



Alderman Jacobs School

Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I am delighted to present our final newsletter of 2023/24. In my first assembly in January I shared the phrase 'in the blink of an eye, it will be July' - and here we are! The past two terms have absolutely flown by and though I may have failed in my new year's resolution of learning everyone's names in six months, I feel very at home at AJS and continue to feel incredibly proud and privileged to be your Headteacher.

One of the highlights of this half term was undoubtedly our amazing sports days. It was wonderful to see our children showcasing their athletic abilities, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The event demonstrated the importance we place on the development of a healthy, energetic lifestyle and I have not stopped talking about how unique and incredible it was to witness the Year 6 triathlon race (swim, cycle, run). A huge thanks to Mrs Cradock and the staff team for organising these events.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming our new children in Reception and Pre-School over the past few weeks. It is always a joy to see fresh faces joining our school community, eager to start their journey at AJS next year.

Our Year 6 students have been particularly busy this term. Following their SATs in May, children either enjoyed a residential visit to York or a week of different opportunities, including a visit to Hammerton Zoo. These were invaluable experiences, fostering independence and creating lasting memories. Their end of term production was a showcase of talent, creativity, and hard work. The performance was a fitting celebration of their time at Alderman Jacobs. As we bid farewell to our Year 6 cohort, we celebrate their achievements and the positive impact they have had on our school. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and wish them the very best as they move on to secondary school.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to inform you of some exciting developments taking place over the summer break. Building work on our new entrance extension is set to commence in August, which will enhance the school's facilities and improve access for all. This will lead to some disruption to our normal routines in the Autumn term which I will inform you about before the term starts.

As we celebrate the end of the summer term, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff team for all their hard work; supportive parents, and remarkable children. I wish you all a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year, full of 'energy for life and learning' at Alderman Jacobs School.

Best wishes, Mr Fry

Uniform at AJS

**We aim to be the smartest school in Whittlesey and need your help!
Please see next year's uniform expectations below:**



Plain **black shoes** or plain black ankle boots (no open toes or trainers)
- trainers may be brought into school to wear during play times

White or red polo shirt or white collared shirt or blouse

Red sweatshirt, red fleece or red cardigan (no hooded tops)

Grey skirt, grey pinafore dress, smart grey trousers, smart grey shorts -
(no leggings or jogging bottom material)

Red/white checked gingham dress or playsuit (stock more readily available during Summer months)

Red, white, black or grey plain socks or tights

No nail varnish, make up, fake nails or fake eyelashes

Plain headbands in school uniform colours only (**no novelty headbands** e.g: cat ears/unicorn horn)

Small hair accessories in school colours only e.g: small red or white bow/scrunchie/clip

Stud earrings only (no other jewellery to be worn)

A watch may be worn (no smart watches that are connected to a device or have a camera)

PE Uniform:

Suitable trainers (no football boots or astro-turf trainers)

Long hair must be tied up

All earrings and watches must be removed

Plain white or red T-shirt with or without school logo (**no football tops or large brand logos**)

Plain black shorts, plain black jogging bottoms or plain black leggings (no hotpants)

Plain black or red sweatshirt (with or without school logo - no hoods. The hooded top with a logo is still on sale for one more year but is being phased out.)

Uniform can be purchased from most big retailers including Tesco, Asda, Morrisons and Sainsburys. It is not compulsory to wear a logo however if you would like to purchase an item of clothing with the logo, please visit www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/ajs



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Move up Day

On Tuesday 9th July, all pupils in EYFS- Year 5 had their move up morning where they met their new teachers and spend some time in their new classrooms. Emails have been sent confirming new classrooms, however please feel free to ask your child's current teacher if you are unsure. Parents can 'meet the teacher' on 5th September between 3:10 and 4pm.



Year Group News



Pre-School

The Children in Preschool had a fantastic visit from Ark farm in the forest school. They had the opportunity to meet some lovely and cuddly animals like a tortoise, some ducklings, a skinny pig, a dog, chinchillas, a gecko, a hedgehog, a field mouse, a sugar glider and a barn owl. The children got to stroke, pet and cuddle the animals and feed some of them too! Preschool children had so much fun and were very caring towards the animals and were listening carefully so they knew how to look after them. Well done Preschool!



