

Newsletter 1 2026

Dear Families,

Well - this term turned out a little differently than I was expecting BUT due to our INCREDIBLE staff teams at ASS nothing changed at all - which clearly makes my heart sing! Our new family members have settled in beautifully – already know our school values and are making remarkable progress. And as for the rest of us – it goes without saying that we have SMASHED Autumn Term 1!!

Our School Parliament is now complete - huge congratulations to the following children…

Louie, Alena, Joe, Poppy, Hamza, Ying Hoi, Isla, Connie, Ellie, Alessandro, Nico, Emmanuel & Abby

…I know that Miss Costello and our Heads of School can't wait to start working with you to make our school an even better place!!!

I hope you enjoyed our Harvest and Pledge service as much as I did today – huge huge thanks for all your generous harvest donations – it is good to know that – thanks to your generosity - we will be feeding hungry bellies over the next few months!!

Particular shout outs to this term go to:

- The whole of Year 4 for simply being superstars – it is not easy starting a new school year coming back to the unknown – but they did and have absolutely SMASHED this term – and for that we are immensely proud of them! In fact - they might be such a fabulous class that Mr Gresswell has agreed to stay on for the WHOLE YEAR! Come on – that deserves a BOOM!!!!
- Izzy for working hard over the Summer holidays on her application to join the CLT - as she was so determined to get secure a position – which she did!!!
- Sanvin for getting FULL MARKS (just WOW) on his recent maths papers!!!
- Emilia T for making remarkable progress across the curriculum – due to her perseverance and determination – including doing extra work at home on percentages!!
- Alex L, Tasya, Hadiya, Yana, Rebecca for completing their tessellations for our Art exhibition - showing exceptional dedication towards accuracy and presentation!
- Aidan for embodying our school values of Love, Respect and Forgiveness – all day every day!

- Venba, Alia, Reeva - for consistently working on their reading skills and applying what has been taught to answer their questions thoroughly!
- Ian for writing truly captivating descriptions in English lessons!
- Taanvika for being an amazing citizen who consistently follows the rules, shows kindness to others and approaches her work with such care and dedication!
- Emmanuel for always being ready with a beautifully and carefully thought-out answer that always amazes every adult he comes across!
- Nico for his incredible and vocabulary filled explanation of the life cycle of a frog!
- Antonia, for welcoming our new classmates from far and near with such a wonderful display of our values of love and respect!
- All of Reception for settling in fabulously and already understanding our values of LOVE, RESPECT and FORGIVENESS!!
- Frank for trying so hard on his spellings and for working hard to get his bs and ds the right way round!

I have attached our diary as whilst we do always try not to change it – sometimes we have no choice! Any changes made are in red – this is also on both websites!!

Also attached our terms dates for 2027/8 – (is it me or does that sound like something from a date from back to the future) thse are also on both websites!!

I am having a little think about this newsletter and how we communicate all the wonderful things we are doing here at ASS with you – do please feel free to let me know if you have any thoughts - and watch this space...

I do hope you all manage to have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you all on time on **MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER**...

Best wishes,

Susannah

Values Award

Each term the staff nominate a child who they believe has fully embraced and embodied our values of **LOVE, RESPECT & FORGIVENESS** – I then have the nearly impossible task of deciding who should receive the award!

This term the award goes to...

Alena

Congratulations **Alena** and thank you for living through our values of

LOVE, RESPECT & FORGIVENESS!!

ATTENDANCE

The National Figure for 2025/2026 was 93.07%
The current National Figure is: 94.67%

Our target for 2025/26 is 97%

Infant Attendance 94.7%
Junior Attendance 97.4%

We had LOTS of families not return to school on the first day back after the summer break and are still having LOTS of requests for holidays during term time. So, this is just a reminder that we can only ensure that your children make progress socially, emotionally and academically if they are in school on time every day!

Learning Round Up

Ducklings

Ducklings have had the most fantastic term! Our new Reception children have settled in so well and our Year 1s have also been settling into their role of being the oldest in their class. Ducklings have been working so hard on their name writing, numbers, tracing, colouring, artwork, friend-making and so much more. Reception have danced in the rain, learnt our school values, made numerous amounts of artwork to take home. Year 1 have also been super - they've learnt our National Anthem and have practiced learning to skip, all whilst learning about Harvest and creating different fruits and vegetables to dance around the church with! It really has been jam-packed... I hope you all have a superb and well-deserved break Ducklings, and I can't wait to see you back in November for more learning with love and laughter!





Cygnets

Cygnets it has been the most amazing first term this year! We have been busy, getting to know our new classroom, settling in together and learning how we can all help one another to be our best selves. From learning about monsters biting mum and dad, different ways to add and subtract, and the life cycles of both frogs and plants, we have done a lot of fantastic learning! Year ones have

amazed us all with their brilliant ideas, beautiful artwork and knowledge of the UK. Year twos, we have been blown away with how quickly you have learnt to sing our National Anthem and your lines for the amazing harvest festival! Well done everyone for a lovely start to the year, I hope you all feel proud of your hard work!



Year 3

I am delighted to say that all the children have settled in remarkably well. It has been wonderful to see them so engaged in their learning, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity across all areas.

This term, we have embarked on an exciting journey through history, exploring Prehistoric Britain. The children have particularly enjoyed discovering how people lived during the Ice Age, Stone Age and Bronze Age, and have worked hard to write their very first history essays. A highlight was our trip to Reading Museum, where a hands-on prehistory session truly brought the topic to life. In English, they have made great progress, writing fantastic stories full of imagination and creativity. During Reading sessions, they explored a range of interesting poems, developing their comprehension and analytical skills. In Art, they experimented with a variety of techniques and produced some wonderful artwork, and I have been immensely impressed by their efforts and artistic flair. We cannot wait for you to see our exhibition on Friday! The pupils have also begun their fascinating journey into Latin, learning the basics of the language and exploring its connection to English vocabulary. It has certainly been a busy but very fulfilling term!

