

Newsletter – 14th November 2025



Dear Parents

This week may have started out with a damp and rainy Monday but it was brightened up by our Diwali dance day with Kalpesh. It was a high energy, exciting day that everyone enjoyed.

This week's newsletter has some important reminders and information about some exciting events happening at school and in the local community.

Bulb planting – Saturday 15th November, Albert Rose Park, 11am -1pm

There is a community planting event happening tomorrow in Albert Rose Park. Please see the flier attached for further details.

FoTIS Winter Fayre – Saturday 22nd November 1pm to 3.30pm

Come and join us for some festive fun and raise money for the school. This year our fundraising focus is restocking and replenishing our school library so every single penny counts. There will be stalls, games, teas and coffee, cakes and the chance to see Santa.

Christmas on the Cobbles – Sunday 23rd November

This includes daytime activities (entertainment, activities, rides, market stalls) held in Aylesbury's Market Square, Kingsbury, The Exchange, and Friars Square shopping centre, followed by an Illuminated Parade around Market Square, the Christmas light switch on and a fireworks display! The event is completely free to enjoy and will be interactive, fun and sparkling.

🌟 12-5pm 🌟

- The Chiltern View Ice Rink stage, hosted by the wonderful DJ Dan Blaze, will feature live music acts and entertainers to bring festive magic to Market Square. Aylesbury Rotary Hundreds will also be in the Square, roasting hot chestnuts bringing the ultimate smell of Christmas to the event too.
- Games, crafts, activities and performances can be found in Friars Square shopping centre, including Captain Christmas by Unbound Theatre and face painting by Zoomania, Lego building, and a visit from festive walkabout acts. There's something to keep everyone entertained - whatever the weather!
- The Exchange will be transformed into a Christmas market with a range of stall offering the perfect opportunity to make a start on your Christmas shopping.
- Kingsbury will be the home of a festive fun fair with free rides for all the family.

🌟 5pm 🌟

An epic Illuminated Parade will light up the High Street and Market Square. We'll be joined by Santa in his sleigh, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre pantomime stars, local community and dance groups plus, after the weather sadly forced the cancellation of the parade in 2024, the brand-new Illuminated Parade Spectacle will finally be revealed! Following the parade, the Town Council's Christmas lights will be switched on, and the event will end with a stunning firework display.

Celebration Assembly is moving

From next week, celebration assembly is going to move from a Friday afternoon to a Wednesday morning. The children will still be able to bring certificates and trophies etc to school to show everyone and we'll still celebrate house points and Headteacher awards as usual. Everything will be the same, it's just a change of day.

Lunchboxes – please label them

We have a collection of un-named lunchboxes in lost property that we want to return to families. If a lunchbox is named on the outside and the inside we can reunite them easily. Writing with a Sharpie pen is usually the easiest way to do this.

Applying for a school place for Reception or Year 3

All families in Nursery and Year 2 must apply for a school place for their child for September 2026 by midnight on 15th January 2026 and the Buckinghamshire portal is now open.

Children in Nursery do not automatically get a place in our Reception class and children in Year 2 do not automatically get a place at Turnfurlong Junior School. Everyone has to apply. Please note that places are not allocated on a 'first come, first served basis' but you do need to make sure that you apply and as it's a busy time of year it's a good idea to get it crossed off the list of jobs to do.

Further information about the process and key dates can be found here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/school-admissions-guides-policies-and-statistics/guide-to-starting-school-or-moving-up-to-junior-school/>

Change of address

If you move house or have a change of contact details, it is very important that you inform the school office as soon as possible.

Please be aware that the Buckinghamshire school admissions team have informed of us at least four Year 2 children whose proof of address on their application for junior school is not the same as on our school records!

Snow and ice – What happens when the school needs to close?

You might have heard some news reports that parts of the UK may get snow next week. It's not expected to affect Aylesbury but I wanted to make sure that everyone knew what happens when the school needs to close.

Firstly, closing the school is not something that I do unless I have to. The decision to close is made with the Chair of Governors and I also communicate with the Headteacher at Turnfurlong Junior School. We try to take the decision as early as possible to minimise disruption to families. The decision is always made with Health and Safety in mind as follows:

- Is the site safe for pupils, staff and parents? (*Icy playground, steps etc*)
- Are there enough staff available to be able to open school safely? (*Staff may be unable to attend school because their journey to and from work is unsafe or because their child's schools/childcare has closed*)
- Are the weather conditions likely to worsen during the school day? (*Closing during the day is likely to more disruptive and put everyone at greater risk*)

We let parents know that the school is closed through a number of communication channels:

- The Buckinghamshire Council website
<https://closures.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/check-if-your-school-is-closed/>
- ParentMail
- The school Facebook page

When the school is closed for a day we send learning via ParentMail for children to complete at home. A proper snowy day in Aylesbury doesn't happen very often so our 'snowy day plan' has lots of fun opportunities for children to learn through playing and exploring in the snow! However, if the school is closed for more than one day, we move to online learning through Microsoft Teams from the second day. All parents have had their child's email and password sent to them so please check that you have these to hand in case you need to use them.

