



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of a very enjoyable (and very hot!) half term to round off another busy academic year at AJS.



The year started with us all getting used to having one small entrance to school as the extension building work began! Eleven months on, the new lobby, conference room, medical room and offices have made a positive difference to our day to day operations. External signage to be installed over the holidays and then we should be ready for an official opening ceremony in the autumn. In addition to this project, we installed air-con into 5 upstairs classrooms (with more to follow next year) and over the summer, the Year 6 toilet blocks will be given a total refurbishment.

This week, we say goodbye to our Year 6 classes as they prepare to start their new secondary schools in September. We are very proud of our Year 6 children - they achieved above the national average in their combined reading, writing and maths SATs; upheld our school rules of being ready, respectful and safe whilst on their residential trip to the city of York and performed with confidence and enthusiasm in their end of year production. All the staff at school, wish our Year 6 children every success and happiness as they start the next phase of their education. I am sure they will take their 'energy for learning' to their new schools and look back with fondness at their time at AJS.

I'd like to thank all our amazing staff team at AJS for all their dedicated hard work each and every day. I'd also like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support over the course of this year. I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to seeing everyone again on 3rd September!

Best wishes, Mr Fry



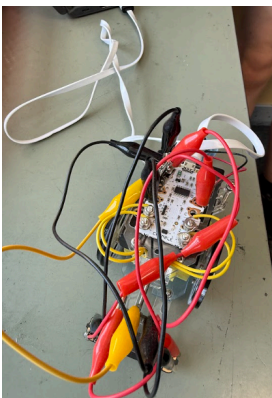
Belonging and Diversity Working Group

Thank you to all parents and staff who have joined the working group meetings over the course of this year. The meetings and especially feedback from parents have really impacted upon our work this year at AJS to promote greater understanding of difference and reduce prejudice related language and incidents in school. Staff from other local schools have also joined the meetings - it's great to collaborate. The next meeting will be held at Sir Harry Smith College on Thursday 25th September at 5pm. Please contact the office if you would like to join in.



Remembering Mrs Rose

Mrs Rose remains in our thoughts at AJS. We were very grateful that Mrs Rose's family donated the collection from her funeral to help us create a special garden area near our Forest School (where Mrs Rose loved working). A huge thanks to Ms Whitwell, Mrs Neal and all the children and staff who have worked in the Forest School this year for all their hard work in creating a special place to remember a very dear colleague and friend.



News from our clubs

As well as the many excellent sporting clubs run at AJS, there are a range of other extra-curricular activities that children can take part in. Mr Winfield runs a super STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) club, which this term involved making solar powered cars and also boats to sail in the AJS swimming pool! Our very own Alan Titchmarsh, Lewis in Year 5, started a Gardening Club for children in Key Stage 2 this term and they have been growing sunflowers, beans, tomatoes and potatoes in our allotment area.

RAISING MONEY

Ezra is having his long hair chopped over the holidays to donate it to the Little Princess Trust. It costs lots of money to make a wig when a child has lost their hair to illness or disease. Ezra has set his target at £700 which is the cost to fit and make a wig for a child. If you would like to make a donation, as small as it is, it would be greatly appreciated. https://www.justgiving.com/page/danielle-rawlins-found-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

CHANGES TO THE TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As mentioned in our last newsletter, please be reminded of the new drop off and pick up times starting on 3rd September.

Morning drop off

Reception - classroom doors will open at 8:35am and the school day starts at 8:40am.

Year 1 and 2 - a whistle will sound at 8:35am for children to line up on the Key Stage 1 playground and their school day starts at 8:40am.

Children who arrive after 8:40am will need to sign in via the main entrance office.

Year 3-6 - a whistle will sound at 8:40am for children to line up and their school day starts at 8:45am.

Children who arrive after 8:45am will need to sign in via the main entrance office.

Children attending the Sensory Circuit in the hall will enter via the door near pre-school at 8:35am.

Afternoon pick up

Reception - children will exit from their classrooms at 3:10pm.

Year 1 and 2 - children will exit their classrooms and meet parents on the Key Stage 1 playground at 3:10pm.

Year 3-6 - children will exit classrooms onto the Key Stage 2 playground at 3:15pm.

We will review these arrangements after the first half term.

