



Weekly Newsletter: 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The highlight of this week has definitely been our trip to All Saints Church for our Harvest Festival. Traditionally, this is our first visit to church of the academic year and, for our



Caterpillars, the first of many visits over their time at our school. Aside from the service, which our Faith Councilors supported Rev. Faith with, a particular 'proud headteacher moment' was being the last one to leave school and seeing the never-ending crocodile line of high-vis jackets walking in pairs. It is not the sight of that (despite being quite something) but the care that our older children are taking of the younger ones and catching the snippets of conversations which are taking place.

I could not mention Harvest Festival without thanking everyone for their kind donations of tins and packets of food – which will be shared between those in need in our village and the Storehouse food bank in Sudbury – and for the parents who gave up their time to walk down to the church with the children (it is always really appreciated).



In this week's newsletter, you will find information about the [Parish Council's Christmas Lights Switch On](#) poster competition.

Next week is a shorter week, with the [PD day on Friday](#), but will still have a lot going on. We have our [Autumn Term Parents' Evenings](#) on Tuesday (Reception only), Wednesday and Thursday as well as our '[Wear It Pink](#)' day on Thursday.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend your Parents' Evening appointment, please can you let the school office know so they can inform your child's teacher. This will ensure that appointments run to time as staff aren't hanging on in case of a late arrival. The children's books will also be available to look through while you wait for your appointment.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
226	259	321	224

‘Breast Cancer Now’ Charity Day

The School Council would like to take part in this year’s ‘Breast Cancer Now’ fundraising charity event.

On Thursday 22nd October, the School Council would like the children to ‘Wear it Pink’ (or pinkish/red/purple!) for a voluntary donation.

There will also be a ‘Guess it Pink’ competition that will run throughout the week, which will be £1 to enter (with the monies being split 50/50 between the winner and the charity). This will be sold during pick up so please remember to bring some pennies to enter. Thank you, on behalf of the School Council.



Prestige Sports Development Holiday Camp

We are really excited to announce that PSD (who run our after school clubs and support with our PE lessons) are going to be running a holiday camp at school during half-term. The sessions will run from Monday 26th October to Thursday 29th October, 9am to 3:30pm (with an option of an early drop off).

A little taster of the activities on offer are below:

- Super Sports – like Dodgeball, Football, Basketball, & more.
- Arts & Crafts – like Jewellery Making, Slime, Rock Painting & more.
- Mega Moments – like Laser Tag, Nerf Targets, Axe Throwing & more.
- Go Wild – Like Axe Throwing, Soft Archery, Scavenger Hunts, Garden Games
- Brain Busters – like scavenger hunts, quizzes and Team Games.
- STEM Stars – like Lego, Board games, Fort Building and Water Rockets!

If you would like to find out more and book your child in one or more of the days then please visit - <https://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com/holiday-camp-venues> .

Acton Light Switch On

Acton Parish Council would like to invite the children of Acton CEVC Primary School to take part in the annual poster competition to create a poster to advertise the **Acton Lights Switch On**. The winning design will be used in promotional material for the event and the winner will receive a prize donated by the Acton Puzzle Library and Book Swap to be presented at the event on Sat 28th November at 4pm, Queensway Green.

The poster just needs to be a Christmassy picture on A4 paper with NO TEXT on it. The info for the event will be



added afterwards. Children may like to include elements from the Switch On such as a Christmas tree, singing, lanterns, hot chocolate, mince pies, Santa etc.

Please could all entries be handed in by 2nd November (first day back after half term) to the school office, with the entrant's name on the back.

School Lunch Price Update from Caterlink

We would like to make you aware of an important update regarding the price of school meals at your school. From Monday 2 November 2026, **the cost of a school meal will increase to £3.20 per pupil**. We appreciate that any increase in the cost of school meals needs to be carefully considered, particularly at a time when schools and families continue to manage increasing financial pressures. We have therefore worked hard to keep this increase to the minimum necessary.

Christmas Performances

I know it is a long way off but below are the dates and approximate times of the Christmas performances. Further details regarding tickets will be released nearer the time.

- Tuesday 8th December 2pm - KS1 Nativity Performance
- Wednesday 9th December, 9:30am – KS1 Nativity Performance
- Wednesday 9th December, 2pm– Reception Nativity Performance



Autumn 2026 Term Dates

- Parents Evenings: Tuesday 20th October (Reception only) Wednesday 21st October and Thursday 22nd October (Y1-6), 3:30-6:30pm
- 'Wear it Pink' Day: Thursday 22nd October
- PD Day: Friday 23rd October
- Half Term: w/c Monday 26th October
- Children Return: Monday 2nd November
- Individual Photos: Monday 16th November
- Last Day of Autumn Term: Friday 18th December

More dates to be added as the term goes on. All term and holiday dates can be found [here](#). Details about events and trips to be shared nearer the time.



Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Ellie	Archie	Emma
Leopards	Hendrix	Zachary A	Flora
Pandas	Saoirse	Ava	Hudson
Llamas	Esmae	Peggy	Florence
Orcas	Muku	Bella	Libby
Penguins	Ava	Corinne (nominated by Lilly)	Lilly
Wolves	Eric	The Wolf Pack	Evie

Class News

Caterpillars

This week, the children have continued to enjoy sharing the story 'Peace at Last' during Drawing Club. They have been using their imaginations to think how we could extend the story, coming up with some fantastic ideas about where Mr Bear could go on an adventure. In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds h, b, f and l. The children have been busy sorting objects by their initial sounds, going on sound hunts and matching captions to the correct pictures. Our Maths focus this week has been weight and capacity. We began by exploring weight using balance scales, comparing objects and identifying which were heavier, lighter or the same. The children then enjoyed investigating capacity in the water tray, exploring how containers could be filled and emptied while using the language full, empty *and* overflow. Outdoors, the children have enjoyed exploring our construction materials, investigating a variety of autumnal objects and making the most of the trim trail. A highlight of the week was joining the whole school in church for our Harvest Festival service. The children walked brilliantly to and from the church with the support of our Year 6 pupils and thoroughly enjoyed singing along to some of our favourite Harvest songs. We are very proud of how well they represented our class.

Leopards

This week saw us visit the church for Harvest Festival. As is customary for every church visit, Leopards paired up with Penguins for our first visit of the year. Whilst at church, we sang a number of autumn and Harvest themed songs and thought about how we can share what we have with others. The Leopard Leap would like to take this opportunity to thank the Penguin Huddle for taking care of them. As well as our visit to church, we have been busy learning lots of new skills. In English, we used the story maps we had created to retell the story of Dogger, a story we have enjoyed reading and learning about. When retelling the story, we tried to include both adjectives and emotions to add further detail. In Maths, we learnt to order objects and numbers from both smallest to greatest and greatest to smallest. In Science, we concluded our learning about materials, and, in History, we learnt about school life in the past and compared this to school life now. This helped us answer our big question 'What was it like when our parents and grandparents were little?' Next week, we will turn our focus to sentence structure. In Maths, we will learn to use a number line and will begin our addition and subtraction unit by looking at part whole models. In Science, we will learn about the seasonal changes. Our Phonics will continue to focus on blending and reading words.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we really enjoyed walking down to Church to celebrate Harvest Festival. We walked down with the Orcas, and enjoyed singing and sharing food with the community. In Maths this week, we have revisited our number bonds to 10 and 20, and discussed the commutativity of addition, before writing fact families for different sets of numbers. In Science on Wednesday, we participated in an experiment testing how absorbent materials are, and then on

Thursday, we talked about how we can manipulate and change materials to help us build a strong and stable bridge out of paper and tubes. We enjoyed testing our bridges - checking how much weight they could hold and also whether a toy car could travel across. In P.E., we played a game that practised targeting and defence; in RE, we concluded our work on Yom Kippur; and in Music we recapped many of the songs and skills we have looked at this half term. Next week, we're looking forward to some more learning about 'The Tiger who came to Tea' in English, testing friction with toy cars in Science and wearing pink and red on Thursday.

Llamas

Year 3 has been working incredibly hard this week as we begin to finish up our Autumn half term topics. In English, we have been planning our hot write by creating expanded noun phrases and using our senses to describe a Stone Age setting. In Maths, we have been concentrating on adding tens and hundreds onto 3 and 4 digit numbers before we move onto column addition and subtraction. In History this week, we completed our Stone Age hot task to show what we know before our final lesson next week - building biscuit Stone Henge! In Computing, we discussed trustworthy sources of online information and took a PurpleMash quiz and, in PSHE, we discussed 'thunks' (questions without a real answer such as 'is there more future or more past?') and the potential consequences of playing dares. We'd also like to add that the Llamas represented the school beautifully on their church visit on Wednesday so a huge well done to all of you. Have a fantastic weekend, Llamas.

