

Alderman Jacobs School

Autumn Term 2 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Autumn term 2. This is one of my favourite times of year in school: despite the shorter days there is so much to enjoy. I am particularly looking forward to the Christmas events we have planned.

As you know, this is my last newsletter as Head Teacher of AJS and I wanted to say what a privilege it has been to lead such an amazing school, even though it has been for a relatively short time. I have worked in many schools in my career but have stayed here by far the longest - 10 years - as I recognise what a special place it is. I am always proud of our children and staff and will miss them and all of you when I leave the school at the end of December. Thankfully, I will get to visit regularly as part of my role as Director of Education for the Trust, which I begin in January and I look forward to supporting education at AJS as it continues in the very capable hands of Mr Fry.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you on the playground or in school and I hope you and your children enjoy the coming season. Thank you for your continued and invaluable support.

Best wishes as always, Elaine Crane



Attendance

Up to 17/11/2023 ~ 94.33%

Sponsored Walk 2023

Thank you to everyone that took part and contributed to the sponsored walk. We raised an amazing £1,739.62. We would like to give a special thanks to the following:

Lewis K ~ £90	Harvey T ~ £50	Hudsyn J ~ £48	Daniel M ~ £35
Owen W ~ £35	Mia G ~ £30	Wyatt M ~ £30	

Student Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school before 9.00am by calling 01733 202 403 option 2 and leave an explanation of their absence. If we do not hear from you, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Remembrance 2023

On Sunday 12th November, 3 of our lovely year 6 pupils represented the school by parading and laying a wreath in the centre of Whittlesey. They were so respectful and did a great job as you can see in the photos here. Thank you to Riley, Skylah and Meredith and also to Mrs Smith-York who organised the wreath and liaised with the organisers.



Year 1 Fire Station Visit

On Thursday 2nd November, Year 1 had the opportunity to visit Whittlesey Fire Station. The children listened to a fire safety talk around bonfire night and were told about fire safety in their homes. They had the opportunity to climb in the fire engine and were able to see all the equipment stored on the engine. Children and adults enjoyed using the fire hoses and listening to the sirens and seeing the flashing lights. Each child got to try on a fire helmet and some children dressed up in fire safety equipment.



Year 2 Church Trip

At the start of November Year 2 walked to St Mary's Church in Whittlesey as part of our RE learning about Places in Christianity. When we arrived, we met Mrs Palmer, who is one of the church wardens. She spoke to us about the history of the church and about why it is a special place in our community, including all the different things the church is used for. We explored inside the church and got to see lots of features that we had learnt about in our RE lessons, including the pulpit and the altar. We then went outside and learnt about the outside of the church including the clocks, the stained glass windows and the weather vane. We all had a fantastic time! Thank you to all of the adults who supported us on our walk.



To celebrate Walk to School Month in October, Barratt Homes donated 90 hi-vis bag tags for our Year 6 pupils. The bag tags are for the children to use whilst walking to and from school, in order to ensure they are easily seen on the roads as the darker nights draw in!



Safeguarding

In school, we have systems for filtering and monitoring the content viewed on the internet. Filtering blocks unsuitable content and monitoring checks search terms so we know if someone is trying to access unsuitable material. This rarely happens, but if a child does search for anything worrying we give them support and advice and of course we let you as parents know so you can support them too.

There are ways you can filter and monitor at home and the NSPCC has this helpful section on its site: [NSPCC Parental Controls](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/)

This guide about YouTube contains some information, amongst other things, about monitoring and filtering on the platform.

If you have any worries about your child and the Internet, speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. They may be able to help or they can put you in touch with our E-Safety lead, Mr Winfield who can advise.



Teaching and Learning Update

We have had 3 training days in this Autumn term and I thought I would let you know what we got up to in them.

Two of our days were spent with the rest of Soke Education Trust having expert input about assessing pupils' knowledge and understanding in foundation subjects. It was good to have this time and expertise: staff meetings since have been used to make small but significant changes to assessment so children can more easily communicate their learning to us.

The third day was spent at AJS launching a project where we work with academics from Anglia Ruskin University. This exciting project has teachers in small groups, choosing an element of learning to develop in school as a team, for instance, one group is looking at ways to increase pupil independence when working as historians. The academics will join us at future meetings to share relevant research and then teachers will use this research to improve practice in their chosen area. The project will last the whole school year.

We are really proud of the teaching and learning that takes place at AJS (OFSTED recognised this too) however we are still always looking for ways to develop and improve what we do to provide the best for all of our children.