Early years

Early Years enjoyed a fun filled day out at the farm last week. The bus ride was of great excitement as you would expect and the day just kept getting better! The children had a very bumpy tractor ride around the farm, had opportunities to get up close and touch many of the farm animals and enjoy some time at the extensive park within the farm. We had our lunch together as a class picnic and the weather was fantastic. We were all very proud of the way the children conducted themselves throughout the day.



Year 1

The Year 1 children have worked incredibly hard this year on their reading. We have been extremely proud of their focus and effort in preparation for the Year 1 phonics screening test. All of the children used their Fred talk to sound out the 40 new words that were included in the check. We were so impressed with their attitude to the learning and how they rose to the challenge. Children enjoyed meeting Mr Twit during 'World Book Day'!



We have enjoyed several different trips this year. The children learnt a lot at the fire station at the beginning of the year. There were amazing circus artists at the circus skills festival and we enjoyed a trip to Ramsey Heights to learn about the different UK native plants and animals. It has been wonderful to see so many parents at the different cafes and online through the Google Classroom assignments. Have a lovely, relaxing summer!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic year! We have been on some exciting school trips to Woburn Safari Park and The Sealife Centre to build on our learning about animal habitats as part of our topic about hot and cold places.

We also had a visit from Zoolab, where we got to meet some amazing creatures, including one who was very hairy with 8 legs!

We have visited St Mary's church during our RE topic about Christian places of worship and at Christmas time we were invited to the Baptist church to take part in lots of Christmas activities.



One of our favourite curriculum topics has been our history topic about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii. We loved acting out the eruption and looking at artefacts that have been discovered there. We have also enjoyed learning about famous pioneers such as Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong.

During cultural days, we have enjoyed learning about our class countries of Kenya, Egypt and Morocco and creating some fantastic artwork to take home and share.

This half term we have completed our first swimming lessons in our school pool and have been working hard to build our water confidence and swimming stroke. Throughout the year we have read lots of wonderful stories in class story time and as part of our English learning, with some of our favourites being Tuesday, Traction Man, Journey and The Journey Home.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a lovely year learning about the Stone Age, volcanoes, the Ancient Egyptians, mountains and rivers, World War II and the local area. They have up levelled their English skills in which they can write long stories with a structure and factual texts about the given topic. Writing about the Stone Age Smilodon was definitely a firm favourite!

They've also learnt formal written methods to solve maths calculations too and using that information to solve more complicated maths problems.

Year 3 have widened their knowledge in Science when studying rocks at the local cemetery, in History with a trip to Flag Fen, different religions with a trip to the mosque and Peterborough cathedral and what it was like to be an evacuee in World War II with a visit from the Peterborough museum.

It has been such a busy year, yet an enjoyable one. Mrs Smith, Mrs Hollis, Mrs Forsyth and Mrs Revell have enjoyed teaching the children all about these amazing subjects and they are very proud of them. Well done Year 3!



Year 4

In Year 4, we particularly enjoyed it when musician Ollie Turner came to do a workshop with us. We learnt to play a range of instruments in a Samba style.

We also really enjoyed it when a man from the RockSteady company came in. We loved the music he played and enjoyed listening to all the different instruments.

Furthermore, we have been really proud of our art this year, in particular, our sculptures. We learnt how to add texture to a tile of clay and then applied these techniques to create a bust of ourselves out of clay.



Year 5

On Friday the 24th of May, Year 5 went to The National Space Centre in Leicester. When we were there, we went into the planetarium and learned about all the planets in our solar system. We also went up a rocket tower: while we were up there, we did different activities like going to a miniature rocket ship. Another thing we did was try to lift up baked bean cans and the heaviest was based on the gravity force of each planet (and the sun). There were also telephones where if you put it near your ear, you could hear another person talking.

Chloe M and Emily O - Year 5, Chile Class.



Year 6

Year 6 have had an incredible year of learning with one of their favourite moments being a trip to Duxford Air Museum. Whilst there, they were able to observe a multitude of different planes: Hurricanes, Spitfires, Messerschmitt (ask Year 6 how to pronounce that last one). Furthermore, this exciting trip occurred as a result of our history topic (The Battle of Britain) which we had been learning about at the time. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed this topic as they learned about the different key events and the changes that occurred due to the battle. Not only were children able to explore this topic in history but also within English where they wrote some incredible historic narratives from the points of view of an RAF pilot – great work Year 6!





Staff News

We say farewell to **Ms Borowicz** who has secured a job as a TA at St John Fisher School in Peterborough. I know you will join us in thanking Ms Borowicz for her hard work and wish her every success in the future.