Orcas

It feels as though we have worked extra hard this week in Orca Class. We completed two 'quizzes' at the start of the week – one for SPaG and one for reading. We made great progress in both of these, which was excellent to see. On Wednesday, we enjoyed a trip down to All Saints church to celebrate Harvest. Well done to the class for being such lovely walking partners for Panda Class. In English this week, we have read the first chapter of How to Train Your Dragon and explored some of the main characters. We are looking forward to reading more next week. In Maths, we finished exploring methods of mental addition and subtraction before moving on to the column method. We also finished our Geography topic this week by learning about time zones and calculating what time it would be in different countries around the world. This was tricky, but everyone did really well. We also sang the 'Latitude' song again to help us to remember what it means. In Computing, we discussed what 'privacy' means and what kind of information we should never share online, such as our passwords or home addresses. In PE, rather excitingly, we got to use the ropes and wall bars now that we have finished our 'Bridges' gymnastics unit. Finally, with Mrs Fisher on Friday, the class explored why Muslims call Muhammad the 'Seal of the Prophets' and learnt a song about Martin Luther King Jr. as part of Black History Month. Well done for working so hard this week, Year 4.

Penguins

There has been lots of time spent on Art this week in Penguin Class. We have been getting creative for our topic on portraits by researching the work of famous artists and writing about their styles, before making our own expressive self-portraits inspired by Cubism. In English, we all performed to the best of our abilities when completing reading and SPAG assessments, before practising using commas, colons, semi-colons and bullet points to create lists with Miss Sparkes. In Maths, we applied our columnar methods to even trickier word problems and used mental methods to calculate answers too, ready for our hot test next week. In PE, we enjoyed another intra-class tournament in Benchball and we tried to improve our passing skills when playing Tag Rugby with overloads. In French with Mrs Fisher, we assessed our speaking, listening, reading and writing about dates and, in Music, we finished our "Rock 'n' Roll" unit by performing for each other. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we put together eye-catching assertiveness posters and, in RE, we created community cubes. Finally, we all enjoyed attending church as responsible helpers for Leopard Class, so that we could all celebrate another Harvest Festival, taking our triumphant pumpkin along for the ride - many thanks for all of your kind donations.

Wolves

The highlight of our week has to be setting up our bread experiment! We discussed various ways in which food goes mouldy and then set up an experiment to test out in which conditions bread goes the mouldiest e.g. cold and damp, hot and dry etc. We are going to observe them every day for a week and are already looking forward to seeing the results. With Mrs Fielder on Monday, we completed our end of unit assessment in French - we all did really well! In Maths, we reviewed our addition and subtraction learning and completed multi-step word problems. In PE, we perfected our Samba routines and in Music, we began creating our own hip hop tracks using the tablets. In English with Mrs Clow, we completed our reading and SPAG assessments as well as beginning our new unit which is all about persuasion. We completed our cold write by writing a letter to someone persuading them to do something. Some of us wrote to Mr Gray to persuade him to shorten the school day or to ban school uniform and some of us wrote to Mrs Clow, persuading her to allow us to have a class pet. We're not convinced that any of these will be happening anytime soon! On Wednesday, we enjoyed our final Harvest Festival service and did a fantastic job of walking the Caterpillars safely to and from the church. Finally, on Friday with Mrs Fisher, we created our own community cubes covered in positivity for RE, and in PSHE, we discussed how we can act in an assertive way to get our point of view across to our friends.



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- 5:15pm-6:00pm 10-15yrs
- Friday 11th September - Friday 11th December

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WEST END DANCE CAMP

Join professional performer, Beth Curnock, who has just returned from the world tour of *Les Miserables*, for an action packed day designed to unleash your creativity, confidence and stage presence!

A fantastic opportunity for young performers to improve skills, build confidence and experience musical theatre!

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October
Colne Engaine

Dancing
Singing

Playing
games

Tuesday 27th
October
Long Melford

9am - 3pm
Age 4 - 11 years
Performances at 2:45pm

Crafting



£26 for a
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workshop

Complete the Google form to book or email info@elizabethschoolofdance.com

Support and Advice

School's Early Help Webpage

A range of websites and sources of advice on Emotional Wellbeing, Health, Sleep and Parenting Support can be found [here](#).

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Parent Workshops

NHS
Norfolk and Suffolk
NHS Foundation Trust

Free virtual workshops:

- Anxiety
- Emetophobia
- Tourette's Symptoms/Tics
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Access here: <https://msft.uk/Workshops>

A circular inset image showing three young people walking along a path in a park. On the left, a young man in a brown jacket and jeans. In the center, a young woman in a pink jacket and brown pants. On the right, a young man in a red jacket and black pants. They are walking towards the camera on a paved path with trees and a building in the background.

Free NHS Virtual workshops – Supporting Young People’s Mental Health

These free virtual workshops (Zoom) are designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60 minutes long.

To book onto a workshop visit nsft.uk/workshops or scan the QR code



There are also a number of NHS podcasts and webinars available on YouTube, these can be accessed anytime via <https://www.youtube.com/@NSFT>