School Newsletter 448 17th July 2026

Archdeacon Cambridge's

Church of England Primary School
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"Be happy and love learning, confident in our faith. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of another academic year, we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. We are all more than ready for the summer holidays – especially after weeks of this hot weather!

As always, I am very grateful to all the numerous stakeholders who help make Archdeacon Cambridge's such a happy and successful school. **My thanks to all the staff**, who work tirelessly to give their very best on a daily basis. They are a talented and dedicated team who give so much to the children, to each other and to the school. **Thank you to all of you - the parents, carers and families** for all of your kind support this past year. **My sincere thanks to the Governing Board**, who work to support the strategic direction of the school and ensure we do our jobs effectively and remain value for money. A special mention of thanks to Roger Clark, who is stepping down from our Governing Board at the end of this term.

A huge thank you to the dedicated PTA team, who have worked tirelessly putting on great events for the children and parents, as well as doing the important job of raising money for the school. More than ever we rely on this funding stream as budgets are tight. Thank you for your on-going support and contributing to the work of PTA. A special mention of thanks to Hettie Bishop – who has been Chair for the last year. I believe we are still hoping that someone or a couple of people are willing to put themselves forward as the Chair/Co-Chairs for next year. You will have a merry team behind you – you will not be solely responsible for running everything!

My huge thanks to the numerous Year 6 parents (many of whom will be leaving Archdeacon as their youngest child moves onto Secondary School). Thank you for running the various PTA functions for years and helping to shape the PTA as it is today. Thank you for your time and dedication to our school community. We wish you all the very best.
Last but certainly not least, **to our wonderful children**, without whom none of us would be here. It is such a joy to see them learn and grow on a daily basis. They are enthusiastic, put smiles on our faces every day and it is genuinely a privilege to teach them and learn from them! Year 6 put on a superb show this afternoon and it is an absolute pleasure to share and celebrate their successes over the years. We finally got our SATs results yesterday and I am thrilled to say that Year 6 have excelled themselves and we are all very proud of them. The time has flown by and it has been delightful to watch them grow into the fantastic individuals they are today – ready to fly this nest and move onto secondary school. Do come back and visit us, we love to see you.

To our staff who are leaving – Mrs Hitchcock retiring after 32 years here and Miss Clarke moving on to manage a dance school; to all of Year 6, other pupils and families who are leaving us, we wish you the very best of luck in your new schools and other ventures. As always, you will be in our thoughts and prayers in September, as you embrace pastures new – good luck.

***Please ensure you keep up with your reading over the holidays – visit the local library. There is a summer reading library challenge. Do not let all your hard work this year, slip backwards in the 5 weeks we are off.*
I wish you all a relaxing and peaceful summer break. Take care and God bless you all and we look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 3rd September** for another action packed year.

With my very best wishes,
Miss Lambe and all the AC team x

A reminder this term will finish at 2.30pm on Tuesday 21st July.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary—Autumn Term 2026

Weds 2nd Sept		Inset Day (School closed to children)
Thurs 3rd Sept	8.45am	**YEAR 1-6 START OF TERM**
Thurs 10th Sept	9.10am	Start of Term & Founders' Day Service
Fri 11th Sept	8.45am	**RECEPTION START OF TERM**
	9.00am	Reception Coffee Morning at HT Church
	3.15pm	PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale
Tues 15th Sept	6.30pm	Meet the Teachers (Years 1&2,5&6)
Tues 23rd Sept	6.30pm	Meet the Teachers (Rec, 3 & 4)
	8pm	PTA AGM
Thurs 24th Sept	All Day	Class & Individual Photos (Rec-Year 6)
Fri 26th Sept	AM	Class & Individual Photos (Rec-Year 6)

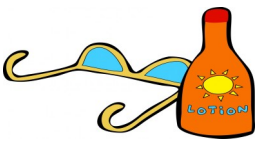
Change of Address /Contact Details



A reminder to inform the School office if you have any address, telephone or email address changes over the holidays. Please also remember to update any emergency contact details that your child may have as we do telephone these contacts if we are unable to reach the parents. We are aware that your emergency contacts often change as children progress through the school.









