

Dear Parents and Carers,

The clocks went forward last weekend and judging by the daffodils and blue skies, it feels that Spring has finally sprung after a long, stormy winter. The weather has certainly affected progress of our building project with completion dates having to be pushed back. However, we are nearly there!

During the Easter holidays, the inside of the building will be opened to staff so that we can move furniture and set up the new offices, meeting room and lobby. The main entrance will then be open to parents and visitors after the break on Tuesday 22nd April. If any unforeseen issues crop up over the holiday leading to a delay in opening, we'll contact everybody using School Comms on Easter Monday. Fingers crossed that all will be well! An official opening ceremony will follow later next term. New fencing and front gates will also be installed at the front of school and next to the staff car park, with orange barriers and temporary fencing being removed over the holiday. The Key Stage 2 playground entrance next to Year 3 and the Year 2 cloakroom will reopen at the start of next term. This means we will be able to return to the usual drop off and pick up arrangements:

Pre-School - drop off/ pick up as normal

Reception - line up in front of classrooms on EYFS playground

Year 1 - line up on Key Stage 1 playground in front of the mural (right hand side)

Year 2 - line up on Key Stage 1 playground in front of the mural (left hand side)

Year 3, 4,5 & 6 - enter through Key Stage 2 playground gate and line up on Key Stage 2 playground in year group order - Year 6 on the far left.

Children can be collected from the same places.

A reminder that bikes and scooters should be walked to/from the entrance to/from the bike sheds and scooter pods to avoid collisions and accidents. No ball games or running games should be played before or after school to ensure safety for children and parents on the playground.

We were visited by PCSOs last week to support with car parking/ drop off on Drybread Road following a number of complaints from other parents and local residents. We continue to talk to Cambs Highways team and Fenland District Council about ways to improve the current situation. Cones and the 'little people' bollards will be placed either side of the layby to help prevent cars parking dangerously on pavements and the grass verges. With the better weather now, if you are able to leave your car at home and walk, use bikes and scooters that would really help. If any parents would be interested in helping to start a 'walking bus' from a local drop off point, please get in touch.

Thanks for all your ongoing support. I wish all our families a restful holiday - Happy Easter!

Mr Fry



REMEMBERING

Mrs Rose

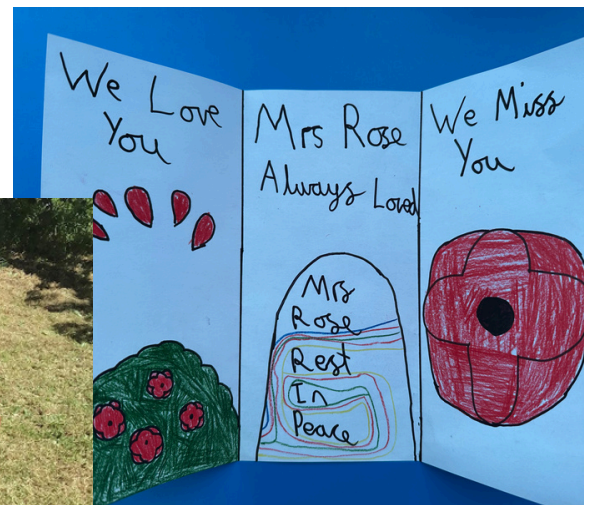


This half term started in the worst possible way with the news that Mrs Rose, a valued Teaching Assistant at AJS, suddenly and tragically passed away. Our thoughts continue to be with Mr Rose, their daughter and all of her family and friends.

Mrs Rose worked with children with special educational needs in different year groups in classrooms and in the Achieve Inspire Motivate (AIM) Room in school. Mrs Rose also supported groups of children in our Forest School. Her kind, caring nature and positive energy will be so missed by us all.

Many children drew pictures to remember Mrs Rose which have been collated, along with messages from staff, in a special book which has been presented to her family.

We will also be creating a special garden of remembrance in our Forest School, with children decorating pebbles to surround a newly planted rose bush and seating. Mrs Rose's family generously donated the money given at her funeral held at St. Mary's Church to help fund this. If any parents would like to contribute their time or money to help create this very special garden, please get in touch.





ATTENDANCE



AT AJS

SPRING TERM 2 2025



Classes with highest attendance this half term:

Canada (Y3) 96.87%

Fiji (Y4) 96.34%

Italy (Y1) 96.30%



Whole school target for 2024/25 **95%**
This half term our overall attendance was **93.86%**

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

A quick reminder that we have a new email address:

pupilabsence@ajs.education

Please direct any absence or appointment emails to this new email address as the office email is no longer being routinely checked for absences. Our voicemail is still available on **01733 202403** option 2

These are the only 2 ways to report absence to the school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Message from

Mr Isley

Attendance Officer

The traffic lights on the right show the link between attendance and achievement. Let's see if we can be 'in the green zone' next term!

ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 90%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	13.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	15.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

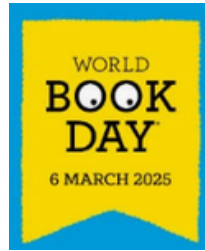
95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent





Thank you to everyone who supported World Book Day this year. Children and staff looked great in their costumes and it was a great opportunity to raise the profile of reading for pleasure and a love of books.



VISIT FROM LITTLE CITY

Pre-School had an exciting visit from Little City to support their topic of 'People who help us'. The children loved being immersed in role play in many different areas: dressing up, exploring the vehicles and taking turns in the shop with their peers. Thank you to Friends of AJS for supporting this opportunity!



CAREERS DAY

On Friday 7th of March, Alderman Jacobs held their annual 'Careers Day' to learn about a range of aspirational careers throughout our community and in the wider world.

