November 2026

Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School

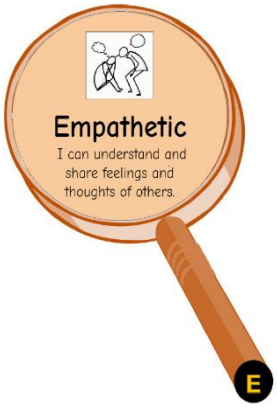
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Arden Grove Infant School

I hope you all had a lovely, restful half-term break and enjoyed some special moments with family and friends. It is wonderful to welcome everyone back as we begin a new half term filled with exciting opportunities, new experiences and plenty of learning ahead.

As we settle back into our routines, we look forward to building on all the progress made so far, celebrating achievements and continuing to learn and grow together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

Here's to a happy, positive and successful half term ahead

Mr Cook and the Arden Grove Team

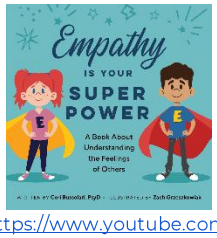
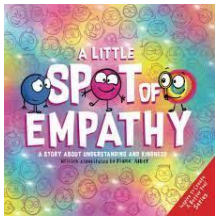
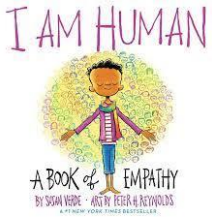
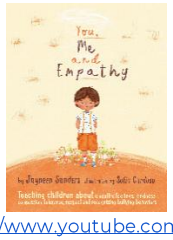


This half term we will be focusing on our school value of **Empathy.**
Thinking of how we can help others.



Empathy: I can understand and share feelings and thoughts of others.

Being empathetic is important because it helps us make friends and keep friends by being part of a team or community and understand more about my own and others feelings, thoughts and actions. It helps us get along with other people.

Stories to share about EMPATHY			
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9TCpbqohcI	 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBFHr6Zj39g	 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoXIkTmL8q0	 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG4Mq-81qdI

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We will continue to develop these rules and below is how this half term we will be teaching the children about the rules and how these relate to our brain model of 'the guard dog' and 'the wise owl'.



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PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals automatically. However, if your family receives Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit, please also apply for benefits-related free school meals. Your application could unlock extra funding and support for your child, even though their lunch is already free.

From September 2026, there are two types of benefits-related entitlement:

- Targeted: families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings below £7,400, or another qualifying benefit. This entitlement also allows the school to receive extra funding called Pupil Premium.
- Expanded: families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400. This provides free school meals but does not, by itself, qualify a child for Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium helps us provide additional teaching and support in school. At Arden Grove, when we receive confirmation that your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, we are able to pay for some of their school uniform, all school trips and one after-school club each half term.

Every eligible application makes a difference, helping us give children the best education and support we can. Please apply through Norfolk County Council using the link below:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If your child already receives benefits-related free school meals, you do not need to reapply. Norfolk County Council will check eligibility before the start of each school year. Please let the council or school know if your circumstances change.

Emergency Contact Details



Please ensure that the office has your most up-to-date contact information at all times. It is essential that we are able to reach you quickly if your child becomes unwell or there is an emergency. Please check that we have your correct home address, telephone numbers, names and contact details for all parents/carers, as well as the names and telephone numbers of your nominated emergency backup contacts. If any details have changed, please inform the school office as soon as possible. Keeping these details up to date is vital for your child's safety and wellbeing.

Uniform changes

As part of our plans to simplify our school uniform, we will gradually be phasing out white shirts and moving towards red shirts as our standard school shirt. With this in mind, please do not feel that you need to buy any new white shirts. When your child next needs a replacement shirt, we kindly ask that you purchase a red one instead. There is no need to replace white shirts that your child already has straight away; we will be phasing in this change gradually. Thank you for your understanding and support as we make this transition.



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Attendance and Parents' Evening – A Valuable Opportunity to Talk

A gentle reminder to book your parents' evening appointment if you haven't already done so. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements, discuss their progress and talk about how we can work together to give them the very best start. We will also take the opportunity to discuss attendance and punctuality, as every day in school matters and regular attendance makes a real difference to children's learning, friendships and wellbeing. If you are finding it difficult to get your child into school every day, please do talk to us. We are here to listen, support and work with you to overcome any barriers. Together, we can make every school day count!

We are also noticing a growing number of children arriving late through the school office. Please help your child get the best possible start to the school day by ensuring they arrive at their classroom door by 8.50am, before the doors and gates close. The team need to submit registers at 8:50am so they will indicate for you to go back for the office after this time. However, arriving through the school office after this time can mean missing valuable learning and morning routines, so let's work together to make sure every child starts their day settled, happy and ready to learn!

