

# October Newsletter



## A message from Mrs Foston

What a busy Autumn term 1 it has been! The start of the school year has flown by and we are now looking forward to October half term and an exciting Autumn Term 2.

The autumnal weather is setting in and when we return from our break the nights will be darker. Please do ensure the children have appropriate, named clothing, for the changing conditions and take additional care during the walk to and from school.



## SEND Hub

We are delighted to be able to inform you that, following successful Local Authority consultation, SEND Hub provision will be developed at both schools. We are in the very early stages and are working closely with the Local Authority to develop these facilities. As a federation we feel greatly privileged to have been selected for these projects and have our commitment to inclusion recognised. As we progress, we will provide further information and updates regarding our Hubs and the fantastic opportunities they offer for our federation and local communities.

## Hawks Class

When we return from half term Mr Carr will be absent, possibly for up to 2 weeks, due to a public service commitment. We have ensured supply cover is consistent during this time. Should you have any queries during this time please contact Mr Scholey who will oversee Y6. [falcons@cowley.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:falcons@cowley.lincs.sch.uk).



## Children in Need

On Friday 13th November, we will be supporting Children in Need! Children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform for the day.

We will not be collecting cash donations in school. Instead, if you would like to make a donation, please do so directly through the official Children in Need website using the link below. There is no minimum or maximum donation, and any contribution is greatly appreciated. Please follow this link if you wish to donate: <https://www.runpudsey.co.uk/page/pudsey-run-9142>

To help raise awareness and support this fantastic cause, all children will also be taking part in 'Run for Pudsey'. This will involve a 45-minute run or walk around the school grounds.

Please ensure your child wears or brings sensible footwear so that they can take part comfortably and safely.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to taking part in this worthwhile event together!



## Poppy Appeal

We have had a delivery from the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal.

This year they are selling:

- Poppies
- Slapbands
- Wristbands
- Reflective coat tags
- Pencils

The boxes will be taken round to each classroom week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> November to give the children the opportunity to purchase these items for a small donation.



## SEND & Inclusion

Thank you for attending our SEND parent partnership meeting. Our next meeting will be at St Gilbert's of 20th November at 9.30, and we would love to see you there. Please see some of the views from our parents.

*"Firstly, it was lovely to see Robin's nest. A place where our children get to spend some time doing whatever it is they need to do in there. I guess that's individual for each child.*

*Secondly, although just a few of us, a mix of parents, with children of varying needs and families with quite different experiences, but with such common issues, like isolation, judgment and lack of information or understanding for ourselves and from professionals.*

*It certainly was helpful to feel less alone, and I hope as the meetings continue, and more parents attend, there will be opportunity to share useful tools, skills and strategies together."*

*-Jo*

*"Thank you for arranging the meeting, it was really nice to meet everyone and to share our experiences.*

*The parent send support meeting was a great chance to meet other parents going through similar things as us. We were all able to share our stories and offer ideas of what may help each other and our children. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming. It would be great for more parents to come along, whether their children are diagnosed or not, whether they are just starting their journey or have tons of experience. We hope we can support each other through difficult times, share ideas and celebrate successes."*

*-Zoe*

## Attendance

We would like to remind parents and carers, where possible, to arrange routine medical appointments, such as the dentist, outside of school hours. We have seen an increase in pupil missing valuable learning time due to appointments during the school day.

Please can we also ask that more detail is provided when reporting absences. Please can you provide a brief explanation on why your child is absent. Thank you.



## Roots to Food

We were delighted to welcome Darren from Roots to Food back into school for another fantastic cooking experience! The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their culinary skills and putting everything they have learnt into practice.

This time, the children prepared a delicious Chicken and Vegetable Fricassee, whilst also learning some new French vocabulary for the different vegetables they used. Meanwhile, our youngest chefs in Nursery were busy making their very own stromboli. The results were fantastic, and all the food was absolutely delicious!

Recipes have already been sent home, so we hope the children will enjoy recreating these tasty dishes with their families.

It has been wonderful to see how the children's confidence, independence and cooking skills have grown across the different year groups. They have gained so much from Darren's visits, and it is lovely to see them building on their skills each time.

A huge thank you to Darren for another inspiring and enjoyable visit!



## Reading

Our new Reading Ambassadors have been chosen and are already getting started! They have received their badges and held their first meeting, where they shared lots of great ideas for promoting a love of reading across the school. We're looking forward to seeing their ideas come to life and helping more children discover the joy of reading.



## Music

The choir has officially begun preparations for their upcoming trip to Young Voices, working hard on an exciting repertoire that ranges from an ABBA medley to a tribute to David Bowie. The children have been fantastic so far, demonstrating wonderful dedication and enthusiasm during rehearsals. If your child would like to join the choir, please contact the school office to sign up. We also have a busy schedule of performances lined up over the Christmas period, and we will share exact dates and times with you as soon as they are confirmed.



## Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)

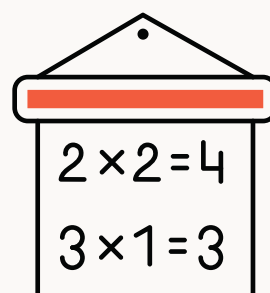
Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic way for children to develop their multiplication and division skills while having fun! We encourage all children to regularly access TTRS at home to improve their speed, accuracy and confidence. Just 5–10 minutes of practice each day can make a real difference.

### Who can become a Times Tables Rock Star?

### Why Are Times Tables So Important?

Knowing times tables is a vital part of developing mathematical fluency. Secure times table knowledge helps children tackle more challenging areas of maths, including fractions, division, percentages and problem-solving. When children can recall multiplication facts quickly, they can focus more on understanding and solving complex problems rather than spending time working out basic calculations.

Practising little and often is far more effective than one long session. Quizzing your child, playing multiplication games or using TTRS are all excellent ways to help!



### Can Your Child Tell the Time?

Reading the time is an essential life skill that children need both inside and outside the classroom. We encourage parents and carers to practise telling the time regularly at home, particularly using analogue clocks.

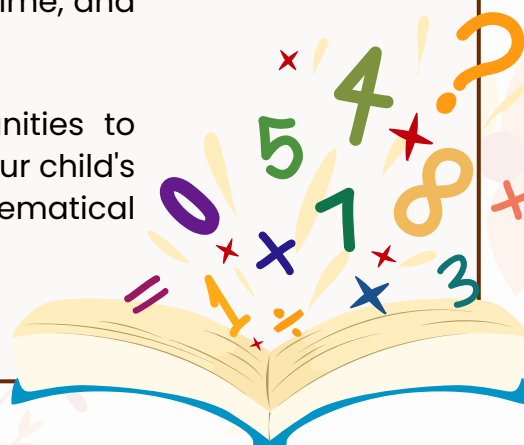
You can support your child by asking questions such as:

- What time is it now?
- How many minutes until dinner?
- What time will it be in half an hour?
- How long until we need to leave?
- Can you tell me the time using a 24-hour clock?



As children progress through primary school, they should become increasingly confident reading analogue and digital clocks, understanding 12-hour and 24-hour time, and calculating time intervals.

**Remember:** Maths is everywhere! Small opportunities to practise at home can make a huge difference to your child's confidence, independence and mathematical understanding.



## Reception

Reception have continued to settle in beautifully, building friendships and growing in confidence as they enjoy exploring their classroom and taking part in a range of exciting activities. Each week, they look forward to Forest School sessions with Jo, where they explore the outdoors and learn through hands-on experiences. The children have also been busy with their Read Write Inc. phonics sessions, learning new sounds and developing the early skills they need to become confident readers. We are so proud of how well they are settling into their new routines and enjoying their time in school!



## Nursery

It has been a busy term for the Nursey children, building new relationships, exploring our wonderful provision spaces and building both their confidence and independence as they take part in exciting opportunities and navigate new routines. They all thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Chef Darren from Roots to Food, making delicious Stromboli and they continue to show excitement for their weekly Forest School sessions with Jo.

It has been wonderful getting to know all the new children that started with us in September, they have settled in beautifully over this term and have formed lots of new friendships with our existing Bumblebee children, which has been lovely to see.

We held a successful open event, welcoming in potential new families, allowing them to meet our nursery team and explore our environment. Our next events will be held on 10th November 1.30-2.30pm and 5-6pm, we hope to see lots of new faces.



## PGL

What an incredible few days our Year 4 children had at PGL! They embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, courage and a fantastic attitude, taking part in a whole host of exciting activities including the zip wire, buggy building, trapeze, orienteering, problem-solving challenges and an evening campfire.

Day by day, we watched the children grow in confidence as they stepped outside their comfort zones, challenged themselves and encouraged and supported one another. It was wonderful to see them celebrating each other's successes and showing such resilience when things became tricky.

One of the most special parts of the experience was seeing children from across our federation come together, form new friendships and build lasting bonds. It was lovely to watch them getting to know one another, working as a team and sharing so many wonderful experiences.

Our Year 4 pupils were the youngest children attending the PGL site, yet staff members across the centre were quick to praise them for their outstanding behaviour, positive attitude and willingness to get involved.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They represented our school wonderfully and created memories that we hope they will treasure for years to come.

Well done, Year 4 — you were amazing!



# Aylmerton

What a fantastic time we had at Aylmerton! The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities, including exploring rock pools, hunting for fossils, learning about coastal erosion and discovering the history of the Wyndham family. One of the highlights was our boat trip to Blakeney Point, where, despite the windy conditions, the seals certainly did not disappoint, coming incredibly close to our boat!

We also tackled a very muddy marsh walk, wading knee-deep through the river Glaven, a river that passes through the low-lying salt marshes and mudflats of the Blakeney National nature reserve before meeting the sea.

Other activities included team-building challenges, a monster trail, swimming at The Reef, woodland adventures, den building and, of course, a disco! Throughout the residential, the children showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and enthusiasm, making memories that will last a lifetime!



