



# Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher Mr W Thorpe



## NEWSLETTER NO. 27

16 May 2025

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors

The school has been unusually quiet this week, as our Y6 children have been concentrating hard on their SATs and our younger children have been demonstrating exemplary behaviour, engaging fully in their learning and activities, so that Year 6 could focus on their assessments. We are incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked. Testing is part of our education system, but it is important to remember that pupils are not test scores. Each child has a unique set of talents, skills and abilities, which have flourished during their time here and have made a valuable contribution to the "AWGS Family".

### Introducing Koko!

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Koko to the AWGS team! Koko is a 'Pets As Therapy' dog and will be working with us each week to listen to children read. She is absolutely gorgeous and loves to hear stories. We know that there are a great many benefits to having a school 'reading dog'. Reading aloud to our canine friends enhances children's literacy skills and boosts their confidence. A dog's presence can create a calming environment, allowing children to feel more relaxed about reading. This can lead to increased reading fluency, increased motivation and, most importantly, a greater love of reading. Welcome Koko!



### Mini-Marathon

We look forward to seeing all competitors at the Mini-Marathon on Saturday morning. You should have already received full details of the timing of events and parking arrangements. Mr Bowley has the event entry numbers and will bring these on the day so none of them get lost. Please bring a safety pin to help secure the numbers to your child's running kit!

### Art Exhibition

On Thursday 22 May, at 2.45pm, Year Six Parents are invited to school to see the culmination of the Year Six Enquiry "Why are Shadows Important?". They will be showcasing their artwork inspired by light and shadow.

Foundations for Life



Pickwick Academy Trust

## **Non-Uniform Day – Friday 20 June**

On Friday 20 June, pupils are welcome to come to school in non-uniform if they wish. The “fine” will be a bottle of something for the FAWGS Summer Bottle Tombola.

## **Sports Day**

Weather permitting, we will hold this year’s Sports Day on Friday 4 July. KS1 will be on the field in the morning, and KS2 will have their races in the afternoon. Please save the date and more details will follow nearer the time, once the programme has been finalised.

## **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**

Our summer production this year will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and will take place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15 July. Performances will take place at 2pm and 5pm and all children in the school will be involved in both productions. Please put the date in your diary!

## **Reading for Pleasure**

Do you sometimes struggle to know which book to read next? Well, Little Wandle, our Phonics programme, has introduced an exciting new feature on its website - regularly updated 'Recommended Reads'. Take a look and get into some fabulous new books this Spring:

[Our pick of Spring books for EYFS | Letters and Sounds](#)

[Our pick of Spring books for Key Stage 1 | Letters and Sounds](#)

[Our pick of Spring books for Key Stage 2 | Letters and Sounds](#)

Remember to tell Miss Hodgson all about the books you read!

## **Pre-Loved Uniform**

We have a large amount of good quality, freshly washed Pre-Loved School Uniform that is available for a small donation of £1 per item. Please come to the school office, if you are looking for anything specific for your child.

## **FAWGS – Save the Date**

We are super busy, at present, currently organising the **Colour Run** and **School Fair** for Sunday 13 July. This will hopefully be a big fundraiser so please come along and help to support the school. The event is open to everyone in the local area so bring your friends and family. There is going to be a lot of entertainment, bouncy castles, bar, food vans, games etc so it will be a great afternoon!

FAWGS need of a lot of volunteers for the event to run stalls and help with the colour run, so if you could spare a bit of time, please let Suzy know (07765966186). Thank-you, The FAWGS Team.

FAWGS Dates for your diary:

Friday 20 June – Non-Uniform Day - (bring a bottle for the tombola)

Friday 4 July - Sports Day and Uniform Sale

Sunday 13 July - Colour Run and Summer Fair

## **District Sports Clubs**

If any children are interested in After-School Sports Clubs on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, you can obtain information from the District Sports website: [www.districtsportssouth.com](http://www.districtsportssouth.com)

Please note, all payments for these clubs need to be made directly to the Districts Sports organisation itself, rather than via the school office.

### Unused Stationery

If you have any unwanted, but unused, stationery at home e.g., envelopes, writing paper, greeting cards, postcards or post-it notes, our Owls Class would be grateful if you could bring it into school for their writing table.

### Time Out for Parents

These sessions will be running Tuesday Mornings 9.15am - 10.45am for six weeks, starting Tuesday 3 June, in the school hall, with our school Chaplain, Louise and Mark from the Bridge Project. All our welcome.

A free handbook and refreshments will be available.

### Alderbury Picnic in the Park

The annual fun day returns on Saturday 7 June at Alderbury Recreation Ground (2pm - 10pm). There will be live music, bouncy castles, food & ice cream vans, local stalls, entertainment, face painting and the bar at the Social Club - bring your own picnic, and enjoy the day - let's hope for the sun!

Raffle tickets (£1 each) to support the event are now available to buy from Alderbury Post Office, Alderbury Stores, Alderbury Sports Club and all committee members (including Claire and Brian Jackman, Julie and Darren Mernagh, Nicky & Barry Sloan and Sandra Wallace) - top prize £200! Get in touch with them, or these will also be available on the day - before the big draw on stage!



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

### Diary Dates – new dates underlined

#### May

Monday 26 to 30                      Half Term Holiday

#### June

Monday 2                              Return to School

Monday 16                            INSET DAY

#### July

Friday 4                                Sports Day (AM – KS1 / PM – KS2)

Sunday 13                              FAWGS Colour Run (3pm)

Tuesday 15                            Whole School Production (2pm & 5pm)

Thursday 24                            Final Day of Term

Year 6 Leavers Service – Parents of Year 6 Only (1pm)

2pm Break up for Summer Holidays

Best wishes

**Mr Thorpe**  
**Headteacher**