



Alderbury & West Grimstead

Church of England Primary School

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Head of School: Andrea Hodgson

Executive Head: Kate Malcolm

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

12th September 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

As the weather slips from summer into autumn, our school family has begun to settle into the routines of the school day.

A Generous Act of Kindness

This week, we celebrate an inspiring act of generosity by one of our pupils, Bonnie, who bravely cut off her hair to donate it to *The Little Princess Trust*—a charity that creates wigs for children who have lost their hair due to illness. Through her selfless act, she raised an incredible £445 to support the charity's work. Her compassion and willingness to give so freely beautifully reflect our Christian value of the term: *generosity*. We are so proud of her!



A Day in the Life of Owls

Year R Owls' parents will have the opportunity to meet Miss Orphan at 'A Day in the life of Owls' session which will include further details of our Phonics scheme and how you can support your child with early reading from home. This will take place on **Thursday 25th September from 9.00-9:30 am** in the school hall. We hope you can join us.

Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

Celebration Worship

We were delighted to hold our first 'live' Celebration Worship' since before covid times on Thursday! Well done to the children who were celebrated for their excellent work! Work will shortly be displayed on the notice board outside the Year R classroom. **Please remember to update your photo consents on the Arbor app so we can share photos of our celebration worship pupils with you in our newsletter.**



Polite Reminder Regarding Use of Alderbury Football Club Car Park

We are very grateful to Alderbury Football Club for allowing us the use of their car park at the beginning and end of the school day. This generous arrangement greatly supports our school community.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to vacate the car park promptly after dropping off or collecting their children. As part of our agreement, the gates must be locked during and after the school day to ensure site security.

Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation.

Games for Wet Play Time

It seems that Autumn, and the inevitable rain, has already arrived! With this in mind, if you have any board games, in good condition, which you are willing to donate to the school for the children to use during wet play times, please bring them to the school office. Many thanks!

Nut Free School

This is just a reminder that we are a nut-free school. Therefore, all children's snacks and lunch box items must be nut free. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe!

Arbor

Arbor, our school communication and payment system, is now running smoothly, so parents can now book and pay for lunches, clubs and trips.

All parents will have 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.

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/>

School Lunches

School Lunches must be ordered and paid for via Arbor. School Lunches are free-of-charge to all children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. All children in KS2 need to pay for school lunches in advance, unless your child is eligible for Free School Meals. You can find information about Free School Meals on the Wiltshire Council website. Please inform the school if your child has any specific dietary requirements that we do not already know about.

KS2 After-school Football Club

Every Tuesday Mr Goldsack-Marsh is leading a school-run after-school football club for KS2 pupils from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. The cost is £31.50 per child for Autumn Term 1 and payment must be made in advance, via Arbor, for the whole half-term. Cash payments cannot be accepted for this after school club.

Breakfast Club

We are delighted to announce that children are now welcome to attend our school-run Breakfast Club from 7.30am. Thank you to Mrs Telfer and Miss Anderson for being at school so early!

The price for Breakfast Club is:

- £6.10 per session
- £5.50 per session for younger siblings

District Sports

On behalf of District Sports, Mr Bowley is running 5!! clubs this term with fun, exciting and inclusive activities. We want 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.

Applying for a September 2026 YrR or Y7 School Place

You can now apply for a school place for a Year R or Year 7 start in September 2026 by using the Wiltshire Council Parent Portal.

- Reception 2026 entry
- Infant to Junior transfer (Y3)

- Year 7 Secondary 2026

The national deadline dates for submitting applications are:

- Reception 2026 entry – 15th January 2026
- Infant to Junior transfer (Y3) – 15th January 2026
- Year 7 Secondary 2026 – 31st October 2025

<https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

All **online applicants who have applied by the national deadline date** will receive notification of the outcome on national offer dates as stated below:

- Reception 2026 entry – 16th April 2026
- Infant to Junior transfer (Y3) – 16th April 2026
- Year 7 Secondary 2026 – 2nd March 2026

If you do not wish to apply online then you can submit a paper application form. Application forms can be obtained by calling Wiltshire Council's Customer Service Team on 01225 713010.

FAWGS

Welcome to all new parents!

FAWGS (Friends of Alderbury and West Grimstead School) is our Parent/Teacher association. We are a charity who work to raise money for the school to provide learning resources, funding and equipment. This money is essential so we really need as many people as possible to help and support us. We have a Facebook page - Friends of Alderbury and West Grimstead School where lots of information is posted so please join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1885748958361120/>

Last year we raised over £3.5 which was put towards funding school trips, new phonics books, leavers books, Christmas books, new games plus much more. We had some wonderful events which we're hoping to run again this year, but we do desperately need some help!

If anyone would be interested in joining the committee or helping to volunteer in future events we would love to hear from you! We have a volunteers WhatsApp Group where we post our events asking for volunteers to help. If you feel you could donate some of your time for some events then please click the link and join the group.

https://chat.whatsapp.com/ERFiC4iAoYkCadluQtDp24?mode=ems_copy_c

The AGM for FAWGs is happening at 2pm this Friday (12th September). Please feel free to come along and hear about our plans for the year and share any ideas you have about future fundraising. It will be held at Kerswell, Firs Road, SP53BD (about half way down the road on the left) so right by the school and we will be finished in time for school pick up.

Community News

Alderbury Village Football Club

Alderbury Football Club welcomes new U7s players. Please see attached information.

Diary Dates

October 2025

Wednesday 8th	Portrait Photos in School
Wednesday 22nd	Inset Day
Thursday 23 rd – Friday 31 st	Half Term Holiday

November 2025

Monday 3 rd	Term 2 Begins
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December

Friday 19 th	Term 2 Ends
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Miss Hodgson
Head of School

Mrs Malcolm
Executive Head