

29 September 2025

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2025/2026 - NEWSLETTER NO 5

CERTIFICATES

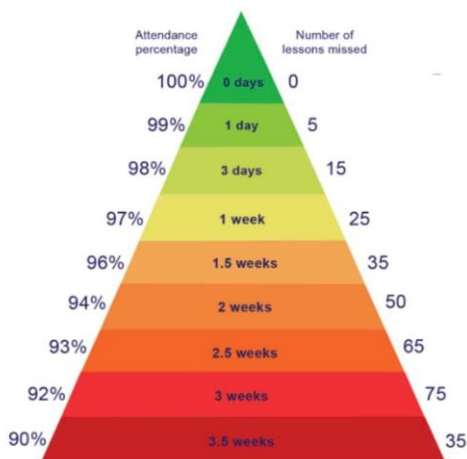
Well done to these children who received the certificates for last week from their teachers. These are presented on a Friday in worship where the class teacher shares the reasons for the certificates being awarded.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Miss Ramli | - | Luke Bailhache |
| Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett | - | Pranaysri Srikanth |
| Miss Whittingham | - | Carolina Fudula |
| Mrs Lansdown | - | Phoebe Wallace-Daniells |
| Mr Evens | - | Ronnie-Rae Butler |
| Mrs Williams and Mr Dean | - | Mythili Bhargav |
| Mr Garcia | - | Cordelia Reihe |
| Mrs Leonard | - | Nell Lucas |
| Miss Hake | - | Dash Ferrier-Jones |
| Mrs North and Mrs Marshall | - | Olivia Randall |
| Mrs Giles | - | Hugo Scott-Norris |



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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 Department for Education 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://www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk)
If you have any questions about the new policy or guidelines please contact Mr Smith.



OPAL PLAY AND STAY SESSION

We are very excited to be able to introduce the OPAL Primary Programme to Reception and Year 1 parents next Friday 3 October.

You are invited to come for the afternoon to play with your child/children in the school grounds.

We will be making dens, dressing up, making up imaginative stories, playing with water and much more. If possible, please bring a loose part donation to help with den making, for instance: a tyre (washed), clean wood (no nails), tarp, plastic pipe (no sharp edges), plastic crates (no sharp broken bits). We are also always looking for ride-on toys, scooters, old suitcases and anything from the loose parts list sent out previously.

Schedule:

1.45pm Arrive

1.45pm – 2.15pm Talk on the OPAL Primary Programme by our OPAL mentor

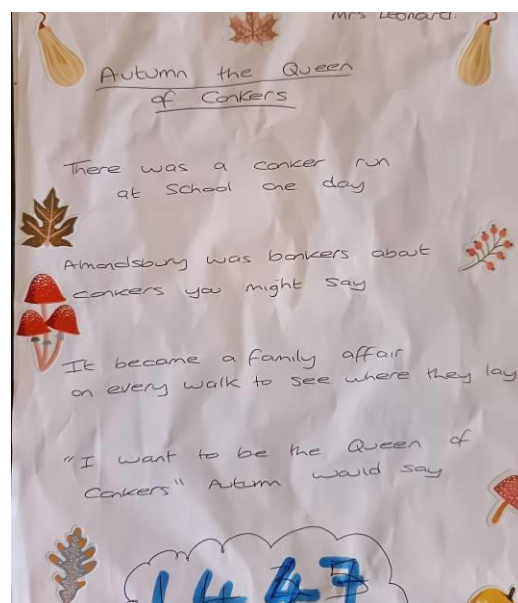
2.15pm – 3.15pm Free play session with children

Please dress for all weathers and for play!

Please use this link to our Google Form to let us know you'd like to attend if you haven't responded already:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuKVN6Iz1V08VuksfLvHM1p6qsThAlkeeZ0YonWsVZHkRGxQ/viewform?usp=header>

Almondsbury has truly gone bonkers about conkers! We love how much enthusiasm as gone into this project, and hope everyone had a great time outside in nature collecting the many thousands that have been handed in! We even had a poem made about it: thank you Autumn!

