



Autumn Term 2026

02/10/2026

Newsletter 5

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

Our assembly message this month:



Head Teacher News

It has been a wonderful week in school where routines are beginning to embed and children across all year groups are more settled to their new classes and the expectations presented. It is delightful to observe children displaying good manners to adults as they move around school and to be engaging in lessons with positivity and determination.

Yesterday Miss Philbey and I witnessed a truly special moment at the cross-country event which embodied everything Helmdon holds so dear and is a shining example of the kindness we have been discussing in our assemblies. Our young owl, Emily, was running a super race and on the last lap, sacrificed her win in a quiet and humble manner, running back half a lap, to assist another runner (from a different school) who had fallen and was struggling to keep going. Emi, thank you, for your natural instincts to do the right thing; your kindness shone through and we are incredibly proud of you for choosing this action!

The cross-country event, whilst a daunting prospect for many, is always an exciting event to be part of and Mr Felce talks about it here:

Brackley Cross Country Event

A huge well done to the sixty-five pupils who took part in our recent Cross-Country event yesterday. We were competing against Farthinghoe, Brackley Juniors, The Radstone and Bracken Leas schools, most of whom have many more runners than Helmdon. Despite being one of the smaller schools, Helmdon still held their own and everyone enjoyed success with the sun shining, the crowd cheering supportively and Mrs James sharing the biscuits to keep up our energy levels! It was a fantastic day and a very successful event, with all of the children showing great determination and perseverance to complete their races. We were delighted to see so many of our runners finish in the top ten of their respective races; some of our youngest children finished in the top three placements for their races. Edith narrowly missed a podium placement and as our only Year 6 girl racing, represented Helmdon with boldness and courage! Most importantly, every child enjoyed the experience and represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent spirit and pride throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of you all!

Chenderit Sports Event: Year 3 & 4 Football

Also on Thursday, ten of our Year 3 and 4 pupils represented Helmdon Primary at the football event hosted at Chenderit School. The footballers flew the Helmdon flag beautifully throughout the tournament, showing great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork in every match. Their hard work paid off with two losses, one draw and three fantastic wins, helping them secure an impressive 3rd place overall. Several children also scored goals for Helmdon: Ezra, Hughie, Eli, Max and Jake. Just as importantly, the whole team demonstrated excellent spirit, encouraging one another and showing respect to players, staff and other schools. We are incredibly proud of the way they played and represented our school. Well done to our footballing heroes!

National Poetry Day

Whilst some of us put on our sporting shoes on Thursday, everyone else at Helmdon, grabbed a pen and became accomplished poets for the day. Children in Key Stage2 worked with Mrs Bridger and today performed their poem based on the theme of 'Wonder'...I wonder whether the Milky Way is made of Milky Ways?

Key Stage 1 children wrote and performed their own poem, and I have shared it here for your enjoyment:

My Pet Dinosaur

*My dinosaur was getting thinner
And so, I brought him home for dinner.*

*He ate the fridge,
He ate my chair,
He ate my favourite teddy bear.*

*He ate the computer
He ate my Lego
He even ate my jacket potato*

*He ate the bath
He ate my toy car
He also ate my Mum's chocolate bar.*

*He ate cereal
He ate my bed
He went outside and ate the shed!!*

By Year 1 & 2

Silence in Court!

This morning, Owls class took part in a reconstruction of a real court case regarding cyber bullying. Here is Edith's summary about the event:

On the morning of Friday 2nd October, a magistrate called Andrew, came in to talk to Owls Class about court, punishments and crimes.

For the first part of the morning, he explained all about what everyone did in court and how they got there.

*After that, we did a play about a true court case. We had a victim, a jury, a magistrate and other jobs held in court. Everyone very much enjoyed the morning and we are looking forward to next year when Andrew might visit again! **Edith Y6***

Diary Dates and Parent Visits

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents into school during the next month. Please add to your diaries:

Reception 2027 Open Morning	Thursday 8 th October	9:15-10:30am	School Tour starting in hall
Harvest Festival	Friday 16 th October	9:15am	St Mary Magdalene Church, Helmdon
Cluster Schools Choir Concert	Weds 21 st October	Afternoon rehearsals Performance 5:00-6:30pm	Waynflete Hall, MCS, Brackley
Celebration Assembly & Half Term Heroes	Friday 23 rd October	9:00am	Hall
Meet the Teacher/Open Classrooms	Friday 23 rd October	3:30-4:15pm	Classes
FOHS Disco	Friday 23 rd October	6:00-7:30pm	Hall
Last Day of Term 1	Friday 23 rd October	3:15pm	
First Day of Term 2	Monday 2 nd November	8:45am	
Sports in School Tamsyn King SCo Visit	Thursday 5 th October	9:00am-12:00pm	Hall & Field
Year 6 Residential Information Event	Tuesday 3 rd November	6:00-7:00pm	Owls classroom
Parents Evenings	Monday 9 th November	3:30-5:30pm 6:00-7:30pm	Face to face meetings in hall
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 10 th November	3:30-6:00pm	Face to face meetings in hall
Remembrance Event	Tuesday 11 th November	To be confirmed	War Memorial
Reception 2027 Open Morning	Tuesday 24 th November	9:15-10:30am	Tour of school starting in hall

IMPORTANT REMINDER – FREE SCHOOL MEALS!

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. Census day is complete but we still use this information for essential funding in school.

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.

Friends of Helmdon School

The first cake sale of the year was hosted by Owls Class today – thank you to everyone who donated cakes and helped to serve delicious treats on the playground today. Currently we are aiming to buy more books for our “Literacy Tree” which means we can have class sets of the books that we are working on through our reading topics. We will let you know how much money was raised next week.

