

30 September 2024

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2024/2025 - NEWSLETTER NO 4

CERTIFICATES

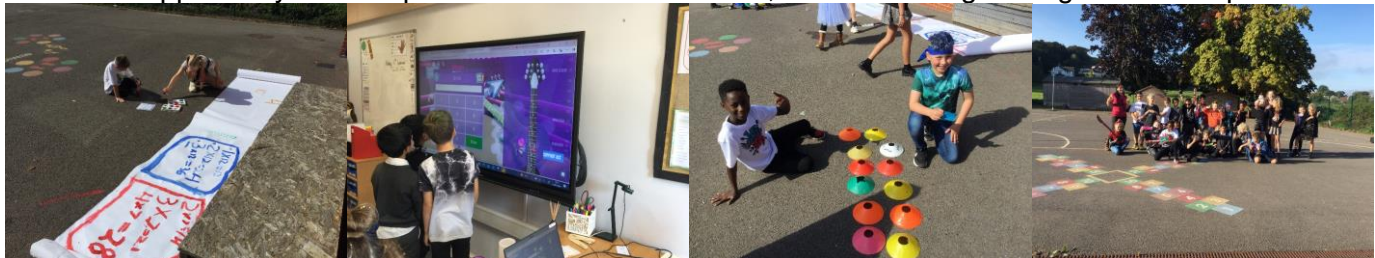
Well done to these children who received the certificates for last week from their teachers. We have a new sharing of these on a Friday in worship where the class teacher is sharing the reasons for the certificates being awarded.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Miss Ramli | - Caspar Male |
| Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett | - Joshua Rutter |
| Miss Whittingham | - T-Jay Williams |
| Mrs Lansdown | - Eva Street |
| Mr Evens | - Brooks Parratt |
| Mrs Williams and Mr Dean | - Keira Whitlock |
| Mr Garcia | - Rosa Sackett |
| Mrs Leonard | - Henry Randall |
| Miss Hake | - Hallie Moore |
| Mrs North and Mrs Marshall | - Elise Bradford |
| Mrs Giles | - Jasper Panschuk |



TIMES TABLE ROCKSTAR DAY

We had a fantastic day of rockstar learning! Years 3 and 4 enjoyed designing their own avatars, playing TTRS games, and engaging in other exciting multiplication activities. Encourage your children to continue their learning at home by logging into TTRS with their school credentials. They'll find new challenges and have the opportunity to compete with their classmates, further strengthening their multiplication skills.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

HELLO YELLOW! *Because we stand brighter, together.*

This World Mental Health Day, we plan to stand united in the colour yellow to show the children that they are not alone and to highlight the importance of positive mental health.

Every year, thousands of schools, companies and communities come together to make World Mental Health Day that little bit brighter by wearing something yellow and donating to YoungMinds. Right now, the world is a really tough place for children and young people to grow up in. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better. We hope that on Friday 11 October the children will join the staff in wearing something yellow, in addition to their school uniform. We encourage everyone to wear yellow, however if this isn't your thing you're welcome to come up with your own way to have a splash of yellow, such as a yellow hair bobble, yellow on a pair of socks or a yellow accessory. In return we would love to fundraise for Young Minds, and would welcome you to give a small donation.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT SESSION FOR SEND WITH SOUTH GLOS PARENTS/CARERS ASSOCIATION

As you know, those of you who were in school last academic year, we are part of a wider PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) project through the local authority and the NHS funded by the DFE. We have a second chance for parents to engage with the project and to provide your views as well as hearing what is on offer for parents through the project. The session is an online meeting on Monday 7 October between 7.00 and 8.00pm. It is being held on Zoom on the link below. Please do try to make the meeting as it is important that we capture and engage with parental views. Many thanks in advance.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88468886153>

HARVEST FESTIVAL

It is nearly time for our annual Harvest Festival. As usual we would appreciate donations for the Harvest display, which will be set up in the Hall. Once again this year we have decided to aid a charity that is close to us. We will be asking you to provide tinned or packet goods that can be used by Food Banks namely the Five Loaves and Two Fishes charity of St Paul's in Bristol. Please send a donation in with your child next Thursday 10 October morning. Many thanks in advance.



