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20 July 2026

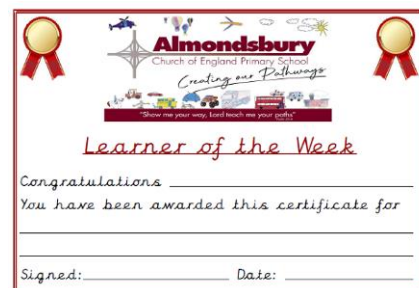
Dear Parents

SCHOOL YEAR 2025/2026 - NEWSLETTER NO 40

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	-	The Whole Class
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Kiaan Bhandari
Miss Whittingham	-	Matthew Berry
Mrs Lansdown	-	The Whole Class
Mr Evens	-	Avika Gahlyan
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	Eloise Collard
Mr Garcia	-	The Whole Class
Mrs Leonard	-	Krishank Vignesh
Miss Hake	-	Molly the Dog
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	The Whole Class
Mrs Giles	-	Gael Stewart



THE PIRATES OF THE CURRY BEAN

Once again we were treated to a fantastic performance by our Year 5 and 6 children. The children had practiced their lines, songs and dances to a great standard as they performed very well to the appreciative audience. Every single one of them sang beautifully and acted superbly.



A few special mentions for the children – Izzy T, Bella, Evie, Jess, Lois, Henry and Rupert . All of them did brilliantly with their solos; singing with clarity and making us laugh with their jokes. It made us all very proud of the children and praise that is richly deserved. Well done once again. Thank you to Mrs Goode, Miss Ramli, Mrs Barrett and Miss Whittingham for staging the production so very well. The scenery and props were well-made by Mrs Jamieson and Mrs Davis Jones. We also collected £160.00 from the performances which has gone towards costumes and other items linked to putting on the show such as the licence. Thank you for your generosity.



YEAR 4 UKELELE CONCERT



Last Monday, all of Year 4 performed a Ukelele concert in front of parents and Year 3. Since Easter, Year 4 children have participated in weekly Ukelele lessons with Ben Duff from West of England Music and Arts. The children learned the different cords and frets to use and played well known tunes during the concert such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star', 'Mockingbird' and 'Row your boat' as well as the popular 'Giants Can't Eat Ants' tune. Mr Evens also had the opportunity to play the Ukelele!



STEP BACK IN TIME WITH THE VIKINGS!



On Friday, Year 3 and 4 had the most amazing day! Portals of the Past came to deliver a very special WOW day. It began with the Viking story of creation, filled with giants and gods, which truly set the scene for the day.

The children then split into three activities which they rotated around for the remainder of the morning. They played Viking games, such as fox and geese, found out facts and information in a quiz, and investigated all sorts of artefacts from combs and jewellery to horns and helmets.



In the afternoon, we learned about their weapons and armour then raided the Year 5 and 6 classes, stealing away several children to sell as slaves or give to the gods! It was hilarious to watch the reaction of the Years 5 and 6 who played along brilliantly! A fantastic day was had by all.

OPAL – STAY AND PLAY

We had a wonderful, if warm, afternoon for our Year 4, 5, 6 Stay and Play last Thursday. It was great to see the adults playing – even getting so involved that a broken sandal during a football game did not stop a certain mum from continuing!

The final Opal Play Awards of the year have now been handed out. They are given to pupils in recognition of excellent play, creativity, supporting others in play, and maintaining the school's values in our outdoor spaces. Very well done to: Autum Pearce, Amalie Price and Joshua Agyemang.



END OF YEAR



The end of the school year has nearly arrived (well it will do tomorrow!). It has been another fun packed and eventful year: being able to share Christmas plays, The Pirate of the Curry Bean performance and visits for the children to have those enrichment experiences. It was lovely to see so many parents who were able to join us during our Celebration Day to see the children's work and what they have achieved over the course of this year.

I would like to thank everyone of the staff team for their dedication and brilliance over the past year. They have been true advocates for your children, the school and so supportive of them and each other. I could not wish for a better staff group. The children have also been immense as well.



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The end of year results have also been very strong with **78%** of our Reception children gaining a good level of development, Year 1's gaining **100%** passing the phonics threshold (top 1% in the country), Year 2 and Year 6 also well above the national averages in all three tested subjects at **90%+**. A third of our year 6's gained greater depth in their tests! The Year 4's multiplication check was also very pleasing with nearly half of the children scoring 25/25 and an average score of **23.8**, well above the national average! We are very proud of all the children and their continued efforts.

We say goodbye to two special people tomorrow, Ms Jamieson and Mrs Brooks who are taking retirement after they have worked in school for 20 and 21 years respectively. They have been incredible in their dedication to all the children they have taught and supported, supporting the staff and school. We shall all miss their wisdom and fantastic talents. We wish both of them the very best for the future and will be sad to see them leave.



Best wishes for the future to the Year 6's moving on. They have been a great year group all the way through school. We will always have very fond memories of the children and will miss them as well.

