SCHOOL YEAR 2025/26- NEWSLETTER NO 2

Dear Friends,

It certainly feels as if Autumn has arrived this week. With every change of season there are new things to look forward to in the school year. Each falling leaf and conker-filled pocket brings us a step nearer to our Harvest Celebration, our Autumn parents' evenings and our Spooky Stories Dress Up Day. Alongside these Aldborough annual events there are also new initiatives which help to give the children a broad and balanced curriculum – or in a child's words, 'an exciting day every day at school'.

Latin is proving to be a very popular change in KS2. We know from the research that children who study Latin at KS2 are likely to have better outcomes learning a modern foreign language when they head to secondary school. We also know that children's spelling and vocabulary is likely to improve when they study the roots of words many of which come from Latin (and Greek). We see this year as a pilot scheme for Latin but it certainly seems to be a thumbs up from the children so far. Thank you to Mr Grice for his enthusiastic approach which is leading to a steady chorus of 'Salve' around the school. In KS1 and EYFS Mrs Cuthill and Mrs Meyrick are working their magic to refine the teaching of early writing. We know that between them they already produce enthusiastic and imaginative writers, but this year they will be combining their teaching of vocabulary with spelling, phonics, sentence structure and a huge dollop of creativity. We can't wait to see the results.

This week the new Aldborough Parliament met for the first time. This group of children, who were elected by their peers, will ensure that the voices of all the children are heard through their class discussions and our whole school parliament meetings. Later this term we will be welcoming a visitor from 'Parliament Outreach' to help the children to create a truly democratic system for the school.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came to The Friends meeting last week and offered fundraising ideas and friendship to The Friends committee. It is shaping up to be an exciting year ahead with hot chocolate, a Halloween party (see separate flyer), a Christmas movie night and even the possibility of a pub quiz on the agenda.

It certainly is an exciting day in school every day!

Wishing you a conker-filled weekend,
With Best Wishes,
Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough Team
P.S There are 35 words in this letter that have Latin roots (37 if you include P.S)

Please go to: **www.aldborough.norfolk.sch.uk**

Aldborough Working Together

UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS-We've set up a WhatsApp community! This is to improve the way we communicate. However, for the community to be most effective we need to make sure as many parents and guardians are added as possible. So please add yourself by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer.

We're hosting our first ever Halloween party on 5th November 3.15pm - 4.45pm – to book tickets see QR code on attached poster.

We will be trialling moving the class bake sales from a Friday to a Monday in order for bakers to have the weekend to bake rather than a Thursday evening rush! The first bake sale of the year will be hosted by Oak class on 20th October. Pop it in your diaries and don't forget to bring cash!

A PLEA FROM MRS MEYRICK – The equipment in Chestnut Class is very well loved – often to the point that it needs to be replaced. Mrs Meyrick would be very grateful if any families had any of the following pre-loved toys that they could donate to the school. They would need to be good quality items please:

- Dinosaurs
- More Cars/Hot Wheel types
- Babies (not real!) and baby clothes and accessories
- Puzzles for 5-6 year olds
- Large Baskets/hampers for storage within Classroom

THANK YOU – A huge thank you to the parent who came and cut up the tree for Mrs Stanbury. The forest school now has new seats and lots of slices of wood for different activities. Thank you to all the parents who offered their services – we know where you are should we ever need you!

SCHOOL GATES – Could parents avoid standing in the school gate way or just outside the gate at the end of the day. Our bus needs to pull up and park outside the school gates and the driver is finding it difficult to get past if too many parents are standing there. Please move forward into the playground – we don't bite!

PARENTS' EVENINGS- We are delighted to invite all parents and carers to our Autumn parents' evenings on Tuesday October 21ST and Wednesday October 22nd. The appointment sheets will be available just inside the side entrance to school every morning and afternoon from Monday 6th October – Friday 10th October so please come in and make your appointments. We will be using our 10 minute bell system to keep us all on track on the parents' evenings. We kindly ask that parents respect the timings of their appointments.