Do not use the equipment before or after school and leave promptly by 3:15pm at the latest. Please remember children should not be riding bikes or scooters inside the school gates, even if it is quiet.





Wet Weather

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please ensure your child has a pair of wellies kept in school so they can continue to enjoy outdoor play whatever the weather. From now on, children without wellies will need to stay on the paths rather than accessing the grass and muddy areas. Please also make sure your child comes to school each day with a warm, waterproof coat so they can enjoy fresh air and outdoor learning comfortably. We want all children to make the most of their outdoor time, whatever the weather!

Parking

Please be considerate and responsible when parking around our school, ensuring that you do not block driveways, park on pavements, obstruct crossings or put pedestrians and other road users at risk. Our children's safety must always come first. We ask all parents and carers to be patient, respectful of our neighbours and mindful of the wider school community when dropping off and collecting children. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

HSA

Thankyou to those that attended a successful HSA annual meeting. Please see below two easy ways you can contribute to the HSA to support our school as well as looking out for any upcoming events. We are grateful for all the HSA does for our school and children.

The HSA also has lots of clean, good quality uniform which they are always looking to share with our school community. Should you need anything please collect a 'uniform request slip', complete this and return to a member of the HSA or the school office. One of these slips will come home in your child's book bag this half term so you can request any uniform you may need or want.





Supporting Children and families



We're the **Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST)**, offering early help for children who may be struggling with anxiety or managing their emotions. If you're worried about your child—whether at home or at school—you can speak to your school's **Mental Health Lead (Mr Cook)** or **SENCO** (Mrs Leggett-senco@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk) to request a referral to our service.

Children & Young People's Health Services
JustoneNorfolk.nhs.uk
Norfolk & Waveney
0300 300 0123

The Family Hubs approach aims to provide help and support for all aspects of your parenting journey.

family hubs

Family Hubs bring together a range of existing services, so you are able to access the advice as and support you need, when you need it. They are for families with babies, children and young people from conception until they reach the age of 19, or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Family Hubs provide a place for you to access advice on how to take care of your child and ensure they are safe and healthy throughout their childhood and as they grow and develop. They are online and in person.

https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/family-hubs/

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You may have heard your children talking about Strictly Come Dancing. This is because this year we are having a whole school game of chance with each class picking 3 celebrities to cheer on through the competition. As we get closer to the final we will plan a glittery end of the show and term celebration. These are the chosen celebrities by class.



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This year we are supporting our local food bank with their tin collection.

We have collected 80 tins so any further tins to get us closer to our target of 200 would be greatly appreciated.

Give them to a member of your child's class team or drop them off in the donation box at the school office.

Say a Poem- Enjoy this seasonal poem at home.

Murky mist

Wind blows a bitter breeze.
Carry a coat in case you freeze.
Slip and slide on soggy leaves.
Spy the bony-fingered trees.

There's hardly any afternoon.
A murky mist obscures the moon.
Stay inside your cosy room,
safe and snug in your cocoon.

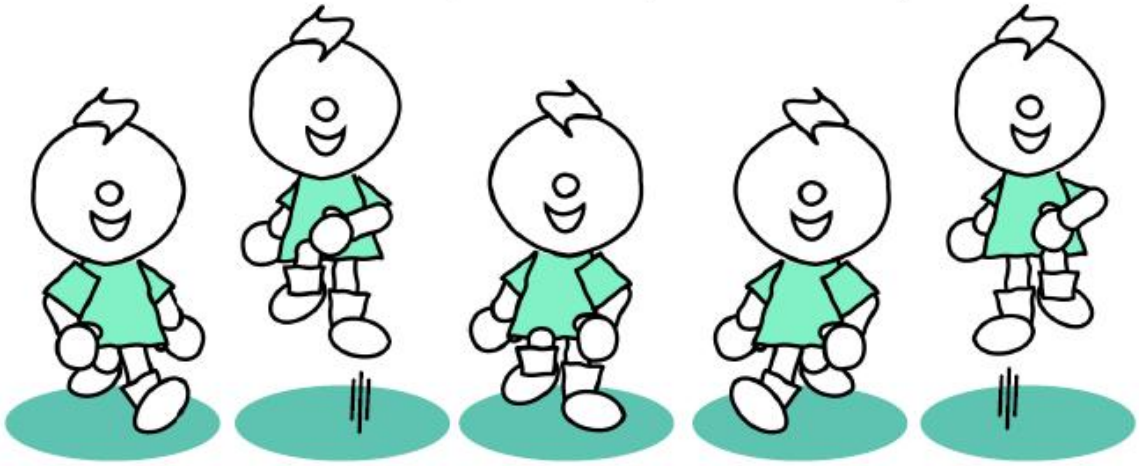
https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/oAPgMq8I/Qrn4OLzf

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Here's How. Five steps for learning to skip. 1. Step forward on right foot. 2. Hop on right foot. 3. Lift left knee. 4. Step forward on left foot. 5. Hop on left foot. Repeat. Practice these movements until they become rhythmical and easy.



