Almondsbury
Church of England Primary School
Creating our Pathways

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Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL YEAR 2026/2027 - NEWSLETTER NO 9

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	-	Pranaysri Srikanth	Annabelle Street
Mrs Goode and Mrs Barrett	-	Zoe Cheung	Eddie Acford
Miss Whittingham	-	Evie Rae	Fox Lloyd
Mrs Lansdown	-	Lily Taylor	Theodore Pinteala
Mr Evens	-	Eloise Collard	Henry Randall
Mrs Williams and Mr Dean	-	Roma Smith	Mac Pearce
Mr Garcia	-	Nikolai Daniels	Erin Johnson
Mrs Leonard	-	Yara Eleffendi	Luna Gismera Dolado
Miss Hake	-	Austin Okasa	Jane McRae
Mrs North and Mrs Marshall	-	Nate Lucas	Mahika Roy Chowdhury
Mrs Giles	-	Florence Sheehan	James Hallworth

RECEPTION AUTUMN DAY

On Friday 16 October, Reception enjoyed a wonderful 'Autumn Adventure Day' filled with fun, creativity and hands-on learning. The children took part in a variety of seasonal activities, including making autumn vegetable soup, exploring the Pumpkin Café, creating playdough hedgehogs, threading conker necklaces, designing leaf crowns, and using leaves and sticks to paint giant autumn-inspired artwork. It was a fantastic day helping the children deepen their understanding of the season of autumn and the changes they can see all around them.



YEAR 1 AND 2 WOW DAY

Year 1 and 2 enjoyed an exciting WOW Day as part of our topic 'Let's Explore London', bringing our learning to life! The children made their very own Paddington marmalade sandwiches, discovered fascinating facts about the Tower of London and learnt about the precious Crown Jewels kept there. They also got creative by designing their own royal crowns and making a 3D model of the London Eye. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity throughout the day, and the children looked fantastic dressed up as princes and princesses or wearing red, white and blue. We all had a fantastic day of learning and fun!





YEAR 5 AND 6 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 20 October, our boys football team represented the school in the annual Football tournament at Almondsbury Football Club. The team competed against a group of schools to go through to the final later in the year. The boys played a great first game, scoring early in the game with some great skills in our attacking players. Despite superb defending throughout the game, particularly by our great goalkeeper, the other team managed to sneak in two goals. We began the tournament already one player down through injury, we then lost another player through injury after the first game. Sadly, this put us at a great disadvantage and despite great skills from our players, we managed only to draw one of our other games and then losing to the team that went through.



Well done to all the players great team work and drive to achieve the best results they could. Great skills all round.

BOOK WEEK



This week 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. Don't forget the dress up day on Thursday. A letter was emailed with more details.

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.**

POPPY SALES AND MERCHANDISE

We have poppies for sale in school and associated merchandise. These will be on sale at the end of the day at the front of the school for parents and children to buy. There are suggested prices for the merchandise and a suggestion of 20p for a poppy (or more if you would like to donate more). The poppies and merchandise will be on sale from today until Wednesday 11 November in the morning at the office, and at break time being sold by the School Parliament and after school at the Book Fair.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

A reminder that we have our annual school photographs next Monday. The children will have their photo taken individually and with any siblings that are in school currently with them.

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 13 November, we will be supporting Children in Need. The School Parliament will be deciding tomorrow with regard to what the theme will be this year. The suggested donation is as usual a £1 coin to be brought into school for the collection. Thank you in advance for your support.

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: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/

PA NEWS
Thank you. We wish to thank the parents and carers for supporting the PA, last year's Christmas cards raised, £230.70. Please buy your child's cards again this year. Here's the website, IQ Cards Online Ordering System, your code (school and unique child) was in your child's bag at the end of last term.

Movie Night
There are only a few tickets available for 13 November's Movie night and tickets can be purchased through your account on the website https://www.pta-events.co.uk/almondsburypa/index.cfm?event=login&notLoggedIn=true&success=event&eventId=124382.
We would also appreciate volunteers to help on the night, email to almondsburyschoolpa@gmail.com.

Help needed!
Is there someone who knows anything about reflective film on windows, please contact your PA rep on WhatsApp. We'll keep you posted on the asks.

Colour Hamper Raffle
May we ask you to all **buy some tickets** for the Colour Hamper Raffle. https://raffall.com/430982/enter-raffle-to-win-a-colour-hamper-hosted-by-almondsburysch



Christmas Fayre
Next big fundraising event will be the Christmas Fayre on Friday 4 December and we'd appreciate anyone stepping forward to do a 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 events
PA meeting – Monday 2 November 8.00pm
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 LUNCHTIME STAFF

Love working with children but hate being out in the cold and rain?

We're looking for friendly, enthusiastic people to join our lunchtime team! Help supervise children in the dining hall, encourage good manners, lend a helping hand and make lunchtimes happy and enjoyable. Perfect for parents, grandparents, retirees or anyone looking for a few rewarding hours a week. Come and make a difference! If you are interested in this post then please get in touch with the office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk or ring us. The hours would be from 12noon to 1.30pm every weekday.

Best wishes



Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

DATES FOR 2026/27

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	

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