



# 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)

Headteacher Mr W Thorpe



## 18 July 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors

What a wonderful week we have had at Alderbury Primary School! Following the fun of the Colour Run on Sunday, our children have spent the week engaged in joyful activities that are synonymous with the last week of the Summer Term.

### A Message from Miss Hodgson on Behalf of the AWGS Family

It is with heavy hearts that we must say 'Farewell' to our wonderful Headteacher, Mr Thorpe, as he leaves us and moves on to pastures new.

Mr Thorpe joined AWGS in 2017 and it is fair to say that he has had a huge impact on our school in every way imaginable! Bringing with him a drive and passion for school improvement, he quickly established the school's vision, our 'Foundations for Life', setting the building blocks for our school to go from strength-to-strength. The 'Calm School Code' and his insistence on everyone being treated with kindness, justice and respect has built a school culture we can all be proud of. In every Key Performance Indicator, AWGS has got better and better each year and this is a testament to Mr Thorpe's strong leadership and desire to do his very best for the benefit of everyone in the school community.



However, at the heart of everything Mr Thorpe does, is his belief in doing all he can for every child, every family and the school as a whole. Whether this is serving puddings, emptying bins, unblocking toilets, writing the School Development Plan or telling a joke to cheer up a sad face, Mr Thorpe does it all! He knows each child individually, caring deeply about them and their families. As a staff group, we too have greatly appreciated Mr Thorpe's care, support and guidance and, because of this, he will be greatly missed by us all. We wish him well and know that he will continue to positively impact the lives of everyone he meets in his new venture. GOOD LUCK, MR THORPE - WE WILL MISS YOU (but maybe not your unique sense of humour and terrible jokes)!

### Reflections:

My seventh memory of my time at AWGS is from my seventh year here (2023-2024). As we do every year, we enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day organised by Mr Stokes who left us that summer to pursue a career as a PE teacher at secondary

Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

school. This year, despite the warm weather, Mr Bowley and Mr G worked together to organise an equally successful Sports Day, where all pupils showed our sports values to an incredibly high standard. One of the things I am most proud of, is not only the success that our pupils and school have enjoyed in county competitions, but that we always win a Sports Values Award, for showing Respect and playing with Honesty.

My eight and final memory of my time at AWGS is from my eighth and final year here (2024-2025). In the Autumn Term, we were honoured to have a visit from Pudsey, as part of the Children in Need appeal. Pudsey made time to pose with me (and Mrs Mundy) at the entrance to the school, before touring round the classrooms to meet the pupils.



Thank you for allowing me to indulge in a trip down “memory lane” of the many happy occasions we have shared together as a school community over the past eight years. I hope that you have enjoyed reminiscing with me.

As I move on at the end of this term to pastures new, I wish Miss Hodgson & Mrs Malcolm every success as they continue to build on our “**Foundations for Life**” throughout the Autumn Term. I know that you will give them your full support.

This term finishes at 2pm on Thursday 24 July 2025. I would like to wish you all a very restful summer, and I know Miss Hodgson looks forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Tuesday 2 September 2025**.

### School End of Summer Term Activities – By Charlotte and Tommy Y6



On Thursday, the Year Sixes went on a walk to St John’s Church, West Grimstead, to participate in some activities there. There were lots of familiar faces there such as Mrs Fuller and Mr & Mrs Paramor. Some of the activities included flower arranging, bell ringing, singing, making stained glass windows, reading from the bible and a quiz about the church. A big thank you to everyone who came too like Mr Tatnall and Mr Thorpe for making it possible. Despite the rainy walk back, the whole trip was a huge success and many of the Year 6’s enjoyed the trip. A thanks to the team at St. Johns for letting us use the church.

On Tuesday, the whole school walked down to Alderbury Village Hall, to perform this year’s production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The whole school took part! Key stage one played cheeky squirrels and Years 3 to 5 played Oompa Loompas. Our Year 6 actors finished their last ever school production taking the main roles of the ticket-winning children and their families, in the factory and of course Willy Wonka himself!



We would like to give a huge thanks to all of the parents who came to watch, as this wouldn’t have been possible, without people coming to watch. Equally, without the help of Mr Tatnall’s directing skills, the whole play would collapse. I think we can all agree that the play was a huge success, as well as a great send-off to Mr Thorpe - Mr and Mrs Twit even popped up to give their opinion on the soon to be departed headteacher!

The play started in the car park before a smooth transition during Pure Imagination to the Chocolate Factory (aka the Village Hall). This was a very successful play and the Year 6 leavers will be very proud.



## Summer Safety Message from Wiltshire Council

### Staying safe near water this summer.

As the summer holidays approach and the weather warms up, we know many children and young people will be spending more time outdoors. While rivers, lakes, and other open water areas can seem like fun places to cool off, they can also be extremely dangerous.

The [Royal Life Saving Society](#) has some important information around staying safe and below is some key things to be aware of and how to stay safe.

### Key dangers of swimming in the river

- Cold Water Shock: Even on hot days, river water can be extremely cold. Sudden immersion can cause panic, gasping, and even heart failure.
- Strong Currents: Rivers often have hidden currents that can quickly sweep even strong swimmers away.
- Hidden Hazards: Rocks, rubbish, and underwater plants can trap or injure swimmers.
- No Lifeguards: Unlike swimming pools, rivers and lakes are not supervised. Help may not be available in an emergency.
- Water Quality: Open water can contain harmful bacteria or pollutants that can cause illness.

