



House Point Cup Weekly Winners

The House Points earned this week were...

Avebury	257pts
Ridgeway	254pts
Silbury	253pts
Kennet	249pts



Well done to all!

Golden Book

Congratulations to the following children for being mentioned in the Golden Book Assembly today for their excellent attitudes and approach.

- Colin, Tiwa and Stanley (Elm)
- Maryam and Carter (Holly)
- Callie, Max and Umut (1Beech)
- Fletcher and Daisy (1Hazel)
- Wendy and Jude (2Alder)
- Oliver and Sophie (2Birch)
- Liliana and Nathaniel (3Chestnut)
- Alex and Romie (3Hornbeam)
- Yeni and Dexter (4Rowan)
- Theo R and Olivia T (4Sycamore)
- Logan and Haleema (5Juniper)
- Will and Devon (5Willow)
- Samukelo and Georgia (6Glenmore)
- Clementine and Amiya (6Pengelli)
- Nick and Daisy (6Sherwood)
- Evan and Jack (6Tollymore)



Well done everyone - keep it up!

Nursery News

We are thrilled to come back this week to new grass, a fenced mud kitchen and new children. Once our planters arrive we will be busy planting herbs, vegetables and flowers in our garden area. Thank you again to FOAMS for helping us to start this project. If anyone has any seedlings, plants or flowers they would like to donate, please do. We will be worming our way to sustainability by creating a compost wormery to introduce our youngest children to this concept. In the words of David Attenborough 'No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced'.



Welcome Back and some Important Information

Welcome Back to Term 4. As stated in Monday's letter I hope you had a chance to enjoy some family time. Let's hope the weather continues to improve as we navigate the Summer Terms. *Where has this year gone so far?*

- Thank you to all those who made the effort to meet the teachers this week for our **parent consultation evenings (PCEs)**. If you were cut off by the online service or couldn't manage in the 10-minute allocation face to face, please just communicate with your child's teacher (which is what we prefer anyway rather than waiting until PCEs and then running out of time).
 - Please note if you were planning to attend my **Parent Update Meeting on Monday**, this meeting is on Zoom and a code needs to be requested from the office to be able to join. Please also submit any questions you might have in advance, so I can prepare more effectively for you.
 - **Year 2** have their trip to Warwick Castle next week.
 - **Year 4 & 5** have the chance to do cycling proficiency next week.
 - Year 1 and Year 3 have trips out on 4th May. Year 1 to Fairy Tale Farm and Year 3 on a River Study.
 - The **school calendar / diary dates** is on the website as always. [Link here](#). As reminders, please remember we have an additional Bank Holiday this year. May 1st is May Day, and we also have May 8th as a Bank Holiday in recognition of the Coronation.
- The school will have a **Royal Day on 5th May** for anyone wanting to come in Red/White/Blue or dress up as a Prince/Princess/Queen or King. If you'd prefer non-uniform this is also acceptable.
- **Year 3** children will be going on a Residential Trip next year - find out about it on 9th May 6.30pm
 - We have externally marked National Assessments in **Year 6** during May and reportable Teacher Assessments in **Year 2** throughout May and June. *We keep these low-key so no pressure please!*
 - Year 6 have an activity day on 15th May including the famous climbing wall challenge!
 - **Class Photographs** take place on 23rd May 2023 - remember uniforms and combs!?!)
 - **Year 1** have their assembly - all parents at the same time please - 9am on Friday 19th May 2023.



Then, before you know it, Discos (25th May), Year 6 Cake Sale (26th May), Term 5 ends and we roll into Term 6.

- Camp Out letters will come out this term for parents and children in **Year 6** to join this year's event, which is on Friday evening 9th June 2023 - at the end of the first week back in June.

Well done Evan

During Easter Evan played a football tournament in Barcelona. Unfortunately, his team were unlucky to lose 3-2 in the Semi-Final, but Evan came away as his team's top scorer and 'Parents' Player of the Tournament'. Well done Evan, this really has been a year of excellent footballing experiences.



Coronation 2023 Royalty Day

Children are invited to dress up as royalty on Friday 5th May. For those who may not want to dress up as kings, queens, princes or princesses they can wear red, white and blue or just non-school uniform.

The Coronation will form an integral part of our whole school Golden Book assembly on 5th May 2023.

The kitchens have kindly agreed to make a cake for each class to celebrate the event.

There will be a whole school competition to create a portrait of King Charles. All you have to do is allow your child to create a portrait at home (any media or materials allowed) and bring it to school on Friday 5th May 2023. Each class will have a winner, which will be shared in assembly that day, and these will go forward to be judged for the prizes donated by FOAMS.

There will be a KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2 winner.

These will be announced, and prizes given, in assembly on Friday 12th May.

Each child will receive a commemorative bookmark.

The following Monday - 8th May 2023 - is a Bank Holiday and the school is closed all day.



Does your child have trouble sleeping?

Is bedtime a battle in your house?

We will be hosting a presentation on good sleep hygiene on **Tuesday May 16th** in the Community room at school. The session will **start at 9am** and run for about an hour.

