



Dear parents and carers

It's been great to see all the children settling into their new classrooms so far this term. We are all gradually getting used to the temporary entry/ exit arrangements due to the ongoing building work. The project is progressing well, but, due in part to the recent rainy weather, the completion date is now February half term - so a bit longer to endure! We have welcomed our new school starters in Reception this term and it's been great to see that the children are already learning how to be 'ready, respectful and safe' at AJS. The Reception classes were visited by the Mayor of Whittlesey earlier this month as he officially opened our newly refurbished Early Years Outdoor Area which was completed over the summer - we even made it into the Peterborough Telegraph!

I have been very keen this term to increase the opportunities for children to take on greater responsibilities in school. Last month we introduced our new House Teams. Previously children were only in a house team for sports day - there will now be house team events and competitions throughout the year. Children have been allocated to the same colour House they were in previously. For example, Whitlock Yellow House is now the Fenland Finches. Every House needs a captain to organise events and be a great role model and children in Year 6 gave speeches to the whole school to make their pitch for the job. They all did brilliantly (it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of nearly 600 children) and, once the votes have been counted, the following children were elected:



**THE BUTTERCROSS
BUZZARDS**

**Evelyn
Paris**



**THE FENLAND
FINCHES**

**Camilla
Katie**



**THE MANOR
MALLARDS**

**Anita
Tom**



**THE KINGSDYKE
KITES**

**Brandon F
Harry W**

Congratulations to our new House Captains!

All classes have also elected two **Class Ambassadors**. This role involves welcoming visitors to the classroom and representing their class on the School Council. The School Council will be led by Miss Sharp and the children will discuss ideas for improving our school and also give feedback about their learning. In addition we have introduced 'Bistro Buddies' (see the article later in this newsletter) and children continue to enjoy the jobs of Sports Ambassador, Playground Leader and Tuck Shop Organisers. Further pupil leadership opportunities will be introduced throughout the year to give as many children as possible the opportunity to develop their confidence and collaborative skills at AJS.

I'd like to wish all our families a safe and happy half term break - I hope it's not too spooky!

Best wishes, Mr Fry



BISTRO BUDDIES

As part of our school improvement plan, we are on a mission to improve the lunchtime experience for all pupils here at AJS. As part of this mission, we have introduced a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils called the 'Bistro Buddies'. Bistro Buddies have been fundamental in helping fellow pupils get to grips with our new lunch time wristband system, whereby any pupil entering the dinner hall for a school dinner wears a coloured wrist band to indicate their dinner menu choice for that day. Not only this, but the Buddies have relished the opportunity to assist younger pupils with their cutlery as well as their conversation – encouraging lunch time chat amongst peers is one of their key objectives.

A huge thanks goes out to these pupils for taking on their new role with such enthusiasm. They are certainly doing a fine job so far! Bon Appetit!



ROAD SAFETY

Well done to all our Y6 cyclists who have just completed their 'Bikeability' course. It was great to see the children being taught to ride their bikes safely on local roads.



This year we will be working with the Sustrans 'Bike It Crew' who aim to encourage greater uptake of cycling, walking and riding scooters to school and hopefully reduce the numbers of car journeys to and from school. The Bike It Crew will be leading a series of assemblies and competitions this year and also holding 'Dr Bike' surgeries' to help fix chains, pump up tyres and give top tips and advice.

Sadly, we continue to have a number of issues reported to school by local residents about unsafe parking and driving on the roads near school. Residents are especially concerned about parents who park on pavements meaning children are forced to walk in the road and also the worry about emergency vehicles being unable to access roads if cars are parked on both sides. Residents have reported that they are often spoken to very rudely and also sworn at by some parents when asked to move cars if blocking driveways. Parking issues are common to many schools, but there is no excuse for residents to be treated this way at AJS.

COMMUNITY/ CHARITY NEWS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Macmillan Cake Sale last month. An amazing total raised.

Please see below for an appeal from the Helping Our Ukrainian Friends charity. We hope you may be able to help.



