



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term, we are excited to share the wonderful experiences and achievements that have taken place at our school. It's been a term full of memorable moments, from thrilling school trips to engaging visitors and plenty of inspiring classroom learning. Our children have had the chance to explore new places, meet new people and expand their knowledge in a variety of ways. These experiences have enhanced their education and helped them develop important social and emotional skills.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our parents and carers. Your dedication—whether through fundraising, volunteering for trips, or assisting behind the scenes—makes a positive impact on our school community and enriches opportunities for our children.

This term, we've been excited to see so many students engaging with the Marvellous Me app, earning badges for their achievements and proudly sharing their successes with family members. The positive reinforcement from these 'thumbs up' and badges has been a great motivator for many students and we encourage parents to continue celebrating their progress.

We'd also like to thank you for supporting the new meal prebooking system. This has streamlined lunch orders, ensuring each child gets their meal of choice while reducing food waste. We ask that any parents who haven't yet registered do so before children return in January.

Looking ahead, we're excited for the final weeks of the term, with more learning experiences to come. Thank you once again for being such an essential part of our school community and supporting the development and wellbeing of our children.

We wish you a joyful holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Warm regards,  
Mr Fry, Mrs Scales, Mrs Holdsworth, Miss Miles and Miss Vickers



## HALLOWEEN DISCO!

Thank you to the Friends of AJS for organising successful Halloween Discos at the end of last half term - **£991.74** was raised to help support our school.



## CHRISTMAS BOX DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE

Thank you to everyone who donated items. Mr Bennett from the 'Helping Our Ukrainian Friends' charity, Miss Neacy and a team of Class Ambassadors sorted all the gifts into boxes, wrapped in Christmas paper and wrote cards with a Christmas message from all at AJS to the children who will receive the gifts.

Members of the charity are driving from Peterborough to Kiev and have promised to send some photos from their trip!



## CHILDREN IN NEED

Together, we raised an amazing **£1075** for BBC Children in Need. Wow! Thank you for your support.



It was wonderful to see the children embrace the fun activities and develop their understanding of how the money raised will benefit others.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and merchandise for Remembrance Day in November. We managed to raise a brilliant £203.05 for the Royal British Legion.

On Sunday 10th November, our Year 6 house captains, accompanied by Mr Fry and Mrs York, took part in the Whittlesey Remembrance Day parade.

They did a fantastic job representing our school and being part of such an important day in the community. Paris Flatters and Tom Rowden then laid a poppy wreath at the memorial on behalf of our school.

## EXCITING START TO THE HALF TERM IN EARLY YEARS

We've had a fun-filled start to the half term with lots of engaging activities! Our theme this half term is Night and Day and we started by focusing on fire safety, bonfires, and fireworks. The children enjoyed watching a firework display recording and describing the shapes and colors they saw. We also listened to Handel's Fireworks Music and explored the different instruments in the orchestra.

In addition to our themed activities, we learned about how chocolate melts when heated and made our own chocolate sparklers with breadsticks and sprinkles—delicious and fun! To top it all off, the children had a wonderful time toasting marshmallows over a fire pit outdoors. What a fantastic start to our half term!



## BIG PLANT EYFS

Last week, Early Years children took part in AJS's 'Big Plant' event. Thanks to the generosity of the Woodland Trust, we were fortunate enough to receive over 100 trees for our school grounds.



Despite the chilly weather, the sun shone brightly, creating a lovely atmosphere for our tree planting activities. Each child was excited to plant a tree in the hedgerow alongside the field, and it was heartwarming to see so many family members join in to support this endeavour. Your presence not only made the event more special but also demonstrated the importance of community and teamwork.

As the children planted their trees, we talked about the significance of trees in our environment, encouraging them to appreciate nature and its vital role in our world. We look forward to watching these trees grow alongside our children during their time at AJS, and we hope they will inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors.

A huge thank you to all the family volunteers who lent us a hand, and a spade during this project. Your support truly makes a difference, and it is greatly appreciated.

## TUCK SHOP

Please send in smaller value coins for the Tuck Shop instead of £1 coins. We run out of change really quickly. We will be running a BOGOF event soon, so watch this space!

## PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Lily U** - Achieved 2 silver and 2 bronze medals at the March Marlins Swimming Club Champs.

**Scarlet T** - Received her Rainbow Distance award in swimming (50metres).

**Billie G** - Passed stage 6 swimming.



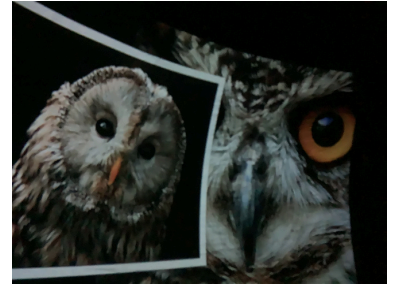
## AJS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

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'!



## EYFS PLANETARIUM VISIT - 8/11/2024

The Early Years children had a planetarium visit to support our new topic 'Night and Day'. They had fun learning about the Earth, sun and moon, nocturnal animals and looking at the stars in the sky at night time. Thank you to FOAJS for funding this amazing experience for us!