PARENT GOVERNOR REMINDER

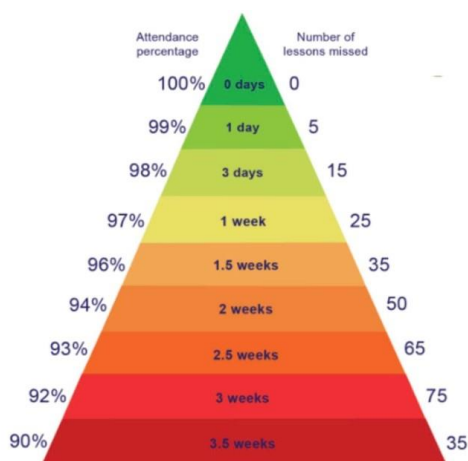
You will all have received the information last week to nominate either yourselves or another parent (with permission) for the role of parent governor at school. The closing date for nominations is this Friday 4 October. It would be great to see the nominations coming in for what is a crucial and important role for the school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

I am sure you are aware of the changes that the DFE has made to the Attendance guidance for both schools and parents. The teachers shared some of this information with you during the meet the teacher sessions at the start of term. If you were unable to attend these then this is the summary of the changes.

As you know your child's attendance has a direct impact on their academic achievements and outcomes. There has been a link made between the two for many years so this is not new. However, there is now a much more concerted effort from the DFE to ensure parents and schools work together to ensure attendance is the strongest and highest it can be.

These images show the impact on percentage of days missed throughout the year and the number of lessons of learning missed.



Attendance Groups

Annual Attendance %	Days attended	Days/Weeks Absent
100%	190	0
97%	184	6 days
95%	180	2 weeks
90%	171	4 weeks
85%	161	6 weeks
80%	152	More than 1/2 a term
75%	143	9+ weeks absent

Any attendance below 95% will be alerted and will be shared with parents. This includes lateness marks which are after the register has closed. These sessions are marked as unauthorised absence regardless of whether the children are in school or not. You will receive a phone call or a face to face chat with a member of the leadership team to discuss any barriers to attendance. Of course, children will become ill and have to have time off school, however we do need to build up resilience to manage this. We will continue to expect parents to let us know when children are ill and the 48-hour rule regarding sickness and diarrhea apply. We will ring parents if we have not heard from them if the children aren't in school on the first day and then every other subsequent day until they return unless parents ring school to update.

Once children's attendance falls below 90% then this will trigger attendance meetings with Mr Smith. These will look at the effects of the absence on the children's learning and how the school may be able to support with any barriers and reasons for the absences. We hope that this does not occur. However, if absences persistent then the school will discuss the children's absence with the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) and arrange further meetings with parents and the EWO, Lucy Pass.

There are also new guidelines and rules regarding extended time off from school and fines as a result, usually due to term time absence due to holidays.

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Who may be fined?

Penalty notices may be issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school. However, they should usually only be issued to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence).

Penalty Notices can be issued when there have been 10 unauthorised absences (1 school day = 2 sessions, 5 school days = 10 sessions). The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. Penalty Notices are issued for any term-time or irregular absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a period of 10 school weeks.

First Penalty notice

The first Penalty Notice is issued for term time absences or irregular absences, the amount will be:

- **£80** per parent, per child (if paid within 21 days of issue)
- **£160** per parent, per child (if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of issue)

No. of parents	No. of children	Fine amount up to 21 days	Fine amount after 21 days but within 28 days
1	1	£80	£160
1	2	£160	£320
2	3	£480	£960

Second Penalty notice

The second Penalty Notice is issued for term time absences or irregular absences, issued to the **same parent** for the **same child**, the amount will be:

- **£160** per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days). This is a flat rate. **There is no discount for early payment.**

No. of parents	No. of children	Fine amount up to 21 days	Fine amount up to 28 days
1	1	Not applicable	£160
1	2	Not applicable	£320
2	3	Not applicable	£960

Further offences

The third time an offence is committed for unauthorised term time or irregular absences **within 3 years** by the same parent for the same child (including those from other schools or Local Authorities) may result in an automatic request for Prosecution.

Education Act: 1996: It is your responsibility as the parent/carer to ensure your child's school attendance is on a regular basis and if you fail to do this without good cause, you are liable to prosecution. If found guilty of this offence you could be liable to, amongst other things, a fine of up to £2500 and/or a custodial sentence of up to 3 months.

