

05 January 2026

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2025/2026 - NEWSLETTER NO 16

Welcome back to school in 2026 and we hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and New Year. We hope that 2026 will be a prosperous one for everyone.



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Well done to these children who received the Letters of Commendation for last term from their teachers. They were awarded for many different things including: positive attitudes to learning, being conscientious, behaviour and kindness.

Miss Ramli	-	Rory Smith	Bastien Harris
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Bella Scott	Annabelle Street
Miss Whittingham	-	Henry Hazell	Orfeas Perakakis
Mrs Lansdown	-	Jackson Doherty	Hollie Rutter
Mr Evens	-	Tia Lillis	Leonor Barela Graca
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	William McRae	Toby Bailhache
Mr Garcia	-	Sophie Vornicu	Hallie Moore
Mrs Leonard	-	Jaxon Mann	Eva Hall
Miss Hake	-	Skyla Martin	Daisy Truan
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	Aaira Shrivastra	Kaavish Patel
Mrs Giles	-	Atharv Shah	Olive Cazaly

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

It was such a privilege to be in St Mary's Church for our Carols by Candlelight service. We were delighted to be joined by Rev Anjali. The children sang beautifully, especially our choral soloists at the start of the service. The readers were very clear and spoke with clarity and precision. It was great to see so many parents join us in church.

At the end of each of our performances during the Christmas period we collected for the Grand Appeal at Bristol Children's Hospital and South West Children's Hospice. We collected a grand total of £292.05. Thank you for your generosity.

HOUSE POINTS

As there was so much going on at the end of last term with parties, concerts, etc we have held off on the reward for the winning house who collected the most house points during Term 2. This was Sun with 2051 points. The children in Sun house will be able to wear their own clothes on Friday this week as their reward.

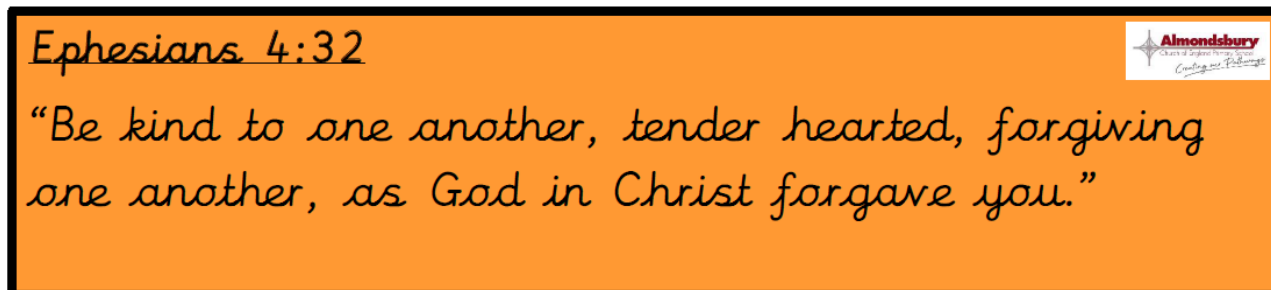
ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the Autumn term was significantly affected by the outbreaks that occurred with sickness. However, the overall attendance of 95.4% was above the national average but not where it was a couple of weeks before Christmas.

This has also been compounded by the number of children who took term time holiday absence accounting for 1.5% of our attendance. I am sure once we pass the traditional period when illness is a real factor that we will improve in that figure. Well done to the 90 children throughout the school who managed to stave off any infections and achieved 100% attendance. I hope that everyone remains well and healthy during this term.

HOPE HOME DISCUSSION SHEET

This term's theme for our Collective Worship is Hope. We have attached the home discussion sheet for you to read through and talk to your child/ren about the themes within it. As you know the theme runs throughout the term and we will also be looking at 'Don't Hold on to what is Wrong' within our Heartsmart PSHE programme and Democracy within our British Values. Below is our Bible reading linked to our Heartsmart theme for this term.



RECEPTION SCHOOL TOUR

We have added an additional date for a tour of the school. Please contact the office if you would like to come along on Thursday 8 January 2026 at 9.30am.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES IN SEPTEMBER 2026

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you must apply for them to start primary school in September 2026. Applications for primary school admission must be submitted no later than 15 January 2026. If you live in South Gloucestershire online applications can be made by following this link

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page;jsessionid=5D07B22CA2CEF2CCFE00440153D700EE?id=GLu6GUIMkpw&familychannel=2-2&channel=family>

If you live outside of South Gloucestershire applications must be made via the local authority of the area you live in.

PA UPDATE

Happy new year everyone! Exciting events are happening this year and the first one in the diary is **MOVIE NIGHT** on **Friday 16 January**. Tickets will be available via the PTA website soon; Reception and KS1 will have a different film to KS2, but these will be shown at the same time in different classrooms. We will communicate the film choices asap. Put the date in your diary, it's only a couple of weeks away. Tickets will include a drink and popcorn snack.

We are looking for a new PA chairperson this year to head up the team. This is a really rewarding role, engaging with parents and teachers and playing a key part in raising vital funds for the school. If you would be interested in learning more please speak to Claire Jarvis or email almondsburyschoolpa@gmail.com.

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/bitesize/ks1/>

VACANCY FOR BREAKFAST CLUB TEAM MEMBER

Would you like to join our exciting Breakfast Club team? We now have a vacancy available for a new member to join the breakfast club team. The hours are between 7.40– 8.55am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This equates to 3.45 hours per week. 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 CLEANING TEAM MEMBER

Would you like to join our cleaning team? We now have a vacancy available for a new member to join the cleaning team. The hours are between 3.30 – 6.00pm daily. This equates to 12.5 hours per week. We can be flexible if needs be with number of days, however five days a week are preferable. 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.

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



Mr Paul D Smith

Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2025/26

TERM 3

Monday 5 January

Wednesday 6 January

Thursday 7 January

Thursday 8 January

Tuesday 13 January

Friday 16 January

Saturday 17 January

Thursday 22 January

Friday 23 January

Tuesday 27 January

Friday 6 February

Wednesday 11 February

Friday 13 February

Start of term 3 for all children

Cricket coaching day for EYFS, Year 5 and 6

Cricket coaching day for KS1 and Years 3 and 4

New Reception parents tour 9.30am

Choir to Young Voices in Birmingham

Movie Night 6.00pm – 8.00pm

South Gloucestershire swimming gala

Year 5 and 6 Sportshall event in Yate 3.30pm

Non-uniform day for Grand Appeal

Year 1 and 2 WOW day

EYFS and KS1 Number day with NSPCC

South Gloucestershire Dance Festival at St Michael's

End of Term 3

TERM 4

Monday 23 February

Tuesday 24 February

Thursday 5 March

Tuesday 10 March

Tuesday 17 March

Thursday 19 March

Friday 20 March

INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils

Start of Term 4 for all children

Parents Evening 4.00pm - 7.00pm

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Year 1 and 2 visit

Bridge FoS year 2 multiskills event

Comic Relief Day

PA Quiz Night

Monday 23 March
Tuesday 24 March
Monday 30 March
Tuesday 31 March
Wednesday 1 April
Thursday 2 April

Year 3 and 4 visit
Year 5 and 6 visit
Arts Week
Year 3 and 4 Easter performance 9.30am
Year 3 and 4 Easter performance 6.00pm
End of Term 4

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 23 February 2026 Friday 22 May 2026 Monday 1 June 2026	