If this is something you would like help with, find some different strategies to try or just want to chat, come along and join Cath and Jacqui, two of our Family Support workers from Lighthouse.

If you are interested, please sign up at the School Office or email admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk to let us know you would like to attend.

Refreshments will be provided!

Parent Drop Ins

Mrs Hobbis and Mrs Cunningham are running the Fortnightly Parent Drop ins on the following dates this term **at 9am in the Community room:**

Wednesday 3rd May

Wednesday 17th May

Feel free to drop in for a chat if there are issues you would like to discuss, or if you are looking for support - *or just pop in for a cuppa and a biscuit!*



Timings of the school day

You may be aware that in a previous government white paper there was reference made to the timings of the school day. This paper has not passed into law and as such we will continue with our current timings for September - but continue to explore options for the future.

It is not as easy as simply deciding to change the school day. We have to consider other education providers in the area and consult properly with all stakeholders. We also have to consider impact on contracts, agreed employment conditions and the livelihood of staff members. Changing the times of the school day could potentially impact the working conditions of over 65% of staff and/or add a significant additional financial strain on our ever-decreasing budgets. Tinkering with the start and end of the day should not be taken lightly either.

An earlier start may just add more pressure on families, already struggling to get to school on time, adversely impacting pupil attendance data further. So, for the moment, we are researching all possibilities for the future, and await legal direction from the government, before having to change employees working conditions or endanger the school budget any more than it is at present.



New to AMCPS? - Is this the first time you've had a Summer at AMCPS?

Year Group Assembly (Year 1 on 19th May and reception on 16th June)

Arrive before 9am and Mr Buckley lets parents into the hall once the classes are ready.

The children from both classes perform an assembly together from around 9am. Depending on which children are in the assembly you will be informed whether photographs are allowed or prohibited.

Class Photographs (23rd May)

These happen in the school day and all you need to do is arrive on time. Anyone missing of course will be missing. Unlike individual photos, we do not have a second chance for those missing. Uniform and combs useful that day!

Camp Out (9th June Evening and morning of 10th June - 6am breakfast call!)

Children in Year 6 are invited to come and camp out on the school field for a night.

We have some Forest School activities, campfire songs and a social evening around the fire.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and letters with more information will be sent later this term.

Discos (25th May and 20th July)

Discos are the same as they have been all year.

- **KS1 at 5pm to 6pm**
- **KS2 at 6.15-7.30pm**

Year 3 get to choose in the summer terms - so if they are a little worried of the bigger children, they attend the first disco and if they want to mix with the older children they come to the second one.

Children enter via the community room by the car park and parents are asked to keep their child's coat.

ALL children of ALL ages MUST be collected by an adult, or they cannot come to the discos.

Please respect the timings and arrive before 6pm for the first disco and before 7.30pm for the second - even if you have a child in each disco! Please don't leave us as a child-minding service to suit your personal timings.

Formal Government Assessments (throughout May, June & July)

Children in a variety of age groups have government assessments in the summer. Most are based around teacher assessments, but some have to be reported and some are externally marked/collated.

Reception children will have an end of foundation stage assessment. Year 1 (and some Year 2) children take the Phonics Check in June. Year 2 children have teacher assessments using government materials and these are reported to the authorities. Year 4 complete an online Multiplication Tables Check and Year 6 sit formal tests which are administered by the teachers but sent off to be marked by people elsewhere in the country.

Non-Uniform Days for the Summer Fete (Fridays 9th June and 30th June)

Every year we have stalls at the FOAMS Summer Fete where we run tombola for bottles or chocolate. We have a series of non-uniform days in the run up to the Fete but instead of asking for money we ask for donations. More information is sent in the weekly newsletter nearer the time.

Sports Day (21st June - 9.30am KS1, 11am Years 3&4 & 1.45pm Year 5&6) - if wet there is a backup date!

Come to the field access at the top of the car park to be let in to spectate at these events. Each event lasts no more than 1 hour, and scores are collated throughout so that children achieve gold/silver/bronze certificates and collectively their scores count towards the overall Sports Day Cup for their Houses.

The Summer Fete (Friday 7th July)

The Summer Fete takes place on the school grounds, usually using the hall, playgrounds and field with activities and events aimed at raising funds for FOAMS to spend on your children. 4-7pm.

Open Afternoon (Reports) - (Thursday 13th July - 4.30-5.30pm)

At this time, we hand out the reports for the year. We also give out information about attendance and attainments in formal tests. We also introduce the teaching team for your child's next year in school. Reports are collected by parents who come between the stated times to collect the report and go in search of their child's new classroom and teacher for September.

Musical Extravaganza (Wednesday 19th July 1.30pm) - if wet there is a backup date

All children perform songs and recitals on the school field. Bring picnic rugs and deck chairs (and usually suncream and hats!!) to witness this spectacular event. The children receive shade - the parents tend to get full sun!

There will be many more activities and events, such as class trips and visitors etc., letters will be sent nearer the time as appropriate and updates as always on this Weekly Newsletter.