



Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School

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Head of School: Andrea Hodgson

Executive Head: Kate Malcolm



NEWSLETTER NO. 1

5th September 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to school! It has been an absolute delight to see our lovely children and families again after the summer break. We extend an extra special 'Welcome' to all our new children in school who have settled in so well and are already vital members of our school family!

We also welcome two new members of staff. Firstly, we welcome Mrs Kate Malcolm, our Executive Headteacher, who will be on site on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and all day on Fridays. We also welcome Miss Olivia Anderson who has joined our Learning Support Team. Please do introduce yourselves to them as they are looking forward to officially meeting everyone!

Meet the Teacher

We would like to invite you to our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions taking place in your child's classroom. We have listed below the dates for your convenience. This is an opportunity for your child's teacher to talk about the year ahead and what you can expect. The sessions are **3:20-3:40 pm**, as follows:

Monday 8th September - Year 3

Tuesday 9th September - Year 1 and 2

Wednesday 10th September - Year 5

Thursday 11th September - Year 6

Friday 12th September - Year 4

During these sessions, we kindly ask that you do not allow your children to play outside on the school premises in case of injury. Children are welcome to attend the sessions with you.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

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!

Celebration Worship

We are looking forward to celebrating all the wonderful work our children do in our weekly Celebration Worship. This year, we are holding our celebration worship in the hall for staff and pupils. Whilst these will no longer be online, we look forward to sharing the names and/or photos of children who have done amazing work in our weekly newsletters! Their work will also be displayed in the corridor outside the Owls' classroom.

Arbor

We are aware that there have been some issues with access to our school communication and payment system, Arbor, this week. A variety of "glitches" has meant that some parents have been unable to access Arbor and others have noticed that they have been charged for things that they should not be paying for! Please bear with us whilst our I.T. contractors sort out the problems. Everything should be working properly again by Monday! Anyone who has been charged incorrectly will have the charge automatically refunded.

Parents of children in Year R will be sent 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.

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, starting 9th September, Mr Goldsack-Marsh will be running a school an 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 a variety after-school sports clubs this term with fun, exciting and inclusive activities. Mr Bowley would be very happy for lots of children to sign up for these clubs which are for all children aged 5 years and older. To sign up and pay for any of these District Sports Clubs, please follow the link:

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

Tuesday- KS1 Football for Boys and Girls – This club will concentrate on football skills including dribbling, shooting and passing and children will also be playing MATCHES!!

Wednesday- the famous Dodgeball has returned for the new school year with new dodgeballs and new games including Ultimate Dodgeball!

Thursday- the ever-popular NERF WARZ Club takes place with lots of new guns and inflatables. It's sure to be great fun with children building bases and developing their teamwork skills.

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.

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 19th

Term 2 Ends

**Miss Hodgson
Head of School**

**Mrs Malcolm
Executive Head**