## Kindness Award

Last year, all children at Donington worked incredibly hard to achieve the Superkind Award.

This focused on completing an action that either benefitted someone else or the community. Children showed kind actions by using their manners inside and outside of school, making a speech to others in preparation for becoming a school councillor or reading ambassador, helping to organise an event such as the Gala Dinner, or even showing random acts of kindness by helping return lost animals in the village.

As a school we completed over 250 Superkind actions and are therefore now recognised as a 'Superkind School'. This was a whole school effort, well done everybody!



## School Council

Our new School Council have had a fantastic start to the year!

As a school, we have elected 12 new school councillors (2 from each year group) and have begun to meet weekly to discuss various events, opportunities and ideas. For the past few weeks, we have written our School Council profiles, which can be seen on our board in the hall, and we have also begun discussing the charities that we would like to support this year. Each school councillor has researched the charities that they would like to raise money for and over the next few weeks, we will be holding a vote in each classroom to choose our top three. One will be a local charity, one will be a charity within the UK and the last will be a charity which means a lot to us as a school.



# Sports

We have had an amazing start for Sports at Donington!

A group of 10 girls from years 3, 4 & 5 travelled to Boston United football ground for a girls development day. All day they challenged themselves by trying new activities and stepping outside of their comfort zones. They worked together as a team, supporting and encouraging one another while showing excellent communication and cooperation. The girls demonstrated resilience when faced with challenges, persevering and not giving up when things became difficult. Throughout the day, they always showed the 5 R's, whilst positive attitudes, teamwork and determination made the day a great success. Well done girls!



We were very lucky to welcome Adam Berg and Matt Hennessey from the Peterborough Phantoms Ice Hockey team to our school for a fantastic assembly all about the importance of teamwork and resilience.

The children were very excited to have these successful sportsman visit the school. They asked lots of fantastic questions and enjoyed having the opportunity to see the ice hockey equipment the players had brought along to share with them.



A huge thank you to Peterborough Phantoms Ice Hockey Club for taking the time to visit our school and share their experiences, stories and valuable messages about teamwork and resilience. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn from two inspiring athletes!



Boston United have been in this term to lead some lunchtime sessions with some girls. Everyone has made amazing progress and really enjoyed the sessions.

We have also had Gareth from Young Dons football club deliver weekly sessions, these are well attended and the children always fully engage in activities. Dance club for both KS1 and KS2 are in action, with some amazing timing and coordination skills. KS1 Multi sports club also runs on a Thursday, where children fully apply themselves with a smile.



## The Christmas Fair

The PTFA are busy organising our Christmas Fair, and we can't wait to share more details about our stalls, games, food and fantastic raffle prizes with you soon!

In the meantime, we're delighted to confirm that Father Christmas has received our invitation and will be joining us once again for 'Story Time with Santa'!

If you own a local business and would like to donate a raffle prize for our Christmas Fair we'd love to hear from you. We're incredibly grateful for donations and support from businesses of all sizes. It's especially lovely when we can support and promote the fantastic businesses within our local community.



If you would like a stall at our Fair, please complete the form on the link below.

[Donington Cowley PTFA Christmas Fair 2026 - Stall Holder Booking Form - Fill in form](#)

## We need you!

Our AGM is being held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend. If you would like to know more about the PTFA, what we do, and how you can help, please come and join us.

## Fundraising

This year we are raising money for 2 exciting projects in school while continuing to support with extra curricular costs along the way.

### **Project 1: New School Stage!**

The stage at school is in need of an upgrade so it can continue to be used for our music performances, Christmas performances and end of year Whole School Production.

### **Project 2: Music Garden!**

Our second project is to raise money for a contribution to 2 brand new outdoor Music Gardens, one for EYFS and Key Stage 1, and one for Key Stage 2.

Through our fundraising events and the continued support of our school community, we hope to help bring these wonderful projects to life while helping to support additional opportunities for the children along the way.



# Dates for your Diary

## October

26th-30th Half Term

## November

- 2nd - Start of Autumn term 2
- 9th - Paralympic Sports Afternoon
- 12th - Flu Vaccinations
- 13th - Children in Need
- 27th - Non-Uniform day- Bring a bottle Donington

## December

- 4th - Christmas Fair 5pm - 7pm
- 9th - Lincolnshire Music Services Assembly - 2.30pm
- 10th - Pop Rox assembly - 9.15am
- 11th - Christmas Dinner and Party afternoon
- 11th - Christmas Disco - Reception, Y1 & Y2 5.30pm - 6.30pm / Y3 - Y6 - 6.45pm - 8pm
- 14th - Nursery & Reception Christmas Performance - 2pm at school
- 16th - EYFS & KS1 Nativity - 1.45pm at Donington Church
- 17th - KS2 Carol service - 1.45 at Donington Church
- 18th - End of Autumn Term 2

## JANUARY

- 5th - Start of Spring Term 1

