

Dear parents and carers,
In our whole school assemblies this half term, I have been talking to our children about 'British Values':

Individual liberty



Mutual Respect



Democracy



Freedom of faiths
and beliefs



The rule of law



We have been focussing upon 'Democracy' these past weeks due to our school being used as a Polling Station for the local elections. Thank you again to all parents and staff for following new routines for the day and putting up with the disruption with a smile! We may well be asked to repeat this in the event of a General Election in the Autumn - watch this space!

Next half term, I will also be asking children to vote on some decisions we are making involving lunchtimes. We were visited by a 'school lunchtime consultant' just before Easter to help us think about ways in which lunchtimes could be even better - both in the dining hall and outside on the playground and field. We all want lunchtimes to be enjoyable, sociable and above all, safe. Lots of children have told me that they would like more things to play with outside and I am quite keen for more children being able to sit together when eating school dinners and packed lunches. Please keep an eye out for a parental survey about lunchtimes too.

Thank you to those classes and parents who have been trialling the 'Marvellous Me' home-school communication app this half term. It has been a great success and Mr Brown will be contacting all parents soon as we roll the app out to everyone in June.



A huge well done to all our Year 6 children (and staff) for successfully completing their SATs this week - Miss Miles has written a special message later in the newsletter. Have a lovely half term break when it arrives.

Best wishes,
Mr Fry

Community Links

A reminder that our community links page on our website contains lots of useful links including local holiday clubs, fun days out, where to dispose and source uniform and other out of school activities. The link can be found here: [AJS Community Links](#)

Attendance

So far this term our attendance is at **93.9%**. The government expectation is that all children's attendance remains above 95%. Let's work together to reach this target by July.



Year 5 Grafham Water Residential

At Grafham, we did a lot of fun things such as a mountain bike ride, sailing, archery, rock climbing, Jacobs ladder and low ropes. They were so friendly, letting us have homemade snacks (flapjack and shortbread) during the day and we had a tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner. We all had activity groups and room groups. We got hot chocolate at night and got to play outside in the evening or could play games inside. The first night, we did the Grafham Challenge which is a blindfolded obstacle course! The Jacobs ladder was very fun but a bit scary up high and tricky as every time you climbed higher the gaps between the logs got bigger. The low ropes was an obstacle course close to the ground where we could climb and have mini challenges. Rock climbing and archery were both in the sports hall. The rock climbing was very fun and some people even made it up the tricky wall! With archery, we got to shoot bows and arrows at a target with mini challenges to complete as we did it. Sailing was very fun. You got to go on a sailing boat and a power boat. You were able to have a go at steering the sailing boat and using the ropes to pull the sails. The bike ride was 10 miles - which was very fun - but everyone was exhausted after! Overall Grafham was very fun and definitely worth going. *Written by Caitlin D and Emily G*



Our AJS Mini G is still standing tall in the Grand Arcade in Cambridge! He has been raising awareness for the charity Break, who work across East Anglia to improve life for young people. He is there until June 2nd 2024 so please do go and visit him while you can!



Jessica H passed Stage 10 swimming

Ezra R-F passed Stage 1 swimming

Kiri S passed stage 10 swimming



Sun Safety

With the sunnier weather soon approaching, we aim to follow the 5 S's to help keep everyone safe in the sun:



SLIP (on a t-shirt) **SLOP** (on sun cream) **SLAP** (on a hat) **SLIDE** (on sunglasses) **SHADE**

Please ensure that your child has applied sun cream before school and then has some sun cream to top themselves up (when required) in a bottle labelled with your child's name. Please also ensure that hats and water bottled are also labelled.

Pre-school staff will re-apply suncream provided at the setting at lunch time for all children who stay all day. This year, we will be using Soltan Kids Sensitive & Sun Allergy Protect Lotion SPF50.

To ensure that pupils are aware about the UV levels for each day, we have prompts on our doors as the children exit for playtime/lunchtime to inform them about the UV level for that day (this is updated daily by our brilliant Year 6 UV monitors).

