

4 March 2024

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2023/2024 - NEWSLETTER NO 22

CERTIFICATES

Well done to these children who received the certificates for last week from their teachers. The certificates are given for a variety of reasons from positive attitude, great work and learning, showing the three elements of Ready, Respectful and Safe.


Miss Ramli	-	Corey Lillis
Mrs Goode and Mrs Owen	-	James Begbey
Miss Whittingham	-	Joshua Rutter
Mrs Williams and Mr Ramshaw	-	Meenakshi Chandrasseril
Mr Dean and Mrs Lansdown	-	Nivaan Karanth
Mr Evens	-	Jayda Agyemang
Mr Garcia	-	Ranice Wong
Mrs Leonard	-	Mattia Boscolo
Miss Hake	-	Jaxon Maggs
Ms Hill and Mrs North	-	Henry Randall
Mrs Giles	-	Zachary Sheehan



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book day is coming up fast and ours in school will take place this Thursday 7 March. We are **not** asking the children to dress up as we do this within our Book Week during the Autumn term. However, we will be celebrating this during our school day through additional reading activities and buddy reading throughout the school. We would really like the children to bring in to school their favourite book to share with their class and the buddy reading.

OPAL PLAYGROUND



We are revamping our play and lunchtimes this year, to ensure we are offering the children engaging activities that encourage more creativity and opportunities for explorative play. From January, we joined the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme, which aims to support schools to sustainably improve play for all pupils. We have made some minor changes to play and lunchtimes that have seen a really positive response from the children. We now have a variety of different 'zones' on offer where the children can experience different types of play. Our KS1 playground is now an area for 'small world' and imaginative play. We have a creativity corner where children can listen to music and do art and we have also set up a scooter track. All children now have access to the adventure playground and field every day, as long as they have the right footwear. The children can choose where they wish to play and move between areas rather than having a rota, so it means playtimes are much more free-flowing. Over the coming months, we will continue to make improvements, with the help of funding from the PA, including developing a construction zone and a new mud kitchen area. For your child to fully enjoy all of the play areas on offer, please ensure that they do have suitable footwear and clothing in school – wellies for the field/ outdoor learning area and trainers for the adventure play equipment. It would also be very beneficial for them to always have a waterproof coat available, as we are hoping to be able to get out to play in all weathers.

To get a better understanding of how we can improve play during break times and lunch times as part of the OPAL programme, we have devised a parents' survey. This will help us to plan out our next steps and ensure that play times are enjoyable for all children. To help with this, please follow this link and share your opinions. [Parents survey on playtimes](#)

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

PARKING ISSUES

Again there has been quite a few issues with parking and some very frustrated parents at the way in which other parents are parking and what seems to be a disregard for others and their safety. The police have again been to school and were shocked by the level of abuse and disrespect for them but for the safety of the children. I will reiterate yet again the importance of making sure you are parking safely and with respect. **The bus stop should not be used as a drop off or parking stop any longer. The entrance to the school should not be used as a drop off either as the zigzag lines indicate no stopping in law.** Therefore, the police are going to continue with the visits and will make no apologies for moving parents on who try to stop and drop off. Please do the right thing and keep all of the children and adults around school at the beginning and end of the day safe. Thank you.

COMIC RELIEF

We are fast approaching that time of year again with Comic Relief day on Friday 15 March. As usual we will be holding a non-uniform day where the children will be asked to **'wear something red'** for the day and bring in a donation to go to the charity.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

In these difficult times we would like to remind you that your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. Please check out this link www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals. This even applies to children in Reception and KS1 who are already entitled to Universal Free School Meals as this brings in additional funding to support your child.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are a number of websites that will be helpful for each child to investigate to help them with their home learning. This week's website is: <http://www.funenglishgames.com/writinggames.html>

HAF PROGRAMME

The **Holiday activities and Food (HAF) programme** is running again during the Easter holidays for children and young people in South Glos.

Dates are generally between Tuesday 2 April and Friday 12 April but will vary by provider. For further information please click on the link from facebook <https://fb.watch/qBowIWD-0N/>

The HAF programme is for **children and young people aged 5 to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals**. Before booking funded HAF places, you need to have successfully applied for free school meals at www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Children receiving universal free school meals, automatically offered in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 without needing to apply, do not qualify for funded HAF place unless they have completed a successful application.

Please follow these steps:

- Visit www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF for full information on the HAF programme and further support available to families.
- Click on **'book a space for your child now'** – this will take you directly to our booking platform with full listings of all the available activities and clubs.
- You will need to **register your child on this system** unless they attended a HAF programme over the summer holidays – in which case you will already have an account, so you will simply need to book the dates.
- The system will run an eligibility check to ensure that your child is registered on our benefits-related free school meals list. The list is kept up to date on a weekly basis, so it's best to build in time to apply for benefits-related free school meals ahead of booking HAF places.
- The booking system is mobile friendly so should be accessible to most families.

