tablet whilst with a baby or young child. How you look at, read with, speak and react to the world with your child helps them to develop.

Check out the Greater Manchester [Top Ten Tips for Talking](#) , [50 Things To Do](#) Before You're Five, and Oldham's [Language Skills Guide](#). Or for tips and videos about language and bonding see the excellent [BBC Tiny Happy People](#).

ICAN also have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development and a poster to [check progress](#). And for information about stammering, take a look at [Stamma](#).

If your child attends an [early years setting](#), have a chat with their key worker about your concerns. They are there to help and support your child and work together in partnership with families to develop an action plan using the [WellComm Toolkit](#).

If your child does not attend a setting, or you have any concerns about your child's speech, language and communication development, you can also speak to [Oldham's Right Start Team](#).



- 2. Primary school** – As your child begins their journey through primary school they will continue to develop their understanding of longer instructions and questions. They will use more complex vocabulary, longer sentences and stories, develop more speech sounds and extend their conversation skills. Take the opportunity to read together.

ICAN has great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in primary school and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, visit [Stamma](#)

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, please speak to their class teacher or the SENCo. You can work together to decide the best next steps for your child. For confidential advice you can also text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on [07507 330499](#).

The [Oldham Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) work with families, schools and teachers. This service is for children who need a higher level of support.



- 3. Secondary school** – Language development in secondary years is more gradual. Your young person will use language to solve more complex problems and develop a wider vocabulary. They will explain more complex ideas and use language socially in a more sophisticated way. Your young person's form tutor or the school's SENCo will be able to discuss any concerns you have.

ICAN have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in 11-17 year olds and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, go to [Stamma](#). And for confidential advice you can text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on [07507 330499](#).

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