



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS
C of E Primary School, Alcester

Weekly What's On

w/c 23rd February 2026

Whole school Reminders

Have a wonderful holiday	As we approach the half term break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your children a restful and enjoyable holiday. We hope you are able to spend some special time together and enjoy a well-deserved break from the school routine. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back, refreshed and ready to learn on Monday 23 rd February 2026
Online Safety Newsletter	The February Online Safety Newsletter is live on our website. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/-/
Feedback	Caterlink our carrying out their annual pupil survey to assist them in improving their catering service to their customers and they would value the opportunity to survey the pupils at our school. If you wish to reply on behalf of your child, the link for your survey is below. Primary Pupil Survey Link - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV Survey closes on 27th March 2026
Reminder – World Book Day	We are excited to be celebrating World Book Day 2026 on Thursday 5th March. A reminder that this year, instead of dressing as a book character, children will be asked to dress as an adjective from their year group list. This links to our work on vocabulary and encourages lots of imaginative ideas! Costumes can be simple and homemade—children might use colours, props, labels, or accessories to show their chosen adjective. Please see the examples below for inspiration. World Book Day Book Tokens Next week, your child will receive a World Book Day £1 book token, which can be redeemed from 12th February to 15th March, 2026 at participating bookshops – including our new local bookshop, JT Books on Alcester High Street. Half term will be the perfect time to visit the bookshop and spend your voucher. Children can use their token in one of two ways:



- Swap the token for any of the World Book Day £1 books, or
- Get £1 off a full-price book or audiobook, as long as it costs at least £2.99 at participating booksellers.

World Book Day Dress-Up

Book Cover Redesign Competition

On World Book Day, children will also be participating in an in school **competition to redesign the cover of their favourite book**. You can support this by encouraging them to plan which book they will choose and their design ideas. Children are welcome to bring their chosen book to school on the day for inspiration. The winning designs will be proudly displayed in **JT Books on Alcester High Street**, giving our pupils the exciting opportunity to see their artwork showcased in a real bookshop!

We are really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day with the children and inspiring a love of words and reading that lasts a lifetime.

Laura O'Hanlon
 Assistant Head
 English Lead

Dress-Up Adjectives

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Crimson	Magenta	Azure	Mysterious	Courageous	Sage	Resilient
Golden	Emerald	Indigo	Gregarious	Selfless	Furtive	Charismatic
Glowing	Luminous	Amber	Tranquil	Powerful	Elegant	Enigmatic
Unusual	Shimmering	Glittering	Magical	Fragrant	Rebellious	Ambitious
Positive	Valiant	Curious	Ancient	Audacious	Determined	Victorious
Cheerful	Mystical	Radiant	Incandescent	Gracious	Impish	Spirited
<u>Mighty</u>	Reflective	Mischievous	Stealthy	Animated	Prudent	Melancholy
<u>Sparkling</u>	Feathered	Thoughtful	Lethargic	Serene	Timid	Resourceful
Spotty	Sneaky	Energetic	Whimsical	Loyal	Imaginative	Ruthless
Stripy	Fierce	Precious	Shadowy	Studious	Vivid	Noble



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Spring Term
 Parents
 Consultation

The Spring Term Parents Consultation appointments are now available to book for the 18th or 19th March 2026. Please refer to the letter sent on StudyBugs on 06/02/2026

Snack



Every day, children in Reception and KS1 (Years 1, 2) have a fruit/vegetable snack provided, free of charge, through the Fruits for Schools initiative.

If your child is in KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6), please provide your child with fruit, vegetable sticks, or dried fruit as a quick snack at breaktime. There is always fresh fruit and veg available for children who have forgotten a snack.

We politely ask that you do not send other snacks e.g. sweets, snack bars, cereal bars, nuts, chocolate bars or crisps.



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Wraparound	Our breakfast club operates from 7.30am each weekday morning. Children are given a delicious, healthy, nutritious breakfast which is served until 8:20am. There are a variety of activities available each day to entertain the children before the start of the school day. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are escorted to their classes. Other children go directly to their classroom from the school hall.
Dinner Money	A reminder to parents of children in years 3-6. Please ensure that your child's Parentpay account is in credit for school dinners. We require payment to be made in advance of the meals being taken. If an account remains in debt, we would expect your child to come to school with a packed lunch until this amount is cleared. We appreciate your co-operation.
Glowball Dodgeball (Years 2 – 5)	Glow dodgeball has been rearranged for Wednesday 11th March 2026. HOORAY! This action-packed day promises lots of fun, teamwork, and glowing excitement as children take part in dodgeball games under UV lights. To help everyone glow as brightly as possible, all children should come to school wearing their PPA kit on this day. Their plain white T-shirt is essential (and of course, glowing white teeth)! Glow-in-the-dark face paint will also be provided to make the day even more special. If you do not give permission for face paint to be used on your child, please inform a member of staff in advance. We can't wait to see the children light up the sports hall and enjoy this unique enrichment experience!