Names for Christmas cards and the Christmas post box

Our school Christmas post box will be open from 1st December. If your child has cards for friends and staff that they would like to post, please make sure that the name, class or class teacher's name is also written on the front. Class lists, first names only, can be provided on request.

FoTIS Updates

Winter Fayre

Only one week until the Winter Fayre! Come and join us on Saturday 22nd November from 1pm – 3.30pm in the school hall, where there will be stalls, games, tombolas, face painting, magic, cakes, bakes and a well-stocked bar. Of course, there will also be a chance to visit Santa!

Remember the deadline for advance raffle ticket purchases is Wednesday next week. You can now order them online <https://raffle.fotis.org.uk> or with cash using the slips on the letters sent home last week.

To make the event a success we need your help!

Cake and Bakes – We are looking for donations of home baked goods to sell on the day. Please bring these to the school hall either at school pick up on Friday 21st or any time from 11.30 am on Saturday 22nd. Please ensure there are no nuts and that all ingredients are listed.

Tombola Prizes – Thank you for bringing your Children's Tombola prizes in today! Remember there's another non-uniform day on Friday 21st November in exchange for an adults' tombola donation. Examples of donations towards the adults' tombola could be wine, beer, smellies etc. Donations will be collected at the school gates during drop off.

FoTIS Volunteers 2025/26
WhatsApp group



Volunteers – In order to be able to run this event we need volunteers! Just an hour on a stall makes the world of difference! Please scan the QR code and join the volunteer WhatsApp group to find out more.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 19th November - Last day for advance raffle ticket purchases https://raffle.fotis.org.uk
Friday 21st November - Non-Uniform Day in exchange for a donation towards the adults' tombola for the Winter Fayre
Saturday 22nd November - Winter Fayre in the school hall, 1pm – 3.30pm

KEY DATES - 2025-26	
November	
Monday 17 th	Flu immunisations (Reception-Year 2)
Friday 21 st	FoTIS Non-Uniform Day – donations for adult tombola
Saturday 22 nd	FoTIS Winter Fayre 1.00-3.30 pm
Monday 24 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Friday 28 th	FoTIS Tuck Shop after school
December	
Thursday 11 th	Reception Christmas production, 9.15 am
Friday 12 th	Christmas Jumper Day FoTIS Tuck Shop after school
Monday 15 th	Year 1 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Tuesday 16 th	Year 2 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Thursday 18 th	Christmas party day
Friday 19 th	Carols around the tree (afternoon)
January	
Monday 5 th	Staff training day (children not in school)
Monday 26 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
February	
Friday 6 th	FoTIS Sponsored Bounce
Thursday 12 th	Parent involvement morning
Friday 13 th	FoTIS Non-Uniform Day – donations for bake sale FoTIS Bake Sale after school
March	
w/c 9th March	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK
Monday 9 th	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 10 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 11 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Monday 23 rd	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Wednesday 25 th	Eid party
April	
Monday 27 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
May	
Monday 11 th	Year 2 SATs week 1
Friday 15 th	Pyjamarama Day

Monday 18 th	Year 2 SATs week 2
June	
Monday 8 th	Year 1 Phonics check / Year 2 recheck week
Monday 15 th	Meeting for new parents (starting school in September 2026)
Monday 22 nd	Open Evening
Monday 29 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am – Year 2 parents only
July	
Friday 3 rd	Beach Day
Saturday 4 th	FoTIS Summer Social
Tuesday 7 th	Move up day 1
Wednesday 8 th	Move up day 2
Monday 13 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Thursday 16 th	Sports Day (am)

TERM DATES 2025-26		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Thursday 4 th September 2025	Thursday 23 rd October 2025
	Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025
Spring Term	Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026
	Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026
Summer Term	Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026
	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026	Wednesday 22 nd July 2026
Staff Training Days	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 Friday 24 th October 2025 Monday 3 rd November 2025 Monday 5 th January 2026 Monday 1 st June 2026	
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026 (school closed)	

TERM DATES 2026-27		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Thursday 3 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
	Tuesday 3 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Spring Term	Tuesday 5 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12 April 2027	Thursday 27 May 2027
	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027
Staff Training Days	Tuesday 1 September 2026 Wednesday 2 September 2026 Monday 2 November 2026 Monday 4 January 2027 Friday 28 May 2027	
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027 (school closed)	