FOHS Hallowe'en Disco - Friday 23rd October 6pm-7.30pm

Hopefully you're saving the date for our annual Hallowe'en disco! Tickets are on sale now at £5 per child, including hotdog and squash, and all Helmdon pupils are welcome (sorry, no friends or siblings who don't attend the school). KS2 children can be dropped off and Reception/KS1 children need an adult to stay with them.

The format will be the same as in previous years, with a DJ in the hall, and games, tuck shop and nail painting in the year 6 classroom. Everything is 50p or £1 so children will want some loose change and of course are very welcome to come in fancy dress! Please follow this link to the booking form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHIQXzssf4nz-TUeJNDbFj-rvswdwhnHv5Bv0GDNVoIwlmmlQ/viewform>

We also have a plea - to make the event run smoothly, we need more helpers than we have committee members so if you'd be willing to help on one of the stalls, please let us know either in person or by emailing friendsofhelmdonschool@outlook.com. Many thanks.

FOHS AGM & Events Calendar

We have published the calendar of events for this year so you can save the dates.

Visit: www.helmdonprimaryschool.org for more information



Christmas Events

Yes, I mentioned Christmas in October! We thought you might need the dates in readiness! So here are a few to pop in your diary:

FOHS Christmas Shop Orders	Friday 27 th November	Orders to school
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Monday 30 th November	Dress Rehearsal to school & village invites
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 1 st December	2:00pm for Parents
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Wednesday 2nd December	9:30am for Parents
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Thursday 3 rd December	9:30am for Parents
Helmdon Village Advent Windows	Tuesday 1 st December	Advent Window Reveal (after dark!)
FOHS Christmas shop (top secret!)	Friday 4 th December 9am-12pm	Hall – children only! Sssshh!
Christmas Cake Sale by Kingfishers	Friday 4 th December 3:15pm	Playground
Christmas Mufti Day	Friday 11 th December	Wear Mufti in exchange for a hamper donation - all day!
FOHS Christmas Raffle Draw	Monday 14 th December	
KS2 carol Concert	Monday 14 th December	Rehearsal to KS1 & village invites church 9:30am
KS2 Carol Concert	Thursday 17 th December	For parents 1:30pm in church
Fresh Start Christmas Lunch TBC!	Tuesday 15 th December TBC!	Hall
Last Day of Term 2 & Half Term Heroes	Friday 18 th December	Celebration Assembly 9:00am Hall
First Day of Term 3	Monday 4 th January 2027	

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 childcare.

Phonics for Parents and Carers

Thank you to Mrs Castle and Mrs Sorokoletova for hosting this event, seven parents attended and feedback suggested this was a very useful event. The slides from this briefing were shared on Dojo for those that would like to follow this at home. It contains very relevant information in order to support your child with reading and phonics at home. The pronunciation of 'pure sounds' is particularly important as this supports the children with their reading and spelling as they progress through the curriculum.

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 first **Open Day is next Thursday 8th October**, please do come along to the school hall at 9:15am. Even if you have older siblings already at Helmdon School, it is always useful to hear updated information for new applicants and any changes that may have taken place since your elder child joined 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

Chenderit School

Magdalen College School, Sponne 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

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

Site Safety

We are aware that there is a tree that has blown down near the school playground. We do have contractors on their way to remove the tree. Whilst the tree is not posing a hazard to the children as it is not protruding into the playground, we do ask you to remind your children they should not be playing after school behind the fencing for their own safety.

Celebrations



Our STAR PUPILS this week are:

Class	Star Pupils	Reason
Reception Puffins	Joshua	For making good choices this week and showing resilience. It is tricky to start school mid way in a busy week with many new activities – well done for settling in so well!
Year 1 Flamingos	Phoebe	Showing determination & courage & running like the wind at Cross Country.
Year 2 Parrots	Eva Jacob	Whilst learning about the story of Rama & Sita for a Diwali story, these two worked so hard and created beautiful divas to light the way.
Year 3 Kingfishers	Frazer	For developing the skills to speak more readily in class discussions but also working very hard and with independence.
Year 4 Emus	Maria Rory	For answering many questions in class with confidence during English and proving that she fully understands how to use and create a beautiful, expanded noun phrase. Emus historian extraordinaire! Fabulous knowledge of Anglo-Saxon history, asking searching questions and showing a clever analytical brain about Saxon burial mounds.
Year 5 Owls	Rosie	Excellent determination & behaviour in lessons – keep it up!

	Sid	Working extremely hard in maths – the change is evident! Well done!
Year 6 Owls	Sonny	For making an excellent model of an invertebrate organism carefully labelled with all of its interesting characteristics



Our happy birthday wishes go to Xaver and Olli.

Helmdon Village Fireworks

The village Firework Fest is hoping to go ahead on Saturday 14th November 2026. However, Robert Duncombe & the team are seeking additional volunteers in order for the event to be able to take place safely with plenty of pairs of hands! This is a wonderful event for the village but is dependent on the number of available volunteers.

The event generates money that is then allocated to village groups on application and so is of huge financial benefit for the village, including the school. It is also one of the village's most popular events – lots of fun for everyone!

Volunteers are welcomed for:

Setting up on Saturday
Clearing Away on Sunday
Marshalling
Bar staff (experience preferred)
Food servers

If you are willing and able to help as a volunteer at the event please contact f.kirkham@helmdon.org by next Wednesday 7th October and we will pass your details to the organising team.

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.