



Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School

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Head of School: Andrea Hodgson

Executive Head: Kate Malcolm



NEWSLETTER NO. 5 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

There has been a gentle calm in school this week - a sign that children are well settled in their classes and fully engaged with their learning activities

KS2 Boys Football Tournament

On Tuesday the 30th September, Mr Bowley and Mr Goldsack-Marsh took 17 Year 4, 5 and 6 boys to a football tournament at Pembroke Park School! It was a nice warm day with lots of good football being played between 32 different schools! We had two team who, between them scored over 13 goals! Unfortunately, despite their fantastic skills, neither team could get over the line into the semi-final.

Alderbury 1 placed 6th and Alderbury 2 placed 10th; both amazing results, leaving our eager children ready to smash it next year!

We are very proud of all 17 children for putting their all in and never giving up!!



Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

HARVEST CELEBRATION: A SEASON OF SHARING AND GRATITUDE

As autumn settles in, we are reminded of the importance of kindness, generosity and community spirit. Our annual Harvest Celebration provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on these values and to share the abundance of the season with those in need.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our bumper harvest collection! Your generous donations will support individuals and families in our local area through the Trussell Trust. Contributions are still welcome until **Friday 10th October**, when the collection will be gathered and delivered.

Our pupils played a central role in making the celebration truly special:

- **Year R** delighted us with their colourful tractor artwork.
- **Years 1 and 2** performed a beautiful harvest song using sign language.
- **Year 3** showcased a vibrant display of pumpkins.
- **Year 4** impressed us with their thoughtful and creative harvest poems.
- **Years 5 and 6** offered heartfelt prayers, reflecting on the spirit of giving.

We would also like to thank all those who helped lead our Harvest Service and contributed to its warmth and success. With special thanks to Alison Larkham whose support made the event a memorable and uplifting experience for our school community.

🍁 Here's to a season filled with gratitude and generosity.

🚗 **Parking Reminder – Firs Road**

We kindly ask all parents and carers to remain considerate and safety-conscious when parking along Firs Road. As previously agreed, parking should be on the *woods side* of the road only. This arrangement is in place to:

- Ensure the safety of our pupils
- Maintain clear vehicular access
- Guarantee unobstructed entry for emergency vehicles, should the need arise

Your continued support in helping us keep our children safe is greatly appreciated. Thank you for working with us to uphold a safe and respectful environment around our school.

ARBOR

Arbor, our school communication and payment system, is now running smoothly, so parents can now book and pay for lunches, clubs and trips, as well as being able to give consents for school admin tasks.

Earlier this term, all parents received an email, inviting them to access Arbor/download the Arbor App in order to create an Arbor Account. Please can all parents ensure that you do create your Arbor Account, as this will be the only way that it is possible for you to book lunches/ book clubs/book school trips and update key information about your child e.g., dietary needs, photo permissions.

HEADLICE

We have had a couple of cases of headlice in school recently, so can we please ask that all parents regularly comb through children's hair to ensure that there are no unwanted visitors. It is usually easier if you use hair conditioner whilst combing.

COOL MILK

All children under the aged of 5 are eligible for Free School Milk until their 5th birthday. However, they can only access school milk if you register your child with the Cool Milk website. Children over the age of 5, can also have milk at school, but this will need to be paid for by parents. <https://coolmilk.com>

DISTRICT SPORTS

On behalf of District Sports, Mr Bowley is running 5 clubs this term with fun, exciting and inclusive activities. We would like as many children as possible to sign up. These clubs are for any aged 5+ years! Please use the link:

<https://district-sports-south.classforkids.io/term/196>

Monday- Any Ball Club - Over the course of the term we are going to be practising skills with all different shapes of balls, along with playing fun and exciting new games, one of which is called End Zone!

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 popular NERF WARZ includes loads of new guns and inflatables. It is sure to be loads of fun with teamwork needed to build bases.

Friday- Inclusive Team Games and Sports, bringing back old-fashioned games like Capture The Flag, Dragons' Eggs and many more.

Upcoming Open Events – Welcoming Prospective Families 🎓

As the time approaches for families to consider school placements for the next academic year, we are pleased to announce our upcoming Open Events for prospective parents.

OPEN EVENT DATES:

- Tuesday 7th October | 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Friday 10th October | 3:45pm – 5:15pm

These events offer an opportunity for parents to explore our school environment, meet staff and gain insight into the enriching learning experiences we provide.

If you know families with children due to start school in September 2026, or anyone seeking a nurturing and high-quality educational setting, please encourage them to contact the school office to reserve a place at one of our Open Events.

We look forward to welcoming new faces and sharing what makes our school so special.

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.

FAWGS

FAWGS Fireworks will be held on Friday 7th November, gates opening at 5:30pm. Please see poster attached for booking information and link. ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE 22nd OCTOBER. There will be no ticket sales on the door so you must prebook your tickets!

Community News

Rainbows and Brownies

1st Alderbury Rainbows and Brownies would like to invite all girls aged 4-10 years to a taster session on Monday 13th October. It will take place at the Guide Hut in Pinckney Lane from 5-6.30 pm.

Come along to experience a 'typical' unit meeting and see whether Girlguiding is for you.

Girls must be accompanied by an adult.

To book, please email rainbowsalder@gmail.com

DIARY DATES

October 2025

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| Tuesday 7 th October | Open Event (see timings above) |
| Friday 10 th October | Open Event (see timings above) |

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| Wednesday 15 th | Portrait Photos in School |
| Wednesday 22 nd | Inset Day |
| Thursday 23 rd – Friday 31 st | Half Term Holiday |

November 2025

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| Monday 3 rd | Term 2 Begins |
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December 2025

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| 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