Newsletter October 2026

Head Teacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of this Autumn half-term, I wanted to write to you all to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the new academic year and to extend my sincere thanks to our whole school community.

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parents' Evenings. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it was wonderful to share your children's early successes with you. We were also thrilled by the incredible turn-out and enthusiasm during our recent food tasting session—it was fantastic to see so many families engaged in exploring our healthy meal options together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support with reading at home, homework, and encouraging your children's learning journey every single day. Strong partnerships between home and school make all the difference.

It has been a joy to watch how quickly all of our pupils have settled into their new routines. We are particularly proud of our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception, who have adapted so brilliantly to school life and are coming in each day with big smiles and wonderful curiosity. At the other end of the school, our Year 6 pupils have impressed us with their maturity, focus, and dedication as they begin their SATs year. They are setting a remarkable example and serving as outstanding role models for the younger children.

Across all year groups, the progress we are seeing is truly remarkable. Our pupils are working hard and rapidly building essential foundational skills—from developing neat, confident handwriting and clear sentence construction to making great strides in phonics, reading fluency, and core number skills. A huge **"Well Done!"** to every single child for their hard work and positive attitude to learning.

We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, peaceful, and fun-filled half-term break with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 for another exciting and productive term ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Johnson

The Headteacher of The Alderton Infant and Junior School

Alderton Infant News

Nursery



Wow, what a busy first half term we have had in Nursery! The children have settled in beautifully and are becoming familiar with our routines. Together, we explored the theme 'All About Me', painting our own self-portraits. We also became little scientists while mixing colours and creating a rainbow with our Skittles in water experiment as part of our ‘Colour’ theme. The children have also loved listening to stories and mastering two new nursery rhymes during rhyme time. Finally, to celebrate Black History Month, we learned about Garrett Morgan and made our own traffic lights, before discovering the inspiring nurses who sailed to Britain on the Windrush and crafting our own boats.



Reception

We have had an amazing start to the school year. The children have settled into school life and learnt lots of new routines. We have been learning all about our families, ourselves and painting our own portraits. Throughout the half term we have been looking at lots of stories that link to our topic colour. The children have started their phonics lessons and have been working hard on recognising new sounds.

Alderton Infant News

Year 1

Year 1 have made an excellent start to the school year. We have been learning about the changes we can see coming into autumn. We have been really focused in our phonics sessions and have started to read longer words, such as "chimpanzee." We had a visit from Cath the History Helper and investigated old toys, comparing them to our own. What a busy half term!



Year 2

What a wonderful start to the school year Year 2 have had! We are so proud of how hard the children have worked throughout this first half term. In English, they have showcased their creativity across three brilliant pieces of writing: a fiction story, a non-fiction text, and a poem. In Maths, the children have deepened their understanding of numbers within 100, mastering addition and subtraction strategies and applying their skills to solve word problems. Our Geography lessons saw our young geographers exploring map-making and putting their skills into practice by creating a detailed map of our school. In Science, we have been learning all about *Animals Including Humans*, with a focus on healthy living. Meanwhile in PE, the children have been building fantastic teamwork skills and keeping active with our Daily Mile. Thank you for all your support this term—we hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break!

Alderton Junior News

Year 3

It has been a busy and vibrant start to the term in Year 3, and the children have settled into their new learning routines with brilliant enthusiasm!

In English, we have come on leaps and bounds in our reading and writing. Children have explored a fantastic range of writing styles, including crafting vivid setting descriptions, writing informative non-chronological reports on dragons, and creating expressive poetry. Across all our writing, the children have worked hard on expanding their vocabulary—using rich adjectives and powerful descriptive language to bring their ideas to life. In Maths, we have been building strong foundations across several key areas: Place Value, Number Sense and Graphs. Science has been full of discovery as we dive into our topic on Light and Shadow. Through plenty of hands-on investigations and practical experiments, the children have been exploring how shadows are formed, and what happens when we change the position or distance of a light source. Our Geography lessons have taken us on an exploration close to home! The children have been learning about our local area—studying maps, creating keys and identifying key human and physical features.