'Meet the Teachers' Dates	
Year Group	**Time and Date**
Reception	6.30pm 22nd September
Year 1	6.30pm 15th September
Year 2	6.30pm 15th September
Year 3	6.30pm 22nd September
Year 4	6.30pm 22nd September
Year 5	6.30pm 15th September
Year 6	6.30pm 15th September

School Meals—Autumn Term

The London Mayor has confirmed that school meals will continue to be provided for all KS2 children for the next academic year 2026/2027. KS1 children will continue to receive their meals as part of the government funded Universal Infant Free School Meals. We will re-send the menu at the beginning of the Autumn term but it will be the same as Summer 1 menu and will last until October half term.

We will roll over all current lunch time meal arrangements for children in Reception—Year 5 from this term to the Autumn Term. Please inform the School Office if there are to be any changes to your child's lunch time arrangements. We will be taking lunch time registers to check arrangements at the start of the Autumn Term.

Charity Fundraising 2025/26

We are very pleased that this academic year, we have raised **£2266** for charities chosen by Pupils and Staff:

SPEAR (with Holy Trinity Church)	**£290**
Tear Fund With Holy Trinity Church)	**£290**
BBC Children in Need	**£202**
Cancer Research UK	**£202**
Cancer Research (Foreign Coins)	**£20**
Poppy Appeal	**£31**
Homelink Respite Care for the Elderly	**£1231**

Many thanks for your generosity this year. Thank you for your very generous food and toiletries donations at Harvest and during the year to Holy Trinity Church Foodbank which have then been donated to the local community. Thank you also to parents who donated to Mrs Wilder's amazing Marathon run in April.

Visa and Embassy Reference Letters

The school is able to provide a standard visa or passport letter to parents upon request. There is a fee of £25 payable to the School charge for these letters. Citizenship request references which are more detailed and require more personal staff information will depend on whether the staff member involved is happy to provide their personal information. We do not routinely provide these reference and a higher charge for these.

Term Dates 2026/27	
Autumn Term 2026 Inset Days **Term Dates** Half Term Inset Day	 Weds 2nd Sept Thurs 3rd Sept—Fri 18th Dec 26th—30th Oct Fri 20th Nov
Spring Term 2027 Inset Day **Term Dates** Half Term	 Mon 4th Jan Tues 5th Jan—Thurs 25th March 15th—19th February
Summer Term 2027 **Term Dates** Bank Holiday Half Term Inset Day	 Mon 12th April—Weds 21st July Mon 3rd May 31st May - 4th June Mon 7th June
Easter Weekend 2027 is 26th—29th March	

School Communications

Every week we email Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 parents directly with letters from teachers giving information about the week ahead. Children in Years 4-6 write notes in their homework diaries and we often also email parents directly with information where necessary. Every other week, we send out a Newsletter which gives parents important information, dates and reminders as well as sports, choir and themed week reports. All parents who have provided us with their email will be emailed our bi-weekly newsletter. We also email select groups with important sporting, musical or year group trip information.

From September 2026, all parents will have access to the Arbor App and we will be using this platform for all emails, payments trips, clubs and meals and booking Parent Consultations as well as class registration which we are already using. We will no longer be using Parentmail or Scopay and parents will find the one Arbor App system for all school communication and payments much simpler.

We kindly request that the School Communications sent out by us are not shared on parent WhatsApp groups. This is not a safe platform and there are many parents who choose not to use WhatsApp. We support the PTA use of **Classlist** which is a safe and monitored platform for parents to use for organising school events or asking class questions.
Thank you for your support.

