



Newsletter – 19 December 2025

Welcome

What a way to round off a busy term! I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support throughout this term. It has been wonderful to see the children's hard work, achievements, and so much engagement from our community.

On behalf of everyone at Alderman Pounder Infant & Nursery School, I wish you a wonderful Christmas. Please take care, stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year for another exciting term.

- Mr A Butterworth-Drury
Headteacher



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During the spring term, children's PE days will remain the same:
Reception (Chestnut and Willow) will do PE on Wednesdays
Year 1 (Beech and Maple) will do PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Year 2 (Cedar and Oak) will do PE on Thursdays and Fridays.



On PE days, please remember to send your child in wearing the correct kit and wearing their school jumper:

- black joggers or leggings
- plain white t-shirt
- trainers

For safety reason, earrings must not be worn on PE days.



We ask that children read at home as often as possible, ideally every day, and this is marked in their home-school diary.



Please take extra care when driving (and reversing) near school to ensure everyone's safety and avoid any accidents.

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.

As well as being a no smoking site, we are also a no vaping site. For the comfort of all members of our community, please refrain from smoking or vaping on school site.

Admissions for September 2026



The school admissions application window is still open but there's not long left! If your child is due to start in Reception next year, you can apply for a place on the [school admissions hub](#). Make sure you apply by Thursday 15th January 2026!

Our school is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow, and we want to share that with as many families as possible. We know that word of mouth can be a powerful tool, so we ask that you help us spread the word about our school. If you know someone who is looking for a great school for their child, please encourage them to apply. We believe that every child deserves a great education, and we strive to provide that every day.

A joyful journey



We were delighted to welcome families to our Reception Christmas performance, "Baaarmy Bethlehem." The children worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to the show, learning their lines, songs and actions with great enthusiasm. They confidently took on their roles and performed with big smiles, making the retelling of the Christmas story truly joyful and memorable. It was wonderful to see how proud and excited the children were as they shared their performance with their families.



We also had the pleasure of visiting Chetwynd Care Home, where the children sang a selection of our Christmas songs to the residents. This was a very touching and heart-warming experience, bringing smiles, laughter and festive cheer to everyone involved. It was a special moment for both the residents and our children, reminding us all the joy of sharing kindness and celebration at Christmas time.



Focus on inclusion



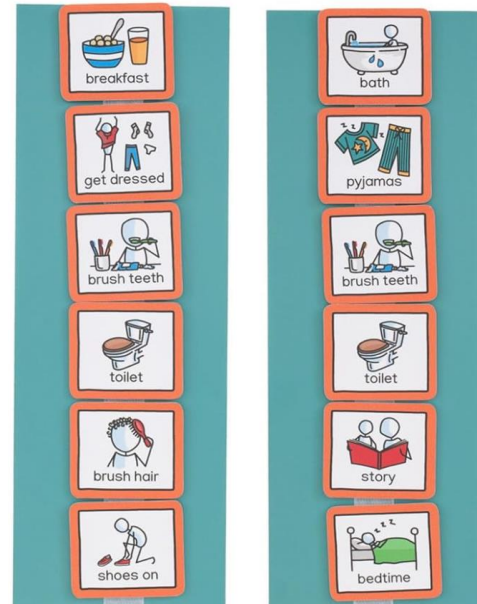
Clare Goodyear (our Family Support Worker) and I (SENDCo) have enjoyed connecting with families at our monthly Parent Support Group – we will continue in January, all are welcome!

Our next session will be run by a play therapist, from 'Living Well' on 19th January, after drop-off in the Pod – coffee and tea included.

A discussion point that came up during many of the sessions was the power of using visuals to support communication. Visuals are a powerful tool in helping children understand, predict, and feel secure about their day. At Alderman Pounder, we have a universal approach where all teachers use and refer to a daily visual timetable to model sequencing and provide clarity for every learner. For some children who need additional support, we break the day into smaller

steps using a “Now/Next” format, reducing anxiety and making transitions easier. For those with specific communication needs, we work with Rachel Burnett & Vicky Jobson from the Inclusion Service to offer targeted strategies such as tailored visuals to help them express their wants and needs and AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) devices. These layers of support ensure that every child can access learning in a way that works best for them.

As a parent, I also use visuals to support our morning and bedtime routines, reducing stress for all! Here is a visual you could try at home during the Christmas break – there are also many Velcro options you can purchase.



Keeping children safe online



If your child will be using devices such as mobile phones or tablets, it's really important to make sure they stay safe. Technology can be a wonderful tool for learning and fun, but it also comes with risks. Being aware of these risks and knowing how to manage them is the best way to protect your child.

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to check the guidance we've provided from Wake Up Wednesday (formerly National Online Safety). It will help you understand what to look out for and how to create a safe environment for your child when they are online.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about Internet safety issues.



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Support and safeguarding



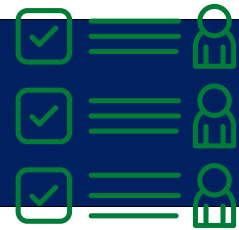
Our school safeguarding team can be contacted for non-emergencies, including during school holidays on safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk.

If you have urgent concerns for a child or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) team on 0300 500 80 80.

If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (08:30-17:00), contact the MASH Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 4564546. In an emergency call 999.

To report a crime, call 101.

Attendance matters



At Alderman Pounder, we take the wellbeing of every child very seriously. Part of this commitment includes monitoring attendance and making sure each child is in school as often as possible. We understand that this term has seen more illness than usual, which has affected the attendance of many children. However, it's still important for us to follow our school policy, which includes letting parents know when attendance levels have dropped (even when we know the reasons why).

The Department for Education (DfE) sets an attendance concern threshold of 90%. If a child's attendance falls below this, they are classed as having 'persistent absence', which is a significant concern. To prevent this, we monitor closely when attendance drops below 93%. Many of you will have received letters or phone calls recently; in most cases, these are simply to keep you informed, and sometimes to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance. Please do get in touch if you'd like to talk about this further - we're here to help.

It's also vital that we know where our children are each day. If your child is absent, please call school before 9:15am to let us know. This helps us meet our

statutory safeguarding responsibilities. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you for a reason. If we still cannot make contact, we may need to carry out a home visit to check on welfare. In rare cases where we cannot reach anyone, we may have to ask the police to carry out a safe and well check.

Thank you for working with us to keep every child safe and supported.

Key dates

Updates and additions since the last edition of our newsletter are shown in [blue](#).

A downloadable calendar of our term dates can be found [on our website](#). We have also added the calendar for 2025/26 which gives term dates and planned INSET days.

Monday 5th January 2026 – Children return to school

Friday 13th February 2026 – Break up for half term

Monday 23rd February 2026 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 24th February 2026 – Children return to school

Friday 27th March 2026 – Break up for Easter holidays

Monday 13th April 2026 – Children return to school

Monday 4th May 2026 – Bank holiday

Thursday 21st May 2026 – Break up for half term

Friday 22nd May 2026 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 1st June 2026 – Children return to school

Monday 27th July 2026 – Break up for summer holidays

Tuesday 28th July 2026 – First day of the summer holidays



Thank you for reading

Merry Christmas

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