HARVEST CELEBRATION– Our Harvest Celebration for the children will take place on Friday October 17th. We will be collecting donations for the North Norfolk Foodbank who do so much to support local families in need and who make regular donations to our Breakfast Club. Please see the attached flyer for the donations that we are collecting. Bags of donations can be brought into school from Monday 13th October onwards. Thank you for your support.

SPOOKY STORIES DRESS UP DAY – On Wednesday 5th November we will be holding our spooky stories dress up day. The children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a spooky story book (please remember we have little children in school who don't want to be scared!) We ask for a £1.00 donation from each child to go towards supporting the children. The children can give their £1.00 donation to the class teachers or to the office on the day. The dressing up day will be followed by The Friends Halloween Party – please see separate flyer for information.

READING BREAKFASTS – Our reading breakfasts are a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to come in to school to see the work that the children have been doing in their reading. There is also time for children to share some of the class reading books with adults. It is such a joy to see adults and children filling the Learning Street with their love of reading. Please see the dates list below for times and days. **Should your child feel anxious about saying good bye to you at the beginning of the school day then it may not be a good idea to break your normal routine for the Reading Breakfast. It might be better to find an extra 10 minutes to read at home before school – maybe with a cup of tea!**

TALKLING OF READING…. - Here's an interesting thought from our Reading leader Mrs Cuthill:
How many words will a child have heard by the time they are 5 years old?
If they are never read to – 4,662 words
If they are read to 1-2 times a week- 63,570 words
If they are read to 3-5 times a week – 169,520 words
If they are read to daily – 296,660 words
If they are read to 5 times a day – 1,483,300words

A QUICK WORD ABOUT TIMES TABLES – We know how much you like to support the children in their learning so we thought a quick word about times tables might help you. Knowing times tables is the biggest factor in achieving success in the Key Stage 2 SATs and generally in maths skills for life. This is the challenge we face:
By the end of Cherry Blossom Class children should know their 2, 5, 10 times tables (instant recall – no fingers allowed!)
By the end of year 3 children should know their 3, 4, 8 times tables (sit on your hands – no fingers!)
By the end of year 4 children should know all the other times tables up to 12 x 12 (not even toes involved at this stage!). The children are tested on these at the end of year 4. Whether you sing in the car, chant over breakfast or take part in Times Tables Rockstars, please do something – it makes such a difference that will last a lifetime for the children.

OPEN MORNINGS RECEPTION 2026 – We will be holding open mornings for parents of children due to start school in Reception 2025. The visits will be on:
Thursday 9th October at 9.15 a.m.
Thursday 13th November at 9.15 a.m.
Friday 4th December at 9.15 a.m.
PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!

HAIR AND HAIRBANDS – Can you please make sure that all children with long hair come to school with it tied back in such a way that it stays tied up through the day. Our school budget doesn't stretch to daily replacement hair bands so we are relying on the good will (and piggy banks) of the staff to fund this!



Dates for your Diaries



DATES LIST 2025/26	
	OCTOBER
Thursday 16th October	**KS2 Reading Breakfast – front door opens at 8.30 p.m.**
Friday 17th October	**Harvest Celebration – children only. Donations for the North Norfolk Foodbank**
Monday 20th October	**Oak Class Cake Sale 3.15 p.m. All donations to the side entrance of school on the morning of the 20th.**
Tuesday 21st October + Wednesday 22nd October	**Parents' Evenings**
Thursday 23rd October	**Year 1 and 2 Reading Breakfast – front door opens at 8.30 p.m.**
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	**HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
	NOVEMBER
Wednesday 5th November	**Spooky Story Dressing Up Day Halloween Party 3.15 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.**
Monday November 24th	**Willow Class Cake Sale 3.15 p.m. All donations to the side entrance of school on the morning of the 20th.**
	DECEMBER
Tuesday 2nd December	**Family Learning Afternoon 2 p.m. All parents and carers welcome.**
Saturday 6th December	**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**
Tuesday 9th December	**Christmas Nativity 9.15 a.m. All parents and carers from Chestnut Class and Cherry Blossom Class invited**
Wednesday 17th December	**Whole School Trip to the Pantomime – Sheringham Little Theatre**
Thursday 18th December	**Christmas Lunch**
Friday 19th December	**Last day of the Autumn Term**