

Alderman Jacobs School

Autumn Term 1 2023 Newsletter

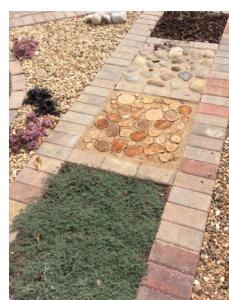
Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust you all had a lovely summer break. It has been good to welcome everyone back and to say hello to some new children and parents too as they join our school.

My first assembly of the year with the children included a revisit of our school vision. As you know, we have merged with Soke Education Trust, as of 1st September, and we are looking forward to new opportunities for staff and pupils to work together in the coming months. However, our vision remains the same and we still value Energy for Life, Learning and the Environment. This actually aligns nicely with the SET vision of Sustaining achievement, Exploring the environment and Transforming life opportunities.



As part of improving our school environment and encouraging life into our garden, we have had an area transformed into a sanctuary garden over the summer. This is at the back of school, near the two wooden buildings we call the Nature Nook and The Burrow. This area was gravel and brick paths before but is now a lovely space to explore with a fernery, sensory path and pollinator-friendly planting, along with some benches where children and adults can sit to enjoy the space and relax. We already have bees and butterflies, as well as a toad visiting us! I thought you'd like to see this so here are some photos:



I look forward to meeting you on the playground or at school events this coming term and I hope you and your children enjoy this new school year.

Best wishes as always, Elaine Crane

Attendance

up to 26/09/2023 ~ 94.9%

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Arabella J has moved up to stage 4 swimming.

Jessica H has passed stage 9 swimming, Skate UK free skating gold and has been offered a place on the Peterborough United FC girls academy for the 2023/24 season.



On 1st September Alderman Jacobs officially joined Soke Education Trust. Our partnership has already involved all staff coming together for a training day related to the curriculum and how we approach assessment. This term some children from year 6 will be taking part in a debating challenge with other children from schools across the trust. We are looking forward to other exciting opportunities to work together throughout the year.

Safeguarding Snippet

As the nights inevitably start to draw in, children have fewer opportunities to play outside and may spend more time on apps and devices. The amount of time children spend and the content they see online can be a worry and needs careful monitoring, whatever their age. Advice from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) suggests that children should occasionally have TV free days, or have a two hour limit on the time spent in front of screens.

[Apple support for setting screen time limits](#) and [Google support for this](#) show how you can set blocks on certain apps for certain times of day and how to set limits on screen time. This makes it easier to keep screen time down (a maximum of 2 hours a day is recommended) and enables you to ensure, for instance, that certain apps which may over-stimulate children or cause them worries are not used in the run up to bedtime.

As always, if you have any concerns about the safety of a child, please contact us, through the school office, for advice.



Attendance Matters

Every School Day Counts

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned
5 days absence over the whole year 97% - 100% Good chance of success and progress	20 days absence over the whole year 90% Less chance of success. Harder to make progress	20+ days absence over the whole year Under 90% Detrimental to success and progress

Thank you for your ongoing support with attendance - this is such an important aspect of school. 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.

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

Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Pre School

Our next open sessions are on Wednesday 18th October and Wednesday 8th November for those interested in a place for the 2024-2025 school year. Please go to our website via [this link](#) to book a place at the open session. Application packs can be collected at these sessions, or after Wednesday 18th October from the school office.

Teaching and Learning update: Fine Motor Skills

An aspect of learning that is not often given a spotlight is physical development, in particular gross and fine motor skills. Gross motor skills are the skills we use to move our whole body, arms & legs. They include running, jumping, walking & balance. Fine motor skills are the ways we use our fingers, hands, & arms. They include reaching, grasping, manipulating objects & using different tools like crayons & scissors.

