# SCHOOL YEAR 2025/26- NEWSLETTER NO 9

*Dear Friends,*

*What a very short but very busy term it has been for the Aldborough family. We are so pleased to have ended it with 10 days dedicated to parents and carers and the partnership between school and home that we value so highly. We were delighted to see so many of you at our Family Learning Day last week. Thank you for all the lovely comments that you made about the afternoon and the joy that you shared with the children. Roll on June and the 'Great Aldborough Pentathlon!*

*Parents' evenings gave us even more ways to share our pride in our children. It goes without saying that our door is always open for you to discuss any worries or concerns or if you would just like a catch up about learning throughout the school year. Sometimes it feels to us as parents that part of the 'parent job description' is to worry about our children, but we know that a problem shared is a problem halved. There is nearly always a solution if we talk about it together.*

*Finally, we were bursting with pride through our class assemblies this half term as the children celebrated their work and shared their talents with everyone. The children have taught us about The Victorians, The Anglo Saxons, Child Labour, Florence Nightingale and we all learnt a lot about the mummies in Chestnut Class (so many secrets were shared!). Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for these memorable occasions and to The Friends of APS who helped to make 'The Someone Special' weekend a real community celebration.*

*We are always mindful of the amount of time that parents can take off work for events that their children are taking part in and we are also mindful of the children whose parents are not able to take time off work and miss out on school activities. Therefore, this year 'The Great Aldborough Olympic Pentathlon' (details below) will be our sports day. Next year we will revert back to a more traditional sports day and so on, on a two yearly cycle. The children will have lots of opportunities to take part in competitive sports in the summer term when Mr Hall-Galley will once again run the inter-house sports cup for those children who want to be involved and the teachers will be putting the children through their paces on the athletics track.*

*And if all of that is not enough, it looks as if we may have another new family of birds living in Lucas' bird box in our oak tree for the third year! What a delight - What a family – What a team!*

*Wishing you all a family-filled Easter break,*
*With Best Wishes,*
*Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough team*

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

# *Aldborough Working Together*

**A WORD ABOUT FINANCE** – As we reach the end of the financial year we thought that it might be a good idea for all parents to know how our school finances are organised and why fundraising is such an essential part of our school year. Like many things involving government departments, it can become very complicated, but it can be explained very simply. We have 3 pots of money that we can draw upon. Firstly, we have our budget allocation from the government. This is worked out according to the number of children in the school. This is protected funding and can only be spent on essentials i.e. staffing, kitchen costs, premises, electricity, supporting children with SEN, everyday resources. Quite rightly the local authority keeps a very tight rein on these expenses as do the school governors (and Mrs Bearman and Mrs Knight). We are then fortunate enough to have a second pot of school fund – not all schools have this. This is money raised by the school to support the resources that the children enjoy which are not covered by the budget. This fund helps with everything from our reading spine books, broken trikes in C1, felt pens and coloured pencils for all classrooms and even the odd pair of angel wings for the Christmas nativity or pair of tights for the summer production. The third pot of money is the pot which brings the children the most joy and that is the money raised by The Friends. This money pays for all the experiences that we believe that all children should enjoy, but we know many do not – it pays for our children to enjoy being children. Every chocolate cake, ice lolly or Christmas raffle ticket means that school trips such as the whole school trip to the pantomime can happen. We thank you all for the support that you give to our fundraising efforts and to those who work so hard on behalf of all of our children.

**WHATSAPP – ONLINE SAFETY –** Please can parents monitor how the older children are using their mobile phones especially in relation to the Whatsapp messages that they send to each other. Upset is being caused through weekend use of Whatsapp which then spills over into school time. In his IT sessions Mr Caston always reminds the children that the minimum age for using Whatsapp in this country is 13 years old.

**SUMMER CLOTHES –** As the weather gets warmer it feels the right time to mention appropriate summer clothes for school. Please do not send the children to school in 'belly tops' or tops with spaghetti straps or in shorts and skirts that are shorter than mid-thigh length unless it is a PE day (Yr 5 and 6 girls are often the culprits here!) Crocs are not allowed in school at any time of year and if the children wear open toed sandals in the summer they must wear socks to protect their toes as they play. Flip flops of any kind are not safe to wear for school. Please remember that the children will need sun hats and sun cream that they can apply themselves or they should come to school with sun cream already applied. If parents would like their children to wear sunglasses for outdoor play they must sign a disclaimer in the office. We really appreciate your support in this.