If you do not have online access, you will need to contact the HAF club provider directly to book places for you.

PA NEWS

The **Year 1 cake sale is this Friday 8 March** after school. Please come and show your support. Cakes will be available for a range of dietary requirements and year 1 will be able to buy their own cakes that they have decorated during the school day. Cash and card machine available.

Tea Towels

Watch this space for upcoming school tea towel sales online. The children have been busy drawing their self-portraits ready to be printed onto branded tea towels for all to buy. A great keepsake for all the family. More details soon when online sales open.

Easter playground sale

We are holding an Easter playground sale on Wednesday 27 March after school. We will have a selection of sweet treats, books and summer uniform to get ready for the summer term and the warmer weather.

VACANCY FOR LUNCHTIME PLAY LEADERS

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime play leader within school. This is to join the rest of the team in working over lunchtime to support the children in the hall and outside whilst at play each day. The hours are between 12.00noon– 1.30pm daily. This equates to 7.5 hours per week. We can be flexible if needs be with number of days.

If you would like more information and the salary for either post please contact Mrs Heaps in the office. If you know of someone, other than yourselves who read the newsletter, who may be looking for a part-time role please pass on the details.

VACANCY FOR ROAD CROSSING PATROL HERO

We are still looking for our very own School Road Crossing Patrol Hero. We are very keen for someone to join the Road Safety team to ensure that the children (and parents) remain safe on their way to and from school. If you are interested in helping out and doing your bit for our local community please see the details below.

Post Details:

Role: School Crossing Patrol - Almondsbury

Site Location: Sunday's Hill, Opposite Church

Times: 8.30am – 9.05am
3.20pm – 3.55pm

Hourly rate: £11ph

Full training and uniform is provided, we are happy to consider part time and/or job share for further details please contact myself, Martina Byrne-Obee 01454 863611.



Best wishes



Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2023/24

TERM 4

Thursday 7 March

Friday 8 March

Tuesday 12 March

Wednesday 20 March

Friday 22 March

Monday 25 March

Tuesday 26 March

Wednesday 27 March

Thursday 28 March

4.00 – 7.00pm Parents Evening

Reception visit to Noah's Ark

12.30pm Mr Dean and Mrs Lansdown's class swimming

3.30pm Year 1 Cake Sale

Year 1 and 2 visit to Cardiff Castle

4.00 – 7.00pm Parent Evening

Year 3 and 4 visit to Caerleon

Tockington Manor Netball and Football festivals

3.30pm Year 5 Cake Sale

Arts Week

Year 5 and 6 visit to Houses of Parliament, London

9.30am Year 3 and 4 Easter performance (please note change in time of the performance from previous newsletters)

6.00pm Year 3 and 4 Easter performance

End of Term 4

TERM 5

Monday 15 April

Friday 19 April

Friday 26 April

Start of Term 5 for all pupils

12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming

3.30pm Year 2 Cake Sale

12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming

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Friday 3 May	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Monday 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – School closed
Friday 10 May	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming 3.30pm Year 4 Cake Sale
Monday 13 – Thursday 16 May	Year 6 SAT week
Friday 17 May	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Monday 20 May	Start of Sports Week
Tuesday 21 May	Sports Day 9.15am EYFS and KS1 Sports Day 1.15pm KS2
Thursday 23 May	End of Term 5
Friday 24 May	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
TERM 6	
Monday 3 June	Start of Term 6
Monday 3 – Friday 14 June	Year 4 Multiplication check for all children
Friday 7 June	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Monday 10 – Friday 14 June	Year 1 phonics check for all children
Friday 14 June	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming 3.30pm Reception classes cake sale
Friday 21 June	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Saturday 22 June	PA Summer Fayre – Olympic themed
Friday 28 June	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Friday 5 July	12.30pm Mr Even's class swimming
Friday 12 July	Celebration Day for all children – details to follow
Friday 19 July	Reports for be sent home
Tuesday 23 July	Leaver's Service at St Mary's (Year 6 parents only) Last day of the school year

Term dates for 2023/24

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Friday 1 September 2023	Friday 20 October 2023
Term 2	Monday 30 October 2023	Friday 15 December 2023
Term 3	Tuesday 2 January 2024	Friday 9 February 2024
Term 4	Monday 19 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Term 5	Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
Term 6	Monday 3 June 2024	Tuesday 23 July 2024
INSET DAYS	Friday 24 May 2024	

Term dates for 2024/25

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Monday 2 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
Term 6	Monday 2 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025
INSET DAYS	Monday 2 September 2024 Friday 23 May 2025 Plus 3 other dates to be confirmed	