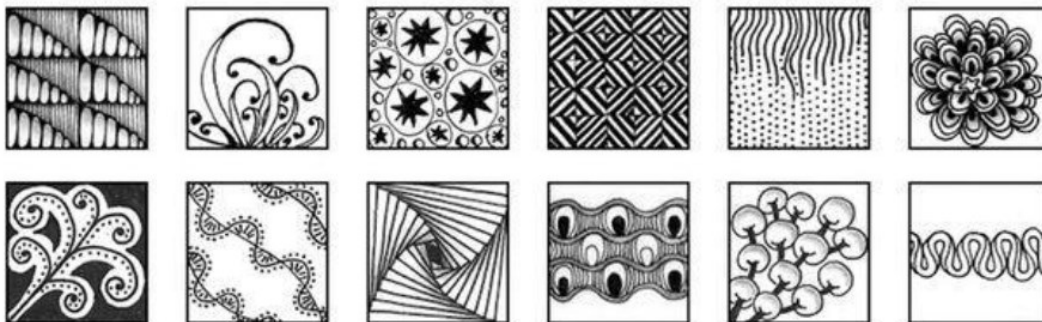
In school we do various activities to support development of motor skills, starting in preschool and going all the way to Y6.

The following are some of the ways in which we support fine motor skill development.

Younger children develop fine motor skills in their continuous provision and in their 'finger gym' sessions. Here are some 'finger gym' activities set up for start of the day in Early Years:



In KS2, one of the ways pupils practise fine motor skills is with drawing activities such as zentangles. These are easy to practise at home by folding a piece of paper into squares and using any pen or pencil to draw and shade. This can be changed by giving larger or smaller squares and larger or smaller pens.



Fine motor skills activities can be fun for children and if you wanted to provide some activities at home for this, everyday objects can easily be used as shown in this example: [Fine Motor Activity Kit \(NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde\)](#)

Whittlesey Festival - Choir performance

We were invited to perform at the Whittlesey Festival and it was fantastic that so many of the choir came to sing along with some of our previous Year 6 choir members. It was a very hot day and the festival was very busy. Inside the church every pew was taken and there were even audience members standing!

The choir performed 5 songs and we were called to perform an encore. In the encore we asked the audience to join in with part of the chorus which they did very enthusiastically!

The choir sang beautifully and we had many kind words and compliments following the performance. Thank you again to the choir and their families for your support with this local event.

Mrs Combes

Mental Health

With the start of term upon us, the children will be having new and exciting experiences at school, making new friends and learning different things during the day. As a parent we are always keen to discuss our child's day with them. Here are some top tips to help when speaking with your child.

What are five tips to help my child to tell me about their day?

1. Side by side conversations are often easier than face-to-face. If your child's occupied, they may feel more at ease and as a result the conversation may flow more easily. Why not sit with your child and do some collaborative art together?
2. It's good to ask questions about your child's social time at school - playtimes, lunchtimes and friendships - as well as their learning. Your child may find dealing with their friendship groups one of the most challenging things at primary school.
3. With younger children especially, it can help to ask questions involving numbers: 'Tell me two funny things that happened today,' or 'Tell me the names of three other children who sat on your table at lunch.'
4. Go for a walk. Pop out for some fresh air. This will put everyone in a better mood; walking and talking really does work.
5. Play a game and get involved. At the dinner table, we take turns to answer 'Did anything funny happen today?' We're also fond of the three questions game: 1. What did someone do to make you happy today? 2. What did you do to make someone happy? 3. What have you learnt today?

What are examples of questions to ask my child about their day?

What's the best thing you did today?
What was the best thing your teacher told you today?
Who did you enjoy playing with today?
Which work did you enjoy most today?
What did you talk about at playtime?
Who did you sit with at lunchtime?

Which questions should I avoid?

Try not to ask:
How was school?
Is your teacher nice?
Are the kids in your class nice?
Was the work hard?
Did you play with anyone at playtime?
How was lunch?
Who got into trouble today?

Tuck Shop

The current Year 6 Enterprise team opened the Tuck Shop on Wednesday 20th September to children from Years 1-6. Due to an increase in costs, each item is now priced at 65p. Each child can buy up to one snack and/or one drink. Please send in your child with change as we will not be able to accept notes.

