



Autumn Term 2026

16/10/2026

Newsletter 7

☎ 01295 768126

<http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

Head Teacher News

I would like to start our news this week with a very warm welcome to **Liam and Tommy**, who have joined us in Emu and Flamingo classes. Both boys have made an incredible start to their new school already, settling well into class and making new friends. Helmdon welcomes you both and we look forward to working with you and Mum and Dad, for several happy years to come!

HARVEST is a time to pause and give thanks. This morning was a chance for our school community to gather and celebrate the season by donating and sharing food, singing songs of gratitude and enjoying nature and the traditions of harvest and autumn.

The children in every class performed their poems and ballads beautifully – I was very impressed by their confidence in presenting with clarity and volume. It was also lovely to hear Rev. Hugh commend the children on their wonderful behaviour in church, they were very respectful and calm. Rev Hugh was also, apparently disappointed that there was an absence of “chaos!!” Little did he know, a tiny field mouse was running riot behind the lectern ready to unleash an unholy amount of chaos at any second!! Thankfully, our children were too busy belting out “Harvest Samba” to notice our little furry friend!

Thank you so much to all our families for joining us in church today, it was lovely to meet some grandparents and aunties today too! All of you are always welcome. Classes across the school have also contributed some of their beautiful artwork which can be viewed in Helmdon Church as well as in our school hall.



In addition to all of your very generous donations of food, I would like to thank [Helmdon Community Larder](#) who also made a large contribution of food items.

Helmdon Church also writes:

Please come to our Harvest Celebration on Saturday 17th October at 6pm at Helmdon Church

A short, informal service aimed at children and families with refreshments after, including wine, soft drinks, savouries and Harvest treats!

Sarah Rudkin

Once all of the harvest celebrations have been completed, I will collect our donations from the church and organise a time to share them with [Home | Brackley Foodbank](#)

A very warm thank you and round of applause was shared by our younger children this week as they were visited by **Pauline Watson**. Mrs Watson is grandma to Grace and Otilie and Great Aunty to Amelie. Having lived in the village for many years, it was very interesting to learn about the history of Helmdon School and the village from someone who remembers it from her years as a pupil here! Thank you so much for spending the time to share your special memories with the pupils of 2026 and to help bring their history learning to life.

Staffing Update

I need to inform parents that **Mrs Lewis** will not be in school for a few weeks due to having an important surgery which is scheduled for next week. Those of you in Year 1 and Year 2 who are taught by Mrs Lewis will have a session on Monday and Tuesday next week and then Mrs Lewis will be at home resting and recuperating. I would first like to extend our very best wishes to Mrs Lewis from everyone at school as she faces her surgery, we wish her a very successful and speedy recovery.

To reassure parents and children, you will be pleased to know that the sessions taught by Mrs Lewis will be covered by Mrs Stubbs. As you will all be aware, **Mrs Stubbs** has taught at Helmdon for many years and although, officially retired, she often returns to provide top quality support for our classes. This means that there will be a seamless handover from Mrs Lewis to Mrs Stubbs and good continuity in the teaching programme. Mrs Stubbs is a familiar face to all of the children so I am not anticipating any difficulty with the temporary change in adults. Mrs Castle and Mrs Jenkins will continue to teach on the other four days as usual.

It is hoped that Mrs Lewis will be well enough to return to school in January but we will keep you informed nearer the time.

Diary Dates and Parent Visits

Individual School Photographs	Tuesday 20 th October	8.30am	If you have younger siblings at Acorns, you can bring them to the playground at 8.30am to have photos taken together
Cluster Schools Choir Concert	Weds 21 st October	Afternoon rehearsals Performance 5:00-6:30pm	Waynflote Hall, MCS, Brackley
Celebration Assembly & Half Term Heroes	Friday 23 rd October	9:00am	All families welcome – see you in the hall!
Meet the Teacher/Open Classrooms	Friday 23 rd October	3:20-4:00/4:15pm	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 SSSCo Visit	Thursday 5 th November	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	10:50am for 11:00am silence	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!

There are still several families who need to share entitlement for free school meals.

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

FOHS Halloween Disco - Friday 23rd October 6-7.30pm

Remember to book your tickets at £5 per child by next Friday 16/10/26.

Please follow this link to the booking form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHIQXzssf4nz-TUeJNDbFj-rvsdwhnHv5Bv0GDNVoIwImmiQ/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, Rebecca Mount, Chair of FOHS

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

In case you missed them last week here are our Christmas Event dates:

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! Sssh!
Christmas Cake Sale by Kingfishers	Friday 4 th December 3:15pm	Playground
Choir Performance	Monday 7 th December	Lunchtime Reading Room – timings TBC
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	Money and stubs to be returned to school
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	Tuesday 15 th December	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.

Please be aware that late pick up will incur a fee as per our terms and conditions 2026/27.

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 next Open Days are on:

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 have now concluded their Open Day events. In order for families to explore the schools ahead of making applications for 2027 entry, parents will need to request an individual appointment with each school if open days have been missed.

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

Celebrations

Our STAR PUPILS this week are:

Class	Star Pupils	Reason
Reception Puffins	Jack	Well done Jack – always trying your very best and giving everything a go. We are very happy you are so proud of your achievements!
Year 1 Flamingos	Lyla	Excellent progress in your reading
	Xaver	For the wonderful enthusiasm and knowledge you share in every lesson
Year 2 Parrots	Chester	Everyday you come to school ready to learn with such enthusiasm and always willing to show your very best effort
Year 3 Kingfishers	Olli	What a wonderful mathematician you are! Thank you for being so helpful to your class mates and still achieving so well yourself in maths.
Year 4 Emus	Emelia	A wonderful effort to show positive behaviour and attitude for learning this week – keep it up Emelia! Your English work on newspapers is detailed, thorough and beautifully presented
Year 5 Owls	Ivy	Well done Ivy for a fabulous effort in maths, you are working extremely hard and it is noticed!
	Joshua D	A science professor in training – you have shown excellent scientific knowledge of micro-organisms
Year 6 Owls	Georgie	For your kindness and helpfulness Georgie – you are always noticing and helping your peers and offering support to the adults too. Thank you Georgie!



As with tradition at Helmdon Primary, we sang our very own special happy birthday song to celebrate birthdays this week with:

Maddison
Maylie
Piper
Eli
Elsie
& Isla

Helmdon Village Fireworks

Keep the date: **Saturday 14th November from 5:30pm**

Location: Church St, Helmdon (Field behind The Fat Landlord)

Tickets are available from Mrs Kirkham by emailing: **fikirkham1@gmail.com**
or message contacts in Helmdon village: **Laura** 07976 326081 or **Linda** 07855 901141
Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend

(NB, Please remember school photographs on Tuesday 20/10/26 – clean, smart uniforms and tidy hair! – super Christmas gift idea)

Kathryn Crawford
Head Teacher

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kathryn Crawford	head@helmdon.northants-ecl.gov.uk
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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Samantha Castle	s.castle@helmdon.org
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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
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Michael Felce	m.felce@helmdon.org
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Please speak to either of us if you have any concerns about e-safety or use our emails to make contact.