First Nurse Drop in Session—Weds 16th September

Our School Nurse, Natasha Hart, will be re-starting her Parent Drop in Sessions in the Autumn Term. The first drop in session will be held on Wednesday 16th September from 9am. If you would like to meet with Natasha, please come to the School Office after drop off on this day and she will see parents in order of arrival.

The Archdeacon Way Award July Monthly Winners

Congratulations to our July Archdeacon Way Award Winners who each win a £7.50 book token. Winners have been drawn today by Miss Clarke.

- Elsa (3JR)
- Alice B (3JR)
- Yagiz (3JR)

Well done to them and to everyone who was awarded An Archdeacon Way Award Ticket in July for following our values of Thankfulness, Compassion, Endurance and Forgiveness.

Class Year Attendance/Reward Stickers

Congratulations to the following classes for the best school attendance this Summer Term:

3CB	97.5%
4T	97.4%
4B & 1F	97.3%

Congratulations to 4B who had the highest number of children with 100% attendance for the whole school year. Children will have received stickers for 100%, 99% or 98% attendance (Gold, Silver or Bronze).

From our Chair of Governors, Louise Edwards:

As we come to the end of a busy (and hot!) school term, I would like to say a big thank you to all of our staff, governors and parents/carers for all their hard work and support this year. I would also like to say a special thank you to Roger Clark, who is leaving the Governing Board this term, he has been an invaluable member of the board and his many hours of work leading the Resources Management Committee have been very much appreciated. I would like to wish you all a very restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming existing and new families in September and for those leaving this year we wish you all the very best in your new schools and adventures - come back and see us soon!

Governor Maintenance Fund

Thank you for payments towards the Governors' Maintenance Fund this year. These funds are vital for the upkeep of school buildings and also to pay for our annual subscription to the London Diocesan Board Maintenance Scheme through which we have benefitted from a number of large premises projects. As parents will be aware these are financially challenging times for the school and your support is very much appreciated.

Lost Property & Stikins Name Labels

We have had a very large amount of unnamed lost property this term. All unnamed items will be put at the front of the school next week for parents to help themselves to. Any items not collected by the end of term will be donated to charity and the PTA second hand uniform sale or disposed of. **Please ensure all items brought to school are named.**

Parents are able to purchase Stikins name labels to label all their child's belongings. Ordering these name labels (which do not need to be sewn or ironed) also raises money for the PTA and the school if you use the code 715. Please visit Name Labels | Buy Name Stickers For Kids' School Clothes | Stikins® for more information and ordering. All items that are clearly names can be easily returned to their owner when they are found. Please ensure you name every item of belonging that your child brings to school.

Practise Sleepovers in Preparation for Sayers Croft

The forthcoming Summer Holiday provides an excellent opportunity for Year 4 to try out sleepovers with friends or family away from parents. This would be good preparation for their Year 5 residential at Sayers Croft in February 2027.

Staffing Changes

As we look forward to the new academic year, in common with previous years there are some **staffing changes** at the school. At the end of this year we say goodbye to two members of the support staff team, Mrs Hitchcock and Miss Clarke. Mrs Hitchcock started her Archdeacon journey as a parent in the school, joining classes as a parent helper, left with an abiding memory of washing paint pots. She has worked at the school since 1996, initially employed as a School Meals Supervisor, then a Welfare Assistant; later training then working as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Hitchcock will be remembered fondly by generations of Archdeacon children, a number of whom have their own children who are now attending our school. Mrs Hitchcock will be missed by both staff and children for her warmth, sense of humour, and her genuine delight in the children. We wish Mrs Hitchcock a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Miss Clarke has worked at Archdeacon as a Learning Support Assistant since the spring of 2023. She has generously shared her many talents including netball, dance and a great sense of fun, with all of the children she has supported during her time at the school. Children have thrived in all areas under her care. Miss Clarke leaves us to take up a leadership role at the dance school where she also works.

We would like to thank the staff mentioned above for their dedication to your children and their contribution to the staff team. We wish them all well in their future endeavors.

