



Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School

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Head of School: Andrea Hodgson

Executive Head: Kate Malcolm



NEWSLETTER NO. 7 17th October 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

As we approach the half-term holiday, shafts of sunlight illuminate the leaves surrounding the school, ties within our school community grow stronger and the confidence of our children develops steadily day by day.

FAWGS Upcoming Fundraising Events for the school



FAWGS Fireworks will be held on Friday 7th November, with gates opening at 5:30pm. Ticket sales for the FAWGS fireworks will be extended until **FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER**. There will be **no** ticket sales on the door so please pre-book your tickets. Please follow the link to book tickets: WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/FAWGS or scan the barcode that is on the attached poster.

Come and enjoy the beautiful display with some food and drinks whilst supporting the school. Money raised will be going towards school trip contributions and improving the ks1 playground area. The event is open to everyone so bring your friends and family!

Non-Uniform Day will be Friday 21st November (We will be collecting items for the Christmas Rainbow Raffle. More information to follow.)

Christmas Movie Night will be Friday 5th December (See attached poster)

Remember that all of these events raise money for ALL children in our school so please support them if you can!

FOODBANK DONATION



Last Friday the Salisbury Foodbank collected the food that you kindly donated during the Harvest Festival period and they will now be able to distribute your donations to local families in need. Please see the attached Thank-You Poster from the Foodbank.

Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

Y3 PUPPET SHOW

This term, children in Year 3 have been learning about light, shade and shadows. The culmination of their learning has led to the class putting on a wonderfully creative puppet show for the Year R children. Well done to Mrs Pallas and her class for all the hard work that has gone into this project. Also well done to Y3 parents for providing the black clothes which helped the children become invisible puppeteers!

WORSHIP – OPEN THE BOOK

This week our regular visitors from 'Open the Book' led our children in their unique style of Worship. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the story of Joseph.

SCHOOL PORTRAIT PHOTOS

The school photographer from Cardwells came into school this week to take portrait photos of the children. It was a pleasure to see children sitting so beautifully for their photographs to be taken. Photographs were taken individually and also in sibling sets, where both siblings are in school. You will be given further information on how to order the photos once they have been processed.

SCHOOL LUNCHESES FOR Year R and KS1 CHILDREN

School lunches are free of charge for all children in Year R, Y1 and Y2, but there are many children in these classes who do not take up this free offer. If your Year R, Y1 or Y2 child currently brings a packed lunch from home, but you would like them to try school lunches, you can always book them a school lunch on Arbor, free-of-charge; you can also send in a little bit of food in a lunchbox if you are worried that they might refuse their lunch when confronted with it.

MINI TRAMPOLINE/TRAMPETTE REQUIRED

If anybody has a mini-indoor trampoline/trampette in good condition, that you no longer need, please let the school office know, as we need one for our infant children.

JIGSAW DONATIONS

We would welcome donations of complete, child-friendly jigsaws. We are particularly looking for jigsaws suitable for Key Stage 1 children which involve animals, farms, forest scenes and dinosaurs. Thank you in anticipation!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ATTENDANCE – Please see separate attachment for full details and flow chart.

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/health/a-z/child-too-ill-for-school/)

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.

DIARY DATES

October 2025

Tuesday 21 st	Last Day of School for children. Pick up at 3:15pm, as normal
Wednesday 22 nd	Inset Day
Thursday 23 rd – Friday 31 st	Half Term Holiday

November 2025

Monday 3 ^d	Term 2 Begins
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December 2025

Wednesday 10 th	Flu Vaccines in school with School Nursing Team
Friday 19 th	Term 2 Ends

Miss Hodgson
Head of School

Mrs Malcolm
Executive Head