SCHOOL YEAR 2025/26- NEWSLETTER NO 6

Dear Friends,

We hope that you have had a happy start to 2026. Despite the miserable weather there is a warm atmosphere here at school and our new year has been filled with fun, purpose and learning. We have some new initiatives for the New Year to help the children with their learning and well-being. There will be a renewed focus on handwriting and spelling for all the children in KS1 and KS2. Our thanks to Mr Hall-Galley who has worked extremely hard to write our new programmes and to support the teaching staff in our new way of doing things. We hope that you will support us in developing these important life skills with the children – you might find that weekly spelling tests have changed!

We are continually mindful of the children's mental health and well-being and look for ways to support the children wherever we can. With that in mind we have 2 fabulous play leaders in year 6 who lead playground activities for the other children. They do a wonderful job in enabling the younger children to join in with playground games and promoting physical activity – it is a joy to watch. The play leader initiative reflects the value based PE curriculum that we have here at Aldborough and which the children enjoy so much on their PE days. We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs O'Leary back to school to lead some workshops for some of our young artists. Any art or music related activities are so good for children's mental health and we are thrilled to have an expert such as Mrs O'Leary to support our children.

Not everything in 2026 has to be new – tried and tested strategies can be some of the most effective. Parents and carers often ask what they can do to help to continue to support the children in their learning. The staff are unanimous in their answer to this question: Hear your children read as often as possible and help them to practise their multiplication tables. With those two skills, children are so much happier in their learning. It was devastating (yet not surprising) to read the latest government report for children under 5 which stated that many children starting school try to 'tap' and 'swipe' their reading books as if they are screens. If you are still looking around for a New Year's Resolution (or if your existing ones have run out of steam!) then please make reading and times tables your goal with the children – it really does make a huge difference.

Wishing you warm and restful weekend,
With Best Wishes,
Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough team

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

Aldborough Working Together

PARENTS' EVENINGS – Our Spring Term Parents' Evenings will take place on Tuesday 24th March and Thursday 26th March. We thought you would appreciate having the dates early for your new 2026 diaries.

JUNIOR DUKE AWARD – We are delighted that so many children have started to do their Junior Duke challenges. We have sampled Anzac biscuits, chicken soup, sticky toffee cake, chocolate cake and spinach and potato soup while Mrs Colebrooke has scrutinised some beautifully hand sewn items and Mr Caston has assessed computerised birthday invitations. The children can bring their books along to the office any day from Monday to Thursday so that their challenges can be looked at before celebration assembly on Friday. We are aiming for 10 of the 14 challenges to be completed before the end of the school year. Thank you to all of the parents who are supporting the Junior Duke Award – we hear that you are learning lots about resilience too!!

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS – It has felt like a very long January with the cold and wet weather. We are sure that many of you, like the staff, are looking forward to spending time in warmer climates. We always appreciate parents being honest with us when they book term time holidays. However, we ask that you do not plan holidays in term times especially the children in Year 6 who will be working towards their SATs over the next few weeks. Statistics show that missing a week from school leads to a 10% lower score in any assessment and this is true for all children of any age.

PARKING –Our bus driver Paul has asked that parents do not park on the bend at the bridge. He finds it difficult to get his bus through without going into the overhanging trees. Many thanks for your support with our ongoing parking issues.

FAMILY LEARNING DAY – Our next Family Learning Afternoon will take place on **Tuesday 17th March.** We will be full of the joys of Spring by then so we do hope you will join us.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES – We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers to class assemblies this term. The assemblies will start at 9.05 a.m. and should last no longer than 20 minutes. Parents and carers are welcome to sign in at the Office immediately after school drop off. The dates for the assemblies are as follows:

Oak Class: Friday 13th February 9.05 a.m.

Pine Class: Friday 6th March 9.05 a.m.

Chestnut Class: Friday 13th March 9.05 a.m. (special invite to all Chestnut Mothers!)

Willow Class: Friday 20th March 9.05 a.m.

Cherry Blossom Class: Friday 27th March 9.05 a.m.



Dates for your Diaries



DATES LIST 2026	
	JANUARY
Friday 30th January	**Science Play (Norwich Science Festival)**
	FEBRUARY
Friday 13th February	**Oak Class Assembly. All parents and carers from Oak Class invited 9.05 a.m. start.**
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	**HALF TERM**
	MARCH
Friday March 6th	**Pine Class Assembly. All parents and carers from Pine Class invited 9.05 a.m. start.**
Tuesday March 10th	**National Dental Survey for selected children in Reception and Year 1.**
Friday March 13th	**Chestnut Class Assembly. All parents and carers from Chestnut Class invited 9.05 a.m. start.**
Tuesday 17th March	**Family Learning Afternoon**
Friday 20th March	**Willow Class Assembly. All parents and carers from Willow Class invited 9.05 a.m. start.**
Tuesday 24th March **Thursday 26th March**	**Parents' Evening 3.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.** **Parents' Evening 3.30 p.m. -7.00 p.m.**
Friday 27th March	**Cherry Blossom Class Assembly. All parents and carers from Cherry Blossom Class invited 9.05 a.m. start.** **Last day of the Spring Term**
	APRIL
Tuesday 14th April	**First day of the Summer Term for children**