Sports Days

We would like to welcome parents to attend this year's sports days. They will be taking place on the following dates:

Wednesday 26th June, 9.30am – 12pm Years 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday 26th June, 1.15pm – 3.00pm Years 2 and 3
Thursday 27th June, 9.15am – 11.15am – Early Years and Year 1
Thursday 27th June, 1.45pm – 2.45 Pre-School



On the day the children will need to come into school wearing their summer PE kit. They will then wear this for the whole day. We would also ask that children wear a top to match their house colour, if possible. The house names and colours are listed below.

Brownlee - Red **Simmonds - Blue** **Peacock - Green** **Whitlock - Yellow**

Further details will be sent out informing you which house your child is in.



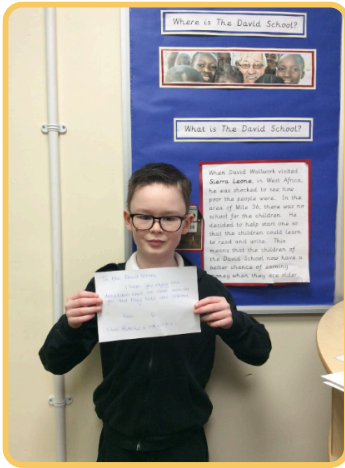
Friends of AJS would like to thank everyone who enjoyed and helped out at the Easter glow disco. We raised a fantastic £822.64 on the night! If you are thinking of joining a great team and helping out with the Friends of AJS, please send an email via the school office or contact us through our Facebook page.

Our swimming pool will re-open again next term! All children in year groups 2 - 6 will take part in weekly swimming lessons on the following days;

Monday - Year 2 Tuesday - Year 4 Wednesday - Year 3
Thursday - Year 6 Friday - Year 5

Further details will be sent to the relevant year groups in the coming days.





One of our Year 4 students has made a donations box for the David's School to send off to them. This was something he organised off his own back and was supported by Miss Butcher with.

"I wanted to donate to the David School because me and Miss Butcher were reading some of the display boards around the school and came across the display about the David School. We read the display. I asked Miss Butcher some questions and decided I wanted to help them by making my own donation so I asked my mum if I could bring some of my own things in from home to donate. Miss Butcher found some things from her house to donate also." By Morgan D

Year 3 Mosque and Cathedral Visit

On Tuesday 15th April, the Year 3 children visited Peterborough Mosque and Peterborough Cathedral. The Imam at the mosque, who is always pleased to see us, answered all of the children's questions which ranged from when the mosque was built and why green was a special colour, to the role of an Imam. We were then shown the beautiful pictures of the Kaaba in Mecca and a special collection of Qu'rans. Finally, we visited the wudu room where the children could see where Muslims can wash before praying.

We then travelled to Peterborough Cathedral and were met by the Cathedral education staff. The children were split into five groups to learn about different aspects of Christian life, which included baptism and communion. They were able to try on some of the Bishop's vestments and learn about the different colours which are worn by the clergy in each church season.

Throughout the day, the children were able to contrast and compare the two beautiful buildings and also deepen their knowledge and understanding of the two faiths. Both Imam and Cathedral staff commented upon the Year 3 children's knowledge, enthusiasm and good behaviour.



Mental health and Wellbeing

This half term we have linked some resources around divorce and separation



The place2be website says: 'Alongside everything you're feeling about separating, it's natural to worry about the impact it might have on your children. But remember that lots of children grow up in families with separated parents. Families come in all shapes and sizes. What's important is how loving and happy the relationships inside them are.'

Children and young people usually have some difficult feelings about their parents separating. This is healthy and normal. The extent to which it negatively affects them over the longer-term is often about the way it's handled. When parents can focus together on their children's needs, it makes a big difference, and young people can adjust to their new family set-up in time.' Please visit [the Place2be website here](#).

