

SCHOOL BULLETIN



Head of School Message

No. 03
9 October, 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been another busy and rewarding week at school, with plenty to celebrate across our learning and wider school community.

A warm welcome to our new Shepherd's Hut!



A huge thank you to Rachel and Richard for their time, generosity and creativity in bringing this wonderful project to life. The children are incredibly lucky to have such a unique and exciting addition to our school grounds, and I look forward to seeing how they make it their own.

Last weekend saw the arrival of our much-anticipated Shepherd's Hut, and its journey through the village certainly caught the attention of passers-by. There were some wonderful reactions, including excited calls of, "Look! There's the Shepherd's Hut!"

Back at school, work began to secure the hut in its new home within our playground. It promises to become a real hub for outdoor learning and play, providing a special space for reading, quiet reflection, creativity, small-group work and, perhaps most importantly, a little time to escape into a book or let imaginations run free. Work will begin shortly on decorating the hut and creating a new seating area for the children to enjoy.



Exploring Space & Celebrating Harvest

This week, we have been celebrating World Space Week, with children across the school exploring the planets through stories and songs. In art, the Adders have been creating lino prints inspired by the theme of space, combining their learning with creativity and artistic skill.

Last week's Harvest Festival was also a lovely opportunity to come together as a community and share some of the children's learning linked to this important time of year. The generous donations of food on display at the church were a wonderful reflection of the kindness and thoughtfulness of our school community. These donations were collected by the Lighthouse charity to support people and families in the Ipswich area. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the occasion so meaningful.

Celebrating our learning

There has been plenty of focused learning in classrooms too, with several classes reaching the culmination of their writing projects. The Hedgehogs have completed their final written pieces inspired by The Barnabus Project, while the Adders have written their own narratives inspired by Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. The Woodlands have also been showcasing some fantastic writing linked to their book, Cave Baby. It is always a pleasure to see the children bringing together their reading, ideas and developing writing skills to produce work of which they can be proud.

With half-term fast approaching, we have plenty to look forward to as we bring this busy and productive period to a close. Parents' evenings will take place on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October, providing a valuable opportunity to reflect on the children's progress and celebrate their achievements together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community. I look forward to sharing more of our learning and adventures with you over the coming weeks.

Attendance



Attendance:

We would love for every one of our pupils to achieve ACE attendance (of 95% or above) next academic year. To achieve 95% your child will need to miss no more than 10 days of school.

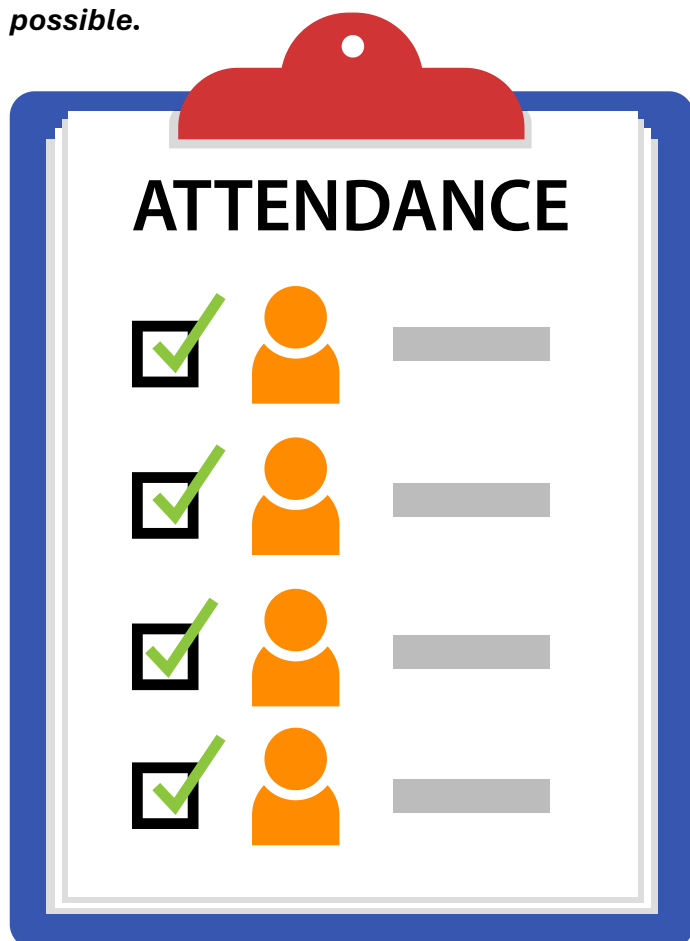
Pupil Absence: please remember to report all absences by leaving a message on the school absence line – **01473 831251**, OPTION 1, absences should be reported by **09.30** or earlier if possible.

