



Autumn Term 2026

18/09/2026

Newsletter 3

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

Our assembly message this month:



Head Teacher News

Our wonderful Puffins have now completed their first full week in school staying for five whole days! Even if your little Puffin attended a pre-school full time, you may start to find that they are beginning to show more tiredness at the end of the day and certainly by the end of the week. Please do not be surprised by this, reception children across the land will be yawning and snoozing by the end of each week in school. Imagine their clever brains working extra hard to absorb all of the new routines, extra information, making friendships and getting to know new adults. Its exhausting! It is also great fun!

So well done Puffins, you are working so hard and learning through so many fun play activities and we are very proud of you, such stamina!

This week we have carried out democratic elections to elect our representatives for school council. Our representatives for the autumn term are:

Year 6 **Arlo S & Zia**

Year 5 **Jackson & Rosie**

Year 4 **Charlie & Camilla** (Very regal!)

Year 3 **Jake & Alice**

Chenderit Sports Event

Ably supported by Mr Felce, a team of strong and determined athletes met at Chenderit School last night for the first of two cross country events hosted by Mrs King, our School Sports Coordinator. Mr Felce writes:

On Thursday after school, 28 of our fantastic pupils travelled to Chenderit School to take part in a Cross-Country event. Their determination, perseverance and team spirit were clear from start to finish, and every child represented Helmdon Primary School with real pride.

It was a brilliant afternoon, with all children completing the course, many of them finishing with huge smiles despite the challenging run. We are incredibly proud of each participant for giving their best and supporting one another throughout.

A special congratulations goes to our top-three finishers in their races: Eli, Ella, Liv, Alexis and Edith. An outstanding achievement!

Well done to all involved — you made Helmdon shine.

Mr Felce

Swimming

Year 3 and some older pupils, took the trip to Brackley this week and were assessed by the swim team in readiness for their groupings next week. Mr Felce and Miss Philbey are accompanying the children each week and supporting them with their swimming. Please remember swim hats and a towel along with their swim kit, all easily forgotten in the morning rush ...oh and very importantly...if your child wears their costume under their uniform to get to school, please remember to pack some underwear for after the swim!!

IMPORTANT REMINDER – FREE SCHOOL MEALS!! CENSUS DAY IN SCHOOL!!

A plea for help from all of our families! Thursday 1st October is school census day. This census information is collected behind the scenes by Mrs Kirkham and carries vital information about our school community to the Department for Education. (DfE) One of the key pieces of information collected relates to the number of children having a school meal on that specific day! The DfE then uses this data as a main source to calculate the amount of government funding each school receives. Therefore, it is essential for our school that as many families as possible order a school meal on that day, even if you normally might not consider this option. Less meals = less funding = less resources for the children for the following academic year!

Some of our families may also be entitled to a free school meal based on key eligibility factors:

Income Support/Income based Job Seekers Allowance/Universal Credit

Friends of Helmdon School

We hope to see many of you for refreshments on **Tuesday 22nd September** for our Annual General Meeting and events planning...**6pm** in the school hall

FOHS Hallowe'en Disco

We'll publish the full calendar of events for the year as soon as possible after the AGM next week but, for now, please save the date for the disco on the last day of term - Friday 23rd October 6-7.30pm.

FOHS Cake Sales

The first cake sale of the year will be on Friday 2nd October and cakes are still only 50p each with all proceeds to FOHS. We're asking Owls class to coordinate this one so if your child is in year 5 or 6, please could you make or buy some cakes, cookies, donuts, traybake or anything for the sale!

It would be great to have a volunteer to look after the cake sales now that Rachel is not able to. It's not an onerous task and is a lovely way to support our fundraising so if you could spare half an hour once a month, please let us know. You can speak to anyone on the committee or email us at friendsofhelmdonschool@outlook.com.

Wrap Around Care

With renewed contracts being submitted to parents for wrap around care we also respectfully respect the following:

- Wherever possible please book for the following week by 3:30pm the previous Thursday – this helps us with organisation of staffing and also informs our food order for online shopping delivery both of which are dependent on pupil numbers
- We have rarely needed to implement a late fee as our families have always been very punctual, but please do note additional charges may be incurred for persistent late collection.
- Emergency bookings are still possible but do please be aware that our numbers, especially for after school are now increasing at a pace and may reach capacity.