## YEAR 1 FIRE STATION TRIP - 14/11/2024

On Thursday 14th November the Year 1 children visited Whittlesey Fire Station. They learnt about fire safety and alarm systems in the classroom and looked at how fire engines have changed over time. They then had fun using the fire hose and trying on safety equipment.



## YEAR 2 ST MARYS CHURCH VISIT

I am delighted to share with you the wonderful experience our class had during our recent visit to St Mary's Church.

The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the various features of the church, and it was heartwarming to see their curiosity and enthusiasm.



## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

With the festive season being upon us, most families enjoys a time of merriment and festivities with friends and families.

We appreciate that this is not the case for all families and this time of year can be extremely difficult, stressful, emotional and bring financial pressures.

Below are some numbers you can call if you need support during the Christmas holidays or any time of year.

Childline is open 24 hours a day over Christmas and New Year and can provide support. Call them for free on 0800 1111

Samaritans are open 24/7 all year round. It is free to call them on 116 123, or you can email them on [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

If you, or anyone you know, needs some support this Christmas, please text CONNECT to 85258.

As always if you have any concerns for your child or need support as a family please speak to a member of staff in school as we may be able to advise of signpost on ways we can help and support.



## ODD SOCK DAY!

It was so lovely to see everybody's odd socks on Tuesday 12th November.

There were some spectacular combinations! Odd Socks Day gave us an opportunity to recognise our differences which is something that we will continue to celebrate at AJS.



## STRAW BEAR FESTIVAL 2025

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.



Sadly, we will be saying farewell to Miss Betts at the end of this term. Miss Betts is currently teaching in Year 5 and has taught at AJS for nearly 10 years, always working with great energy and dedication. She has also often gone 'over and above' for children at AJS whether running the school netball club or going on residential trips. Miss Betts is moving onto an exciting job opportunity outside of education, working for a leading events company. She will be missed by all of us at AJS and I am sure you will join staff and children in wishing her every happiness and success in the future.



We also say goodbye to Mrs Ann Wilkins who has worked tirelessly in the AJS kitchen for the past 20 years. Ann is retiring at the end of term and her kind nature and hard work (and all the puddings she makes so well!) will be sorely missed by children and staff. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and will be inviting her back as guest of honour at next year's Christmas dinner!

## WELCOME

Mrs Eskikoy returns from her maternity leave next term and will be forming a job share partnership with Mrs Brown in Year 5 Brazil class. Due to this change, Mrs Cox will be joined by Miss Loew-Berry to form a new teacher team in Year 4 Fiji class.

This half term we have welcomed Mrs Ross-Garrett as our new receptionist. Mrs Ross-Garrett has joined us from working in the office at Papworth Hospital and is looking forward to getting to know parents and children in our school community.

We have also welcomed Mrs Irvine as a new Teaching Assistant working across Year 1 and Year 3. Mrs Irvine joins us from The Peterborough School.

## BUILDING UPDATE

Despite the stormy weather of recent weeks, the building extension project is still on track to complete in February - only a couple of months to go!

The aim is for the extension to be watertight and weather proof by the time we start the new term and then the internal work can begin. Thanks again for your patience whilst the project continues.





# HELPING WHITTLESEY PANTRY



Food that is going out of date in shops is collected and frozen in the pantry freezers.

## How it works

When the pantry opens, you bring a bag, and the volunteers tell you how much of each item you can have.



## The volunteers

The volunteers collect food from the local shops every day of the week.

We sometimes help our mum collect the food and hand it out to the local community on pantry opening days.

## Food saved from landfill

In our first year we saved 34.5 tonnes of food and flowers! This works out at nearly 3 double decker buses!



Don't worry though - very little gets thrown away. If it doesn't go at the pantry then the animals at Anna's Ark in Coates get a treat.

The donkeys loved their bananas!



The pantry is environmental - we are saving good food going to landfill and protecting the planet by doing so! We are open to anyone!

So, tell your parents and come down and see us to help us clear the food that we collect.



# Diary Dates

## December

- Thursday 12th - Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day  
Thursday 12th - Christmas Extravaganza token/wristband sale -  
Class Morocco  
Friday 13th- Pre-School Christmas Singing 9.15am  
Friday 13th - Secret Santa 3.10pm-4pm  
Monday 16th - Year 4,5 & 6, Carol Service St Mary Church 1.45pm  
W/C Monday 16th - Class Christmas Parties  
Tuesday 17th - Rocksteady Concert 9am (*parents and siblings of  
children who have Rocksteady lessons*)  
Tuesday 17th - Y1/2/3 Christmas Assembly (children Only)  
Tuesday 17th - Secret Santa 3.10pm - 4.00pm  
Wednesday 18th - Year 6 Panto  
Wednesday 18th - Year 1 & 2 Carols in the playground  
Thursday 19th - Year 3,4 & 5 Christmas Sing Along  
On the playground 2.30pm  
Friday 20th - Last day of Term

## January

- Wednesday 8th - Fiji class meet the teacher 3.15pm  
Friday 10th - Brazil class meet the teacher 3.15pm  
Wednesday 15th - Early Years Reading Cafe  
Wednesday 29th - Book Share Open Evening 3.30-5pm



### School Term Dates 2024/5

- 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:

**14th February 2025 Trust  
Training Day**