We wish a warm welcome to **Mrs Bradshaw** as our new Operations Manager. Mrs Bradshaw was formerly the Operations Manager at Werrington Primary School in our Trust and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role.

We welcome back our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Holdsworth from her maternity leave. Mrs Holdsworth will be leading Early Years and Year 1 next year. In September we welcome **Mrs Scales** as our new Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Scales has a wealth of experience, joins us from a large Peterborough Primary School and has also led English across a Federation of 4 schools. She will be leading the Years 2, 3 and 4 phase at AJS. Miss Miles will continue to lead Year 5 and 6 phase, whilst Miss Vickers will be overseeing and supporting provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs across the school

We welcome **Mrs Bird** next term who will join our Pre-School team as a Key Worker practitioner and **Ms Fernie** who will be supporting children in our Reception classes as a TA.

School Building Updates

This half term, we have installed some Wall Art around our school. The art is designed to support our curriculum and engage children's attention as they move around school.

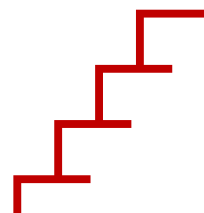
Over the summer holidays, as well as the entrance extension building work, we have a number of other projects aimed to help improve the school environment. These include; new surfacing and canopies being installed in the Early Years outdoor area, the Year 4 classrooms being re-decorated, refurbishment of the Year 1 boys toilets and improvements made to security in the Forest School area.



Mental health

This half term the main topic of conversation is transition. As children move year groups, change class and teachers or may even move to a new school it is important to ensure that we are talking with children about these important transitions and their feelings around these.

Here are 12 steps from [compass-uk.org](https://www.compass-uk.org) that may help.



12 Steps to help with transition

You and your child may find the following 12 steps useful and fun to help with transition (these are also included in the booklet)

Step 1 - Look at the school website and find out useful information on your new school.

Step 2 - Practice packing up all the things you will need to take to school. Get into the habit of packing your bag the night before.

Step 3 - Practice buying your own food and drinks in a café. Find out how the canteen & pay machines at the school work.

Step 4 - Plan the route you will take to your new school and do a few trial runs. Do you need to sort out a bus pass?

Step 5 - Make sure you make time to eat breakfast –it gives you fuel for the day.

Step 6 - Make the most of the Transition Day –don't be afraid to ask questions.

Step 7 - Do you use a planner/ diary? If not, look at one and get used to using it.

Step 8 - If you have a map of your new school, have a look at it and familiarise yourself with the layout.

Step 9 - Find out about the uniform and order in plenty of time. Be aware of school policies on things like jewellery, piercings and mobilephones.

Step 10 - Talk to friends and siblings. Who else do you know who is moving to the same school?

Step 11 - Get into a good bedtime routine. Young people still need lots of sleep.

Step 12 - Start taking responsibility for yourself-getting bags ready, doing homework, and getting yourself up in the morning.

<https://www.compass-uk.org/help-and-support/parents-carers/parents-carers-health/transition-to-secondary-school/>

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

Diary Dates

July

Friday 19th - Last day of Summer Term 2

September

Thursday 5th - first day of Autumn Term
Meet the Teacher 3:15 - 4pm in each class

Wednesday 11th - Year 5 Mayan Day

Wednesday 18th - Monday 23rd - Book Fair in school

Monday 30th - Whole School Photographs

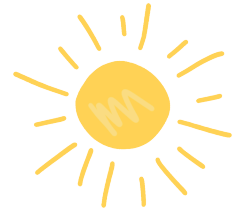
October

Tuesday 1st - Whole School Photographs

Friday 11th - Year 4 Bikeability

Monday 14th - Thursday 17th - Y5/6 Bikeability

Tuesday 22nd - Whole School Flu Vaccinations



School Term Dates 2024

Autumn Term Opens: Thu 5th Sept

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

Autumn Term Closes: Fri 20th Dec

2025

Spring Term Opens: Mon 6th Jan

Half Term: Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb

Spring Term Closes: Fri 4th April

Half Term: Mon 7th - Mon 21st April

Summer Term Opens: Tues 22nd

Half Term: Mon 26th - Fri 30th May

Summer Term Closes: Tues 22nd July

Professional Days

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

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Friday 14th February 2025

Wednesday 23rd July 2025

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!