### How to stay safe

- Never swim alone and always let someone know where you are.
- Stick to supervised areas like swimming pools or lifeguarded beaches.
- Avoid jumping into water from bridges or rocks – you don't know what's underneath.
- Wear a life jacket if you're near or on the water, especially when boating or paddleboarding.
- Call 999 immediately if you see someone in trouble – do not enter the water yourself.

Thank you for your support in keeping our young people safe.

Kathryn Davis, Director Education and Skills

### End of Term Arrangements:

As we near the end of term, I would like to remind all parents that the final day of term is **Thursday 24 July 2025**. On that day, school will finish with our Year 6 Leavers Service (Parents of Year 6 pupils are welcome to attend at 12:45) and the whole school will go home at 2pm.

Please can parents ensure that they send their children into school with a carrier bag on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, so that they are able to bring home their belongings from school.

### Breakfast Club

Starting from 1 September, the price for Breakfast Club will be adjusted to:

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

We appreciate your understanding as we make this change, which comes after a long period without any increase. Our aim is to continue to provide a good start to your child's day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

## FAWGS

Hello from FAWGs,



We thought it would be nice to share with you how FAWGS has done this year, what we have raised and most importantly what your money has been put towards.

Considering we didn't have the fireworks and shared the disco with the preschool we're pretty happy with the results. We've kept some money back to pay for the fireworks next term and to contribute towards the school trips and the beginning of the autumn term.

We've had some amazing feedback from the colour run. We're really glad everyone enjoyed it and we would love to be able to do something similar next year, but in order for that to happen we do need people to step up and volunteer, not just on the day, but with the planning, setting up and taking down of events. We know life is busy, we all have jobs and children, but if anyone would like to get involved, we would love to have you. The more people we can get the more we can do for the school. We're very happy to organise and coordinate events but it takes a team of people to actually run them, and we don't have that at the moment.

We're going to put together a survey for parents to find out what you would like from us as a PTA and we will send it out at the beginning of the school year to get your opinions. Thank you all for your support this year and have a wonderful summer holiday!

## Wiltshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

The 2025 theme is:

*Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors!*

The Summer Reading Challenge is for children aged four to 11 to read six books (or the equivalent) over nine weeks of the summer - in return for various prizes. The free challenge will run in Wiltshire libraries from Saturday 5 July to Saturday 6 September. The first two weeks (5 to 19 July) will be for registration only.

From Monday 21 July, children can start to collect stickers (and continue to register). Children must be library members to take part – it's free and easy to join, for more information visit:

[Join the library - Wiltshire Council](#)

Remember to tell Miss Hodgson all about it when you return in September!

## AWGS Summer Reading Challenge

Who will read in the most unusual place this summer? Send a photo of yourself reading somewhere a little different to: [admin@alderbury.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@alderbury.wilts.sch.uk)

Photos will be put on our new reading display and there are prizes to be won!

Why not follow this link for fantastic new books to read for this challenge?

[Best children's books - Summer Reads 2025](#)

## Protection from the sun

As you are all enjoying the sunshine, this is just a reminder to apply sunscreen to your child before school and/or make sure they have a roll-on type sunscreen, they can apply themselves as necessary. If children have sun hats, we would encourage them to bring them to school to wear at break and lunchtime.

## Holiday Club

A reminder that Alderbury Preschool will be running a summer holiday club for primary school children. Please contact the preschool for further information.

## Alderbury Village Show

The village show will take place at the Village Hall on Saturday 19 July between 2 – 3:30 pm. Pupils are working on exhibits, the best of which from each class, will be entered into the competition.

Entry to the show is free, and you will also have the opportunity to view the flowers, plants, vegetables and arts and crafts that have been entered in the show by residents of Alderbury.

## Alderbury Football Club

### PLAYERS WANTED

We are currently recruiting players for the 25/26 season for the following teams:

#### U9's - School year 4 in September

Training Wednesday evening, games Sunday morning

#### U11's - School year 6 in September

Training Wednesday evening, games Saturday morning

#### Open aged player (16+)

Training night TBC, games Saturday afternoon

All coaches hold valid DBS certificates, FA safeguarding and first aid certificates.

Please email the address below and our managers will be in touch.

[alderburyfc@outlook.com](mailto:alderburyfc@outlook.com)

[www.alderburyfc.com](http://www.alderburyfc.com)

### NEW U7's TEAM

We are currently recruiting players for the 25/26 season for our new under 7's.

Training to begin with will be on a Saturday mornings at Firs Rd, Alderbury SP5 3BD and run from 9.45am to 10.30am, starting on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

All being well and we are able to find a coach, the team will play in the South Wilts Football League on a Sunday morning in September.

All coaches hold valid DBS certificates, FA safeguarding and first aid certificates.

Please email the address below with your players name and date of birth to register.

[secretary@alderburyfc.com](mailto:secretary@alderburyfc.com)

[www.alderburyfc.com](http://www.alderburyfc.com)



It is easy to make money – It is a lot harder to make a difference

## Diary Dates – new dates underlined>

### July

Thursday 24

Final Day of Term

Year 6 Leavers Service – Parents of Year 6 Only (12:45 pm)

2pm Break up for Summer Holidays

### September 2025

Monday 1

Inset Day

Tuesday 2

First day back at school for children

*“Take Care Everyone and Stay Safe”*

**Mr Thorpe**

**Headteacher**