

**PRIMARY
NEWSLETTER
October 2025**

IN THE KNOW

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

As we reach the end of another exciting and productive half term, I'm delighted to welcome you to this edition of In the Know. It has truly been a half term filled with achievement, creativity, and opportunity across our school community.

Our students have been busy engaging in a wide range of enriching activities in every year group from Reception all the way up to Year 6. It's been a truly busy and rewarding few weeks, and this newsletter captures just a glimpse of the fantastic things happening across our school. I encourage you to read on and celebrate the achievements, creativity, and commitment of our students and staff.

I would also like to THANK YOU for your donations for the Harvest Festival. We were incredibly grateful for your generosity as parents/families for all the tins/packets and jars of food that we donated to the B30 Foodbank. It was lovely to see so many parents/friends and carers at the Harvest Assembly. These events mean so much to your children and to us as a staff team. We love coming together to celebrate and share in the success of your children. We look forward to all that is ahead.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break — and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another exciting half term ahead.

Warm regards,

M Rooney (Principal)

ATTENDANCE

Please can I remind all parents/legal guardians that you have a legal duty to ensure your child **attends school every day**. Children cannot have days off for things like birthdays, visiting family, haircuts, holidays, their sisters/brothers are sick. Our first few weeks of attendance in Primary were incredible however sadly, the last few weeks has been poor. Unfortunately, parents are not informing us why their child is off and when we make a phone call, a few parents are not answering. This results in an unauthorised absence. As a school, fines are now being issued for parents whose children are frequently late or are not attending school. This fine is £80 per parent, per child.

It is a parental responsibility to ensure your child arrives at school by 8.20am (to make sure they are not late) and is collected at 3.00pm. We do have a breakfast club that starts at 7.30am so parents can miss the heavy traffic and drop early if required. It is important we work together to promote healthy habits for your children's futures.

Poor attendance at work can result in the loss of a job so we want to instil good, positive habits early on, little by little, so children succeed. Attending, on time, every day is a positive, healthy habit to embed.

ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE

Each week, the class that gets the best overall attendance is awarded a Trophy, a certificate and a prize (ice-lollies/chocolate, etc.). The children love to win. Here is the league table so far...by ensuring your child is at school every day, you help your child's class to win the prize and it get's very competitive (that's just the staff!) 😊.

Please ensure you are bringing your child to school every day. This is the time we start to build resilience in our children, helping them to overcome small things now so that later on in life, they are very confident, capable and kind young men and women.

Class	Percentage of Attendance %				
	Overall	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Reception	95	100	85	100	95
Year 1	96	99	94	94	99
Year 2	89	83	89	91	93
Year 3	97	99	100	97	87
Year 4	88	82	92	86	93
Year 5	92	93	92	93	91
Year 6	91	90	92	92	90
Primary Overall	92	91	92	92	92

The Nest – Miss Hutchison & Miss Ogbeide

The children in the nest have made a fantastic start to the school year. We are so proud and impressed with how they have returned with such enthusiasm to their learning. They have slipped back into their routines like they have never been away.

Our topic this term is focused around “All about me”, the children have been learning how to recognise themselves through the use of photos and name cards to participate during their morning routine.

The children have also been developing and strengthening their gross motor skills during outside activities involving bikes, both balance and pedal bikes, trikes and scooters.

Reception – Miss Bell & Mrs Clay

Literacy

This half term, the children have been exploring stories in fun and engaging ways to build vocabulary, develop speaking and listening skills, and ignite their imaginations.

We have been enjoying the rhyming classic **Each Peach Pear Plum**, which has helped us explore rhyme and rhythm through playful language. The children have been spotting rhyming pairs both in the story and in other rhymes. We have also used the characters to inspire drama activities, where the children created freeze frames and acted out parts of the story—bringing the pages to life! We also read **What Makes Me a Me**, a thoughtful book that sparked wonderful conversations about identity, emotions, and what makes each of us unique. The children shared their own ideas and feelings, helping them build confidence in speaking and listening. They used expressive language to describe themselves and others and created freeze frames to show different aspects of the main characters personality. Through storytelling, rhyme, and imaginative play, we are building strong foundations in communication and language—and having a lot of fun along the way!

Maths

This half term, we have been focussing on ‘one more than’ and ‘one less than’. We have used stories, such as **A Squash and a Squeeze**, and **The Gingerbread Man**. We have also used rhymes, such as **Five Speckled Frogs**.

Music

In Music this term, the children have been exploring rhythm through clapping games and percussion activities. We used the rhyme **‘Humpty Dumpty’** to practise keeping a steady beat, clapping along, and using a drum to create our own rhythm patterns. The children have also been introduced to a range of musical instruments, including the guitar and xylophone. They’ve enjoyed experimenting with different ways to make sounds and have begun to describe how each instrument sounds. This has helped to develop their listening skills and musical vocabulary, all while having lots of fun making music together.



Year one and two – Mrs Hughes and Miss Walker

Year 1 and Year 2 have had such a positive and enthusiastic month! We are so proud of how smart the children all look in their uniforms – thank you for supporting this.

In Maths, the children have been working hard on addition and subtraction. They are showing real determination and have made fantastic progress in how quickly and accurately they can solve problems, demonstrating that they are well on their way to mastering these important skills.