Friday 15th November is Children in Need day. Children invited to 'dress up for Children in Need' and be inspired by Pudsey - wear something with spots, something yellow. Pudsey headbands etc Suggested donation to wear non-uniform is £1 per child.



WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

We raised...

£558.19

at our recent Cake Sale for Macmillan.

Thank you to all in our school community who took part.

thanks for your support



HELP FOR UKRAINE

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

We would like to spread some Christmas joy from the children of AJS to children in Ukraine. The charity 'Helping Our Ukrainian Friends' (based in Peterborough) will be travelling to Ukraine in December to deliver donations. We hope you can help. Below are some suggestions of items that could be donated:

- Soft toy
- Card games (e.g. Snap, Uno, Dobble etc.)
- Hat / Scarf / Gloves / Warm Socks
- Jelly sweets
- Shortbread biscuits
- Skipping rope
- Small torch
- Notepad / Colouring book
- Pencils / Crayons

Please bring your donation to your classroom on

WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Thank You



SPONSORED WALK

On Wednesday 9th October the children took part in the annual sponsored walk. The weather stayed fine and all the children pushed themselves and completed the following distances;

Pre School - walked for 20 minutes and covered a distance of 1km
Early Years - walked for 40 minutes and covered a distance of 2km
Year 1 and Year 2 - walked for 50 minutes and covered a distance of 3km
Year 3 and 4 - walked for 60 minutes and covered a distance of 4km
Year 5 - walked for 60 minutes and covered a distance of 5km
Year 6 - walked for 45 minutes and covered a distance of 4km

A huge thank you to everyone that took part and contributed to the sponsored walk. We raised an amazing **£1937.26**. We would like to give a special thanks to the following raising these incredible totals:

Daisy-Mae S ~ £75
Florence M ~ £65
Beauden R ~ £55
Hudsyn J ~ £50
Jack J ~ £37
Owen W ~ £30
Harvey T ~ £30
Belle F ~ £30
Paris F ~ £30
Arabella H ~ £30
Mia G ~ £30



The school council will now think about ways in which the sponsorship money should be spent and on what kind of resources.



Pupil Achievements

Maddison J moved up to Stage 8 in swimming lessons

Jessica H won the Junior Championship Race Eye 3K and Grand Prix U11 with Thorney Running Club

Finley C moved up to Stage 2 in swimming lessons

Eleanor P achieved 1 1st, 1 2nd and 2 3rd place wins at gymnastics

Millie JN achieved 2 1st places in the Junior Fenland League for March Merlins Swimming Club.



AJS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

We have set up an Instagram account to begin sharing news and events with parents, carers and the wider community more frequently.

Please search for Alderman Jacobs and give us a 'follow'!





WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT... BUT WE BELONG TOGETHER AT AJS

One of our main priorities this year is to ensure that every child feels like they belong in our AJS family.

All schools in the UK adhere to the Equality Act 2010 which aims to protect all people from discrimination, harassment and victimisation. There are a number of protected characteristics within the Equality Act and through our curriculum and assemblies we aim to teach our children about these characteristics in an age appropriate way during their time at primary school. This year we have prioritised the protected characteristic of race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin). This follows a rise in racist language and incidents reported at school over the last 12 months. We are tackling this aspect of the Equality Act through: staff training, assemblies about core values such as respect and kindness, teaching about positive aspects of different cultures (such as Black History Month and Chinese New Year), reviewing our curriculum to ensure we represent a range of cultures when teaching subjects like Geography and History and through the stories and books we read in school.

On **12th November 5pm** in the AJS hall, we have organised a working party for staff and Governors to listen to and speak with parents about this priority and to consult on our key policies related to this area. If you would like to join this meeting, please email the school office by Tuesday 5th November to express your interest.



ODD SOCKS DAY!

