



Dear parents and carers,

This term has certainly flown by! Children have been very busy in their classrooms, developing their skills and knowledge across the whole curriculum as well as enjoying lots of other events and experiences featured in this newsletter. A big thank you to all the staff who organise these events for our children to enjoy. I've been very proud to show a range of visitors around our school in recent weeks, from teachers in the Soke Education Trust, to the Mayor of Whittlesey, to a group of teachers from Kathmandu in Nepal! All our visitors have commented upon the great 'energy for learning' shown by our children in lessons and also their polite, respectful manners and behaviour.

I hope all parents enjoy finding out about their own child's progress when attending the virtual parent teacher meetings and reading their mid-year report or ADPR.

Next term, we will be trialling a new parent communication app called 'Marvellous Me' to share behaviour and curriculum information. We are starting with 9 classes using the app and we'll be asking for parental feedback as to how easy it is to use.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I've been working with the Police, Whittlesey Town Council, Kier Construction and Fenland District Council to help ease some of the issues experienced at drop off and pick up time on Drybread Road. Thank you to all parents who have been considerate to pedestrians and local residents when parking. I also hope that the better weather in the summer term will encourage more children to walk, cycle or scooter to school to ease the traffic congestion. Wishing all our AJS families a safe and egg-cellent Easter!

Mr Fry

The NSPCC have released a new video for parents and carers - 'Listen Up, Speak Up'. The video will show you some signs that may mean a child is unsafe and steps you can take to help; how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe and who you can contact if you are ever concerned about a child or their family. [Watch it here.](#)

Listen up, Speak up

It's up to all of us to keep children safe. Take our free, 10-minute digital training and learn what to do if you're ever worried about a child or their family.

[Sign up for our 10-minute training](#)



It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.

Careers Day

On Friday 8th of March, Alderman Jacobs held their annual careers day. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to hear about a range of aspirational careers throughout our community and in the wider world. The children were fortunate enough to be visited by many different volunteers from the police service, fire service, community midwives, carpenters, PCSOs, beauticians, Perkins STEM engineers, Locksmiths, HSBC finance team, the sports education sector from POSH and an Army Sergeant Major. The town Mayor came into school and was interviewed by the school council about her role in the community and was engaged with the pupils as she visited different classrooms. It was a fantastic day and the children were all inspired by the visitors. We would like to thank them for their amazing support and insight into their careers. We were joined by a journalist from the Peterborough Telegraph. The article can be found here [Peterborough Telegraph](#). The Mayor is also writing a piece for the local Whittlesey magazine.



Pupil Achievements

- Maddison J moved up to Stage 8 in swimming lessons
- Finley C moved up to Stage 2 in swimming lessons
- Eleanor P achieved one 1st, one 2nd and two 3rd place wins at gymnastics
- Millie JN achieved two 1st places in the Junior Fenland League for March Merlins
- Jessica H won the Junior Championship Race Eye 3K and Grand Prix U11 with Thorney Running Club



Life Education Centre Bus

We would like to say a huge thank you to Whittlesey Rotary Club who have very kindly decided to fund the Life Education Centre. This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils to learn more about some of their PSHE topics. All of the children had a wonderful experience!



Year 2 Woburn Safari Trip

Despite the rain and traffic, Year 2 had a fantastic time on their trip to Woburn Safari Park!

When we arrived at the park, we travelled on the road safari, where we got to see lots of different animals. One of our favourite parts was watching the monkeys climbing on the coaches!

During our visit, we had an interactive lesson with one of the zoo keepers at Woburn. She talked to us about animal adaptations and helped us to build on our learning from our Science and Geography topics.

After lunch, we got to explore the foot safari, where we saw lots of other interesting animals including wallabies, penguins, meerkats and snakes!

A big thank you to the parent helpers who came along for the day - everyone had a brilliant time!



Mental Health and Wellbeing

This term we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'My Voice Matters', helping the children understand that their thoughts and feelings are important.

It is important to help children label their emotions but this can be a tricky job.

The science around parenting and emotions has changed so much in recent years and sometimes it is hard to know how to approach talking to children about their emotions. Taking time to recognise that your child is feeling a certain way is important to them, as children have big emotions too. If you are interested to find out more about this there is a free app called The Happy Child.

