



# Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School

Firs Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3BD

Tel: (01722) 710464

Email: [admin@alderbury.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@alderbury.wilts.sch.uk)

Head of School: Andrea Hodgson

Executive Head: Kate Malcolm



## NEWSLETTER NO. 9 14th November 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

### Music Mark Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Music Mark Award for 2025-26, by our local music hub, for our ongoing commitment to Music education at AWGS. This award recognises the 'ambition and quality' of our music curriculum and the wider opportunities we offer.

Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people. (See attached Certificate)

### Remembrance Service

On Tuesday morning, Year 6 marked Remembrance Day by attending a service at the War Memorial in the village. They observed two minutes silence with the local community, which included many war veterans and members of the church. They shared readings, prayers and historical research about soldiers and the families living in Alderbury who have suffered loss due to war. They were commended for their respectful delivery of the readings. The service was repeated in the afternoon at school for pupils and staff. Thank you to Mr Tatnell for organising the event and to parents for supporting research at home and attending the service.

### Hockey Tournament

On the 12th November, Mr Bowley took ten Year 5 and 6 boys and girls to a hockey tournament at South Wilts Hockey Club. It was a cold day, but there was no rain (thankfully). Our AWGS team started slowly but surely, with resulting draws in game after game. Finally, their persistence paid off with a respectable win. Our overall record was 6 draws, 2 losses and 1 win! It was a great effort by all involved. We are all so proud of the team's perseverance and teamwork, with Alice winning a certificate for respect. This really topped the brilliant day.

### Shoe Box Appeal

This week, all children have been given a leaflet about the 'House of Opportunity - Shoe Box Appeal 2025'. Please note that shoe boxes will be collected from school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November should you wish to provide one.

Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

## School Christmas Lunch



This year, our school Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The choice will be Roast Turkey or a Vegetarian Nut-Free Roast, with all the trimmings. As the Christmas lunch is always a popular choice, we need to let our kitchen staff know, in advance, how many children will want a Christmas Lunch. Children are therefore bringing home paper slips for you to complete and **return to school before Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**, indicating whether your child will want a Roast Turkey Lunch, a Vegetarian Lunch or whether they will be bringing a packed lunch from home. Please note, there will be no rolls or jackets potatoes available on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## Parent Behaviour

We kindly remind all families to demonstrate respectful behaviour towards every member of our school community at all times. Any instances of unacceptable behaviour, whether on social media or within the playground, should be reported immediately to the Senior Leadership Team so that appropriate action can be taken in line with our Dealing with Unacceptable Behaviour Policy (see attached document).

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, positive, and welcoming environment for everyone.



## Road safety

Next week is Road Safety week. A reminder that, for safety reasons, please avoid gathering in groups near the school gates; this can obstruct visibility for road traffic and block pathways for pedestrians.

## Breakfast Club

A reminder that if your child is attending breakfast club the start time is 7:30am. If you arrive earlier than this time, please wait outside the school building until 7:30am.

## A Sparkling Thank You!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our incredible FAWGS' team for all their hard work in making Friday evening's fireworks extravaganza such a memorable event. Despite the rain, spirits were high as we all 'oohed' and 'aahed' while the sky lit up in spectacular fashion!

A special shout-out also goes to our amazing kitchen staff, who came in especially to cook up a feast of delicious hot dogs and burgers — the perfect treat to warm us up!



Finally, thank you to all our families who came out to support the event (in the rain!). Your enthusiasm and generosity helped us raise a fantastic amount of money for our school — we couldn't have done it without you!


## District Sports

Mr Bowley is running 5 clubs this term with all fun, exciting and inclusive activities. We want as many as possible to join up these clubs are for any ages above 5! So please use the link below...

<https://district-sports-south.classforkids.io/term/202>

Monday- Inclusive team games and sports Bringing back old fashioned games like 'Capture the Flag', 'Dragon's Eggs' and many, many more.

Tuesday- KS1 Football boys and girls We will be looking at skills (dribbling, shooting and passing) and we will also be playing MATCHES!!  

Wednesday- the famous Dodgeball has returned with new dodgeballs and new games, including ultimate Dodgeball! 

Thursday- the most popular NERF WARZ With lots of new guns and inflatables, its sure to be loads of fun with teamwork to build bases.  

Friday- Gymnastics where we will be learning routines and partner work along with using the apparatus and ropes to learn new tricks!!  

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ATTENDANCE

### Attendance notifications– what to expect

At the end of each term, we will monitor the overall attendance for your child from the start of the academic year to date.

### Attendance concerns

If your child's attendance is falling below 95%, we will have an informal conversation with you to see if there is anything we can do to work with you to support and improve your child's attendance.

### Persistent absence

Persistent absence means that a pupil has less than 90% attendance. That means that on average a pupil is missing 1 session every week. 1 session is a morning or an afternoon. Pupils with attendance that is less than 90% will receive Letter 1 from school. This letter is to raise your awareness of your child's attendance and offer you the opportunity to make an appointment to see how we can best support you as a school.

### Additional attendance concerns

We look at patterns of attendance for your child and will also liaise with you if your child has a pattern of lateness, regular absence or full attendance is regularly disrupted.

### Illness and medical appointments

We recognise that illness can play a part in your child's absence. Please endeavour to book medical appointments outside of the school day. If you are worried your child is under the weather, please refer to the NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### Holidays

Whilst we appreciate that there are financial benefits for arranging term time holidays, due to government guidance, it is unlikely that holidays taken in school time will be approved. You will need to complete a 'leave of absence' form available from the school office.

# Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued from September 2024

## Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent for each child that was absent.  
For Example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

## When will a Penalty Notice fine be issued?

Penalty Notices will be considered for 5 Consecutive days of term time leave or 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period (in the same or over different academic years).

## First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:  
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



## Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:  
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



## Third Offence (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a

## **DIARY DATES**

### **November 2025**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

FAWGS Non-Uniform Day.

Additional Y3 Parents' Consultations

Parents' Consultations

### **December 2025**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

FAWGS Movie Night

Flu Vaccines in school with School Nursing Team

Christmas Lunch

Term 2 Ends

### **January 2026**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Inset Day

Term 3 Starts

**Miss Hodgson**  
**Head of School**

**Mrs Malcolm**  
**Executive Head**