In P.E., Year 3 pupils have been active both indoors and outdoors:
Indoor P.E. (Dodgeball): Focusing on teamwork, tactical positioning, and developing effective game strategies.
Outdoor P.E. (Ball Skills): Working on key fundamental movements, including passing, dribbling, catching, and spatial coordination across various team activities.

We have even more exciting learning coming up after the break, including hands-on projects and new topics across the curriculum. And of course… our Christmas Show! Keep an eye out for upcoming updates and key dates in our school calendar.

Alderton Junior News

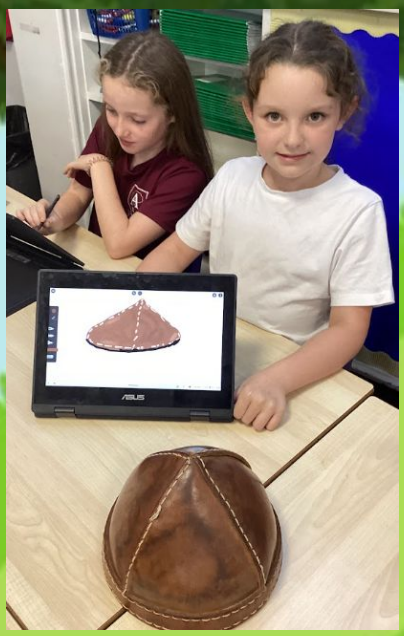


Year 4

What a phenomenal start to the academic year it has been for Perry and Imafidon classes! This half-term, Year 4 pupils have thrown themselves into their learning with immense energy and dedication. In maths, they have been developing their understanding of **place value and rounding**, alongside honing their **column addition and subtraction** skills, while staying laser-focused on their **daily times table** practice.

English sessions have been brimming with creativity, seeing the children craft mouth-watering **recipes**, expressive **poetry**, and thrilling **"defeating the monster" narratives**, all while making fantastic strides with their neat **handwriting** and exploring a rich variety of texts during reading time. Our young historians stepped back in time to discover the fascinating world of the **Anglo-Saxons**, while in science, they sank their teeth into the journey of **the digestive system**.

Beyond the classroom, learning took a digital turn in computing as pupils produced their very own **podcasts**, and PE kept everyone active through dynamic **tag rugby** matches and expressive **dance** routines. It has been a truly outstanding first half-term, and the Year 4 team should be immensely proud of all they have achieved!













Alderton Junior News

Year 5

What a sensational start to the academic year it has been for Year 5! The children have settled into their new routines brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, dedication, and incredible hard work across all areas of the curriculum.

Mind-Boggling Maths

Our Year 5 mathematicians have tackled big numbers with immense confidence, mastering place value all the way up to millions. They have sharpened their skills in addition and subtraction, while also learning to interpret complex line graphs and read various timetables - a key life skill!

Brilliant Books & Powerful Performances

English has been packed with creativity and drama! The children channeled their inner orators to write and perform persuasive speeches, speaking with fantastic passion and confidence. They were captivated by the classic poem *The Highwayman* and showcased their wonderful descriptive skills by crafting chilling ghost stories just in time for the end of term.

Extreme Earth & Scientific Inquiry

Our Geography topic, 'Extreme Earth', sent seismic waves of excitement through the classrooms! The children loved learning about tectonic plates, understanding the mechanics of earthquakes, and exploring how volcanoes are formed. Meanwhile, in Science, our young researchers turned into practical investigators, testing conductors and insulators through hands-on experiments to see how electrical currents flow.

Energetic Athletes

In PE, Year 5 have shown brilliant teamwork and coordination. They have been refining their tactical skills on the football pitch while expressing their creativity and rhythm through high-energy dance routines.

Looking Ahead to Autumn 2!

We are so proud of everything Year 5 has achieved so far, but the adventure doesn't stop here! Next half-term promises to be just as action-packed as we begin our swimming sessions, visit the Abbey, and blast off into our exciting new science topic: Space!

Thank you for your continued support at home. Have a restful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for Autumn 2!

