Almondsbury
Church of England Primary School
Creating our Pathways

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Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL YEAR 2026/2027 - NEWSLETTER NO 7

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	-	Ameera Rowe
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Diana Savill
Miss Whittingham	-	Edward Wilcosz
Mrs Lansdown	-	Willow Hammond
Mr Evens	-	Hiu Lam Fung
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	Isabelle Sexton
Mr Garcia	-	Rivaan Babariya
Mrs Leonard	-	Luna Gismera Dolado
Miss Hake	-	Daris O'Grady
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	Ruby Lansdown
Mrs Giles	-	Rose Woodward



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Butcher, one of our teaching assistants who gave birth a couple of weeks ago to a beautiful baby boy called Robin. We wish them every happiness.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival went very well with the children singing beautifully.This was led by our Chaplain Emily and the children from the Worship Council. We focused this year on where food comes from and the processes it goes through alongside the work of the farmers to tend the land and harvest the crops that we eat and how thankful we should be for this. We read through the Bible verse from Ecclesiastics chapter 3 verse 1 and 2 plus the children read out their own poem. The harvest display looked fulsome with tinned and packet goods alongside the harvest loaves and the flower arrangements. All of the food that was donated by yourselves has been sent to the food bank namely the Five Loaves and Two Fishes charity of St Paul's in Bristol. The loaves were shared during the afternoon with all of the pupils, they were delicious! Thank you for all your contributions, they were much appreciated.

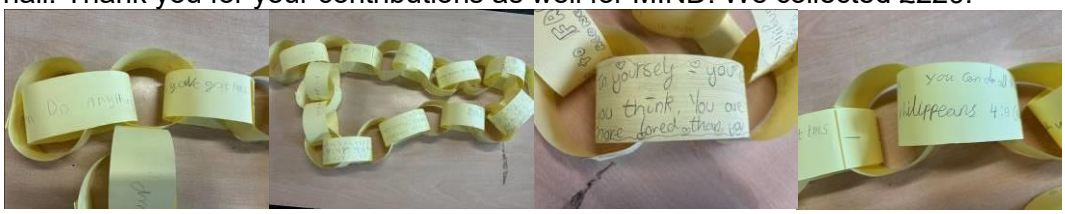






MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Last Friday the children and adults were rasing awareness of mental health and wellbeing through the activities they engaged with on World Mental Health Day (actually the weekend). They wore yellow for MIND and wrote different messages to themselves and others to affirm who they are, what makes them special but also to highlight the positives in each other. These were then used to create a wellbeing chain, which is on display in the hall. Thank you for your contributions as well for MIND. We collected £229.



TEACHER'S EMAILS

You will have noticed if you have sent your child's class teacher an email recently, that they are automatic replies being sent out of the office. As you can imagine, the teachers are sent a myriad of emails from parents during the school day and often late into the night. We must look after our staff's mental health and wellbeing just as much as we in school do for the children. Therefore, if you do send an email be mindful of the time of evening/night you are sending this and that they will respond to you but not immediately but usually within 24/48 hours.

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 continues to be 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 ½ 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, starting from the end of October. 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 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/.

Our annually updated 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)

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

SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

Every year we must update our Safeguarding Policies in light of the updated guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. Here is the link to the policies that we are required to publish to parents and all stakeholders. Safeguarding - Almondsbury Church of England Primary School (almondsburyprimary.co.uk)

If you have any comments on these please direct them to myself Paul.Smith@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Thank you in advance.

PARENTS EVENINGS

We have set the Parents Evenings booking system up on Arbor. The Parents Evening dates of **Thursday 12 November and Tuesday 17 November in classrooms face to face. The booking system is on Arbor**

and will be open for you to book appointments from Monday 19 October until Wednesday 11 November.

OPAL UPDATE
This week our OPAL Calm Clubbers were exploring emotions and creating faces to show feelings out of natural resources found in the Forest School area. OPAL Calm Club runs 3 times a week and provides a calm, reflective space where children can go for meditation, breathing techniques, and learning and understanding relationships and the world around us. It offers children a quiet space to reflect and focus within the often loud and hectic lunchtimes and is open to anyone who wants to join in.



PARKING
Please can we remind you to park sensibly and considerately in and around the village. We have had complaints of cars parked on pavements, especially around Glebe House. Please park with care.

SCHOOL TOURS FOR NEW PARENTS 2027 INTAKE
We have the dates now confirmed for the school tours for new prospective parents for the intake in September 2027. It will be lovely to show new parents around and share all that is great about our school.

~~Friday 6 November 9.30am~~ **FULL**	~~Friday 6 November 11.00am~~ **FULL**
Tuesday 10 November 9.30am	Tuesday 10 November 11.00am
Monday 16 November 1.30pm	Monday 16 November 2.30pm

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.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting**

PA NEWS
Thank you.
We wish to thank the parents and carers for supporting the PA, we're pleased to announce £1215 has been donated to the scrap store which regularly delivers items for OPAL to enrich our children's learning. This couldn't be done without your support like buying raffle tickets and coming to events.

Movie night is next, 13 November and tickets can be purchased through your account on the website PTA Website from Monday 12 October at 0900 hrs.

We're gathering a wish list from Mr Smith for odd jobs we need help with, like replacing the welly boot racks. If anyone has skills in creating them or if your companies makes any type of grants or donations, please contact your PA rep on WhatsApp. We'll keep you posted on the asks.

Next big fundraising event will be the **Christmas Fayre on 4 December** and we'd appreciate anyone stepping forward to do their little bit.

This year, Mr Smith has asked that our fundraising goes towards a Temperature Control system for the classrooms. After last summer's closures, we're making big plans and so need big donations.

Exciting upcoming events

Hamper donation by 25 November
Non-uniform day for tombola donations - 27 November
Christmas Fayre - 4 December

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 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 Martina Byrne-Obee 01454 863611.



Best wishes

Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2026/27

TERM 1

Tuesday 13 October	**Year 6 visit to Lifeskills, @CREATE Centre Bristol**
Wednesday 14 October	**SIAMs Inspection**
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/Diversity 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**
Friday 13 November	**Children in Need day**
Monday 16 November	**New Parents tours at 1.30pm and 2.30pm**
Tuesday 17 November	**Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm**
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**

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	