SCHOOL YEAR 2026/27- NEWSLETTER NO 2

Dear Friends,

We have all been enjoying the autumnal feel around the school this week. After the heat of the last few weeks it has been lovely to feel cooler and to enjoy our time outside on the field without overheating. 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, the year 5 and 6 trip to Eaton Vale, our Autumn parents' evenings and our Spooky Stories Dress Up Day. Alongside these Aldborough 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'.

From year 2 to year 6 the children are experiencing a new way of learning the rules of grammar. Our new programme 'Grammarsaurus' challenges the children's understanding of sentence structure and helps them to realise that a sentence is more than just a group of words with a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end……I bet that sounds familiar to some of you! Thank you to Mr Hall-Galley for his enthusiastic approach to everything related to writing – he even makes grammar fun for the children! Mr Caston is setting his sights on different ways to help the children to learn their multiplication tables. This starts in reception class where the children were busy doing a pattern dance just this morning. These activities, which just look like children having fun, are the building blocks of number work. Shaking your hips and reaching for the sky can be so rewarding and beneficial – Mrs Meyrick knows that more than most. There will be exciting new ways of learning tables coming to our Key stage 2 children too but with slightly less hip shaking involved!

There are some changes coming for parents too this year. We have listened to your requests to find out how your children are doing at school on a more regular basis. In addition to our 2 parents' evenings and our end of year report, there will now be two extra reports throughout the year. These won't include all the teacher's comments as our summer reports do, but will give a flavour of attainment and attitude in the Spring Term and early Summer Term. We hope that this helps you feel connected to your children's learning and the progress that they are making.

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.

It certainly is an exciting day in school every day!

Wishing you a hip shaking weekend,
With Best Wishes,
Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough Team

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



Aldborough Working Together

THANK YOU – We have recently had some very generous donations from parents in terms of equipment for the classrooms and communal activities. We can't thank you enough for thinking of us and for bringing exciting activities to the children.

DOG FREE SCHOOL – We are a staff of dog lovers with many of us having our own pets to take for walks around the Norfolk countryside. However, we are aware that not all children (or adults) love dogs as much as we do and we have some children who are very scared of them. Therefore, we ask that dogs do not come onto the school playground or are tied up too near to the gate where children have to walk out past them. Many thanks for your support

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 Monday November 2nd and Thursday November 5th. The appointment sheets will be available just inside the side entrance to school every morning and afternoon from Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October so please come in and make your appointments. If you are unsure where to go please ask Mrs Bearman on the front playground or the member of staff on duty on the side door. We have extended the timing of the Monday evening so that we can accommodate more parents, however, we do ask that as much as possible parents make one appointment per child. Please speak to the office if you have confidential reasons why you would need separate 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 16th. 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 12th October onwards. Thank you for your support.

SPOOKY STORIES DRESS UP DAY – On Friday 13th November (note the spooky date!) we will be holding our spooky stories dress up day. The children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite spooky character (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 Disco – more information coming soon.

A REMINDER ABOUT 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 – 1,483,300

Please make sure that you read with your child as often as possible – it really does make a huge difference. In Key Stage 2 children should read to an adult 3 times a week.

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 2027 – We will be holding open mornings for parents of children due to start school in Reception 2027. The visits will be on :
Thursday 12th November at 9.15 a.m.
Friday 3rd 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 2026	
	OCTOBER
Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October	**Parents appointment sheets available at the side entrance of school before and after school.**
Friday 16th October	**Harvest Celebration – children only. Donations for the North Norfolk Foodbank from October 12th please**
Friday 16th October	**Oak Class Cake Sale 3.15 p.m.**

Monday 19th October – Thursday 22nd October	**Eaton Vale Trip – year 5 and year 6 children.**
Friday 23rd October – Friday 30th October	**HALF TERM HOLIDAY** **Please note the additional Friday on 23rd October as holiday**
	NOVEMBER
Monday 2nd November + Thursday 5th November	**Parents' Evenings**
Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th November	**Bikeability – Level 2 cycling skills (year 6's)**
Tuesday 3rd November	**Individual school photos (+ siblings)**
	DECEMBER
Tuesday 1st December	**Christmas Family Learning Afternoon**
Saturday 5th December	**Christmas Fair – venue and timings tbc**
Tuesday 8th December	**Nativity Performance – Chestnut and Cherry Blossom Class 9.15 a.m.**
Wednesday 9th December	**Nativity Performance – Chestnut and Cherry Blossom Class 9.15 a.m.**
Wednesday December 16th	**Whole School Trip to Sheringham Little Theatre Pantomime**
Thursday December 17th	**Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day**
Friday 18th December	**Carols around the tree 2.30 – invited guests only** **Last day of the Autumn Term**