630 children ranging from Pre-School to Year 6 enjoyed workshops led by many different volunteers from the Police, Fire Service, Community Midwives, Nurses, Builders, Beauticians, Bakers, Young Technicians, a Music Teacher, Kickboxing instructors, Caterpillar/Perkins STEM engineers, Cadent gas engineers, St John's ambulance, Doctors, Vets, a Farmer, a Shark Biologist, Dogs Trust Safety Team a Lollipop lady and a Community Engagement Officer.



YEAR 2 WOBURN SAFARI TRIP REPORT BY IVY TAYLOR

On Wednesday the 19th of March classes Kenya, Egypt and Morocco went to Woburn Safari Park to see lots of animals. To get to Woburn we went on a coach. I sat next to Ella. We sang songs together. It didn't really feel like a long time because I was distracted by what was outside. I enjoyed it a lot because I got to sit next to my best friend. The first thing we did was go on a road safari. We saw a cheeky monkey, a tall giraffe and a stunning wolf. There were two crazy things that happened. The first thing was when a monkey jumped on top of the coach and the other thing was when an eland chased the coach. After that we went on a foot safari. We saw a lemur with one eye, a big horse and a sea lion splashing about. For no reason a lemur was staring at me. My favourite animal was the pig because it was sleeping but the funny part is that it wriggled about a lot.



STAFF NEWS



After 23 years as a Teaching Assistant, **Mrs Weller** will be retiring at the end of this term. **Mrs Weller** has brilliantly supported hundreds of children during this time and her hard work, patience, kindness and good humour will be missed by us all. We thank her for such dedicated service. It's not a complete goodbye however, as **Mrs Weller** will continue working at AJS as a cleaner.

We also say farewell to **Mrs Cook** who leaves us to take up a Nurture Teacher position at Oakdale School in Peterborough. Mrs Cook has worked at AJS for over 4 years as a teacher, Nurture Room leader and, since September, has set up and successfully led a sensory room for children of all ages. Mrs Cook will be greatly missed by all staff and children. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her every success and happiness in her new job.

TUCK SHOP

When sending in money for the Tuck Shop, please can you send in small change where possible (20ps, 10ps 5ps etc) as we struggle to find change to give when children bring in £1 coins, thank you.

LUNCH BOOKINGS

Our lunch booking system is working well and we regularly have about 250 meals being booked each day. However, teachers have noticed that they are still having to book deli options for those children who do not have a meal booked. Please can we ask all parents to log onto the School Gateway and book their child's daily meal.

Did you know meals can also be cancelled on the School Gateway? If your child now wants packed lunch or is absent, you can log on and remove the meal, confirm booking and the meal will be removed. Please note, all meals must be booked/cancelled before 8am each morning and can be booked up to 10 weeks in advance.

If you have any issues with bookings, please come and see the office and we can sort this for you.

BITE AND STING RELIEF CREAM

We use Boots Bite and Sting Relief Antihistamine Cream. If you do not wish your child to have this cream please let the office know.

YEAR 6 PERFORMANCE DATE

Year 6 will be performing their end of year performance during the Summer 2 term and we would like to invite you to watch. So that we can accommodate you all, we have 2 separate performances which will be allocated by your child's surname. If the day is not convenient to you, please let your child's class teacher know that you will attend the alternative.

The allocated performances are:

Children with surnames beginning with A-K: Thursday 17th July at 9.15am

Children with surnames beginning with L-Z: Friday 18th July at 9.15am

We expect the performance to last approximately 1 hour. Please be aware that only 2 adults per child may attend these performances due to hall capacity.

Pre-school children are welcome but please remove them from the hall if they become unsettled as it can disrupt the children performing and undermine all of their hard work.

Thank you for your support.



This term
FRIENDS OF AJS
have

Raised £84.15 from World Book Day golden tickets!

Raised £754.35 from the Valentines disco!

Spent £2700 to fund new lunchtime tables and resources

Spent £200 to fund Year 1 Zoo Lab visit

Join us after school on Thursday 3rd April for our Easter chocolate sale and try your luck to win a prize!



Comic Relief Red Nose Day

We had a great day for Red Nose Day this year with lots of children wearing silly socks and hilarious hats. Across the school, children also completed a variety of activities including designing their own silly socks and designing their own red noses.



We Raised £331!



Diary Dates

April 2025

Friday 4th - Last day of Spring Term 2
Tuesday 22nd - Start of Summer Term 1
Thursday 24th - Year 3 Mosque and Cathedral Trip

May 2025

Monday 5th - Bank Holiday School Closed
Thursday 8th - Year 1 Maths Cafe 2-3pm
Wednesday 14th - EY's Maths Cafe 2-3pm
Monday 19th - Pre School Maths Cafe 2-2.45pm
Monday 19th - EY's Vision Screening Check
Tuesday 20th - Y5 Space Centre Trip
Wednesday 21st - Y5 Maths Cafe 2-3pm
Thursday 22nd - Pre School Maths Cafe 2-2.45pm
Friday 23rd - End of Summer Term 1

June 2025

Monday 2nd - Start of Summer Term 2
Monday 9th - EY's Church Farm Trip
Tuesday 10th - Y6 Duxford Trip
Wednesday 11th - Hunstanton Trip
Monday 16th - Half of Year 1 Ramsey Heights
Friday 20th - Half of Year 1 Ramsey Heights
Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th - Y6 York Residential
Wednesday 25th - Y6 Hamerton Zoo

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

Wednesday 23rd July
Monday 1st September
Tuesday 2nd September
Friday 24th October
Friday 19th December