I hope you all have a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing the majority of you back in school on Wednesday 2 September. Thank you to

those parents who will not be returning to us, we will miss your support and having you around school.

SCHOOL MEALS PRICE SEPTEMBER 2026

We have been informed that the price of the **school meals will increase to £2.90 from 1 September**. This will be adjusted on Arbor in September and the automatic charges will take place from then.

WRAPAROUND CARE FOR 2026 -27

I hope that you all received the information that was sent out recently regarding the wraparound care for the next academic year. The demand for **breakfast club** continues to be popular. We will be able to accommodate up to 70 children at the club, should this be required. As we are going into a new academic year and the requirements can change please let the office know if you no longer need the space you currently have or if you need to decrease or increase the number of days.

For the **after school care**, please book on with Future Stars for that element of the offer up until 6.00pm. The link is here: [Wrap Around Care Booking - Future Stars Coaching](#) To book for the sports clubs offered by Future Stars you need to select the date/days the clubs runs on and click on the £5.30 option. For the sports clubs on Arbor, please book in the usual manner through your Arbor account at a cost of £5.00 as well.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The annual Library Reading Challenge is underway. This year the theme is 'Read to the Beat'. All you need to do is go down to your local library (Thornbury and Bradley Stoke are taking part) and sign up then read as many books as you can to gain prizes, certificates and medal. Happy reading.

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: [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

JIGSAW, THORNBURY

We have a cluster 1 funded event coming up for parents and carers. All the info and how to book is in the link below. It's the ideal session ahead of the summer holidays with changes to routines and potentially tricky transitions.

[**Making Daily Life Easier - Routines and Transitions \(16-Jul-2026\) · CharitySuite Events**](#)

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

There are a number of support offers for families over the summer holidays run or signposted by the local authority. Please see all of these different packages of support with links below.

Financial support/offers

- Information on different ways of getting support with the cost of living rising [Cost of living help | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Household support fund | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)
The government has provided funding for us to support people who are struggling to:
buy food
pay energy bills
cover other essential costs linked to energy and wider essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets)
- [Places Kids Eat Free in the Summer Holidays 2024 \(moneysavingcentral.co.uk\)](#) is a website that tells families restaurants where kids eat free throughout the holidays.
- [Financial support and wellbeing | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Young people's mental health

- **Off The Record:** Free, self-referral counselling service for young people age 11-15, who are experiencing low mood, depression, anxiety, phobias, self-harm, eating problems and/or anger. Young people can call, email or text, and services operate in Patchway, Kingswood and Yate. Also offer parent support groups and sessions. Can also see [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more information and up to date groups and activities.
Tel: 0808 808 9120. Text: 07896 880011. Website: [Home](#) - [OTR \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](#) Email: hello@otrbristol.org.uk
- **Kooth:** Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people 11-18. Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm, Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm. On Kooth you can: Chat to our friendly counsellors; Read articles written by young people; Get support from the Kooth community; Write in a daily journal. Website: <https://kooth.com/> [Home - Kooth](#)
- **Childline:** Free counselling via online webchat, and free support/advice available 24/7 via confidential helpline, and emails via the website. Tel: 0800 11 11. Website: www.childline.org.uk [Childline | Childline](#)
- **Young Minds** national charity offers confidential online and telephone information and support for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or mental health of a child/young person up to 25 years of age, including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers. **Parents Helpline:** 0808 802 5544 Website: [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)
- **Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service** for free 24/7 support across the UK of you are experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258.

Adult mental health

- **South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies - Vitamins:** Therapeutic interventions including counselling and group courses, in line with people's differing needs, age 16+. Self-referral via the website: wellaware.org.uk Tel - 0333 200 1893 [NHS Talking Therapies - North Somerset & South Gloucestershire \(vitahealthgroup.co.uk\)](#)
- **Samaritans:** Free, confidential emotional support for those experiencing despair, distress, self-harm or suicidal feelings.
Tel: 116 123 (free, from any phone, 24/7). Website: www.samaritans.org [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#) Email: jo@samaritans.org

Family/parenting support

- **Solihull** – online parenting resources for parents, carers, grandparents and teenagers in South Glos. This is **free** lifetime access to a range of e-learning and online resources which span from pregnancy to 19 years. These courses can be worked through at a pace which suits the individual, with the aim of increasing parental knowledge and confidence around child development through all stages of the parenting journey. The courses aim to nurture emotional health and wellbeing so that

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our children can thrive as kind, sociable and emotionally aware people throughout their lives. [inourplace | Solihull Approach – South Gloucestershire | inourplace](#)

- **NHS website:** Advice for parents on a range of parenting issues, including talking to teenagers, fussy eating and teenage aggression. Website: [Live Well - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- **CCP – Caring for Communities and People** – Offer outreach support and parenting courses for families at an early help level. [Home \(ccp.org.uk\)](#)