For more information on this issue please read the South Gloucestershire parental guidance on Penalty Notices at the following link: www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/behaviour-and-attendance/school-attendance/authorised-and-unauthorised-absence-from-school/.

We have a new Attendance Policy which has been ratified by the governing body and now on the website. [Attendance - Almondsbury Church of England Primary School \(almondsburyprimary.co.uk\)](http://almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

If you have any questions about the new policy or guidelines please contact Mr Smith.

SCHOOL TOURS FOR NEW PARENTS 2025 INTAKE

We have the dates now confirmed for the school tours for new prospective parents for the intake in September 2025. It will be lovely to show new parents around and share all that is great about our school.

Thursday 7 November 11.00am	
Tuesday 12 November 9.30am	Tuesday 12 November 11.00am
Monday 18 November 1.30pm	Monday 18 November 2.30pm

SCHOOL MEALS PRICE INCREASE

In the first newsletter of this year I indicated that there would be a price increase for paid school meals. This will be introduced as from 4 November. **The new price from that date will be £2.60.** There has not been a price increase for the past three years. The new price reflects the increases to food costs that we have all seen over the last couple of years.

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.bbc.co.uk/education/highlights/sections/primary>

PA UPDATE

We held our first Conka Bar event on Friday, we hope you all enjoyed it and well done to anyone who found a **golden ticket!** We raised a huge £237 so a big thank you to everyone who supported us. If you have pre-paid and haven't collected your Conka Bar yet, they are available from Reception.

Dates for your diaries for the rest of the year include:

★ PA AGM will be held on Wednesday 9 October 6-8pm in the staff room. Please come along and support. All welcome.

👻 Spooky sale including sweet cones, fidgets and spooky fancy dress Thursday 24 October.

🍁 Autumn Disco Friday 15 November 6-8.30 split between KS1 and KS2 (tickets available soon).

🎄 Christmas fayre Friday 6 December after school.

If you haven't joined our PA website yet, follow the link below and send us a request, add the name & class of your child and we'll give you access to our website where you can hear about our events, buy event tickets & products and all of our pre loved uniform too.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/almondsburypta/index.cfm?event=logIn¬LoggedIn=true&success=myAccount>

VACANCY

Would you like to join our exciting Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Team? As an OPAL school, we value our outdoor playtimes hugely. We have expanded our outdoor play areas and opportunities for our children and now have a vacancy available for a new Play Lead to join the team. 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 this post please contact the School Office. Please feel free to pass on the details to anyone who may be interested in this opportunity.

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.



Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk
Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Post Details:

Role: School Crossing Patrol - Almondsbury

Site Location: Sunday's Hill, Opposite Church

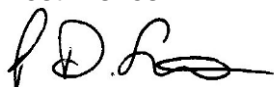
Times: 8.30am – 9.05am

3.20pm – 3.55pm

Hourly rate: £9ph

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 2024/25

TERM 1

Friday 4 October

Monday 7 October

Wednesday 9 October

Thursday 10 October

Friday 11 October

Friday 18 October

Thursday 24 October

Friday 25 October

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

PINS Project Parental Engagement online session 7.00pm

(see body of newsletter for information and link)

PA AGM in school staffroom 6.00pm

Harvest Festival this afternoon

Hello Yellow Day for Mental Health – wear something yellow

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

Year 6 road safety session this morning

Last day of Term 1

INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

TERM 2

Monday 4 November

Start of Term 2

Book Week and Black History Week

Book Fair from 3.30 – 4.00pm each day

Nasal flu vaccines for children

Reception intake September 2025 tours 9.30 am and 11.00am

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

Individual photographs

Reception intake September 2025 tours 9.30 am and 11.00am

Parents Evenings 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Children in Need day

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

Reception intake September 2025 tours 1.30 pm and 2.30pm

Parents Evenings 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

Swimming for Year 4 Mrs Lansdown's class

PA Christmas Fayre

Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance at 2.00pm

Reception nativity performance at 2.30pm

Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance at 6.00pm

EYFS and KS1 Christmas party

Christmas lunch and Entertainment afternoon

Year 3 and 4 Christmas party

Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Church

Year 5 and 6 Christmas party

End of Term 2

Friday 13 December

Tuesday 17 December

Wednesday 18 December

Thursday 19 December

Friday 20 December

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

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 25 October 2024 Friday 23 May 2025 Monday 2 June 2025 Plus 1 other date to be confirmed	