



Autumn Term 2026

11/09/2026

Newsletter 2

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

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

Our week in news:

A very special welcome to a beautiful baby brother for Robyn and Lyla. Welcome to the world little one – born on Monday this week. We cannot wait to meet you and hopefully share some cuddles when you are big enough to come and see us at school. Congratulations to all of the family for this wonderful news.

Congratulations to all of our children for completing their first full week in school. Routines are taking shape, curriculum opportunities have extended and the children have become more settled to their new classes and increased expectations.

Year 1 have ventured out to the Wild Woods this morning and had a wonderful time exploring the lovely outdoors as they begin to notice the first signs of autumn.

Our Puffins attended their very first whole school assembly this morning and what a wonderful group they are! Everyone sat so still and so quietly, listening to the stories and celebrations.

Marcella Homans, our Early Years Advisor from West Northants Council visited Puffins on Thursday. She was thrilled to see how well Puffins have settled already and how well they are learning new routines in the lunch hall. We are all very proud of Puffins, well done to you all for a wonderful start. We look forward to seeing Puffins next week for their first full days.

Owls in Year 6 have made applications for some of their important duties across the school and we will let you know the successful candidates next week.

Helmdon has a new link with the education team at West Northants Council, our School Improvement Partner (SIP) for 2026/2027 will be Lucy McFarlane and we are looking forward to her first visit later this month.

School Systems & Routines

Thank you for your support each morning as we altered the lining up system. The children have become very good at responding to the two bells especially at break and lunchtimes. I have had several positive pieces of parental feedback about the new system, so we are very grateful to you all for helping with this process. Please continue to say farewell to your children at the first bell so that we have six calm quiet lines when the second bell is rung at 8:45am

Please do continue to 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 (FOHS)

The Annual General Meeting for FOHS is taking place as follows:

Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm

Emus Classroom

Following the AGM the committee will be discussing events and dates for the year. You are all welcome to join for this sociable meeting. Attending the meeting does not mean that you have to join the committee, but you may want to offer support or help during the year or just come along to share a coffee and some cake, meet new friends and find out what is planned for the year. We would love to welcome new parents from reception or any other classes in the 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. Please come to the front entrance of the school and press the green buzzer for entry to the meeting.

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

New forms have been issued and we ask you to return these by Friday 18th September. Once we have collated any new information we will re-issue the contractual agreements between home and school.

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 15th September. Year 5 will then resume lessons in the Spring Term. 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. Last week Mrs Mold joined us for teaching individually booked lessons and she treated us to an impromptu mini concert as an exciting taster of things to come.

Dates for your Diary

We are continuing to expand our list of events for you but here are the first few to add to your diaries. Specific events will also have a letter or poster to provide all the details you will need to be equipped for the sessions. You will soon have access to an annual calendar of events and these will be repeated in weekly newsletters as reminders of upcoming events.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
14/09/26	8:00am	Gymnastics Club commences
15/09/26	1:15pm	Individual Strings lessons Year 4 Class Violin lessons
15/09/26	3:15-4:15pm	Netball Club
17/09/26	4:00-5:00pm	Chenderit Cross Country Event

24/09/26	10:15-11:30am	Macmillan Coffee Morning led by Year 6 with songs and poems from each class
01/10/26 01/10/26	10.00-12:30 (leaving school earlier) pm	Brackley Cross Country Event National Poetry Day
15/10/26	9:05am – 3:30pm	Sports Leaders Training @ Chenderit Year 5/6 – individual letters will be sent
23/10/26	Last Day of Term 1	3:15pm
02/11/26	First Day of Term 2	8:45am

Reception Admissions 2027-2028

Unbelievably, it is already the time of year to be considering school places for reception in September 2027.

Eligibility: Children born between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027 (turning 4 years old on or before 31 August 2027).

Opening Date: Applications opened on 10 September 2026.

Closing Deadline: Midnight on **Friday, 15 January 2027**. Applications must be submitted by this date to be considered on time.

How to Apply: Online via the [West Northamptonshire Council School Admissions](#) page or portal.

To help families make their choices for applications we will be offering Open Days for parents to meet with me and to have a tour of the school. Our Open Days will be:

Thursday 8th October 9:15-10:30am

Tuesday 24th November 9:15-10:30am

Wednesday 6th January 1:30-2:45pm

We hope that parents will be able to make one of these sessions but please email head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk should you need any other information.

Chenderit School Sports Events

Mr Felce, our PE Lead Teacher, is currently organising the many competitions and events that have been offered to us by Chenderit School. The dates below are for all of the planned events for the year. Please keep an eye out for individual letters and/or information on Class Dojo which will provide detailed information for each event. We would like to ensure that we have a team for **Cross Country next Thursday 17th September**. Mr Felce has added a letter detailing this event with a consent form on Parent Pay. Please can families who wish to enter please respond by **Monday 14th September**.

The Brackley Cross Country Event at Brackley Junior School is also running on **Thursday October 1st**. This is happening during the school day and we usually take all of the children who want to attend from Year 1-6. Please indicate your permissions via Parent Pay.

Home Learning

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

Celebrations



Last but by no means least – we have shared our reading certificates this week in assembly for those who took part in The Summer Reading Challenge and we have had several successful swimmers who have moved up a level in their swimming lessons. Well done to you all!

Hughie congratulations for you and your team for winning your football tournament against ten other local teams!

Sonny, Livvy and Isla – a massive well done to you for each winning 1st and 2nd place awards in your age categories for the book cover competition hosted by Brackley Old Hall Bookshop. We love your designs and the very lovely books you were awarded.

Emily – we were all very impressed by your description of the bust craft camping week that you spend in the forest – what resilience!

Our STAR PUPILS this week are:

Reception	Parker
Year 1	Harper & Jacob B
Year 2	Diego
Year 3	Ella
Year 4	Indiana, Alexis & Hughie
Year 5	Evelyn
Year 6	Arlo S

These children have all settled well to their new classes and worked hard to manage their new routines, overcome any challenges and been able to produce lovely work. Well done!

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
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Samantha Castle	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
Michael Felce	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.