Playground safety at drop off and pick up times



Everyday, we have hundreds of children and parents using our playgrounds before and after school and it's incredibly busy. After a number of concerns and near miss accidents, some changes are being made in September. Please discuss these changes with your child over the holidays. Thank you.

Children should dismount their bikes and scooters at the playground gate and walk them straight to the bike sheds and scooter racks. The Key Stage 2 playground is not a skate park and children **MUST NOT** spin scooters above their heads or perform stunts and tricks at school. We now have CCTV near the playground and any children who are caught using their scooters dangerously at the start or end of the day may be banned from bringing them to school.

All **Key Stage 2** playground gates will remain locked until 8:30am. At this time, a senior member of staff will be on duty and the playground can be accessed. A whistle will blow just before 8:40am and all children should line up promptly and smartly ready to enter their classrooms. Register is taken at 8:45am. The gates will then be locked at 8:45am and any late arrivals must enter at the main office as they may have missed their class register.



AIM ROOM



This term, the AIM room has truly flourished in swimming! We've seen incredible progress from our students, with several non-swimmers now confidently swimming by themselves. Through determination, encouragement, and practice, the group has built both skills and self-belief in the water. It's been inspiring to watch their confidence grow each week – a huge well done to all our swimmers!

STAFF NEWS

We say goodbye to Mrs Pickels who has worked at AJS for nearly 3 decades supporting hundreds of children with their learning and development. She will be greatly missed by all of us at school. Mrs Pickels is planning to travel widely in her retirement starting with a trip to Canada in the autumn! Thank you Mrs Pickels.



Miss Vickers is expecting her second baby at the end of July so will be on maternity leave when we return in September. We wish Miss Vickers all the best and look forward to meeting her new arrival soon!

GOVERNOR NEWS

We say goodbye and thank you to Laura Hemmaway, who has resigned from her position of Chair of Governors. Laura has been a brilliant governor for nearly 10 years at AJS and her support and expertise as Chair will be greatly missed.

SCHOOL DINNERS

From September, school meals will be increasing to £2.60 per day. This will start on week 1 of the menu.

Please ensure all meals are booked and paid for online. Dinners must also be booked in advance for children entitled to free school meals.

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

MADDISON F - Awarded her 3000metre swim badge.



TOTAL CLOTHING

As we approach the end of the academic year, our uniform provider, Total Clothing, has shared some important updates and reminders to help you prepare for the new school year in September.

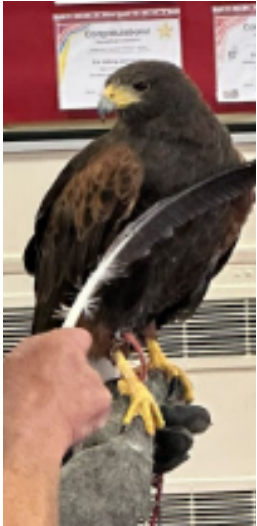
Online orders will need to be placed by Wednesday the 13th of August 2025 to receive in time for back to school.

SHOP OPENING TIMES - Monday - Friday 9am till 5pm. (from Saturday 12th July we open on Saturdays 10-4pm until Saturday 13th September.)

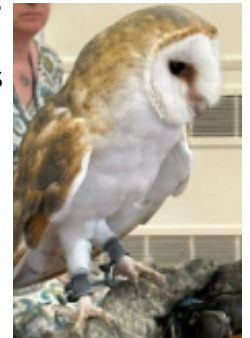
EXTENDED RETURNS - Any garments bought online or in store from EASTER may be EXCHANGED until September 12th, 2025. All garments must be in original packaging and labels attached. (REFUNDS remain at 28 days from purchase in store or online.)

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY OPENING - our shop is open from 10am till 4pm for sales and collections.

SCIENCE WEEK



I am excited to share the highlights from our annual Science Week at AJS, which took place last week. We truly kicked things off to a flying start thanks to our special guest, Alan the Birdman, who captivated us all with some remarkable birds of prey. The children, from pre-school to Year 6, were spellbound as they watched Sybil the Harris hawk, Basil the Barbary falcon, Shadow the bald eagle, and Sparky the barn owl soar just inches above their heads! Alan shared fascinating insights into the dietary habits of these magnificent creatures, as well as how they are specially adapted for their roles in nature. A particularly fun fact was that birds of prey lose their feathers in pairs to maintain balanced flight! Thankfully, while there were plenty of swoops and dives, we were fortunate that no one was landed on—although the climbing frame did bear some signs of a small amount of bird droppings!