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Letter-join – Home access

Letter-join Pupil log-in

Dear Families,

As part of our Letter-join handwriting scheme, you can log in to the Letter-join website at home on iPads, tablets and computers. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

Username: kh17363

Password: home

PC Browsers:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome
- Safari

Do not use Internet Explorer.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

Username: kh17363

Swipe code
(starting at top left):

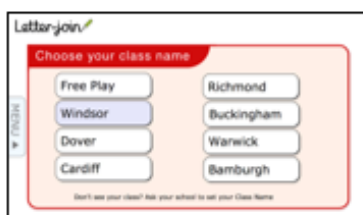


Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome.

Choose a Classroom



Once logged-in, choose your child's classroom and you can use Letter-join's resources and fun activities to reinforce the handwriting we teach at school. You can trace over the letters and words and play the games on your tablet.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please do not share these log-in details.

Messy Church – 17.02.2026

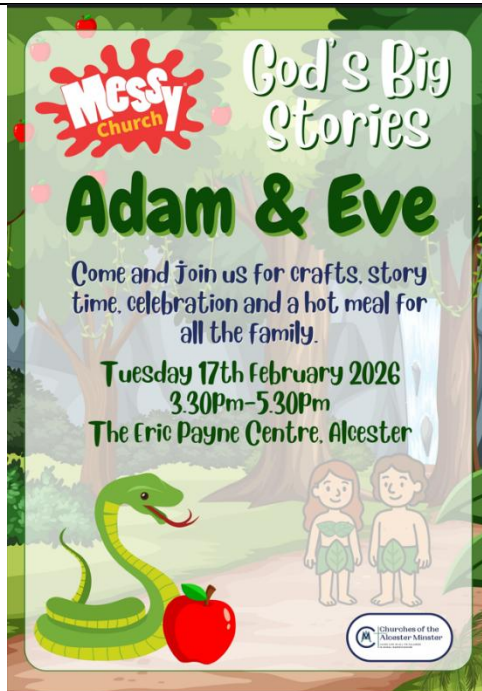
It's Messy Church on Tuesday 17th February and, this month, we're exploring the story of Adam & Eve. It's a story about choices, trust, and how much God loves us even when we get things wrong.

As always, we'll be discovering through hands-on creativity and fun and, as Messy Church falls on pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) we'll be getting creative with some pancakes – yummy!



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We'll look at the amazing world God placed Adam and Eve in and exploring what it means to make good choices as well as taking time to reflect and wonder together because - even in a story where things don't go to plan - we discover something powerful: God's love doesn't stop! And that's a beautiful truth for us all.

Messy Church is a time of worship based about fun, faith and family time where we learn more about the Bible through crafts, songs, dancing and worship and share a tasty meal together.

We can't wait to welcome you for another creative, thoughtful and joy-filled afternoon at Messy Church.

📍 Eric Payne Centre (please note the PERMANENT change of venue)

👨👩👧👦 **Everyone is welcome!** From babies to great-great-grandparents, including aunts, uncles, and friends. These gatherings are truly for the whole family of God.

⚠️ Please note:

- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Adults cannot attend without children.
- We can only cater for dietary requirements if you notify us ON ARRIVAL (or, even better, in advance so we can ensure anyone with an allergy can join in with the food craft especially).
- Anyone arriving after 4pm may not be included in the food count for the meal as our kitchen team needs the headcount by then in order to cook enough food.

The team and I look forward to welcoming you and your family.

With love.

Jen, Children & Families Worker, Alcester Minster Churches



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Coming up next week	
Reception	Measurement Programme – Monday 2nd March Please see our letter of 10 th February for further information.
Year 1	Twycross Zoo Trip, Wednesday 11th March 2026 Please give consent and make payment on ParentPay by Monday 23rd February please to secure your child's place. Any problems please let us know as soon as possible, thank you.
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	Edgmond Hall Parents' Information Meeting A reminder of the meeting on Tuesday 24 th February at 3.30 pm in the school hall.
Year 5	
Year 6	Measurement Programme & Health Needs Assessment – Monday 2nd March Please see our letter of 10 th February for further information.
Other news	
Useful Links	Our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterStNics/?locale=en_GB Our calendar https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/11/ News https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/topic/news-and-events
Vacancies	No vacancies at present

Diary Dates

We thought it would be helpful to share the diary dates for the whole year. Please note: they are subject to change

Spring

Date	Time	info
13.02.2026		Break up for half term
Half term 16.02.2026 to 20.02.2026		



