



Autumn Term 2026

04/09/2026

Newsletter 1

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success*

*Our assembly message this week: A seed of **kindness** can travel far...*

### **Head Teacher Welcome**

I must start my first news to everyone with an incredibly warm welcome to each of our families joining us for the new school year. I would especially like to welcome *Diego, Harper, Isaac & Tesa* and their families, who have joined us in classes throughout the school. Similarly, we have twenty-one wonderful little “*Puffins*” who have bravely made their first steps along their school journey with great success. The reception class team have ensured that all of our new reception children have felt safe and happy on their first two days at Helmdon. It was a joy to meet them all yesterday, looking beautifully smart in their new Helmdon uniforms.

I would also like to congratulate all of our pupils on a fabulous start to the new school term. After a long, hot summer, the return to school has been calm and focused. The children have enjoyed discovering their new classroom spaces and establishing the school routines which will soon become so familiar to them. I have been very impressed by the children’s polite manners, positive attitudes and good behaviour. Attendance and punctual arrivals have also started well, long may that continue! I could not have hoped for a better beginning to this new chapter for Helmdon – a thank you to you as parents and to our staff for working together to ensure our pupils have such a positive start!

Regarding my role as Head Teacher, I am thrilled to be here! It is genuinely a privilege to be working with such an experienced staff team of practitioners and to be able to support your children on their pathway through school. I look forward to meeting more parents and grandparents in the coming days and weeks. Please do feel able to approach me and introduce yourselves, I hope that there will be many opportunities for families to be in school for events and I will soon be able to learn names and know our families better.

### **Staffing**

I am very happy to welcome back our existing staff members and a big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that the school is bright and shiny and ready for the children to return. I would also like to introduce two new staff members to our team:

Nancy Thackwray                      Teaching Assistant

Cassie Whitney                      School Bursar

Both staff members join us with a wealth of experience from previous roles in other schools and I am very pleased to welcome them.

## **School Systems & Routines**

As the new school year unfolds, we are re-establishing routines which help to ensure each day runs smoothly and efficiently.

With that in mind, we have slightly altered our system for children lining up and moving around school. We now use the hand bell twice when the children are lining up in the playground. The first bell is a “reminder” that we need to get ready to go into school. At break times and lunch times this means bringing a game to a close or putting equipment away. The second bell means that all children should be in line, standing smartly and quietly, ready to listen to the school adults. We are also following the same routine each morning when the bells are rung to start the school day. We have spoken to the children about this in classes as well as assembly.

To help with this calm, quiet transition into school at 8:45am and to ease congestion on the steps I would like to ask for your support. We will ring the first bell at around 8:43am. The children will recognise this is their moment to gather their belongings and say farewell before joining the class lines. At this point please could all adults then have their farewell hugs and kisses and encourage your children to the line independently. Please then retreat to the edges of the astroturf (as you do already at 3:15pm). At 8:45am we will ring the second bell, and we will then find lovely quiet classes ready to filter one class at a time into school.

This not intended to exclude parents, I am always happy to meet with our families and to welcome you into school as often as possible for events and productions. This is a simple measure to manage congested times of the day in school and to help the children with readiness for learning at the start of the day.

Thank you for your understanding, please do talk to your child’s class teacher if there are any personally specific circumstances that your child may need support with.

## **Friends of Helmdon School**

There is no need to register your interest to join Friends of Helmdon School (FOHS)– you are automatically a member of this friendly group as soon as you join our school.

Our Chairperson for FOHS is Rebecca Mount who has a child in Year 4. Rebecca will shortly be sharing a calendar of events for the coming year and an invitation to join us for the Annual General Meeting to be held one evening during September. More details will be available shortly - everyone will be welcome to attend.

## **Wrap Around Care**

Breakfast Club and After School Club have already commenced, starting each day at 7:45am. These clubs are payable and can be attended once an application form has been completed and your child has been registered. Even if you are already registered from previous years please be aware that we will now annually re-issue your booking forms. This enables us to ensure that all details remain up to date and parents have the opportunity to request new daily sessions for booking. We are aware that home or work circumstances may change and your bookings may therefore need to be altered from our previous records.

All contact for wraparound care should be made via email using our central booking email only:

[wraparoundcare@helmdon.org](mailto:wraparoundcare@helmdon.org)

New forms and updated contracts will be issued next week.

## Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT)

We are happy to announce that NMPAT will be commencing whole class music sessions with Year 4 this autumn with the first session being on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Year 5 will then resume lessons in Year 5. We hope this will be an exciting introduction to learning to play a musical instrument and may lead to your child requesting individual or paired teaching sessions later in the year. All equipment will be provided by NMPAT.

### Dates for your Diary

We are just compiling all of the dates for important events across 2026/27 and will share these with you next week. For now, please keep the date free for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning Event** to which you will all be invited. We will be hosting our coffee morning at 10:15am in the school hall on **THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> September**. More information to follow shortly.

Please also bear in mind that the first sports event hosted at Chenderit School will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This will be for children from Year 1-6 and will take place from 4-5pm. Mr Felce will coordinate further information next week and parents will be able to register their children to attend.

### Home Learning

We are establishing reading assessments at present in school and also reviewing our systems for the teaching of spelling. Please therefore, be aware that home learning in these areas will commence by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the latest whilst we get these items in place.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend

*Kathryn Crawford*  
Head Teacher

### Safeguarding and Child Protection

**Designated Safeguarding Lead** Kathryn Crawford [head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** Samantha Castle [s.castle@helmdon.org](mailto:s.castle@helmdon.org)

If you have any concerns about the health, welfare or safety of a child in the Helmdon Primary School community please come and see me or email on the details above.

However, if you think a child is in immediate danger, please call Northamptonshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 126 7000 and/or call 999.

### Online safety

The school's online safety team includes:

Kathryn Crawford [head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

Michael Felce [m.felce@helmdon.org](mailto:m.felce@helmdon.org)

Please speak to either of us if you have any concerns about e-safety or use our emails to make contact.