Here's Why. Skipping is a highly complex, whole-body movement pattern. When you see kids skipping naturally and easily, it's a sign their midlines have matured.

Wonder Out Loud

Making It Their Idea

Guiding young children to make discoveries on their own is one of the most powerful ways to help them learn. Independent learning is more than just acquiring knowledge. It's a spark. And inspiration. A motivator. It's the kind of learning that sticks to your ribs.

But here's the rub. As teachers, how do we juggle the demands of curriculum goals, time constraints, and kids who can't button their coats, with the ethereal ideal of independent inquiry?

All too often and for all kinds of reasons, parents and teachers provide unnecessary direction that, if left to their own devices, kids would eventually figure out for themselves. For instance, "Put your socks on first," is an entirely unnecessary instruction. If they put their shoes on first, they'll soon discover there's no way to get their socks on. What carries more of a learning punch? Being told what to do? Or finding out for yourself?

So how do we introduce new ideas to children in ways that make those ideas their ideas?

WONDER ALOUD
Instead of "put your socks on first," try this...

"I wonder how you can put on your socks and shoes?"

Notice this is posed as a question, not an instruction. Questions require them to think. Instructions require them to obey.

And note we didn't say "Can you put on your socks and shoes?" That is a closed-ended, yes/no question. No thinking. Just obeying.

Now consider how introducing "wonder" enlarges the learning landscape while getting them to put on their socks and shoes.

"I wonder how you can put your socks and shoes on?" is an open-ended invitation to think it through. It puts it all on their little feet to figure out by...

1. Analysing the problem
2. Finding and organizing their socks and shoes
3. Organizing their body to carry out the task
4. Analysing the results and taking corrective action, if needed



Wonder Out Loud

PROMPTING
Inevitably, no matter the task, somebody's going to get stuck. So, what then? Again, "wonder" comes in play. Provide gentle prompts that guide them without instructing them. For instance, in this case you may find a child has their shoes, but their socks are still on the floor.

GENTLE REMINDER
"I wonder how you can put on your socks?"

PHYSICAL/SENSORY CUES
Encourage the child to touch the socks or put them on their hands. "Socks are nice and warm and feel good on your skin. I wonder how you can put your socks on, so they feel good on your feet?"

IMAGINATION & EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT
Whenever you can, leverage their imagination. "Socks and shoes are good buddies. I wonder if your socks feel left out?"

Now, you might be saying to yourself, this is all well and good, but it's faster if I just tell them what to do. Sure it is... today. But what about the next day and the next?

The gift of independent discovery is more meaningful, memorable, and learning-filled because it's *theirs*. So, whenever there's an opportunity to give children the time and leeway to problem solve on their own, take it. In the end, you'll probably find in no time, they'll all remember to put on their socks first, which leaves all of you with more time to wonder about something else.

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Diary Dates

November		
Wednesday 4th November	Final donations for Foodbank tin collection.	
Tuesday 10th November Thursday 12th November	Parents Evenings	3:30-6:00
Friday 13th November	Children in Need	Come to school in colours, spots or Children in Need accessories with a donation for Children in Need.
December		
Tuesday 1st December	Deck the Halls	Parents/carers whole school craft afternoon, 2pm-3pm.
Friday 11th December	Arden Grove Christmas Jumper Day	
Monday 14th December	Reception Christmas Show	Hall doors open at 2pm
Tuesday 15th December	Reception Christmas Show	Hall doors open at 2pm
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner	
Wednesday 16th December	Nursery Winter Crafts	
Thursday 17th December	KS1 Christmas Show	Will be outside
Friday 18th December	End of Term	
January		
Monday 4th January	Staff Inset Day-No Children	
Tuesday 5th January	First day of Spring term	
Friday 22nd January	HSA Disco	More details to follow from HSA

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Key :
White dates - schools open to pupils
Yellow dates - pupil holiday
Red dates – Bank Holidays / Blue Staff Inset days