

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



<https://horizon.eschoolswebsites.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM MRS FOSTON

It has been a fantastic start to the new year! Children across the federation have been involved in wonderful learning opportunities within and outside of the classroom with many more planned for the term ahead.

We have been delighted to welcome our newest staff members Mr Luke Smeeth (Badger's Class Teacher- St Gilbert's), Mrs Charlene Keuneke (1:1 Teaching Assistant- St Gilbert's) and Miss Rebecca Meech (1:1 Teaching Assistant- Donington), who have all settled into their new roles brilliantly.

On behalf of our federation, we would like to thank our incredible PTFAs for their outstanding fundraising efforts last term. Across both schools, our PTFA members worked incredibly hard to support our schools and their time and commitment is hugely appreciated and valued. Thank you!

The weather remains variable, with some cold blasts possibly still to come! Please ensure children have appropriate outdoor clothing, including hats and gloves and that these are clearly named.



*thank
★ you ★*





MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

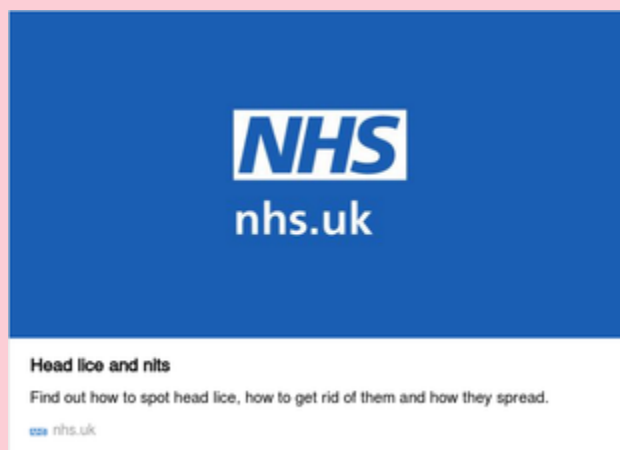
ARBOR PARENT PORTAL

We hope everyone is getting to grips with the new Arbor Parent Portal. Please give either school office a call if you have any questions or require assistance. Please can all absences be logged via the 'Attendance' section of the app rather than sending an in app message. To do this, please follow the steps below:

- Open your Parent Portal
- Select the school
- Select the child you are logging the absence for
- Click the menu tab on the bottom left corner of your screen
- Select 'Attendance'
- Finally, click the large green box at the top of your screen that says 'Log Absence' and fill in the details of the absence with as much information as possible.

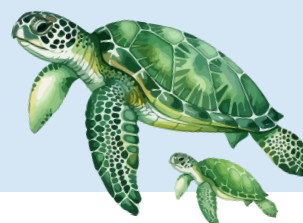
HEADLICE

We have had some cases of headlice reported in both schools. Please can we ask all parents to be extra vigilant and treat head lice as necessary. Please read the information on the NHS link for effective ways to treat headlice and nits.



YEAR 3 / 4 TRIP - THE DEEP

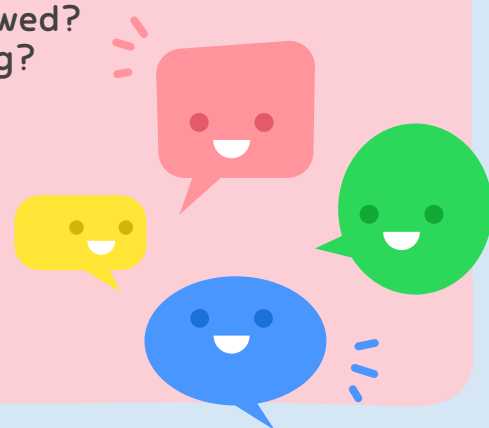
Children from Donington and St Gilberts had an amazing day at The Deep as part of our Blue Planet topic. They began the day travelling through the infamous bubble lift through a huge tank with sharks, stingrays and many other sea creatures surrounding them. All children attended a special workshop about the effects of plastic on the environment. We walked around the aquarium and saw penguins, sea turtles, jelly fish and many other species. The children were beautifully behaved and lots of new friendships were made throughout the day.



SEND & INCLUSION

We have all experienced the child at the end of the school day who can't remember what they did that day, gives one-word answers or says they don't know when asked if they had a good day. Here are some ideas to encourage your child to talk at the end of the day and share what they have been doing:

1. What made you smile today?
2. Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
3. What was the book about that your teacher is reading?
4. Did anyone do anything to make you laugh?
5. What did you do that was creative?
6. What is the most popular game at playtime?
7. What was the best thing that happened today?
8. Did you help anyone today?
9. Did you tell anyone thank you?
10. Who did you sit with at lunch?