My name is Tiff Christian and I am the Parents' School Preference Adviser for Cambridgeshire, as part of the SENDIASS team. I have recently been appointed after a long period of vacancy and would like to introduce myself to you and your families.

The service offers families advice and support when applying for schools, either when admissions open for transition on the 11th September 2023 or for in-year applications. I am able to advise how the transfer and admissions process works, as well as supporting the understanding of policies and criteria for different schools. Also, I can support in the appeals process and issues concerning transport.

I wish you a happy and healthy start to the new school year ahead.

With kind regards, Tiff Christian

School Photographs

A reminder that school photographs will be taking place on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd October. Please find below the timetable for the photographs this year:

Early Years - Monday

Year 1 - Tuesday

Year 2 - Tuesday

Year 3 - Monday or Tuesday

Year 4 - Monday

Year 5 - Tuesday

Year 6 - Monday or Tuesday

Year 3 and Year 6 photos could be taken on either day and is dependent on how quickly Terry gets through the photographs on Monday. We will send an email to these year groups on Monday to let you know if they did manage to have their photo's taken.

If your child goes to an after school club on a Monday or Tuesday they should come into school wearing their uniform (if it is their photo day) and they are welcome to change when they arrive at their club.



Friends of Alderman Jacobs School

WE NEED YOU!



THE FRIENDS OF AJS

We are looking for new members to join, whether you are a parent, live within the community or a local business. If you have any skills, you can offer or can commit a small amount of time or even help with little projects at home we would love to hear from you.

We are a registered charity to help raise precious funds for those extras for the children to enhance their learning and time at the school.

For more information contact us on: <mailto:friendsofajs@gmail.com>
Or join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofAJS



We are a lovely bunch of parents, teachers and community members who run FoAJS.

We organise and run fundraising events throughout the year from:

- School Discos
- Secret Santa Shopping
- Coffee and Carols
- Bingo
- Summer Fetes
- Year Group Tea Towels
- Christmas Cards
- Year 6 Panto Trip
- And many more

“Over the past 14 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of FoAJS. I have loved helping to arrange numerous events. I have met some great people. It made lasting friendships over the years, the greatest privilege is seeing the smiles on the children's faces as they enjoy the little extras the fundraising and activities FoAJS are able to offer.”
Former FoAJS Member

And we need your support, with the pandemic we have struggled with holding events to raise funds. We are looking for people who can spend a small amount of time or have a skill or fundraising ideas to support us.



Friends of Alderman Jacobs School

For more information contact us on: <mailto:friendsofajs@gmail.com>
Or join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofAJS

Community Links

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

ALDERMAN JACOBS CHILDCARE FACILITIES

EARLY BEARS BREAKFAST CLUB
STRAW BEARS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



- HIGHLY TRAINED STAFF
- SPACES AVAILABLE IN EARLY BEARS AND STRAW BEARS
- ACCESS TO INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- A NUTRITIOUS SNACK AND BREAKFAST PROVIDED

TO BOOK A PLACE GO TO WWW.ALDERMANJACOBS.CAMBS.SCH.UK OR SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE OFFICE TEAM.

Diary Dates

October

Tues 3rd & Weds 4th ~ School Photos

Weds 4th ~ Sponsored Walk

Mon 6th ~ EY Open Session (perspective September 2024 starters only)

Wed 11th ~ EY Open Session (perspective September 2024 starters only)

Fri 13th ~ Y4 Bikeability

Mon 16th - Thu 19th ~ Y5/6 Bikeability

Tues 17th & Weds 18th ~ Parents Evening
(more information to follow)

Thu 19th ~ Halloween Disco

November

Fri 17th ~ Children In Need Day

December

Tues 5th ~ Flu Vaccination EY - Y6

Mon 18th ~ Y6 Panto Trip (details TBC)

School Term Dates 2022/23

Half Term ~ Mon 23rd - Fri 27th Oct

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

Autumn Term Opens ~ Thu 5th Sept

Professional Days

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

Fri 20th October 2023

Mon 30th October 2023

Mon 22nd July 2024

Tues 3rd September 2024

Weds 4th September 2024

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