

12 January 2026

Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2025/2026 - NEWSLETTER NO 17

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.

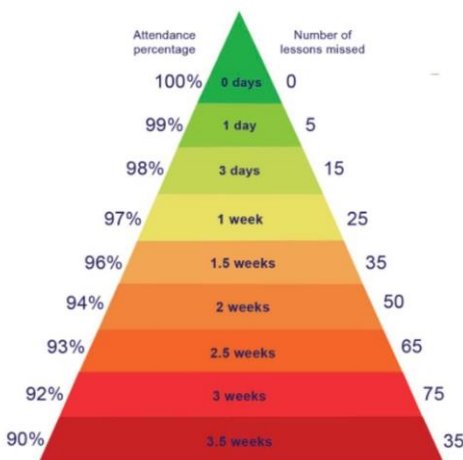
Miss Ramli	-	Kiaan Lekhi
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Calvin Osaka
Miss Whittingham	-	Elaya Merlino Thompson
Mrs Lansdown	-	Ranice Wong
Mr Evens	-	Tia Lillis
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	Ewan Smith
Mr Garcia	-	Ethan Parslow
Mrs Leonard	-	Jasper Panschuk
Miss Hake	-	Mohammed Azlan
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	Rishaan Turner
Mrs Giles	-	Lily Rose Markey



ATTENDANCE

We have started the new year and new term positively. As always attendance is so important for your child's stability, academic progress and interaction with their classmates and peers.

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

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 persist 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.

Any unauthorised term time absence which is due to term time holidays will now be fined for 5 days of absence in a 10 week period. Therefore, if you decide to take a week of holiday during term time this will be fineable. This is a slight change since this year. Please be aware of this. Our policy has always stated 10 sessions (5 days) will be fined.

E-SAFETY NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

It is a new year and I am sure there are many new devices in homes after Christmas. Please make sure that you have a good understanding of parental controls and how to set the parent controls on these. There is information online for a variety of devices if you need support. In this issue of the parental newsletter, it covers online games and the risks associated such as in game/app purchasing, talking to strangers and the dangers of this and cyberbullying. There is also a feature on Snapchat again looking at key concerns, risks and parental controls to mitigate these.

OPAL UPDATE

Last term ended in a Christmas extravaganza, with Christmas crafts, tree decorating, and environmentally friendly reindeer food station - we hope many of you spread your porridge and birdseed mix on Christmas Eve! Already this term we have had some wonderful natural resources for our playtime: ice and mud! We have had fun breaking ice, freezing water in different shapes and with various inclusions and the mud kitchen is always open for creations and mucky fun. We are also having a drive to encourage football amongst the girls by having girls' only football time: this has been taken up by all ages with much enthusiasm, and the wonderful toys that were donated last term in the OPAL competition are already being loved and played with: thank you to everyone who donated.

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: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D.S.', written in a cursive style.

Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2025/26

TERM 3

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

Choir to Young Voices in Birmingham

Movie Night 5.30 – 7.15pm

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

Parents Evening 4.00pm - 7.00pm

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	