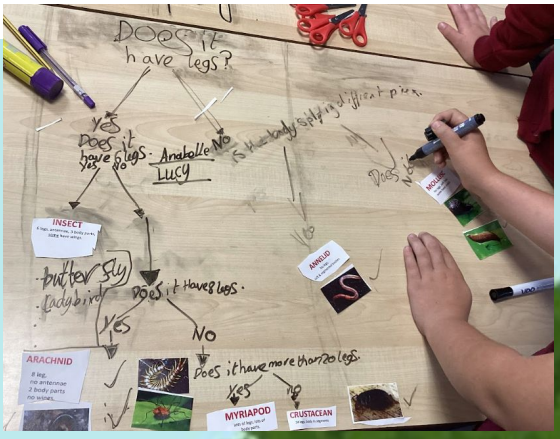
Alderton Junior News

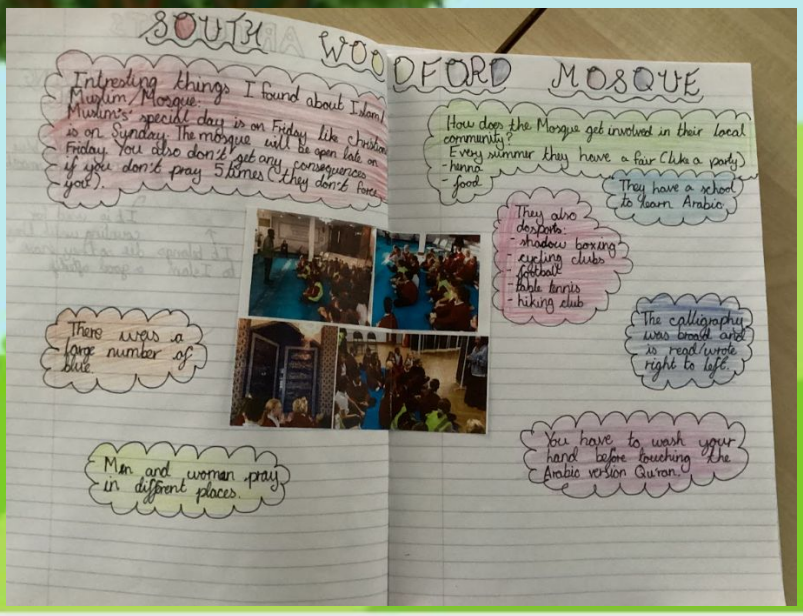
Year 6

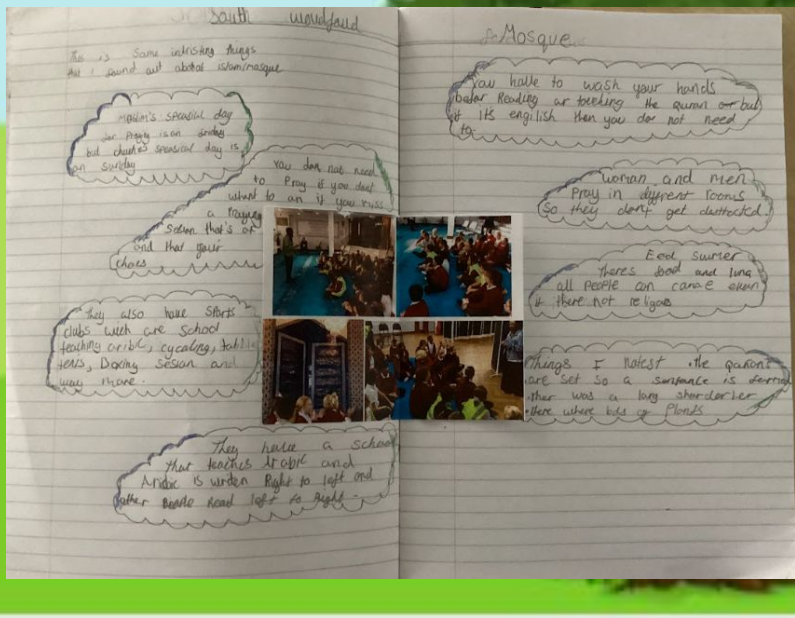
Pupils have had a great start to the year. We have been busy writing ‘how to’ guides, visiting our local Mosque and finding out about how they help their local community, classifying animals and plants in Science, learning how to play ‘Stand by me’ on the glockenspiels, using efficient methods to add and subtract in Maths as well as being active playing, badminton, tag rugby and going swimming.
The pupils have been engaged and ready to learn and we look forward to seeing them progress throughout the year.











