



# Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School

*Loved by God; United in Learning*

Headteacher: Scott Tait Deputy Headteacher: Lizzie Sharpe

## School Uniform – Expectations Summer 2022 and beyond...

Dear Parent/Carer

I was recently informed by Brigade that uniform costs were likely to increase in the coming months and this was obviously a cause for concern. At the same time the team at Bishop Aldhelms had been thinking about how we continue to encourage an active curriculum to complement what we hope is a healthy lifestyle both in and out of school.

As you know, we have encouraged our children to attend school in PE uniform on PE and Games days in order to minimise changing time. We also encourage a daily mile on days that we do not timetable PE/Games and Zone Parc activities during all lunchtimes. We sometimes find our children continuously changing uniforms to suit the activity and see the use of a PE uniform to support time being active. We also recognise that our children should feel comfortable and in turn be ready at all times for **extended learning opportunities** that focus on being active and undertaking a healthy lifestyle.

With this focus on active lifestyles we have reassessed what is on offer and will be introducing a smart Bishop Aldhelm's tracksuit to the uniform. This tracksuit is intended to provide more comfort and/or practicality to the school day and as such can be worn 5 days a week. This will support children to participate in more activities outside of structured PE time as well as reflecting that some children find the PE uniform more comfortable and supportive of learning.

The new Bishop Aldhelm's tracksuit PE uniform is hard wearing and looks incredibly smart – red top and black bottoms. This can be complemented by plain black jogging bottoms, plain black sports leggings and/or a red Bishop Aldhelm's hoodie or Bishop Aldhelm's sweatshirt jumper.

Our standard formal uniform will remain as we know that some children really like this. Therefore the formal wear of white polo shirts (Lower School), white shirt and tie (Upper School) will still be offered and if children prefer they can still wear this on days when they are not being taught PE or Games. In addition, our summer uniform of red gingham dresses and grey shorts can be worn in the summer/hotter months.

It is important to note that for both the new PE tracksuit and formal uniform, substitute items must not be branded with other logos. We would ask all children to attend school wearing items in line with the new approach.

To deliver this new PE uniform and in line with the rising costs notified by Brigade we will be moving to a new supplier-MAPAC. We think you will find the new supplier easier to navigate and will see a reduction in cost. All of the current ranges on MAPAC are priced below the current prices advertised on Brigade and we have included some comparisons at the end of the letter. For example, the charcoal sweater which was £11.95 under Brigade will be £9.50 under MAPAC.

You will still be able to substitute items of uniform for non MAPAC items, such as shirts, polo shirts, trousers, skirts and jogging bottoms. But we ask that these substitutes are not branded (e.g. with a different logo) and are in line with the uniform policy.

Therefore, in summary:

- We are introducing a new PE tracksuit option and/or a Bishop Aldhelm's hoodie
- Our PE uniform options are: Bishop Aldhelm's tracksuit, plain black jogging bottoms, plain black sports leggings and/or a red Bishop Aldhelm's hoodie or Bishop Aldhelm's sweatshirt jumper.
- Children can wear this PE uniform 5 days a week if they choose or continue to wear the PE uniform on PE days and the standard formal uniform on non PE days
- Our new uniform supplier will be MAPAC and we will no longer use Brigade



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- All uniforms that are purchased away from MAPAC must be in line with our uniform policy – therefore not branded with other logos and plain grey or red in colour (black plain bottoms for PE).

Our new school online shop will go live with MAPAC on **Monday 18th April 2022** and children can start to wear their new uniforms from then on. MAPAC are expecting a surge of purchases so this may take time for them to deliver in the first instance. As there is **no change** in our school uniform policy, other than the introduction of new optional items, we hope that there will be a seamless transition. We also appreciate that some children will still have some growth in their current uniforms so please do not feel pressured into purchasing the newer style – we will phase our current styles out over the next academic year.

Many thanks for continuing to support Bishop Aldhelm's – first impressions are important to us and this starts with the children dressing smartly and appropriately.

Kind regards

Mr Tait

Headteacher

## **Basket Comparison – MAPAC is new supplier**

| Item                         | Brigade       | MAPAC  | Difference | Best Value |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Charcoal V-Neck Sweatshirt   | £11.55        | £9.50  | £2.05      | MAPAC      |
| Charcoal Sweatshirt Cardigan | £12.55        | £11.10 | £1.45      | MAPAC      |
| School Tie                   | £4.25         | £2.40  | £1.85      | MAPAC      |
| White Polo Shirt             | £8.45         | £7.05  | £1.40      | MAPAC      |
| Woolen Hat                   | Not Available | £5.00  |            |            |
| Red Crew Neck PE Sweatshirt  | £9.95         | £9.40  | £0.55      | MAPAC      |
| Red Hoodie                   | Not Available | £12.20 |            |            |
| Red Polo Shirt               | £8.45         | £6.40  | £2.05      | MAPAC      |
| Black Jogging Bottoms        | £8.95         | £8.20  | £0.75      | MAPAC      |
| Red Shorts                   | £5.00         | £7.25  | -£2.25     | Brigade    |
| Red Baseball Caps            | £3.85         | £3.95  | -£0.10     | Brigade    |
| Red Legionnaires Cap         | £3.85         | £4.70  | -£0.85     | Brigade    |
| Red Sports Socks             | Not Available | £4.90  |            |            |
| Red Tracksuit 1/4 Zip Top    | Not Available | £19.20 | Quote TBC  |            |
| Black Tracksuit Bottoms      | Not Available | £16.20 | Quote TBC  |            |
| Book Bag                     | £6.45         | £5.16  | £1.29      | MAPAC      |
| Rucksack                     | £12.95        | £12.53 | £0.42      | MAPAC      |

MAPAC - All Foundation children will receive a new bag when joining BAPS for FREE



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