As we look forward to the half-term break, I would like to thank you for your continued support. And yes—please keep encouraging your children to practise and master their 3, 4 and 8 times tables whenever you can!

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning.



Year 4

It has been wonderful getting to know the Year 4s and seeing how much they love their learning - almost as much as they love their stationery😋.

The children have worked so hard in all areas of their learning, but a highlight has to be their English Writing, based on "The Mermaid of Zenor". They really took to the story, and loved writing their own versions of a legend with an aquatic creature! We have compiled them into our own class book called: "Legends From the Sea" which will be out in our classroom.

We have also made a great start on the Year 4 Maths curriculum and the children are becoming much more confident with their multiplication tables – recently we have started to focus on the tricky 7's, 8's and 9's! Please do keep working on these at home as all Year 4 children will take the Multiplication Tables Check in June.

The children have enjoyed looking at how to classify both plants and animals and they enjoyed collecting data from around the school grounds on vertebrates, invertebrates, flowering and non-flowering plants.
Roman Britain has been our area of learning in History and the children particularly enjoyed our trip to Silchester (I think we made the right decision to postpone it to this week due to the weather!). Thank you to those of you who came along to our Roman Feast – the children were disappointed that they could not serve you Dormouse, Camels Toes or Pigs Brain as the Roman's would have eaten, but we hoped you liked to bread and cheese!

On a personal note from me, thank you for making me feel so welcome at ASJS and I look forward to meeting more of you during next half
term.



Year 5

What a first term! Year 5's have been fantastic: settling into routines, working hard and making the most of their learning.

We have been blown away by some truly amazing writing pieces (non-chronological report and sci-fi narrative) which were inspired by the books we have been reading in class, Hidden Figures and Robot Girl. Children captured the essence of both writing styles and were remarkable when selecting suitable vocabulary to enhance their writing pieces. Not only did children embed good writing styles, but both books challenged our way of thinking and how technology is evolving and shaping a new future for us. These topics were also linked to our oracy lessons where we have been thinking about body language and word choice this term.

Our History lessons provided us with an insight into the Benin Kingdom learning about how this African civilisation became successful over time and its links it had with European trade. In Science, we had a number of experiments to conduct and evaluate. I think the most enjoyed one was testing air resistance by creating model paper airplanes and seeing whose travelled the furthest. We loved thinking about our Art topic 'Make a Mark' and created a collage of Miss Vink's face. With over 70 pieces of squared paper, this took us quite a while and we used our knowledge of proportion to ensure the picture would be an effective poster. It also gave us an opportunity to think about what mark we want to leave at ASJS.

Our pledge, 'Interview a friend about their religion' was a wonderful time to share beliefs, customs and traditions with each other and gaining a better understanding of who we are as individuals. It was a joy to see children give their respect and attention to their fellow classmates during this valued time.

What a fun-filled term and no doubt more to come!

Wishing our families a well-deserved break!



Year 6

We have had such a brilliant first term in Year 6! It has been a busy one, with lots of hard work and exciting learning.

In English, we started the term with *Windrush Child*, a beautiful story which helped us to understand more about the experiences and struggles of the Windrush Generation. We were incredibly lucky to have a visit from Peter Small, a member of the Windrush Generation, who came to speak to us about what it was like to move to Reading when he was just 18 years old. We loved hearing his stories and finding out more about his experiences -he was amazing! We then moved on to *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, a story with no words but which still managed to make us feel some very big emotions! We enjoyed exploring the story and then creating our own versions, getting really creative with our writing. Our topic of Migration and Movement has been really interesting, and we have enjoyed making lots of links between our different subjects.

In Maths, we have been working hard to consolidate our place value knowledge and have been getting stuck into addition and subtraction. In Science, we have been learning all about living things and their habitats, exploring how living things are grouped and the different habitats they live in. History has been all about the Industrial Revolution, where we have learned about what life was like for the Victorians and the huge importance of steam power. We also had a fantastic trip to Reading Museum, where we learned more about the Industrial Revolution in Reading. There was lots of interesting learning about biscuits too! In Music, we have been studying film music, which has been really interesting. We particularly enjoyed looking at silent films and seeing how the music could completely change the mood and meaning of what we were watching. In Art, we have been exploring mark making and looking at how different cultures and time periods have used marks in their artwork. It has been fascinating to see how varied these techniques can be, and we have enjoyed creating our own mark-making artwork. We also completed our first SATs mock of the year. The children tackled this really sensibly and calmly, and we were so pleased to see some fantastic results. It has also given us a good idea of what we need to work on as we move forward.

What a fantastic first term it has been! We are so proud of the children and all the effort they have put in. Rest up, have lots of fun over half term and come back ready for another term of hard work, learning and fun!





A message from the **All Saints Junior School Anthem Community Council**:

Hello Families,

The Anthem Community Council is a group of volunteers representing different voices within the school community. We provide an opportunity for families, community members and school leaders to work together, share ideas, celebrate successes, and support the continued development of All Saints Junior School.

We are looking for volunteer parents to join the Anthem Community Council to ensure parent voice is represented. If you might be **interested in joining the Anthem Community Council** please contact the school office: Admin@allsaints.anthemtrust.uk

My name is Liz Kenny and I am Chair of the Anthem Community Council. One of my roles is supporting All Saints Junior School's Eco Warrior Leaders. This year's Lead Eco Warrior is Izzy. She presented an outstanding presentation outlining her passion for the environment and already, along with Persephone commanded the most wonderful assembly on recycling.