Across both year groups, the children have made a wonderful start to their writing. They have been using their phonics knowledge to write independently and are showing a real enthusiasm for learning new skills. Recently, we have been exploring traditional nursery rhymes and have enjoyed creating our very own versions of Jack and Jill and Humpty Dumpty – the children came up with some very imaginative twists!

In Science, the children have been really enjoying learning all about animals and their habitats. They have explored how different animals are suited to their environments and have loved sharing their knowledge through discussions and creative activities.

We would also like to say a big thank you to those who attended our recent Reading Workshop. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers join us to learn more about how we teach early reading and how you can support your child at home. Reading is such an important part of our curriculum, and it's wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited about the books they are bringing home.

Well done, Year 1 and 2 – what a brilliant month of learning!

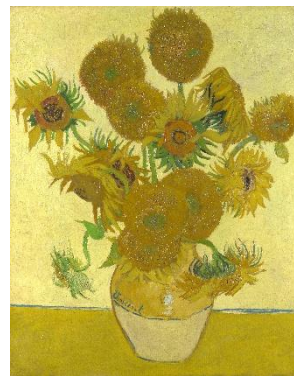


Years 3 & 4 – Miss Heyer & Miss McCauley

Year 3 and 4 have made a brilliant start to the school year! The children have settled quickly into their routines and shown great enthusiasm for their learning.

This month, the children have been exploring the work of Vincent Van Gogh. They have looked closely at his unique style and the textures he created in his paintings. The children are now experimenting with their own brushstrokes and recreating textures in their art, inspired by Van Gogh's famous works. I'll have some brilliant final pieces ready for next month's newsletter!

In PE, we have been focusing on basketball skills. The children are learning key techniques such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. Teamwork and communication have also been a big part of the lessons, as we begin to put these skills into practice during small games.



Year 5 – Mrs Saleh & Ms Smit

This half term, Year 5 have been working incredibly hard and showing fantastic creativity across all their subjects.

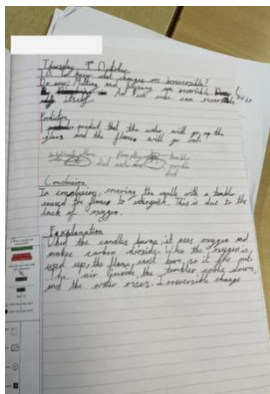
In writing, the children have produced some wonderful mythical stories, creating their own imaginative characters and settings. They have using great descriptions and dialogue to bring their myths to life, showing real progress in their storytelling skills.

In reading, the class have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Shackleton's Journey. They have been fascinated by the story of courage and adventure and have taken part in great discussions. The comprehension and inference skills have really developed. They were really surprised that the book is based on a true story!

In Maths, the children have been developing a range of skills across topics. We began by deepening the understanding of place value and then looking at the four operations- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have looked at both mental methods and written calculations.

Science lessons have been full fun! The children have loved taking part in experiments and their enthusiasm has been amazing to watch. Within History, they have been learning about Ancient Greeks and discovering what life was like and how different it is from the world we live in today. In





Art, the children enjoyed experimenting with watercolours and exploring how different substances, such as salt, can create textures and effects.

It has been a fantastic half term full of learning, discovery, and creativity- well done Year 5!

Year 6 - Mr Newton & Miss Hathaway

It has been a great start by Year 6. We have been impressed with how sensibly Year 6 have come back after the summer. They also look extremely smart in their new uniforms. Thank you with your support with this.

Year 6 are swimming this half term. They really enjoyed their first session. Please make sure that you send them in with their swimming kit, as this is a hugely important life skill and opportunity. Here is a photo of them outside Linden Road Swimming Pool.

Some of our Year 6 students have been putting in exceptional effort in their maths arithmetic. They have been tackling a variety of challenging questions in maths.

Year 6 are currently developing their mastery of the four operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—by applying them confidently across a variety of arithmetic and word problems. They have also been deepening their understanding of key number concepts, working with decimal numbers and revisiting essential topics such as multiples, factors, and prime numbers.

It has been wonderful to see these children so dedicated to improving their skills, not just in preparation for their SATs, but more importantly, for their overall learning journey. Well done!



Primary Dates for Your Diary

Dates for Primary 2025-2026

Date	Event	Where
Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct 26	Autumn Half Term	
Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd Oct 25	Parents Evening (3.00pm-5.30pm)	
Tue 11th Nov 25	Remembrance Day	
Thurs 13th Nov 25	Friendship Assembly - 9.00am, for parents (anti-bullying week)	
Thurs 4th Dec 25	Christmas Fair - 2.30pm	
Thurs 4th Dec 25	Year 5 Assembly 9.00am	PPC
Thurs 11th Dec 25	Christmas Concert (All Years)	PPC
Wed 17th Dec 25	Christmas Dinner	Canteen
Thurs 18th Dec 25	Pantomime @ School (provisional date)	PPC
Fri 19th Dec 25	Christmas Jumper Day	
Mon 22nd Dec 25 - Fri 2nd Jan 26	Christmas Holiday	
	Inset Days	
	Holidays and bank holidays	
	Assemblies	
	Parents evening & Reports to parents	