



Alderbury & West Grimstead

Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher Mr W Thorpe



NEWSLETTER NO. 2

13th September 2024

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors

It was lovely to see so many of you come into school at the beginning of the week for your 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and I hope you found them helpful. A reminder of the sessions for Years 5 and 6 below:

Year 5	today, Friday 13 th September at 3:20-3:40 pm
Year 6	Monday 16 th September at 3:20-3:40 pm

Pupil Leave of Absence in term time and unauthorised absence

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes have come into force for Penalty Notices issued from September 2024.

Wiltshire Council may issue penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school. This includes unauthorised absence as a result of a holiday taken in term time. If a pupil accumulates 10 or more sessions (1 session = ½ day so 10 sessions equates to 5 days of school) of unauthorised absence within a 10 week period, you may be issued with a Notice to Improve School Attendance (this will not be issued where the unauthorised absence is due to a holiday in term time). If your child's attendance does not improve, we must notify Wiltshire Council and a penalty notice will be issued to each parent for each child where that applies.

A penalty notice of £160 will apply to be paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days and each parent will receive a penalty notice for each of their children. Please see the attached information poster.

Please be aware, therefore, that I am no longer able to authorise holiday requests no matter what the circumstances.



Reading Garden - Items wanted!

We are in the process of developing a 'Reading Garden' in the conservatory area. It is intended that all children will be able to access this area, where they can read, enjoy and swap books, during breaktimes. We are looking for the following items in order to create this exciting new space:

- outdoor style chairs, suitable for children to sit on (not folding ones)
- small, picnic-style table
- large, circular, green gingham tablecloth (x 2)
- cosy cushions
- rugs, preferably fluffy and green
- wicker, picnic-style baskets, suitable for displaying/storing books
- large plants in pots
- plastic ivy
- battery operated fairy lights

- children's fabric Teepee tent
- fabric bunting
- good quality children's books

If you are able to donate any of these items, please send photos to: admin@alderbury.wilts.sch.uk. Thank you!

Guitar lessons

Mr Parks, the guitar teacher, still has space for pupils in Years 3-6 who would like to learn to play the guitar. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mrs Agland.



Lou's Tuesday Coffee Mornings

A big thank you to the parent who enjoyed Lou's first Tuesday Coffee Morning. It would be lovely to see the number grow as there is so much support to be had by more of us coming together to share our parental experiences. Every Tuesday at 9:00 am for coffee, pastries and friendly conversation.



Can you host a Swiss Student(s)?

Last year we welcomed four Swiss students from the Pedagogical 6th Form College in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland who were studying to become teachers and we have been asked again, if we are able to host students this year. The students' native language is German and they speak excellent English and French. In order for us to receive the students they must have a host family who is able to provide accommodation and meals for the two week stay, Sunday 22nd June-Saturday 5th July 2025. The host family would need to provide breakfast, packed lunch and dinner for the student(s) and spend as much time as possible with them to allow them to get the maximum amount of speaking practice. The student(s) would spend the mornings and afternoons at school. The host family would receive £300 per student for the two week stay. If you are interested in providing this support for one, two or more students, please let Mrs Agland know.

COMMUNITY NEWS:



St Mary's Church Messy Harvest

The Messy Harvest family event is this Sunday at 3:00 pm (poster attached) and St Mary's are hoping to see lots of you for fun, craft, games and a BBQ. Please let Alison Larkham know you are coming so the right number of hot dogs can be ordered by emailing alison@larkham.me.uk. See you Sunday.



"Faith is an action, based on a belief, supported by confidence."

Diary Dates – new dates underlined>

September

Friday 13th 3:20-3:40 pm Year 5 'Meet the Teacher'
 Monday 16th 3:20-3:40 pm Year 6 'Meet the Teacher'
 Thursday 26th 8:55-9:30 am 'A Day in the Life of Owls'

October

Wednesday 23rd INSET DAY
 Thursday 24th-
 Friday 1st November AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY

November

Monday 4th AUTUMN TERM 2 STARTS

January 2025

Monday 6th INSET DAY

February

Friday 14th INSET DAY

June

Monday 16th INSET DAY

Best wishes
 Mr Thorpe
 Headteacher



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