Elaine Crane, Acting Headteacher

New Governors

We are delighted to inform you that the new parent and staff governor for AJS is:

Parent Governor: Mr Brett Mead

Staff Governor: Mr Andrew Pattison

Congratulations!

Attendance Matters

I have good news.... more than 250 children in school have 100% attendance!

Well done to everyone and do keep this up - good attendance is so important and while some absences are unavoidable, we are very appreciative of everyone's efforts to prioritise learning wherever possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Do get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance, if you have any concerns or need support with your child's attendance or punctuality. We will always help if we can.

Our attendance policy can be found here: [Alderman Jacobs Attendance Policy](#)

Mental Health

In this newsletter we have provided some useful websites to support anxiety in children and temper tantrums. Many children will have periods where they feel anxious short term for a variety of reasons and sometimes this is difficult as parents to understand. We hope that these links will provide some support and ideas. If you require further support please do speak to your class teacher in the first instance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/anxiety-in-children/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/behaviour/temper-tantrums/>

Pre School 2024-2025

We are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Application packs can be collected from the school office. For any further information, please contact Mrs M Neal in the school office.

Musician Visit

The children were very lucky in October when we had an exciting musical visitor in school. Ollie Timmer used to be a member of the famous rhythm group called Stomp and he now runs class workshops with children teaching and playing a variety of different musical styles and genres.

Each Key Stage 2 class had a group session where they got to play a range of Samba instruments and compose and create large compositions as a class. The children had opportunities to try all of the instruments and perform together for an extended amount of time. Early Years and Key Stage 1 went to a Body Percussion workshops where they learned a range of rhythmic patterns using different parts of their bodies.

The children were enthusiastic and engaged really well with Ollie. He was inspiring and made the sessions lively and a lot of fun. We are hoping to be able to have the opportunity to be able to work with Ollie again soon!

Mrs Combes



The Friends of AJS would like to thank everyone who attended the Spooky Disco just before half term to help raise important funds for the school. The costumes were fantastic and everyone had a great time! Keep your eyes peeled for more





Christmas Dinner - Friday 8th December

Please see above the Christmas Dinner menu. Please note that on this day, jacket potatoes, sandwiches and pasta will not be available.

Pre-School children will also be invited to have a Christmas Dinner that will need to be booked via the School Gateway. An email will be sent in due course.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 8th December. All children are invited to wear a Christmas top or jumper with the rest of their usual school uniform. If you would like to donate to Save the Children, please follow the link that will be sent out in an email over the next week.



With the festive time of year fast approaching, you may be thinking of purchasing a smart watch for your child. If so, then please ensure that you are complying with our school policy in relation to smart watches, including Apple Watch. Children are allowed to wear them in school; however, they must not have a camera, or be connected to a network (either through a built-in sim or connected to a phone). If this is the case, then we will ask children to remove them and a member of staff will keep them safe until the end of the day.



Diary Dates



December

Mon 4th ~ Early Years Nativity (Adults only) ~ 9.30am

Tues 5th ~ Early Years Nativity (Adults only) ~ 9.30am

Tues 5th ~ Flu Vaccination Early Years - Year 6

Weds 6th ~ Early Years Nativity (Siblings allowed) ~ 2pm

Weds 6th ~ Pre-School Christmas Singing ~ 9.30am

Fri 8th ~ Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 8th ~ Christmas Lunch

Fri 8th ~ Year 4 Reading Café

Mon 11th ~ Year 2 Zoo Lab Visit

Tues 12th ~ Christingle

Tues 12th ~ Church Service Years 4, 5 & 6

Mon 18th ~ Year 6 Panto Trip (details TBC)

Weds 20th ~ Autumn Term Closes

January

Thu 4th ~ Spring Term Opens

Thu 16th ~ Year 3 Reading Café

Fri 17th ~ Early Years Reading Café

Mon 22nd ~ Early Years & year 6 Height & Weight Checks

Tues 23rd ~ Year 6 Reading Café

Weds 24th ~ Year 5 Reading Café

School Term Dates 2023

Autumn Term Closes ~ Weds 20th Dec

School Term Dates 2023/24

Spring Term Opens ~ Thu 4th Jan

Half Term ~ Mon 19th - Fri 23rd Feb

Spring Term Closes ~ Thu 28th Mar

Easter Holidays ~ Fri 29th Mar - Fri 12th Apr

Summer Term Opens ~ Mon 15th Apr

Half Term ~ Mon 27th - Fri 31st May

Summer Term Closes ~ Fri 19th July



Professional Days

School will be closed to pupils on the following days:-

Mon 22nd July 2024

Tues 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024