Support for families who have children with additional needs

- **SEND and You - SAY:** Local SEN and disability information service (SENDIAS) - Information and support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, for children, young people and families. (previously Supportive Parents)
Tel: 0117 9897725 Mon-Fri 9.30 - 4.30 (answerphone at other times),
Email: support@sendandyou.org.uk
Website: [Home - SEND and You](#)
- **South Glos Parents and Carers:** Information and groups for parents who have children with a disability and/or additional needs. Offers a weekly drop in for parents and carers, support groups, workshops, counselling and events. They also run the Parent Carer forum in South Gloucestershire to collect feedback and views from families with disabled children. Website: [South Glos Parent Carers \(sgpc.org.uk\)](#) Email: team@sglospc.org.uk
- **JIGSAW Thornbury** Support families who have children who are 0-25 years and have any additional needs or disability. This can be anything from learning needs such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or medical problems. Many children who come have no diagnosis. Weekly support group for parents, carers and children + training courses on a range of topics. Telephone: 01454 416381
Website: [JIGSAW Thornbury | For Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities - SEN Lending Library, Events, Meetings, Bristol Area and the South West.](#)

The South Glos LIFE homepage has more information about services in South Glos [South Glos LIFE](#)

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

South Gloucestershire's Holiday Activities and Food programme is open for bookings for this summer for children and young people aged 5 to 16. There are lots of fun clubs and activities to choose from generally between Wednesday 22 July and Friday 28 August 2026, although some providers may offer different dates. Places are fully funded for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. Eligible pupils can be booked on up to 16 days of activities. See all the activities available and book at www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF

THE GREAT BRITISH SUMMER SAVINGS SCHEME

The Great British Summer Savings scheme is running from 25 June to 1 September 2026, helping families feel a bit less squeezed this summer. The new scheme includes reduced VAT on days out, including tickets at attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas, and children's meals in restaurants. Children aged 5 to 15 in England will also be able to travel free on local bus services throughout August. For further information about the scheme visit [Summer Savings](#).

This is in addition to further support available to families, with more information available at [Cost of Living Help - Cost of Living Help](#)

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.

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 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

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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 6

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Reception visit to Court Farm (rearranged date)

Year 6 Leavers service at St Mary's Church 9.30am (year 6 parents only)

End of Term 6 and last day of the school year

Term dates for 2025/26

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 5	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
Term 6	Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026

Term dates for 2026/27

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027
INSET DAYS	Tuesday 1 September 2026 Friday 23 October 2026 Friday 28 May 2027 Monday 7 June 2027 Plus one TBC	

DATES FOR 2026/27

TERM 1

Tuesday 1 September

Wednesday 2 September

Thursday 3 September

Friday 4 September

Monday 7 September

Tuesday 8 September

INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Start of Term 1 for years 1 to 6

Home visits for Reception children

Home visits for Reception children

Teddy Bear's picnic either morning or afternoon for Reception children

Reception children start school either morning or afternoon

Mrs Williams and Mr Deans' and Mr Evens's classes start swimming every afternoon for the next fortnight

Meet your child's teacher 3.30-4.00pm – Miss Hake, Mr Garcia, Mrs Williams and Mr Dean, Mrs Lansdown, Miss Ramli

6.00pm Reception parents phonics and reading meeting

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Wednesday 9 September	Reception children in school mornings and lunch
Thursday 10 September	Meet your child's teacher 3.30-4.00pm – Mrs Leonard, Mr Evens, Miss Whittingham, Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett
Monday 14 September	Reception children in school full-time
	Year 6 residential to Paris, France
Wednesday 16 September	Meet the teacher – Mrs Giles, Mrs North and Mrs Marshall
Thursday 17 September	2.45pm Reception parents mathematics workshop in the Hall
Friday 25 September	Year 3 and 4 Times Tables Rock Stars day
Week beg Mon 28 September	School cross country championships
Tuesday 6 October	Harvest Festival
Thursday 8 October	Year 3 and 4 WOW day
Wednesday 14 October	Year 6 visit to Lifeskills, @CREATE Centre Bristol
Thursday 22 October	End of Term 1
Friday 23 October	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

TERM 2

Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2 for all children
	Book and Black History Week
Friday 6 November	New Parents tours at 9.30am and 11.00am
Monday 9 November	Individual photographs taken
Tuesday 10 November	New Parents tours at 9.30am and 11.00am
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12 November	Parents Evening 4.00- 7.00pm
Monday 16 November	New Parents tours at 1.30pm and 2.30pm
Tuesday 17 November	Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm
Friday 20 November	Children in Need day
Monday 23 November	Mrs Lansdown's class and Year 5 and 6 boosters swimming each afternoon for the next fortnight
Friday 4 December	PA Christmas Fayre 6.00-8.00pm
Wednesday 9 December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance 6.00pm
Thursday 10 December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance 9.30am
	Reception Christmas Performance 2.15pm
Friday 11 December	Reception and KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15 December	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 16 December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
	Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm
Thursday 17 December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Friday 18 December	End of Term 2