All contact for wraparound care should be made via email using our central booking email only:
wraparoundcare@helmdon.org

Upcoming Events for your diary:

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We hope you will be able to join us for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning Event**, this invitation is extended to all of our families and also to the village community. We will be hosting our coffee morning at **10:15am** in the school hall on **THURSDAY 24th September**. The children in each class will be sharing a poem or song for your entertainment and Year 6 will be serving drinks and refreshments. Please sign in at the school office ahead of taking a seat in our Helmdon Primary Café! Donations to Macmillan can be made using our QR code which will be available on each table.

Whilst the older children will be making some cupcakes we very much need your help to make this event work successfully! Please could we ask the bakers out there to share a cake with us or a batch of cupcakes that we can then share with our guests. All donations of cakes gratefully received – please bring cake donations to the school office or share with your child's class teacher on Wednesday or by 9:15am on the day of the event so that the children can help set up for our event.

Phonics for Parents and Carers

We are hosting a phonics event on **Thursday 1st October at 9:15am**, led by Mrs Castle and Mrs Sorokoletova. This event is intended for parents and carers for children in our reception Puffins class. However, it is still useful for families in Year 1 particularly if you are new to Helmdon School, so you are also very welcome to join us. The teachers will explain *Read Write Inc.* and how this systematic approach is used in school to teach phonics and help your child to learn to read. They will also lead by example and share the pronunciation of the “pure” sounds which will enable you to support your child appropriately with their reading at home.

Harvest Festival

We are excited to invite our families to St Mary Magdalene Church, at the top of Church Street, Helmdon for our Harvest Festival celebrations. This will take place **on Friday 16th October from 9:15am**

The children will be sharing songs, poems, prayers and information about the traditions of Harvest for your enjoyment and we hope that many of you will be able to attend.

We will be leaving school promptly on that day in order to arrive as closely as we can to 9:15am. Therefore, we ask you to send the children straight into school that morning (as we would if it is raining) so that we can make the walk up Church St in good time. School gates will be open for 8:35am

Families are very welcome to help us walk the children calmly back to school after the event.

We will be sharing our harvest produce with the **Food Banks in Brackley and Towcester** which is also supported by our local church. Please could we therefore ask you to provide a tin or packet of food that your child can carry to the church in their hand. These will be added to the collection of food in church and shared with our local food banks for those in need of support.

Most needed food bank items may include:

Tinned meat or fish

Tinned fruit or vegetables

Pantry staples e.g. pasta, rice, instant noodles, pasta sauces

Long Life drinks e.g. UHT milk, squash

Breakfast & Puddings: cereal, porridge, tinned rice pudding, custard

Reception Open days for 2027/2028 applications

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**

Home Learning

We are currently trialling a new spelling programme called “Emile” – your child will receive spelling activities to take home alongside their reading. If it is successful we will continue with this programme for children from Years 1-6

Any feedback about the spelling activities or words is always welcome as we embark on a new project.

Site Safety

For all of the tree climbers out there – we know that this is an extremely fun activity for children and one which I would wholly encourage at home and whilst out walking in the woods with family! However, I have to ask parents and carers, to prevent our children from climbing the trees before and after school. Whilst responsibility for the children passes back to families after 3:15pm, we do not wish there to be anyone involved in accidents on the school premises.

This week there have been some children climbing extremely high in the big trees around the site especially near to the car park. We have reminded the children not to do this for their safety and ask you respectfully to support us with this by reminding your children whilst on the field after school.

If your child comes to school by scooter or cycle – well done to you – we love that you are exercising in this way! Please could you remind the children to dismount and walk with their bike/scooter once you reach the school gates. We have lots of little Puffins and often younger siblings from Acorns on the school site and we are very keen to avoid a speeding cyclist collision.

Children should not be cutting through the carpark on their own. Please use the footpaths around the school site to avoid the car park during the busy parts of the school day.

Celebrations



Our STAR PUPILS this week are:

Class	Star Pupils	Reason
Reception	Rowan & Robyn	Active learning & sharing their wonderful knowledge about the human body
Year 1	Matilda	Beautiful manners and excellent behaviour
Year 2	Lucy & Maeve	Wonderful behaviour, helpful and kind
Year 3	Baylen Annabella	Fabulous scientific work Exceptional work in maths
Year 4	Charlie Camilla	Enthusiasm and passion in poetry delivery Always making good choices for learning, diligence!
Year 5	Finley & Logan	Excellent effort in mathematics
Year 6	Edith	Beautiful descriptive writing transporting us into the moment!



Our happy birthday wishes goes to Joshua D, Theodore and Mrs Thackwray!

Congratulations to all of our award winners this week who gained certificates for swimming; football; hip hop dance; street dance, equestrian skills and singing – we have some very talented young folk at Helmdon Primary School

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.