Alderton Junior News

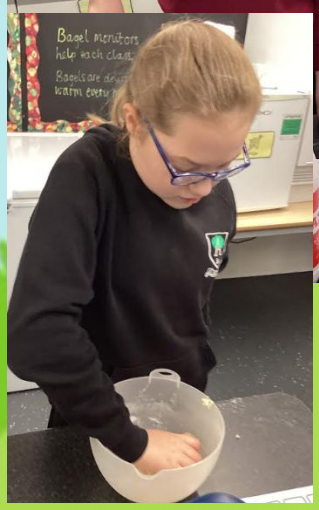
Riley Class

Riley Class have had the most amazing start to the academic year! We have settled in with our new peers, and focused on our key skills of building sentences using colourful semantics and our number sense. We have also been making lots of delicious treats in Cooking- shortbread biscuits, pizzas and chocolate cupcakes, to name a few!- and worked on our throwing and catching skills in PE.

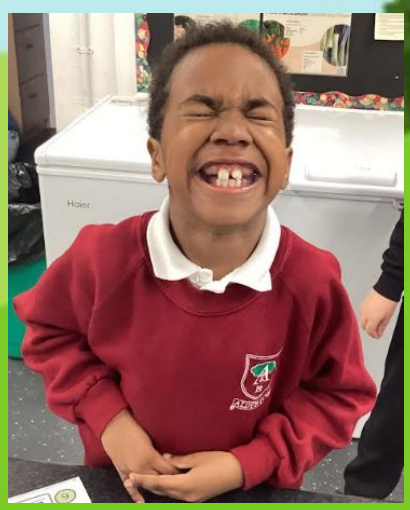
I could not be prouder of how our pupils have engaged this year, both with their academic learning, and with work on their social, emotional and communication skills. I cannot wait to see where their enthusiasm and imagination take us throughout this year.













FOOD TASTING

by Tanja and Catering Team

WITH THE SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

The School Councillors had the opportunity to take part in a food tasting of the new school menu.
They were able to taste the food and give feedback on the look and taste of the food. Their feedback was generally very positive.



















Black History Week

This week our school community came together to celebrate Black History Week, diving into the incredible achievements and legacies of Black individuals.

Our pupils were deeply engaged in learning about influential figures who have shaped our world. From groundbreaking discoveries in science and medicine to powerful voices in literature, politics, art and music. The children explored how these pioneers changed the course of history. We also filled our classrooms with inspiration by listening to and appreciating the work of incredible musical artists.

The learning did not stop in the classrooms! Every class created a special piece of work to reflect what they had discovered. We hve brought all of these brilliant pieces together to create a stunning whole-school display.

Thank you to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm!









ART COMPETITION 

TO REDESIGN OUR SCHOOL VALUES

We are inviting each class to redesign a school value. You are more than welcome to challenge yourself and redesign as many values as you like however it must include the one assigned to your year group.

THE VALUES ARE;

KINDNESS	YEAR 1
PERSEVERANCE/RESILIENCE	YEAR 2
CURIOSITY	YEAR 3
INDEPENDENCE	YEAR 4
ENGAGEMENT	YEAR 5
COMPASSION	YEAR 6

Free Breakfast Club!

Just a reminder of our FREE DfE funded breakfast club provision that runs from 8.05-8.35 each morning. This is available for all pupils in Reception to Year 6.

There are a variety of activities on offer such as board games, puzzles, Lego and art and crafts alongside a healthy breakfast.