We would also like to advise you of a free confidential service for children and adults for mental health and wellbeing. Kooth is a free anonymous app for children who are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing- it offers goal setting, community resources and one to one support such as live chats that are all fully moderated. Just go to www.kooth.com and sign up (location and month/ year of birth only). For older children and adults you can visit www.qwell.io. This service can be used as an interim while waiting for other NHS services.

As always if you have any concerns around your child's mental health and wellbeing please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the team.

We have a limited supply of water bottles & baseball caps available to purchase on the School Gateway. These can be purchased on the app, and delivered to your child in class. Bottles are £1.97 and hats are £3.55



Staff News

- We said farewell to Mrs Neal just after Easter after 12 years working in the office at AJS. We wish her every success in the future.
- Mrs Eskikoy in Year 5 began her maternity leave last week and we wish her and her family well. Brazil class will now be taught by Mrs Brown and Mrs Cox until the end of term.
- Mrs Robson will be leaving us at half term to work at the Sue Ryder Hospice in Peterborough. We thank Mrs Robson for all her hard work and wish her all the best.
- One of our cleaners, Mrs White, is leaving this month and we wish her a happy retirement.
- **We are looking for a new cleaner - details on our website ([School Vacancies](#)).**



Year 6 SATs - A message from Miss Miles

We cannot express how incredibly proud we have been with all the children completing their SATs! We know that the tests do not measure who the children are in their many talents as musicians; artists; authors; designers or athletes. However, what this week has shown us is that every child has the resilience, perseverance and positive mindset to achieve in any path they may take in the future- and that is something to be incredibly proud of! Their hard work, focus and determination has been truly commendable.

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated teachers and teaching assistants. Their unwavering commitment and effort in preparing the children for these exams have been outstanding. Without their support and guidance, this remarkable achievement would not have been possible.

Lastly, a big thank you to all parents and carers for your continuous support. Your encouragement and involvement have played a crucial role in helping the children to try their best and reach their full potential in the tests.

We can now concentrate on making sure our Year 6 children feel prepared for secondary school and enjoy their remaining weeks at AJS.



Exciting building news!

The Soke Education Trust successfully bid for Alderman Jacobs to receive approximately £800,000 from the government's Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). This significant build project will create a new lobby, visitor and staff toilets, new offices and a conference room (artists impressions on the left). As well as developing outstanding facilities for visitors, the project will also enhance site security with new fencing, school gate and CCTV. The venture has been designed to contribute to creating a safe and inspiring environment for our pupils to thrive in. We will let all parents know as soon as the work is due to start and clearly communicate changes to access arrangements for all visitors.



Diary Dates

May

Tuesday 21st - Year 6 Duxford Trip
Wednesday 22nd - Year 6 Fire Station
Friday 24th - Year 5 Space Centre Trip



June

Monday 3rd - Start of Summer Term 2
Tuesday 4th - Friday 7th - York Residential
Monday 10th - Pre-School Ark Farm Visit (in school)
Tuesday 11th - Year 2 Hunstanton Trip
Thursday 20th - Early Years Church Farm Trip
Wednesday 26th - Sports Day
* 9.15 - 12.00 - Years 4, 5 & 6
* 1.15 - 3.00 Years 2 & 3
Thursday 27th - Sports Day
* 9.15 - 11.15 Early Years & Year 1
* 1.45 - 2.45 Pre School



July

Wednesday 3rd - Australia to Kings Dyke
Year 6 End of Year Performance surnames A-K 9.15am
Thursday 4th - Fiji to Kings Dyke
Half of Year 1 to Ramsey Heights
Friday 5th - New Zealand to Kings Dyke
Year 6 End of Year Performance surnames L - Z 9.15am
Half of Year 1 to Ramsey Heights
Tuesday 9th - Year 6 SHSCC Transition
EY - Y5 move up morning
Friday 12th - Healthy Lifestyles Day
Friday 19th - Last day of Summer Term 2



School Term Dates 2024/25

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
Spring Term Opens: Mon 6th Jan

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