Autumn Term 2026
23/10/2026
Newsletter 8

☎ 01295 768126
http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Helmdon Values: Happiness, Perseverance, Success

Head Teacher News

I start this news with a degree of disbelief – where have those eight weeks vanished? It seems only a few days ago that I was writing my first newsletter to you all! I have a lot more names stored to memory now and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know all of your children better. They really are a wonderful group of young people.

I must congratulate Puffins in particular. Our reception children have managed a whole term in school, gathered so much new information, developed new routines and made lots of new friends. I am sure they are all rather tired by now but what an amazing job they have done starting school so positively!

This week a large dose of happiness was spread around at the **Brackley Cluster Choirs Concert** which took place at Magdalen School on Wednesday evening. A happy throng of fourteen of our pupils spent the afternoon in rehearsals with seven other local primary schools all busy practicing. During the evening, we were joined by a packed hall of parents, carers and grandparents who were treated to a musical delight. We may have presented the smallest choir compared to the bigger schools, but our group shone out with mighty voices. Several other head teachers commented on how well we sang and how loud and confidently we sang our set pieces despite the smaller numbers. We were strong in voice and happy in spirit, our choir, danced, smiled and lit up the room with their songs. It was also fabulous to see our children proudly on stage when we joined together with all of the choirs to sing two songs practiced by all of the schools.

Thank you to Mrs Bridger, Mrs Jenkins and all of our parents who made this evening such a special event for our Choir. As always, our children were also, calm, respectful and well mannered throughout the event – well done Helmdon choristers!

Sporting News

Mrs Thackwray accompanied some of our rugby heroes at Chenderit last night and the children had a great afternoon of fun and exercise. Some of our children already play rugby at local clubs in Brackley, Towcester & Buckingham and they shared their skills with lots of energy. We also took several children who have not played rugby before and they also played with confidence and did a wonderful job!

Mrs Thackwray writes:

We had a fantastic turnout for the tag rugby event at Chenderit School yesterday, with so many of our amazing pupils eager to play that some even stepped up to help out other school teams. Every single child played exceptionally well, showcasing brilliant team skills, running in some excellent tries, and representing Helmdon with outstanding respect and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of how they supported each other and their peers.

School Photographs

Despite the appalling weather, Caroline Rushton, spent a busy morning taking photographs under the safety of our outdoor area. The children should all have arrived home with a booking card. Please use the QR code and your personalised password

or go online at www.carolinerushtonphotography.co.uk to view your child's photographs. You may then select the items you would like to purchase, fabulous Christmas gifts for family and friends!

Friends of Helmdon School

We are all looking forward to seeing as many of our pupils as possible TONIGHT!

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

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.

Term 2 Preparations:

Staffing Update

Business as usual for a little while longer for Year 1 and Year 2 as Ms Lewis' surgery has unfortunately been postponed. Ms Lewis will be in school after half term with Mrs Stubbs on standby in the wings, ready if anything changes. We will keep you updated as soon as we hear anything different.

"Penny for The Guy!"

Actually, we are not looking for money, but we are looking for items we can use with the children to make four "Guys" for the bonfire at Helmdon Fireworks. It is tradition at Helmdon that the children, in their house teams, design and make a Guy that will be ceremoniously added to the huge pyre at the fireworks display on Saturday 14th November. Please seek out old trousers, shirts, jackets, some old wellies or shoes, a hat – anything that we can use to dress each guy. Also any donations of straw or newspaper, anything we can use to stuff the guys would also be much appreciated. If you have any suitable items, please send them into school with your children during the week beginning 2/11/26. Please be reminded that these items will be burnt, so don't donate your favourite jumper as the items will not be returned. Thank you

Poppy Appeal

We will be sharing our thoughts and joining in with national remembrance on Wednesday 11th November. In readiness, after the half term break we will be selling poppies and other remembrance gifts such as badges, bookmarks and bracelets. These will be sold by Year 6 pupils in the hall during morning break. Please send your child into school with some cash donations if you would like them to purchase any items provided by https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/poppy-appeal

FOHS Cake Sale - Friday 6th November
There will be a cake sale on the first Friday back after half term and it's year 4's turn to run it. If your child is in Emus class, please could you coordinate with the other parents to provide the cakes and run the stall. The float and paper bags are in the office and it just needs a couple of people to arrive early to set the tables out. Many thanks!

