



# Newsletter ~ October 2025

## The Windmill Primary Federation



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half-term, it's a pleasure to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. Our pupils have settled into their new routines with enthusiasm and positivity, and we couldn't be prouder of how they've embraced learning, demonstrated excellent behaviour and shown pride in their work. They have adjusted well to our behaviour systems, which have restorative practices at the core – we call this 'The Windmill Way'. We celebrate the behaviours we want to see with 'Thank you' cards and promote consistent expectations with phrases including: 'magnet eyes' and '1, 2, 3, eyes on me'. We use 'BBC' (Back, Bottom, Chair) and 'TNT' (Tummy Near Table) to ensure children are sat correctly on their seats and at their desks for their learning.

On Fridays we celebrate the positive contributions and achievements of our pupils across the school in assembly. Each class has a personal achievement certificate, a handwriting and presentation certificate and an additional certificate for being ready, respectful and safe. In every class, children who go over and above in their attitude to their learning and for their positive behaviours receive a special token which goes into the class prize draw. We also have a certificate to recognise sporting excellence. We celebrate the class with the highest attendance across the week.

This half-term has flown by, packed with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences. A huge well done to our Key Stage One team who represented our school at the West Norfolk Academies Trust Dodgeball Competition. Although we did not win, the children threw themselves into this event and did our school proud.

We also said 'Hello Yellow' to support World Mental Health Day. Pupils and staff dressed in yellow and came together to raise awareness of mental health and the importance of wellbeing. It was a joyful and meaningful event that brought the whole school community together.

A highlight this half-term was welcoming three talented musicians from the national touring Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Some of our Year 3, 4 and 5 children have since performed with the orchestra at the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn. In addition, some of our Year 4 pupils have started rehearsing for the upcoming Remembrance Evening at Springwood High School; we're excited to see their efforts come to life on stage.

We are also proud to see our pupils stepping up to take on leadership responsibilities. We are in the process of appointing our Junior Leadership Team. Our school have chosen our Head Pupils for the year, Charlie and Poppy. We congratulate them on their success and look forward to them leading the team during this year.

We know that our pupils' success is only possible because of the strong partnership between school and home. Thank you for everything you do—from supporting reading and homework to encouraging regular routines, using platforms like Times Tables Rock Stars and SATs Companion and promoting good attendance. These everyday efforts play a big part in helping your child thrive.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome I've received this term. I'm very much looking forward to meeting more of you during our upcoming Parents' Evenings on Monday 10th November and Wednesday 12th November.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kindest regards

*Craig Jansen & Caraline Lock*  
Exec Headteacher & Head of School



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### EYFS



In English, we have been orally rehearsing our focus text, *Finding a Friend*. We loved creating masks and learning actions to help us re-tell our story. In maths, we have been busy exploring the numbers one to five through subitising and using games and manipulatives.

We have drawn some self-portraits and created some colourful Picasso-inspired faces. We have also been thinking about our community, talking about the different types of house we live in, and are hoping to go for a little walk down School Road very soon to look at houses and see what features we can spot. We have also been learning about the important jobs people do in our local area – from shopkeepers to fire-fighters – and why they are important. We have also been reading a book called *The Colour Monster* and exploring our emotions, thinking about ways that we can relax and calm ourselves when we need to.

### Class 1

This half term in English, we have been learning about fast-forward stories: after learning a model story, complete with actions and a storyboard, we wrote our own versions, changing an element of the original story.

We have also been enjoying art, learning about the primary and secondary colours, mixing shades, and painting in the style of artists such as Jasper Johns and Clarice Cliff.

We have been getting to grips with the different manipulatives in maths, learning place value, greater than and less than, and moving on to parts and wholes. We have also been testing out our senses in science, tasting foods which are sweet, sour, salty and bitter and trying to guess the smells of some familiar household items such as baby powder, coffee and toothpaste.



### Class 2



In English we have just completed our work on journey tales, and in maths, we have enjoyed using manipulatives, especially rekenreks to help with our number sentences. In science we have been exploring different habitats from woodlands to oceans and discussing the food chains, and how every living thing has an important part to play in maintaining equilibrium in habitats.

In history, we have learnt all about Flight, starting with the first balloon flight, all the way through to the first moon landing! We tracked Amelia Earhart's journey on a globe and incorporated drama into learning about Bessie Coleman – an early American civil aviator. PSHCE has seen us embracing diversity and learning about different families and relationships. In RE, we have been considering how different religions give thanks, exploring the themes of gratitude and reflecting on what we are grateful for in our own lives.

### Class 3

In English, we have been reading 'Icarus' by Sharon Gates and learning the skills to enable us to write our own warning stories, and in maths, we have been practising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables which are crucial to our learning. Science has seen us explore the role of the skeleton and muscles, and we have learnt about how the body uses energy.