One of our key focuses during Science Week was encouraging the children to ask scientific questions, and it was delightful to see this initiative embraced across the school. Each class had the chance to generate a plethora of queries centred around Jelly Babies. For instance, Year 1 wondered, "If we leave a jelly baby in water for a long time, will it change its shape?" Meanwhile, Year 4 sought to understand, "How would a jelly baby react with different liquids?" Year 5 took a more adventurous approach by asking how far they could launch their jelly babies!



Throughout the week, the beloved jelly babies became the stars of various experiments. The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) explored different liquids, Year 5 tested their homemade catapults, and Year 3 was tasked with designing parachutes to save their jelly babies from a fall! We were thrilled to invite parents to join us for these scientific endeavours, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your enthusiastic participation.



Overall, Science Week was a resounding success, with every child fully engaging in discovery and inquiry. It provided ample opportunities for our students to explore the world around them and pose an array of intriguing questions. Well done, AJS, on yet another successful initiative!

YEAR GROUP NEWS

PRE -SCHOOL

This Summer term in Pre-School has been full of fun, learning, and memorable experiences! The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Sports Day, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork despite the very hot weather. A special highlight was the visit from Ark Farm, where the children had the chance to meet and learn about a variety of animals up close. Weekly PE sessions with Mr Pickering have also been a hit, helping the children develop their physical skills through engaging and active play. For some of our older children, this term has included exciting transition activities as they prepare to move on to school – a big step that we're proud to support them through.



EARLY YEARS

It's been a wonderful summer term in Early Years, filled with memorable experiences and exciting transitions! The children thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Church Farm, with the tractor ride being a particular highlight. A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to support Sports Day – your encouragement made it a fantastic event for everyone. As we approach the end of the year, we've been helping the children prepare for their transition to Year 1, and they've shown great curiosity and confidence about the changes ahead. We've also made the most of the sunny weather, spending lots of time exploring and learning in our fantastic new outdoor area. Well done to all our children for a brilliant term!



YEAR 1

We have had a fantastic last term of learning in Year 1, which has included a trip to Ramsey Heights; a visit from Alan and his impressive rare birds; Science cafe showcasing our learning to our parents and making parachutes for our jelly babies; competed in Sports day, where we all tried our best and had a great time.

We thoroughly enjoyed our last school trip of the year at Ramsey Heights. The children went pond dipping, built their own dens big enough for each group to fit in and went on a nature walk to discover all of the animals that were there. During Science week, we had Alan come to visit us with his birds: Sybil the harris hawk, Basil the falcon, Shadow the bald eagle and Sparky the barn owl. The children loved seeing these impressive birds, learning all about them and watching them fly through the dinner hall. It has been a busy term, but one that we will all remember!



YEAR 2



We want to start with a huge congratulations to all our Year 2 children for their fantastic effort and achievements in their SATs. They all showed great determination and perseverance throughout, and we were so proud of their unwavering effort and positive attitude. As a well-deserved celebration we went on a wonderful trip to the Sea Life Centre, followed by delicious ice cream on the beach – a perfect way to celebrate their hard work! We've also had a very exciting and busy term with other aspects of the curriculum. We've shown great team spirit during Sports Day, cheering each other on and competing proudly in our house teams. Our creativity has shone through in art, especially in our final drawing pieces where we practised using light and dark tones to create beautiful shaded effects. In DT, we took on the challenge of designing and sewing our very own intriguing puppets – and the results were brilliant! We've also thoroughly enjoyed reading Fantastic Mr Fox, diving into the story with great enthusiasm. Our swimming skills have come on leaps and bounds, with everyone growing in confidence each week. Alongside all of this, we've continued to work hard in maths and writing, making this a truly successful and memorable term!



YEAR 3

Year Three has had a busy year. Early in the autumn term, we went to Flag Fen to learn about life in prehistoric Britain. The visit helped us with our learning about the Stone Age and also with our science topic about stones and rocks. Later we walked to the cemetery to look at different types of stone and also the effects of weathering on them. In the spring term, we visited Peterborough cathedral and mosque. We compared the two buildings and how worship took place in them. The children were both knowledgeable and inquisitive and their excellent behaviour was praised in both buildings. In the summer term, we were visited, via video link by Colin, who shared with us his vast memorabilia of World War Two artifacts. The children were treated to a first hand account of the activities carried out by an ARP Warden. Well done everyone on a very successful and enjoyable year!



YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a lovely summer term filled with exciting activities! We've had plenty of opportunities to get active, from splashing around in swimming lessons to our thrilling sports day, where everyone showed their competitive spirit. Our Nature Day was a highlight, with all the children exploring our school's environment and discovering its fascinating wildlife. We even designed our own conservation area, sparking creativity and teamwork. Plus, Science Week was a big hit, especially with the incredible Alan the Birdman, who captivated the students with his bird displays. What a fantastic, fun-filled term it has been!



YEAR 5

What a busy term it's been for Year 5! Back in May, we zoomed off to Leicester for an out of this world experience at the National Space Centre. The children asked lots of interesting questions about space exploration, before embarking on 144 steps to ascend the rocket tower! They represented the school really well and we are very proud of them. Some of our year 5 pupils then went on to represent Alderman Jacobs at the Wittering Primary School for an 'Art of Brilliance' day (you may have noticed our new banner out on the school railings). They delivered a presentation to children from other schools about what makes AJS a fantastic place to be!



YEAR 6

This term has been a busy and exciting one for Year 6! As part of our Battle of Britain topic, the children visited Duxford Air Museum where they explored historic aircraft and deepened their understanding of WWII. We also took a trip to York to learn about the city's fascinating history, while those who remained at school enjoyed an educational and fun-filled day at Hamerton Zoo and created some brilliant clay work based on their visit. In addition, we visited the local fire station where the children learned about different aspects of staying safe including fire safety and staying safe online. Alongside this, they have taken part in a variety of transition activities and workshops to help them prepare for the move to secondary school. Seeing them grow this year, we are incredibly proud of all the children have achieved and wish them the very best for the future. Good luck, Year 6! - The Year 6 Teachers.

*Good
Luck
you got
this!*





Professor Pompoose

Whittlesey Library@ Scaldgate
Friday 25 July 11am-12noon

Join the Professor in this fun-filled interactive session, as he goes on his journey to explore many aspects of nature and the environment. Who knows what we might discover? Includes a nature themed craft.

Free event for children ages 4-12

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Book at: Wisbech.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Diary Dates

July

Monday 21st - Year 6 Leavers Disco
Tuesday 22nd - Last day of Summer Term 2



September

Wednesday 3rd - First day of Autumn Term
Monday 8th - Y5 Mayan Day
Tuesday 9th - Y5 Mayan Day
Wednesday 10th - Y5 Mayan Day
Sunday 14th - Whittlesey Festival Choir, St Mary's Church 1pm
Friday 19th - School Photos
Friday 26th - Macmillan Cake Sale
Monday 29th - Year 3 Flag Fen Trip



October

Thursday 2nd - Flu Vaccinations
Friday 10th - Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 10th - World Mental Health Day
Monday 13th - Thursday 16th - Y5 Bikeability
Monday 20th - Early Years 2026 Open Session
Monday 20th - Y4 Peterborough Museum Trip
Wednesday 22nd - Pre-School 2026/27 Open Sessions
Wednesday 22nd - Y4 and Y5 London Theatre Trip
Thursday 23rd - Early Years 2026 Open Sessions
Thursday 23rd - Last day of Autumn Term 1

November

Monday 3rd November - Start of Autumn Term 2
Wednesday 5th - Pre-School 2026/27 Open Sessions

School Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 1: Wed 3rd Sept - Thurs 23rd Oct

Half term: Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct

Autumn Term 2: Mon 3rd Nov - Thurs 18th Dec

Half term: Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan

Spring Term 1: Tues 6th Jan - Fri 13th Feb

Half Term: Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb

Spring Term 2: Mon 23rd Feb - Fri 27th March

Half Term: Mon 30th March - Fri 10th April

Summer Term 1: Mon 13th April - Fri 22nd May

Half Term: Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May

Summer Term 2: Mon 1st June - Fri 17th July

Professional Days

2025/2026

(School closed to children)

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Friday 24th October

Friday 19th December

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!