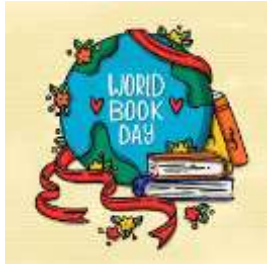




We continue to use our school PTA Facebook page as the quickest way to relay information to parents. Should the school be closed for any reason, this is the first place you would see the information. We try to answer questions on the same day and have found it useful for reminders, or clarifying timings for homework etc. Newsletters will continue to be sent through Parentmail. If anyone needs to speak to a teacher, or has any concerns, this can be dealt with quickly through Kathy.



On Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>, Reception - Y6 will be going to Alnwick Gardens in their World Book Day costumes. This trip will include Lilidorei. Please make sure your child's costume is suitable for both Lilidorei and the inclement weather. The children will also have to wear a waterproof coat and sensible shoes. Please don't send your child with a princess dress and sparkly shoes that will definitely not return home in the same condition. If they have a warm, school, navy blue bobble hat, please send it in as we will aim for all pupils to wear one.

Thank you to those parents who are paying promptly for this term's lunches and After School Club. Shortly after half term we need to tie up all the finances for the end of the financial year. We will continue to send the payment text links on a Tuesday. You can of course still pay by cheque or cash if you prefer.

From April, we will be using a payment system through your Parentmail accounts, this should make it easier for you, with a wider range of payment options. More information will be given to you closer to the time. It will make it easier, if you have not already done so, if you download the IRIS Parentmail App to your phone.

Search for IRIS Parentmail in the [App Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play \(Android\)](#)

Some parents are now using the Tax-Free childcare method of payment and benefitting from a 20% discount on their Nursery and After School Club fees. You may be surprised as to how easy this is to set up and how many of you may be eligible. Please ask if you need more details.



We have so few children drinking milk in school, we have decided to only have nursery milk in the future, which is free for anyone who is under 5. If your child would still like milk, it can be provided free with their school lunch. Please let us know if you would like this option. Milk will stop from half term for anyone who pays for it currently. A text will be sent from Klickpay at the beginning of next half of term to pay retrospectively.

We continue to run a well-attended After School Club each night until 4.15pm. There are still spaces available for all the clubs except Thursday Forest Craft. It is also usually possible to arrange short notice, ad hoc sessions if you suddenly need additional child care. Sports clubs cost £2.50 an hour (subsidised with our government PE grant), Art, Forest Craft and Fun Friday £5.00 an hour. Please speak to Kathy if you would like more information. Unless you tell us otherwise, your child will continue to be enrolled in their current clubs for the rest of the school year.

We are holding Parents Evening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Information has been sent to your Parentmail accounts. There are still a few appointments left. There will be a large amount of second hand uniform available. Please help yourself to anything you may need and make a small donation to school if you are able.

Always bring a coat. Please stay away from school for 48 hours if you have been sick or have diarrhoea.



Please don't purchase any more uniform from Border Embroideries. We are currently talking to an alternative provider, who will hopefully be more cost effective.

We are celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March. We will be holding a non-uniform day and collecting donations. Wear something red, if you have it, and take part in some of the fun that will be held in school.



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, we will be holding 'Tea and Treats' for Mothers Day. Come along to school from 9.00am - 10.00am and have a cuppa and some home-made cakes. Your child can join you and give you the Mother's Day card they have made. If this is going to affect the morning school transport, please make sure your driver knows.



Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Nursery - Y6 will be travelling to the Great North Museum. Y3 - 6 will have a Time Odyssey activity day and Nursery to Y2 will have a chance to explore the many different activities at the museum.

If you are looking for something to do with your children at half term, Alnwick Story Fest will take place 28th February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There are events for children and adults. Please see below for more information.

We will be holding an open morning for Wellies&Wonder@Ellingham on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, from 10.00 - 12.00. We will be asking you to help us advertise this closer to the time.



**We have been asked to advertise:**

**Half-Term Special: 20 Free tickets for Alnwick Story Fest KIDS EVENTS (28 Feb-2nd March 2025)**

**First come, first served**

We have 20 Free tickets to give away. Please see below



Use the code **ASF25** to get your **FREE** tickets (add in the Promotional Code box at the check out) [www.alnwickstoryfest.com](http://www.alnwickstoryfest.com)

This year's **Alnwick Story Fest** is bursting with magic, imagination, and creativity for our wonderful kids. From fairy tales spun by master storytellers to hands-on workshops where young minds can craft their own stories, there's something for every little dreamer. [Step into the world of make-believe with Danyah Miller](#), whose storytelling magic will have tots giggling and gasping in wonder.

[Set sail on an ocean of creativity](#) with Gillian O'Mara and her Hidden Story team—where puppets, paper crafts, and storytelling collide in the most exciting way!

[Meet a real-life young author!](#) Nicola J Rowley and her son James share the incredible journey of writing and publishing books as a child.

[Brace yourself for thrilling myths and legends](#) as storytelling powerhouse Xanthe Gresham-Knight takes you on a whirlwind adventure through enchanted lands.

[And don't forget our free session in the library at 11am on March 1st.](#) Drop into Alnwick Library for a heartwarming storytime with Sarah McGeough whose beautiful book about adoption will touch young hearts.

[Plus, don't miss the FREE Grand Opening!](#)

On **Friday 28th February, 4:30 PM**, Alnwick's Market Place will come alive with music, food, and a dazzling performance by Spark! Multi-million bestselling author **Adele Parks** will officially open the festival—so bring the whole family for a magical start!

**Mark your calendars, gather your little book lovers, and join us for a weekend of unforgettable storytelling adventures!**

Find out more and book your tickets at [www.alnwickstoryfest.com](http://www.alnwickstoryfest.com).