In respect of the teaching team, in the Autumn Term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Patterson back to school, Mrs Corbett will be taking maternity leave during the term and we will be welcoming Miss McKee to the teaching staff team.

Years 3 & 4 Borough Cricket Tournaments and Year 5 Girls Basketball Afternoon, Mr Bell writes:

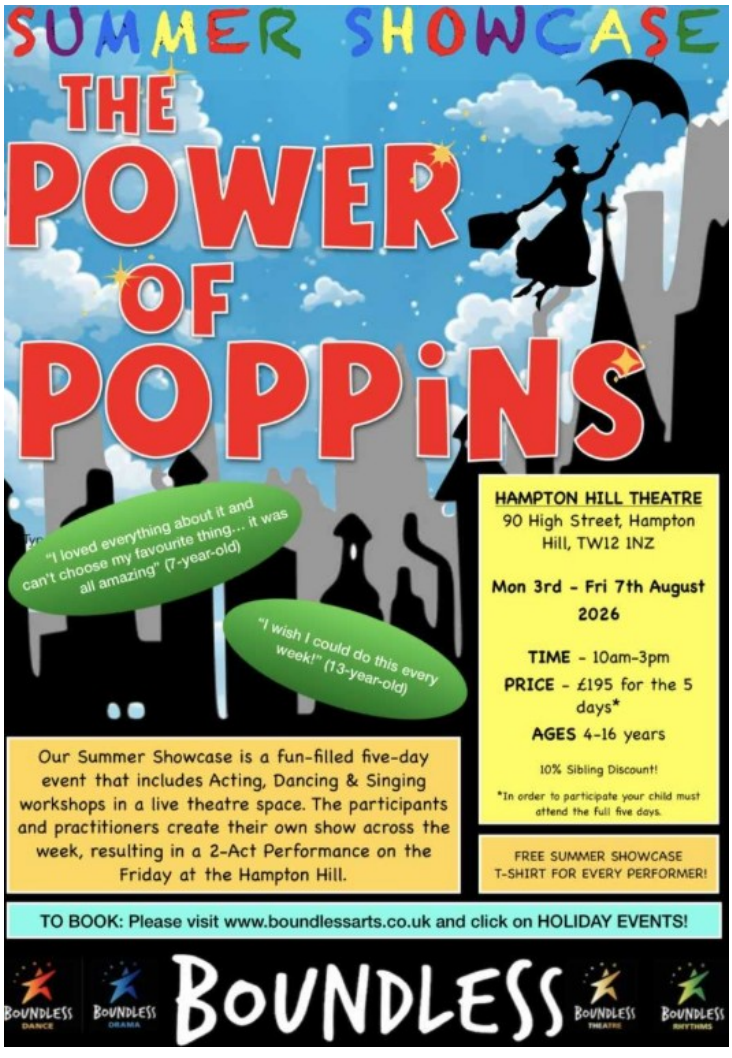
Years 3 & 4 Cricket

The final cricket showing of a fantastic year for the English game saw Archdeacon bow out on a high with the Y3&4 girls and boys borough tournaments held at the picturesque setting of a baked Teddington CC in the heart of Bushy Park. With the deer watching on (at decidedly close proximity on occasion), both side sides put in memorable performances. The boys, energetic and enthusiastic as ever, swept aside their first two challengers with ease. Samuel and Beau demonstrated their hitting prowess with six after six and Hunter bowled fast and straight to knock any confidence the opposition had. The third match was against the formidable foe of Heathfield. With this in mind, the team made the decision to play their strongest side. Heathfield, on this occasion, were no match for the skill and determination of the ADC boys. The game ending in another comfortable victory. Everyone contributing to a terrific win. This left one final game in the league format. The boys were put under some pressure in the middle overs as the opposition were chasing down a sizable total set by our boys. In the end, the boys lost by 2 runs. The narrow margin in defeat meant the medals still went to Archdeacon, due to their wide victories earlier in the day.