Alternatively, you can send an email to the office email address.

Failure to do so may result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence.

Pupil Late Arrival: If your child is going to be late, please let the office know as soon as possible by leaving a message on the absence line - **01473 831251**, OPTION 1.

If you are running late, please also remember to let us know, if your child will be having a school lunch or home packed lunch, to enable us to inform the kitchen staff as soon as possible.



Remember...



When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends



Attendance - Week (Year to date)

Woodlands - 89.7% (97.7%)

Hedgehogs - 97.2% (95.4%)

Adders - 100% (97.5%)

Parent Information - Reminders



Parents' Evening Sign Up

Don't forget to book your Parents' Evening appointment!

We look forward to seeing you! 😊

Wednesday 21st October
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 22nd October
3.30pm – 7.00pm

Available to book **on Arbor**

Support
Progress
Together

♥ Your child's learning matters – let's keep the conversation going! ♥

Arbor Book Now



REMINDER!

Have you completed the permission form and made payment for the **Woodlands'** trip to the Christmas Rock n Roll Panto to see **Cinderella**?

Have you completed the permission form for the **Woodlands'** trip to the panto?

Oh Yes You Have!

Oh No You Haven't!

CHRISTMAS ROCK n ROLL PANTO



Don't forget to complete the residential consent form (current Year 4 and Year 5 pupils).

All deposits to be paid by **12th October 26** to secure numbers with the venue.

To complete consent...

click Here!

Parent Information



Help us win £1,000 of LEGO® Education resources! We're taking part in the LEGO® Education Token Collect Competition and need your help! From 26th September to 5th November, tokens will be printed in your local newspaper. The more tokens our school collects, the greater our chance of winning fantastic LEGO® Education resources worth up to £1,000.

Tokens will be printed in:

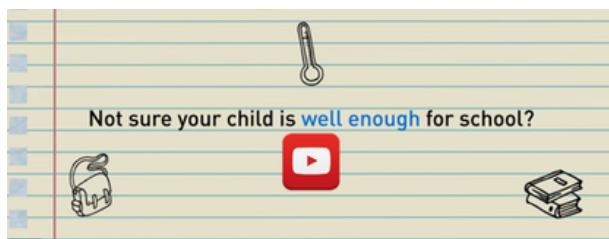
- East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star

How you can help:

- Pick up a participating local newspaper during the promotion period
- Cut out and save the LEGO® Education tokens
- Gather as many as tokens as possible and drop them into school

Every token counts, so please ask family members, friends and neighbours to get involved too. Thank you for supporting our school and helping us bring more LEGO® Education resources into the classroom!

Helpful Information from the NHS Regarding School Attendance



Is my child too ill for school?



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Parent Information

The **NSFT Psychology in Schools Team** offer an online parent/carer workshop program that addresses childhood neurodiversity and covers key topics that families have identified as most helpful. These workshops are offered to support families on the neurodevelopmental (NDD) pathway in Suffolk.