The counting is underway and results will be announced next week. Well done and thank you, all!



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 9 October morning. Many thanks in advance.



SCHOOL NURSE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The School Nurse will be leading some parental engagement sessions during the upcoming discos. These will take place on Thursday 9 October. Reception and Key Stage 1 5.45 - 6.45pm Key Stage 2 - 7.00 - 8.00pm. If you would like to join one of the sessions or both please enter your name and which session you would like to attend using the link below. Thank you. School nurse engagement sessions
<https://forms.office.com/e/U7Tb5zi4PC>

PARENT GOVERNOR

I would like to welcome Mr Chris O'Grady, whose child is in Reception, to be your representative on the Governing Body from now. He will serve a four year term. As Mr O'Grady was the only nominee there was no need for an election.

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

PARENTS PRAYER CHAT GROUP

One of parents in conjunction with Rev Anjali from St Mary's Church is setting up a parents prayer chat group. The purpose of the group would be to pray for the head teacher, teachers, staff, students, and families that are at the school. While it is a Christian prayer group, everyone is welcome to join. People can be as active or inactive in the group as they are comfortable. If you would like to be included in this new group then please contact Evan McRae on 07591 959233. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join either now or in the future.

SCHOOL TOURS FOR NEW PARENTS 2026 INTAKE

We have the dates now confirmed for the school tours for new prospective parents for the intake in September 2026. It will be lovely to show new parents around and share all that is great about our school.

Thursday 6 November 9.30am - FULL	Thursday 6 November 11.00am
Tuesday 11 November 9.30am	Tuesday 11 November 11.00am
Monday 17 November 1.30pm	Monday 17 November 2.30pm

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>

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.

PA NEWS

Please join us for our **Party Peeps school disco** on Thursday 9 October. KS1 disco will be from 5.45pm-6:45pm, KS2 from 7pm to 8pm. Tickets cost £5 and include a drink and snack. Tickets are on sale [here](#). Please add your child's name and class when booking.

We are holding the **PTA AGM** on the evening of 15 October in the staff room. All are welcome to join the meeting where we will be discussing what funds were raised last year, future events and plans for the PTA going forward.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D. Smith'.

Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2025/26

TERM 1

Friday 3 October

Week beg 6 October

OPAL Play and Stay session for parents in Reception and Year 1 classes in the Hall then on the field.

School cross country championships through the week – details from each key phase to follow for days

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Wednesday 8 October
Thursday 9 October
Monday 13 October
Thursday 23 October
Friday 24 October

Year 6 visit to Lifeskills Centre, Bristol
Harvest Festival
Year 6 NCMP checks
End of term 1
INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)

TERM 2

Monday 3 November

Term 2 starts for all pupils

Thursday 6 November

Book and Remembrance Week

Reception intake September 2026 tours 9.30 am and 11.00am

Monday 10 November

Individual photographs all day

Tuesday 11 November

Reception intake September 2026 tours 9.30 am and 11.00am

Thursday 13 November

Parents Evenings 4.00 – 7.00pm

Monday 17 November

Reception intake September 2026 tours 1.30pm and 2.30pm

Tuesday 18 November

Parents Evenings 4.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 19 November

Flu vaccinations for pupils

Monday 1 December

Mr Evens's class swimming and Mr Dean and Mrs Williams's class swimming every afternoon this week

Friday 5 December

PA Christmas Fair

Friday 12 December

Reception and KS1 Christmas party

Tuesday 16 December

Christmas lunch followed by Entertainment afternoon for pupils

Wednesday 17 December

Year 3 and 4 Christmas party

Thursday 18 December

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

Friday 19 December

Year 5 and 6 Christmas party

End of Term 2

Term dates for 2025/26

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Monday 1 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025
Term 2	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Term 3	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026
Term 4	Monday 23 February 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026
Term 5	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
Term 6	Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026
INSET DAYS	Monday 1 September 2025 Friday 24 October 2025 Friday 22 May 2026 Monday 1 June 2026 Plus one to be confirmed	