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23.02.2026		Children return to school
24.02.2026	3.30 pm	Edgmond Hall Meeting
02.03.2026	All day	Height and weight (Rec pm/year 6 am)
05.03.2026	All day	World Book Day
10.03.2026		Rugby Tots (Years R-2)
10.03.2026	TBC	Year 5 experience Easter at church
11.03.2026	All day	Glowball Dodgeball
11.03.2026	All day	Year 1 Twycross Zoo Visit
16.03.2026	9.00 am	Reception Stay and play
18.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	Am	Easter service at church (year 5) with year 5 families
23.03.2026	AM	Class Photos YR & Y6
25.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
26.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026		Children break up from school
Easter break – 30.03.2026 -10.04.2026		

Summer

Date	Time	info
13.04.2026	All day	Return to school
04.05.2026		Bank holiday – May Day
05.05.2026	Am	Year 1 church visit – Creation
07.05.2026		Reception Little Owl Farm Park
11.05.2026	All week	SATs week
22.05.2026		Children break up
Half term break – 25.05.2026 to 29.05.2026		
01.06.2026	All day	Teacher Training day
08.06.2026	All week	Year 4 MTC all week
	All week	Phonics screening year 1 and year 2 retakes
09.06.2026	Am	Year 2 Church visit – world views
24.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
25.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
06.07.2026	All day	Redpoint Mobile Climbing Wall (Year 3 – 6)
07.07.2026	Am	Year 6 Church visit – worldviews/truth
10.07.2026	All day	Reports out to families Leavers festival (provisional date)
15.07.2026	4pm	Optional parents' consultations (families call office to book)
17.07.2026	Pm	Leavers performance/awards (TBC)



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17.07.2026		Last Day of term
Break up for summer		
20.07.2026	All day	INSET day
21.09.2026	AM	Individual school photo's – All Years



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FEBRUARY HALF
TERM MULTI SPORTS CLUB



VENUE: ST NICHOLAS C of E PRIMARY

DATES: MON 16TH TUES 17TH WED 18TH

TIME: **DROP OFF** 8.45am – 9 am

PICK UP 3pm – 3.15pm

COST: £19 per day

£10 for half a day 9am-12pm or 12pm-3.15pm

Limited spaces

Payment can be made by cash or bank transfer, please ask for details.

Contact Dave Geden 07990972762 or davidgeden@hotmail.co.uk



Children are required to wear suitable clothing for a wide range of sports. Children may bring football boots and shin pads as football will be one of the sports played. Children are required to bring packed lunch and drinks to the course. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD CONTAINING NUTS.**

Aims are to introduce, adapt and improve skills in a wide range of Sports e.g. Football, Tennis, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Tag rugby, Netball, Archery, Kan Jam and many more. With the emphasis on fun and participation.



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LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. **Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.**

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.



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- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.



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KIDS HOLIDAY LUNCHES



**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
18TH
12:30 -
1:30PM**

**Come along during half term and grab a takeaway
kids lunch to enjoy in the park, including a drink,
fruit and snacks**

**FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED!**

**At The Depot, Eric Payne
Community Centre, Alcester
B49 6AG**



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Hedgehogs in Your Garden – A Community Evening

Date: Tuesday 24th February 2026

Time: 6:30pm – 8pm

Location: Eric Payne Community Centre

Did you know hedgehogs are in serious decline across the UK?
Come and find out how you can help these prickly garden visitors thrive in Alcester!

- Talk by Haven 4 Wildlife on hedgehog behaviour and threats
- How to make your garden hedgehog friendly
- Demonstrations of hedgehog homes, feeding stations and tunnels
- Free hedgehog highway for everyone
- Activities for children
- Hot drinks and cakes



Hedgehog Evening

Alcester Connected for Climate and Nature

<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/information/natural-environment/>





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BERRY BALLROOM

**CHILDREN'S LATIN DANCE
TASTER SESSION**

**Half term - Friday, 20th Feb
2.15pm to 4.15pm**

**Alcester Scout & Guide Centre
(Next to tennis courts)**

£10 per child

**Please register via Text or WhatsApp
Sue Berry on 07969 603856
as class size will be limited.**



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STRATFORD LIBRARY

OPEN MIC POETRY

'Free!'



**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
13-17-YEARS-OLD**

**Thursday
19th February**

**2pm - Free workshop with poet
Emilie Lauren-Jones**

3pm - Poetry Open Mic

**Limited FREE lunches available
- first come, first served**

**SCAN
ME!**



Warwickshire
County Council



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poetry collages

with
Emilie Lauren Jones

Ideal for those who enjoy being creative, crafting or playing with words. Create your own collages using lines of existing poetry, articles and a mix of images and other random objects!