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

Diary Dates and Parent Visits

Meet the Teacher/Open Classrooms	Friday 23rd October	3:20-4:00/4:15pm	Classes
FOHS Disco	Friday 23rd October	6:00-7:30pm	Hall
Last Day of Term 1	Friday 23rd October	3:15pm	
First Day of Term 2	Monday 2nd November	8:45am	
Sports in School **Tamsyn King SSCo Visit**	Thursday 5th November	9:00am-12:00pm	Hall & Field
Year 6 Residential Information Event	Tuesday 3rd November	6:00-7:00pm	Owls classroom
Parents Evenings	Monday 9th November	3:30-5:30pm 6:00-7:30pm	Face to face meetings in hall
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 10th November	3:30-6:00pm	Face to face meetings in hall
Remembrance Event	Tuesday 11th November	10:50am for 11:00am silence	War Memorial
Reception 2027 Open Morning	Tuesday 24th November	9:15-10:30am	Tour of school starting in hall

Christmas Events **!! PLEASE NOTE A SLIGHT CHANGE TO THE TIMINGS OF NATIVITY PERFORMANCES!!**

FOHS Christmas Shop Orders	Friday 27th November	Orders to school
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Monday 30th November	Dress Rehearsal to classes & village invites
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 1st December	**9:30am for Parents**
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Wednesday 2nd December	**2:00pm for Parents**
Reception & KS1 Nativity	Thursday 3rd December	9:30am for Parents
Helmdon Village Advent Windows	Tuesday 1st December	Advent Window Reveal (after dark!)
FOHS Christmas shop (top secret!)	Friday 4th December 9am-12pm	Hall – children only! Ssshh!
Christmas Cake Sale by Kingfishers	Friday 4th December 3:15pm	Playground
Choir Performance	Monday 7th December	Lunchtime Reading Room – timings TBC
Christmas Mufti Day	Friday 11th December	Wear Mufti in exchange for a hamper donation - all day!
FOHS Christmas Raffle Draw	Monday 14th December	Money and stubs to be returned to school

KS2 carol Concert	Monday 14th December	Rehearsal to KS1 & village invites church 9:30am
KS2 Carol Concert	Thursday 17th December	For parents 1:30pm in church
Fresh Start Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 15th December	Hall
Last Day of Term 2 & Half Term Heroes	Friday 18th December	Celebration Assembly 9:00am Hall
First Day of Term 3	Monday 4th 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

HALF TERM HEROES

Thank you so much to all of our families who joined us in assembly this morning to celebrate our half term heroes! I have been happy to continue with this tradition and it was wonderful to celebrate and congratulate so many of our Helmdon Pupils who have stood out this term for so many fabulous reasons! Many congratulations to the following Helmdon Heroes:

CLASS	NAME OF HERO	REASON
Reception Puffins	**Olivia**	For showing great confidence, independence and responsibility towards her learning and everyday life in school.
	Reuben	For being a fantastic listener, following instructions carefully and setting a wonderful example to his friends
	Alara	For always trying her best and showing determination by encouraging herself to complete tasks, even if she may find them challenging
Year 1 Flamingos	**Mason**	For showing a huge improvement in confidence & independence. Mason has flourished this term and has developed a lovely, positive attitude to his learning and play. He puts in maximum effort and is developing confidence to demonstrate his understanding, especially in maths.
	Matilda	For the super progress she has made across the curriculum. Matilda has really come out of her shell and is now showcasing the amazing talents that she has. Her science work has blown Mrs Greig away!
	Maylie	For her caring, polite and kind nature! Maylie always looks after her friends and the care she shows for her fellow students and our classroom is very much appreciated. This caring attitude extends to her work, where she takes her time and always tries her hardest.
Year 2 Parrots	**Piper**	A super helpful friend to have in the class! Piper is always willing to help others with tasks and does this with a kind, gentle nature and a great big smile.
	Eli	Eli is a very observant member of the class. He will notice when something needs to be done and just gets on and does it just to be helpful. He has shown a positive start to Year 2 working hard on tasks and always welcoming the challenge.
	Anabella	Anabella is a very kind friend to others and is very grown-up when it comes to deciding how to regulate her feelings independently. She uses the regulation station correctly and can identify when she needs tools. A great role model for others.
Year 3 Kingfishers	**Oliver**	For always being a super role model to everyone in the class – Olli is always ready for learning and able to work hard in all subjects with good focus. He is consistently willing to support his friends in class and is well liked by everyone. Keep it up Olli!
	Annabella	Annabella shows amazing independence in her attitude to work. She demonstrates many talents proving that she is equally competent as a super mathematician as she is at writing with brilliant ideas.
	Baylen	Baylen is officially our class science professor this term! He has shown a natural interest in all aspects of science and has shared some magnificent knowledge and facts about the science topics, even before we have fully explored the topics together. Well done super scientist!
Year 4 Emus	**Alexis**	Alexis displays a quiet confidence and inner strength in the way she calmly approaches all aspects of school life. Alexis is a wonderful role model to everyone in school as she instinctively displays our Helmdon values, follows instructions and is always ready for learning. It has been a joy to hear Alexis sharing her knowledge about history especially Sutton Hoo and this has been an inspiration for her friends.
	Hughie	Hughie is a very popular member of the class, he is kind, thoughtful and always notices when someone needs a helping hand. Hughie doesn't need to be asked, his natural instinct towards caring for others spurs him into action, often sacrificing his own time to support an adult or one of his peers. It has been a delight to notice Hughie attempt every task with confidence, diligence and perseverance.
	Lavinia	Our little class bookworm and so much more! It is wonderful to see Livvy, always with a book, always ready to chat about a plot twist or a favourite author. However, Livvy it has also been a joy to watch you

		throw yourself into every activity we carry out in class. Livvy is happy to share her ideas, answer questions, suggest hypotheses and then take great care to produce carefully crafted and well-presented pieces of work. I am very happy that Livvy often helps to look after the adults too and helps to keep us on our toes and well organised in Emus class!
Year 5 Owls	**Evelyn** **Joshua D**	For building her independence skills in lessons and pushing herself to give everything a go, I have noticed how hard you are working Evelyn! For excellent determination in all lessons. All of the adults have noticed how hard you are trying and how much effort you have been giving to each and every subject. Well done!
Year 6 Owls	**Bethanie** **Arlo S**	For working extremely hard in maths, it has been noted! Also for showing your growing maturity, able to use your growth mindset skills to learn from any mistakes and challenge yourself to improve and it is working For being an excellent role model, stepping up to the responsibilities and maturity that is needed from Year 6. Arlo is consistently polite and considerate and is always helping out and offering support in class and around the school.

As with tradition at Helmdon Primary, we sang our very own special happy birthday song to celebrate birthdays this week and those who will be celebrating during half term with:

Arthur
Olivia K
Livvy
Aubrey and
Tommy

School Council Representatives were awarded their badges today. Congratulations once again to: Jake, Alice, Charlie, Camilla, Rosie, Jackson, Arlo & Zia.

Thank you to Arlo for playing the piano so beautifully as we entered assembly this morning.
We also celebrated successes with Hughie for his Karting trophy, Diego & Alara who brought in their football trophies and also Xaver with his football trophy. Harper shared a very grand dance trophy, her sparkling tiara and two medals – all well deserved for her talents with dancing, including a first prize award!

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

Wishing you all a very restful, peaceful and happy half term break. We will see you all refreshed and ready to go again on **Monday 2nd November**.

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.