The girls performed similarly well. With appetite for cricket spreading like wild fire in Y4 this year, the girls used all their practice and skill to out perform the rest of the tournament to reach another well deserved final. The boys watched on in the tense final moments of the final cricket game of the school season. The girls set a very good score for a strong Barnes side to chase. In the final over, just 5 runs were needed for victory and steal away glory from our girls. Clemmie steamed in ball after ball in an attempt to restrict the runs. Unfortunately Barnes' final batter was very equipped and manage fast bowling and a few boundaries taking their total over Archdeacon's. With one ball left, Barnes led by 5 runs. Clemmie grit her teeth. A hush fell over the crowd. Nails were chewed. Deer stood silent. A wicket, would tie final. The ball flew up, high over the bowlers head. Fielders scattered in a desperate attempt to catch. Phoebe steadied herself calmly and plucked the ball from the skies. A remarkable catch to finish a remarkable year of cricket! The game was tied and both sides left as winners.

Year 5 Girls Basketball:

Last week, St James' hosted a basketball event for local schools organised by Richmond Knights for Y5 girls. The girls were very excited to represent the school, and they did us all proud. The girls listened carefully to the coaches during the skills sessions and worked hard to improve, especially their shooting. The second part of the session was competitive 3 vs 3 matches under one basket. The girls performed brilliantly, utilising all their practice from earlier. The afternoon was a great success and hopefully some basketball seeds of passion were sown. It was a real delight watching the girls compete with local schools.





News from the PTA

The end of another eventful year. I'm sure like us you're in shock we've got here already, a little tearful, very proud… and well mostly hot! It's been such a joy to share this year with you and all our wonderful children.

We're saying a huge thank you to Hettie, our wonderful PTA chair this year. Anyone who spends even a small amount of time with her will know she has a very special ability to build a community. She is always ready to listen, share her wisdom and step in to help. We're so thankful for all the dedication, time, energy and thought she has put into this role, for all the many initiatives she has driven, but most importantly for all she has done to bring the school community closer together. Thank you Hettie for everything!

And a huge thank you to the rest of the PTA committee who have given up so much time this year to create and run events, manage the finances, manage the admin and park all those cars. Thank you to all the wonderful Reps for all your support, creativity and enthusiasm. And a particular shout out to year 6, for all you have given to the school community over so many years. Thank you! You will be missed!

The PTA really is a team effort, bringing together all the skills, creativity and energy of our school community… and we should be very proud of ourselves this year. We've still the Summer Disco to come but are on track to raise well over £30,000 profit of much needed funding to support our school. This has been used among other things to:

Buy White boards, laptops and desktops
Restock books, books and more books
Create a KS2 quiet area with picnic benches and fences
Maintain the wildlife area
Pay for the refurbishment of the back of the Junior Playground
And treat the school to our Living Eggs

All of which have greatly enriched our children's school experience, supported our hardworking school staff… and crucially helped the school adapt to the heat.

Looking ahead…

Could you be our next PTA chair?

We need a new chair/ or two co-chairs to take over from Hettie next year. Could it be you? To find out more chat to Hettie or email events@acpta.org.uk

Or can you use your skills to support the school community?

There are lots of fun and varied ways to get involved in the PTA next year, from building our Christmas Grotto (it won't be long!), sourcing raffle donations, manning Park Run, or imagining new fundraising ideas. Whatever your talent, we need you! Do please email events@acpta.org.uk and connect with us!

Second Hand Uniform Donations

Doing a pre-summer clear out, we'd love your good quality uniform! We're looking for

logo items (jumpers, cardigans, white polos, book bags and PE kit)
Grey items (skirts, pinafores, shorts, trousers)

No rips or stains please! Leave your items in the Small Hall storage before the end of term.

Dates for next term:

11th Sept 3pm : Second Hand Uniform Sale
22nd Sept 8pm: PTA AGM

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer. See you in September!

Your PTA x