Also on Tuesday 12th November, we would like to invite everybody in school to wear odd socks to school. It is a day when schools, workplaces and individuals join together to show that it's okay to be different. Odd Socks Day will be held during Anti-Bullying Week where pupils will be carrying out activities in school linked to this.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

CHOOSE RESPECT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Monday 11th to Friday 15th November

ODD SOCKS DAY 2024
Tuesday 12th November

#OddSocksDay #ChooseRespect

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The mind definition of Mental Health states:

"Mental health is about how we think, feel and act. Just like physical health, we all have it and we need to take care of it. Our mental health is on a spectrum which can range from good to poor: With good mental health, we can think positively, feel confident and act calmly." If you have any concerns please speak to your class teacher as a first port of call.

Anna Freud provide a video that can explain this alongside your child/ children-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCrjv3-Js>

Some activities that you can do with your child or they can complete to promote positive mental health are:

Gratitude Journaling

Breathing Exercises

Creative expression through art and drawing

Outdoor Time

Mindful Colouring

Positive affirmations



Lots can be found online. Here is one example of bubble breathing-

<https://youtu.be/tCwQ51uazCg>

YEAR 3 CEMETERY WALK

Year 3 had a fantastic experience during our recent excursion to the local cemetery, where we had the opportunity to explore various types of rocks in a real-world setting.

Prior to our trip, we engaged in some fascinating lessons about different types of rocks, discussing their characteristics, including hardness, permeability, and durability. The children learned the names of rocks such as limestone, sandstone, and granite, which came in handy during our exploration.

Upon arriving at the cemetery, the children were excitedly engaged in observing the gravestones and attempting to work out their ages. It was wonderful to witness them identifying the types of rocks used in the gravestones and noting the differences in how well they weathered over time. The granite gravestones, as expected, had withstood the elements remarkably well compared to those made of limestone and sandstone.

A highlight for many was discovering the gravestone of Sir Harry Smith, which undoubtedly sparked their interest in local history. The children approached the visit with great respect, and I was immensely proud of their behaviour throughout the excursion.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parent volunteers whose support made this trip possible.

Staff News

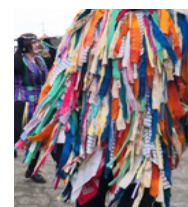
Earlier this term, we said farewell to Mrs Ayeni (who worked as a TA) and Mrs Church (our Receptionist) who have both moved onto different jobs. We'd like to thank both staff members for all of their hard work and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

After half term, we welcome Mrs Ross-Garratt who will be joining the office team as Receptionist and Mrs Irvine who will be filling the Teaching Assistant position. We look forward to welcoming them both.



Straw Bear Festival 2025

We would love our Straw Bear dancers to have some yellow and gold cloth coats to wear for this year's Straw Bear Festival. If any Parents/Carers or Grandparents are able to help us to make some of these, please get it touch with the office.



Diary Dates

November

Wednesday 6th - Egypt & 1/2 Morocco St Mary's Church
Wednesday 13th - Kenya & 1/2 Morocco St Mary's Church
Friday 8th - Early Years Planetarium
Monday 18th - Year 4 Peterborough Museum
Monday 25th - Year 2 Reading Cafe
Thursday 28th - Flu Vaccination Catch up

December

Wednesday 4th- Yr 6 SATs Information evening 5.30pm
Thursday 5th - Year 4 Reading Cafe
Monday 9th- EY Nativity 9.30am - Adults only
Tuesday 10th - EY Nativity 9.30am - Adults only
Wednesday 11th - EY Nativity 2pm
Thursday 12th - Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 13th- Pre-School Christmas Singing
Wednesday 18th - Year 6 Panto

We are planning some additional Christmas events and will share these soon after half term.



School Term Dates 2024/5

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 January
Half term: Mon 17th-Friday 21st February
Spring Term close: Fri 4th April
Summer Term open: Tuesday 22nd April
Half term: Mon 26th- Fri 30th May
Last day of school year: Tuesday 22nd July

Professional Days

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

Friday 25th October 2024
Monday 4th November 2024
14th February 2025 Trust Training Day