ATTENDANCE

A huge thank you to all our families, we really appreciate the hard work and effort that has been put in towards improving attendance.

Currently, both schools are performing ABOVE the national attendance rate of 93.37% with St Gilberts at 94.18% and Donington at 94.8% for the Autumn term!

We appreciate that at this time of year attendance levels can be affected by illnesses, in particular colds, and absences are sometimes unavoidable. We would like to encourage all parents to send their children into school whenever possible and as always, please can we also ask parents to try and schedule any dental or medical appointments outside of the school day to ensure minimal disruption and missed lessons.

We want to remind parents that as a school we are always looking for ways that we can offer further support. If you are concerned about your child's attendance or lateness, please speak to Mrs Ogden or Mrs Goodge.

Also, just a friendly reminder that the school gates will open at 8.45am every morning and registration is at 08.55am. Recently we have seen an increase in children arriving late which can have an impact on their school day.. Thank you.



DID YOU KNOW?

Arriving just 10 minutes late every day is the equivalent of missing 6.5 days in a school year!

COME
to
CLASS
on
TIME

MUSIC

Across the federation, both choirs have been working hard in preparation for their Young Voices trip on February 11th. T-shirts and tickets can be ordered from the official website, and need to be delivered to parents/ guardians (not to school).

<https://shop.youngvoices.co.uk>

On the day we will be intending to reach Sheffield by 12.45pm. We will eat lunch on the coach and then go inside to begin rehearsals. At 6pm parents arrive to watch the show if they have booked tickets. The show is on 7-8.45pm. We will not be going to the parent pick up point, instead we will be heading straight to the coach which will take us back to St Gilberts and then to Donington. This is to ensure children return to school sooner. Updates will be delivered to both schools throughout the day via Arbor. Any questions relating to Young Voices – please email badgers.class@cowley.lincs.sch.uk so that Miss Tyler will be able to respond.

Choir will continue after Young Voices at St Gilberts with Miss Tyler and Miss Rolfe. If anyone would like to join, please get in touch with the office.



READING

World Book Day is fast approaching, and we cannot wait to celebrate this exciting time in school!

We welcome all children (and staff of course) to come to school in their comfiest clothes that they enjoy reading in. This could be pyjamas, a onesie or even a cosy tracksuit. Children are also welcome to bring one of their favourite books from home into school to share within our paired reading activities.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026



SPORTS AT DONINGTON



It has been a very busy and successful time for sport at our school, with pupils proudly demonstrating our core values of determination, courage, excellence, pride and success in a range of competitions.

In table tennis, our pupils showed outstanding determination and concentration throughout the event. We are extremely proud to celebrate one pupil achieving a fantastic second place, while another secured an excellent third place. Both performances reflected a real commitment to excellence and a positive attitude towards challenge, leading to well-deserved success.



Our pupils also took part in a boccia competition, where they showed great courage by embracing a new sporting experience and giving their very best. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, patience and encouragement, and they should feel very proud of the way they represented our school.



In addition, our girls' football team competed with energy and enthusiasm, showing true pride in wearing the school colours. Their teamwork, resilience and determination on the pitch were a pleasure to see, and they supported one another throughout the competition, whatever the outcome.



Well done to all pupils who took part in these events. Your efforts, positive attitudes and sporting behaviour are a wonderful example of our school values in action, and we look forward to celebrating more sporting achievements soon.



PTFA

Happy New Year from the PTFA!



We are busy preparing for our Summer Fair which will take place on Saturday 6th June 2026. More information will follow but for now, save the date!

One of our PTFA members delivered our 'Wet Play Boxes' to the school recently and the School Council were very excited to take them to each classroom. The boxes are filled with lots of games and crafts for the children to share and enjoy when the weather prevents them from going outside at break times. We don't usually wish for rain, but we can't wait to hear that the children have used their boxes, and what they enjoyed the most. As we continue our fundraising, we will be able to add to the boxes and replenish supplies when needed.



If you would like to share fundraising ideas or offer your time or support, please email ptfa@cowley.lincs.sch.uk or join us at our next meeting.

JOIN US

Our next meeting is:
Monday 2nd March



dates for your diary



February



- 4th- Boston United Mascot visit
- 5th- Nursery Open Events 1.30pm-2.30pm and 5pm-6pm
- 11th- Young Voices
- 13th- End of Spring term 1
- 23rd- Start of Spring term 2
- 24th- Gymnastics Development day

March



- 5th- World Book Day
- 10th- Parent Consultations
- 16th and 17th- Roots to Food
- 27th- Nursery- New intake parent coffee afternoon 1:30pm-2:15pm
- 2nd- End of Spring Term