The Happy Child - Parenting App grants you access to cutting-edge research and tips that will help you raise a happy, well-adjusted child. Years of ground-breaking research and findings in Psychology, Neuroscience and Pediatrics have been curated into one easy-to-use app... for free (no in-app-purchases)!

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and wellbeing do please speak to a member of staff. Here at AJS we work closely with the Mental Health support team who offer courses and workshops for parents/ carers around anxiety and behaviour. If you feel your child is in a mental health crisis you can call 111 option 2.



Attendance

So far this term our attendance is at 93.9%. The government expectation is that all children's attendance remains above 96.5%

Are you or is someone you know a tree surgeon? We're on the look out for tree stumps, logs and branches for our forest school. These will be used for whittling and other projects for the children. Please do not send any hazel due to nut allergies. If you have a large amount that you are able to donate, please call the office in advance.



Pride in Fenland Awards

Alderman Jacobs are very proud of our pupils Alyssa & Scarlett who recently won the prestigious Special Judges Award at the recent Pride in Fenland Award Ceremony.

The children were nominated by their grandmother Pennie who informed the panel "... they have had to call 999 on four occasions as their mum has complications with type 1 diabetes. One time, their mum wasn't breathing and had to be airlifted to hospital where she spent three days in critical care. The girls were extremely brave and continue to care for their mum."

More information on Pride in Fenland can be found [here](#)



World Book Day

On the 7th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children and staff all made a fantastic effort with their costumes and the children spent the day taking part in some fun book day activities. Each class also had a zoom session with author James Campbell, who shared his stories and poems with us. Some class photographs were taken and will be added to Google classroom for you to view.



Staffing News

- We wish Mrs Evans all the best as she leaves for maternity leave at the end of term.
- Mr Perez will be joining us to cover for Mrs Evans in Reception (China class). Mr Perez is a very experienced teacher and we look forward to welcoming him to our school.
- We welcome Mrs Winfield as our new Straw Bears Play leader.
- We welcome Mrs Baldwin back from maternity leave after Easter.
- We will be saying goodbye to Mr Pattison, Assistant Headteacher, as he leaves to take up his first Headteacher position in Peterborough. We will all miss Mr Pattison and thank him for his energy and hard work at Alderman Jacobs for nearly 20 years. We are sure you will join staff and children in wishing him every success and happiness in the future.

Having worked here nearly 18 years, my entire teaching career, it is with mixed emotions that I announce that I am leaving at Easter to be a headteacher at another school. It has been a great pleasure to teach the children at Alderman Jacobs and be part of the community of Whittlesey over the years, although on the other hand, quite alarming that I have been here so long that I have taught some of our teachers and parents! I will carry great memories of my time here forwards and hope to catch up with many of you at social events like the Straw Bear Festival. If you see me, do say hello!
Andrew Pattison



Diary Dates

March

Monday 25th March - Cultural Day
Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th - Grafham Residential
Thursday 28th March - Friends of AJS Glow Disco



April

Monday 15th - Summer term opens
Tuesday 16th - Year 3 Mosque and Cathedral Visit
Monday 22nd - Year 2 Maths Cafe
Wednesday 24th - EY Vision Screening

May

Thursday 2nd - Year 3 WW2 experience in school
Wednesday 8th - Year 5 Maths Cafe
Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May Year 6 SATS
Wednesday 15th - Early Years Maths Cafe
Monday 20th - Pre-School Maths Cafe
Tuesday 21st - Year 6 Duxford Trip
Wednesday 22nd - Year 6 Fire Station
Thursday 23rd - Pre-School Maths Cafe



School Term Dates 2024

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

Autumn Term Opens: Thu 5th Sept

Half Term: Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov

Autumn Term Closes: Fri 20th Dec

Professional Days

The school will be closed to pupils on the following days:

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

THE MAYOR OF WHITTLESEY'S CHARITY DUCK RACE

**1st April 2024
(Easter Monday)**

**Race starts 2pm
Briggate Bridge
on Ramsey Road**

Duck tickets are available @ £1 per duck
From Whittlesey Town Council, Dawson's Flowers,
Parkers Newsagents and Gifts, Gokins
Also on Sat 16th March and Fri 22nd March in Whittlesey

The Mayor would like to thank all Duck ticket sellers and the following supporters:

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue, St John Ambulance,
Medivet at Whittlesey Vets,
Fenland Youth Radio and RWT Photography