



Autumn Term 2026

25/09/2026

Newsletter 4

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

Our assembly message this month:

A Seed of Kindness travels a long way...

Head Teacher News

The highlight of our week has to be yesterday's **Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning** ably hosted by Mrs Bridger and Owls Class. It was an absolute joy to witness our school and the community of Helmdon coming together for such a worthy cause.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your generosity in providing cakes, and they were delicious! Thank you also to Helmdon Community Café at the Reading Room who loaned all of the café equipment. We realise the queue for coffee and cakes was immensely long and reached out of the door and halfway up Station Road – we are so grateful to you for your patience, but we hope that you agree it was worth the wait!

The children from each class performed their autumn poems so beautifully and Puffins closed the show with their beautiful “goodbye” song.

We have counted up the cash raised from donations which was £518.20 and the online donations amounted to £72.00 therefore we have a raised in total a whopping **£590.20!!!** This is a staggering amount, thank you everyone for your generosity.

Live Music

Edith was our very first musician to play her cello today, she serenaded us beautifully as we came into the hall for assembly. I particularly enjoyed her very peaceful rendition of Greensleeves.

We were also treated to a mini concert and sing along with one of our ex-pupils, **Hanley Webb**, who played his guitar and wowed us with his skills. We enjoyed learning that there are many techniques for playing the guitar and we sang along to Chaka Khan, The Police and Ed Sheeran.

Thank you to both of our musicians – we are really proud of both of you, and always a treat to hear live music in school.

Chenderit Sports Event: Key Stage 1

After a busy week, just one of our younger pupils joined Mr Felce for a wider event again hosted by Mrs King at Chenderit School yesterday. Our sole footballer **ARTIE** displayed his fancy footwork against lots of children from other schools and apparently even scored a goal! We awarded Artie with dojos this morning as he was so brave to represent our whole school single handed!

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!

I cannot stress enough how important it is for families to let us know your eligibility for free school meals.

PLEASE PLEASE let me or Mrs Kirkham know if you are able to claim a free school meal. Even if you still provide a packed lunch, we can register for every child with entitlement and this provides additional essential funding for all children in our school. School budgets are based on this information – we do not need any personal details, just to know that you are eligible – come and have a chat about this at the office if you are unsure!

Friends of Helmdon School

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 haven't had any volunteers to coordinate the cake sales so please could we ask parents and carers of children in **Owls class (year 5/6)** to manage this as a group. One or two people will need to arrive around 3pm to set up the tables and cakes but we already have a float and paper bags from last year for you to use. Many thanks.

FOHS AGM & Events Calendar

We held our AGM on Tuesday, and you can find the minutes of the meeting along with the Chair's and Financial Reports in the FOHS section of the school website under community. We've also published the calendar of events for this year so you can save the dates.

Visit: www.helmdonprimaryschool.org for more information

Two dates this term are yet to be confirmed as they rely on third parties but please note that the online shop for Christmas cards, paper and gifts with your child's artwork on will be much earlier than in previous years as we're aiming for an early bird window to increase the commission school earns. We'll share more details and reminder of all events on newsletters nearer the time.

Wrap Around Care

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

wraparoundcare@helmdon.org

Please be aware that as much as we do not want to turn children away, we are now reaching our upper maximum capacity for our wraparound care especially during the afternoon sessions. Our upper limit due to staffing ratios and safety in terms of physical space is 26 pupils.

Therefore, please do try to book in advance, ideally by Thursday of the previous week so that we can plan sessions. If numbers exceed twenty-six, we will have to explain that the club is full for that day and we do not wish for anyone to be struggling with child care.

Phonics for Parents and Carers

We are hosting a phonics event on **Tuesday 29th September 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** and will last no longer than an hour. 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 wider area** 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**

Year 7 Admissions Information

For those of you with pupils in Year 6 please be aware that many of the secondary schools are now offering Open Day events in order for families to explore the schools ahead of making applications for 2027 entry.

The following schools have already held their Open Day events and I am aware that some families have attended this week at: Chenderit School

Magdalen College School,

Northampton School and Northampton School for Boys.

The following schools have their Open Days:

Name of School	Date	Time
Northampton School for Girls	5 th & 6 th October	4.30-7.30pm
Royal Latin School	5 th & 19 th October	TBC
Sponne School	1 st October	4:00-7:00pm

An online application form for Year 7 can be found <https://cms.westnorthants.gov.uk/media/30398/download>

Please be aware that some schools have a supplementary admissions form in addition to the online county application.

All Year 7 applications must be completed by 31/10/2026

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. This is a TRIAL; we are also looking at other programmes that link in a multi-sensory way to handwriting and wider English teaching.

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.

There have still been some children climbing extremely high in the big trees around the site especially near to the car park and between the fences which are out of bounds anyway. 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	Chloe	Always ready with her hand up and willing to share her answers across all areas of learning. Well done for being a very active and enthusiastic learner!
Year 1	Tilly Pippa	For being very enthusiastic scientists, keen to investigate and clever at recording
Year 2	Rhion Orla-Mae	Using clever independent skills when composing and writing their own versions of our class poem
Year 3	Camden Maya	Well done for a super first week in school, settling in beautifully Excellent recall of facts about Anglo Saxons – a wonderful Historian!
Year 4	Ethan and Eben Max	Care and precision with handwriting as we practice joining Focused positive attitude in all areas of learning
Year 5	Grayson Miller	For joining the class so beautifully that it seems you were always with us Brilliant Maths core in Arithmetic
Year 6	Grace	Always ready to learn, what an excellent role model



Our happy birthday wishes go to **Joshua T, Emi, Chloe A and Jacob B** aswell as **Mrs Bridger** who celebrates a very special 0 birthday this week!

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.