**PARENTS' EVENING –** Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us for parents' evening earlier this week. We love talking to you about your children and sharing the highs (and even the lows) of school life. On the parent questionnaire some parents said that they would like to know more about the topics that the children learn about. There are class pages on the website that are updated each half term which detail exactly what each class is learning about in all the different subjects. Please take a look so that you can talk to the children about their learning. The class pages give context to our family learning afternoons, our class assemblies and parents' workshops and our Facebook page which all help to build a picture of the learning that takes place at school. We will also explore other ways to keep

parents informed about the learning that takes place in school. Please remember that our door is always open for a catch up with class teachers should parents require this.

**TRANSITION DAYS –** Now that the year 6 children have been allocated their school places for September some of the secondary schools have given us the dates for their transition days. The year 6 children who have been allocated places at Aylsham High School or North Walsham High School will visit on Wed 24th June, Thurs 25th June and Friday 26th June. **PLEASE AVOID BOOKING ANY DAYS OFF SCHOOL AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME.** The secondary schools will be in touch with parents/carers directly with further information. **OUR WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSITION DAY WILL BE ON THURSDAY 25TH JUNE.**

**FAMILY LEARNING AFTERNOON –** Our next Family Learning Afternoon is **"THE GREAT ALDBOROUGH OLYMPIC PENTATHLON".** Those of you who have been at the school for a number of years will know that we hold this sponsored event every two years and it is our major fund raiser for school fund. The money raised previously has paid for all the reading books that the classes have as their class readers (generally 15 copies of a book each half term per class). Without the money raised through the pentathlon we would have struggled to provide the classes with this essential resource. All the information that you need to help the children to take part will be with you nearer the time. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us to take the children around the course on **Tuesday 16th June from 1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.** The Pentathlon will end with a whole school relay race – weather permitting!

**QUIZ NIGHT –** Please, please, please support The Friends Quiz evening if you can. It is set to be a wonderful evening at Aldborough Community Centre. The quiz will take place on Saturday 28th March from 5.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. Light bites will be included and there are prizes to be won! £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child and under 4s are free. Thank you to The Friends for organising this family event to support our children. Tickets can be purchased from the brand- new Friends webpage.

**TESCO STRONGER STARTS - Blue disc voting in Tesco.** Tesco Aylsham have extended the current voting round until Sunday 26th April. This gives us a little more time to get those all-important final votes in for our project. Please pop your blue disc in our box next time you're in Tesco in Aylsham please. Every vote counts!



## *Dates for your Diaries*



| **DATES LIST 2026** | |
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| | **APRIL** |
| **Tuesday 14th April** | **First day of the Summer Term for children** |
| **Thursday 23rd April** | **Ada and the Code Crusader – English Touring Opera for all KS2 children.** |
| | **MAY** |
| **Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May** | **End of KS2 SATs (all year 6 children – no term time holidays!)** |
| **Monday 18th May – Friday 22nd May** | **Year 5 Bikeability (Most year 5 children)** |

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| **Tuesday 19th May** | **Year 6 trip to Gresham STEAM competition** |
| **Monday May 25th - Friday May 29th** | **HALF TERM** |
| | **JUNE** |
| **Friday June 12th** | **Class Photos** |
| **Tuesday 16th June** | **The Great Aldborough Olympic Pentathlon – Family Learning Afternoon. 1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.** |
| **Saturday 20th June** | **AHS Family Learning Day – Aylsham High School 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.** |
| **Wednesday 24th June – Friday 26th June** | **AHS + North Walsham High School transition days** |
| **Wednesday 24th June** | **5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. New Reception (September 2026) Parents' Meeting** |
| **Thursday 25th June** | **Whole school transition day – new classes for Sept 2026** |
| | **JULY** |
| **Monday 13th July** | **KS2 Summer Production 1.45 p.m. (families with young children only)** |
| **Tuesday 14th July** | **KS2 Summer Production 6.00 p.m.** |
| **Wednesday 16th July** | **KS2 Summer Production 6.00 p.m.** |
| **Friday 17th July** | **Leaver's Assembly 2.30 (All parents and carers for Year 6 invited)**<br><br>**Last day of the summer term** |