Sales end soon

Childhood Neurodivergence: Supporting Your Child With Anxiety
Monday at 12:00 BST
Free



Supporting your Child/Young Person with Emotion Based School Avoidance
Tue 20 Oct, 13:00 BST
Free



Childhood Neurodivergence: Understanding and Supporting Sleep Difficulties
Thu 12 Nov, 10:00 GMT+0
Free



Supporting Your Child/Adolescent with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
Thu 19 Nov, 13:15 GMT+0
Free



Childhood Neurodivergence: Understanding and Supporting Eating Difficulties



Understanding and Supporting Behaviour
Tue 15 Dec, 12:00 GMT+0
Free



There is a national shortage of classroom support staff
Step into the classroom with our online School Support Programmes



With career progression routes such as:
Teaching Assistant, Cover Supervisor, Behaviour Support, Midday Supervisor, Lunchtime Supervisor, t:1 Support, Learning Mentor, Pastoral Support, Admin Support

Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Courses Available
“The teaching skills were second to none, I now feel confident that I can go into my new role as a TA knowing I have the knowledge and confidence to face anything I may come across. Thank you, Aspire.”

Enrol today:
07707470845

jamie.baguley@aspireeducationacademy.co.uk



Suffolk SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information

Advice and Support Service)

Confidential and impartial information, advice and support service on issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is free, easy to access and confidential.

They offer information, advice and support to:

- Children and young people (up to 25 years) with SEND
- Parents and carers of children with SEND
- Practitioners (general enquiries only or who might be supporting children, young people or parents to access our service)

FOSS Update



VIRTUAL PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Although Halloween falls during half term, we're still keeping the spooky spirit alive with a Virtual Pumpkin Carving Competition! Get creative at home with your friends and family – carve your spookiest, funniest, or most imaginative pumpkin and email us a picture of your masterpiece.

The winner will be announced on the first day back at school!

How to Enter:

- Carve your pumpkin at home
- Take a picture and email it to **fossfundraisers@gmail.com**.
- Include your name and class in the email.

Deadline: 31st October

Prize for winner.

Let's keep the Halloween fun going, even from home!

ORGANISED BY FOSS



Flyers & Events



Mountain Warehouse

Exclusive 20% discount code for Somersham Primary School.

This can be used online and in-store and is valid for one year from 05/10/2026.

Please note that the discount applies to items labelled "Sold and shipped by Mountain Warehouse" and excludes third-party seller products.

You can explore the full range here:

<https://www.mountainwarehouse.com/>

How to apply your discount online:

Add your chosen items to your basket.

Click the basket icon in the top right-hand corner of the webpage.

In your basket, enter your promo code - **CC2026123** in the discount code box.

Click Apply and the discount will be deducted before checkout.



Midday Supervisor = Required =

We are looking for a caring, reliable and enthusiastic person to join our friendly team as a Midday Supervisor.

You will help to ensure our children have a safe, happy and positive lunchtime experience, supporting them in the playground and dining areas.



Hours:

1 hour 10 minutes or 1 hour 20 minutes



Days:

Preferably 2-3 days a week

If you think you could make a positive difference and would like to find out more, please get in touch with the school office.

We'd love to hear from you!



St Mary's Church Nettlestead

Saturday 24th October - 2pm

The Rabble Chorus
and

12 year old Pianist, Bethany Reynolds

Somersham parents & interested children are invited to attend as guests

Let the office know asap if you are interested

Diary Dates

Monday 12th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Girls Football (KS2)
Tuesday 13th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Boys Football (KS2) 3.15 - 4.15pm - Forest School (All Years)
Wednesday 14th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Arts & Craft (All Years)
Thursday 15th		1.15pm - Robins' Forest School Session 3.15 - 4.15pm - KICK club - Create & Play (All Years) 3.15 - 4.15pm - BSL Rehearsal (2 of 6)
Friday 16th		Woodlands Share Assembly 3.15 - 4.15pm - Musical Theatre
Monday 19th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Girls Football (KS2)
Tuesday 20th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Boys Football (KS2) 3.15 - 4.15pm - Forest School (All Years)
Wednesday 21st		3.15 - 4.15pm - Arts & Craft (All Years) - CANCELLED 3.30 - 5.30pm - Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd		1.15pm - Woodpeckers' Forest School Session 3.15 - 4.15pm - KICK club - Create & Play (All Years) 3.15 - 4.15pm - BSL Rehearsal (3 of 6) 3.30 - 7pm - Parents' Evening
Friday 23rd		PD Day

Save the Date!

School Photos
17th November 2026