We have amended the booking system so there should no longer be the issue with waiting lists that some parents experienced. It is important to please book on so that we can have the correct staffing ratios for the numbers of pupils attending. If you have booked a space but no longer need it on a particular day, please remember to cancel it.

Please find the steps on how to set up an account and book your space here: *How to create an account*
Booking Process Guide

If you have any difficulties, please contact the school office.

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PE Days Update

Starting in November

Year	Days
3L	Monday and Friday
3W	Monday and Friday
4Im	Tuesday and Thursday
4Pe	Tuesday and Thursday
5Pa	Wednesday and Thursday (swimming)
5Pe	Wednesday and Thursday (swimming)
6Gu	Thursday and Friday
6Sh	Thursday and Friday

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Could pupils come into school wearing their PE kits on their PE days, with the optional black PE hoody.

SEN Special Educational Needs and Disabilities *Information Page*



To discuss your child's SEND support (including One Plans or EHCPs) at Alderton Infant School/Nursery or Alderton Junior School, you can now book a virtual 15-minute appointment with me via Google Meet on a Thursday afternoon. Book here:

https://calendar.app.google/ismQ9vRyUfKjGMdA6

Please note : When sending emails to;

senco@ais.efspt.org or inclusion@ajs.efspt.org

I will aim to respond to you within 5 working days

Support for Parents And Carers in Essex

https://send.essex.gov.uk/#

SPORTS UPDATE

ALDERTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

October 2026



BY: MISS HOWARD

What an incredible start to the year we have had! We have had a busy few weeks with football tournaments and matches. Every single child represented the school incredibly well, the sportsmanship was excellent and recognised by other schools and organisers. Children should be extremely proud of themselves!
Well done to the boys football team who have had a positive start to their season and we wish you luck with your next few fixtures.

BY: MISS MURRAY

After an action packed start to the school year, we have celebrated so many children in a variety of different sports!

Our netballers have made a flying start to the season. Our league netball team are currently top of the league, and our B team are unbeaten so far. I also had the pleasure of taking some children to boccia, who did fantastically, and we came away with Gold & Bronze medals!

A special mention also goes to Ava M, who has been chosen to play netball for Woodford Warriors!

The Drama Centre at Alderton Infant and Junior School

🎬 **Alderton Junior Drama Club (Years 3–6)**

Packed with drama games, improvisation, script work and performance projects, helping children grow in confidence while having lots of fun.

✨ **Next term, both our Infant and Junior Drama Clubs will be working towards a special end-of-term performance for parents to enjoy!**

Book your place:

👉 https://pbbl.uk/4rvVfhf

🏆 **NEW! LAMDA Acting Club (Years 3–6)**

Following the success of our Junior Drama Club, we're excited to launch a brand-new **LAMDA Acting Club!**

Children will work towards an **internationally recognised LAMDA Acting qualification**, developing a monologue while building confidence, performance and communication skills.

⭐ **100% Distinction pass rate**

💛 **10% discount for children already attending our Junior Drama Club.**

Book your place:

👉 https://pbbl.uk/4aUbqQe

🤠✨ **Toy Story 5 Holiday Workshop**

Join us for **3 days of drama, games, crafts, singing and performance**, inspired by the world of **Toy Story 5!** A fantastic way to keep children entertained over the holidays while building confidence and making new friends.

Book here:

👉 https://pbbl.uk/4wutE39

📅 **A Reminder for Current Members**

Our after-school clubs run on a **rolling monthly subscription**, so if your child already attends, **there's no need to rebook-** their place will automatically continue into next term. If you no longer require your child's place, we kindly ask for **one month's notice**.

If your child is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or challenging behaviour at home, please use the QR code to self-refer for parent-led support for your child.

N.B. Sessions will take place on Tuesday mornings weekly for 6-8 weeks.



mind in West Essex | MHST

NHS

Hello there!

My name is Amie Gilbert

I am part of the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) based within schools in Epping and Harlow, working for the local charity 'Mind in West Essex'. We offer parent-led support for children experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or challenging behaviour at home.



mind in West Essex | MHST