We have enjoyed learning about human life during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and have used this to create prehistoric art using charcoal and natural pigments. In computing, we have been introduced to the concept of networks and can talk about how devices communicate. We have learnt in PSHCE how problems occur in friendships and that violence is never right, and we understand what bullying is and what to do if it happens.





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### Class 4



We have been learning how to structure a story in English, and have recently written our own versions of a portal story! In maths, we have been honing our understanding of place value, and can now confidently order and compare numbers up to 10 000. Science has focused on animals, including humans: we can now talk about the different types of teeth and how their shapes are adapted to suit their specific functions. In history, we have studied what happened in Britain after the Anglo-Saxon invasion, and we have constructed sections of wattle-and-daub walls using salt dough. PE has seen us practising our ball skills and applying them in invasion games, and as musicians, we have enjoyed working with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, who we then had the opportunity to perform with at the Corn Exchange. We have also been learning to 'Pack up Your Troubles' ready for some of us performing in the Remembrance concert at Springwood High School next month.

### Class 5

In English, we have been reading Wolf Brother and have been writing an explanation as to why wolves are so dangerous. Within maths, we have been developing our skills of place value in numbers up to 1,000,000, as well as adding and subtracting four-digit numbers with multiple exchanges. We have looked at the Ancient Greeks in history, Space in science, self-portraits in art as well as different religions and life skills in the other foundation subjects. We have started to introduce Latin which is a new language for us and we are keen to find out more!

In PE lessons, we have been challenging ourselves in invasion games such as netball, basketball, handball and bench ball, and our music sessions have seen the return of Mr Seales to teach us recorders again!

Last Friday, we had a brilliant online learning experience with the Leicester Space Centre. Specialist mission commanders led a session whereby we learned all about Space and even got to build our own space stations which were then tested out!



### Class 6



In English, we have explored a meeting tale and how to use a variety of authorial techniques to entice our reader into our writing, and in maths, we have used our place value knowledge and the four operations to solve more challenging complex problems.

In science, we have completed a variety of investigations over the last few weeks using and reflecting light, and investigating how we see objects, and our visit to Africa Alive has acted as a springboard to support our learning about types and classification of animals in next half-term.

Last month, we visited Great Cressingham Victorian School and enjoyed an authentic experience of life as a Victorian child. We have been investigating the census and its historical significance to answer questions about the past. In PSHCE, we have looked at the concept of respect and its

significance in everyday life, and in computing, we have learnt about online safety and cyberbullying.

We have also been raising money, supplies and awareness for the local Wisbech Foodbank.



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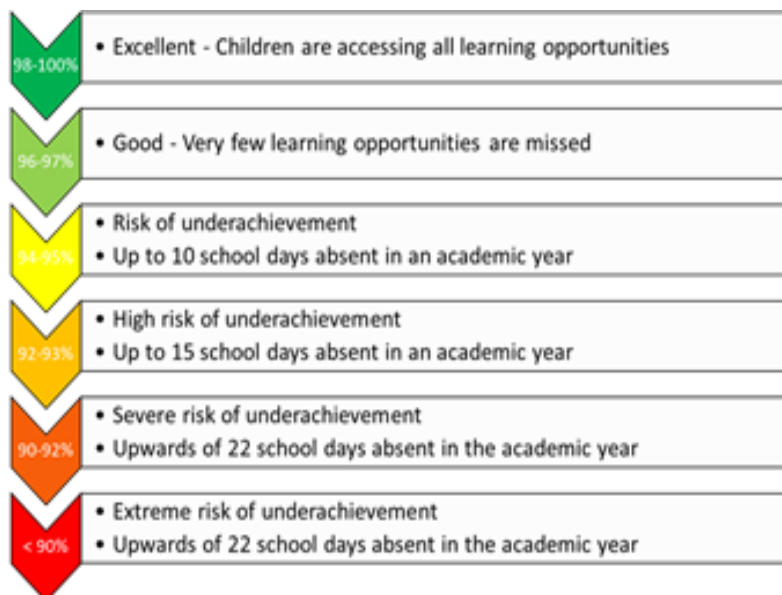


### The Importance of Good Attendance

The Government strives for every pupil to achieve 97% attendance. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued attendance guidance and targets to all schools. You may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hopes that this personal approach will keep you informed and make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up.



Halloween Disco: today at 3.30pm

**Coming up soon** (same dates to be confirmed):

Panto visiting the school: 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Carol service at church: 18<sup>th</sup> December (TBC)

'Wear What you Love' day (Valentines – date TBC)

World Book Day – the return of the Wonka Bars!

Easter Bake Sale

Colour Run

### Diary Dates

**COMING SOON**

#### Parents Evening

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November and  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November