Almondsbury
Church of England Primary School
Creating our Pathways

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19 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL YEAR 2026/2027 - NEWSLETTER NO 8

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	-	Eva Lazz Onyenobi
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Chloe North
Miss Whittingham	-	Jenson Morgan
Mrs Lansdown	-	Luke Hallworth
Mr Evens	-	James Anane-Adusei
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	Alys Hallworth
Mr Garcia	-	Eva Hall
Mrs Leonard	-	Krish Shambhu
Miss Hake	-	Ailsa Spruell
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	Nate Lucas
Mrs Giles	-	Orlando Armstrong



YEAR 3 AND 4 WOW DAY

On Thursday, Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic day, learning all about Ancient Egypt and some of the customs and traditions. We started the day with a workshop, learning how to read Egyptian hieroglyphics followed by creating our own cartouche. Everyone learned all about the Egyptian number system and played a great 'bingo' style game. In the afternoon, the children looked at the process of mummification and made scarab beetles using clay. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed all of the activities.



BOOK WEEK



Straight after half term when we return on Monday 2 November, it is our annual Book Week. We have linked this in with our Diversity Week including Black History Month focus. There are lots of exciting things happening. We have the Book Fair every evening after school from 3.30-4.00pm in the library area, Big Read, drop everything and read sessions, reading swaps lessons, homework linked to reading and dressing up day on Thursday. On Tuesday or Wednesday, you are invited into the library for a reading breakfast from 8.15am (bookable via your Arbor account in the School Shop section to sign up for the Reading Breakfasts). Don't forget the dress up day on Thursday. A letter was emailed with more details.

SIAMS INSPECTION
As you know we had our SIAMS (Church School) inspection last Wednesday. The inspector was very impressed with the children and thoroughly enjoyed his day at our school. The report will be published in mid November when we will send this to you all.

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 4pm on Monday 19 October until Wednesday 11 November.**

INSET DAYS
Just a reminder that we have an INSET DAY on this Friday 23 October. Therefore, school will be closed. The staff are also working at St Peter's for that day, so there will be no one in the school.

We have set our final INSET Day for Monday 4 January 2027. Therefore, school will be closed to pupils on that day.

OPAL UPDATE
Almondsbury family, you surpassed yourselves! We had thought the number of conkers we got last year was a lot…this year we had double! You brought in just under 40,000 conkers! Well done, everyone, what a fantastic team effort! This wonderful free resource from nature has been keeping everyone thoroughly entertained outdoors already.

A very well done to our school winner Autumn Pearce who brought in 6000 conkers, also very well done to every single person who took part in collecting them (& did the carrying – conkers are heavy!).



JIGSAW THORNBURY
What is the SENsory Lending Library?
We have books to borrow like a standard library, covering all things disability and additional needs, but our stock includes much more. We have hundreds of items that are relevant to JIGSAW Thornbury's mission, ranging from toys to disability aids. We have a particular focus on items that address sensory needs and other additional needs; hence the SEN in SENsory. We can lend directly to schools and other organisations, or to families who join JIGSAW Thornbury as members (free of charge).
There is a cost to borrow, although we aim to keep this as low as possible and the majority of items are available for only £1 per week. You can find out more and preview our catalogue here: Lending Library | JIGSAW Thornbury. More items are being added all the time, since not all of our stock is yet listed.

If you're interested…
Simply email lendinglibrary@jigsawthornbury.org.uk asking for a catalogue or more information. We would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

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: https://www.learninggamesforkids.com/

PA NEWS
Thank you. We wish to thank the parents and carers for supporting the PA, the first cake sale of the year made £179.80. Thank you all.

Movie night is next on Friday 13 November and tickets can be purchased through your account on the website PTA Website

We are gathering a wish list from Mr Smith for odd jobs that we can help with, like replacing the welly boot racks. If anyone has skills in creating them or if your company has a grant or donation scheme, please contact your PA rep on WhatsApp. We will keep you posted on the asks.

Next big fundraising event will be the Christmas Fayre on Friday 4 December and we would 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
PA Meeting – Monday 2 November, 8pm.
Hamper donation by Wednesday 25 November
Non-uniform day for tombola donations – Friday 27 November.
Christmas Fayre – Friday 4 December
Disco – Friday 22 January
Charity Auction Ball – Saturday 6 February

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 CLEANER
We have an opportunity for an interested persons to join our cleaning team at school. The post will be for 15 hours per week plus some additional hours during the longer holidays ie Easter and summer holidays. The hours will be from 3.30 – 6.30pm, although we would also accept early morning hours. The hours may rise depending on the person and availability. If you would like more information please speak to the office for the salary and application form.

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



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

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	
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**
	Year 5 and 6 visit to STEAM, Swindon
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**
	PA Movie Night
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**
Wednesday 25 November	**Hamper donations to school**
Friday 27 November	**Non uniform day for chocolate tombola donations**
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 3	
Monday 4 January	**INSET DAY – school closed to pupils**
Tuesday 5 January	**Start of term 3 for all pupils**
Friday 22 January	**PA Disco**
Friday 12 February	**End of term 3**

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** **Monday 4 January 2027** **Friday 28 May 2027** **Monday 7 June 2027**	