Weds 18th February



11am-12pm for ages 4-11
1-2pm for ages 12-15



Lillington Library



FREE

Free lunches available whilst stocks last



Book on
Eventbrite or ask
a member of staff





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Warwickshire Libraries presents...

SATURDAY STORY ADVENTURES



Alcester Library
Saturday 28th February
3.30pm - 5.00pm

FREE Event - Book On Eventbrite

Come and join us for brand new, monthly sessions for children aged 6-12! We will have games, themed crafts and activities as well as designated book choosing and reading together time.

February's theme will celebrate **World Book Day!**
Don't miss out, book your place now!



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Scan here to
book your place:

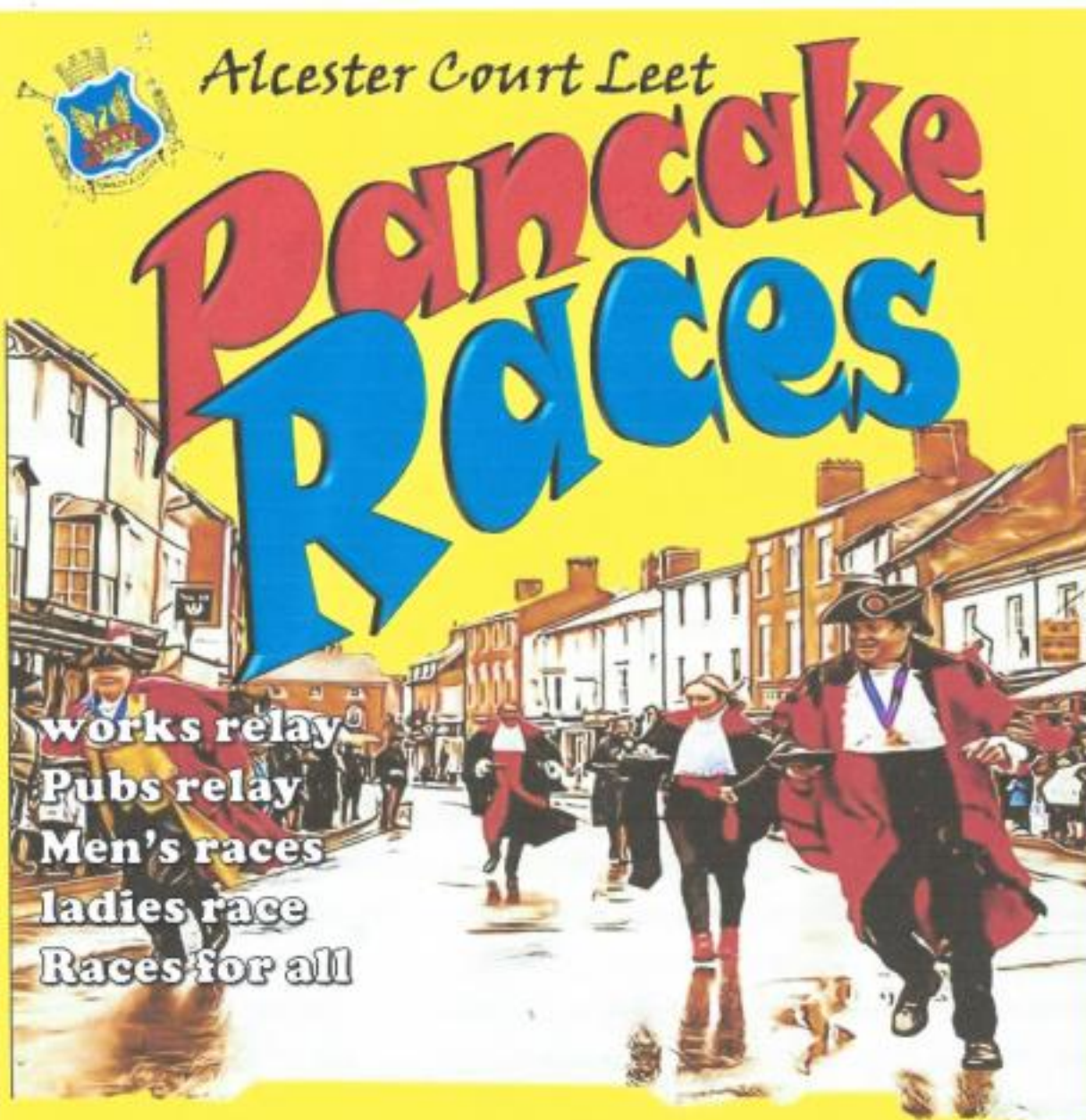




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February 17th 2026
11.30am – 1.30pm
Alcester High Street