



Springfield Primary Academy Newsletter



Summer Half Term 1 - 2025/2026

22nd May 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Summer 1 half term, it has been a pleasure to reflect on what has been a busy, positive and rewarding half term for our school community. Pupils across Springfield have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and a real love of learning, taking part in a wide range of engaging experiences both in and beyond the classroom.

Throughout the school, pupils have immersed themselves in rich and varied learning opportunities. From exploring life cycles and the natural world in the early years, to developing geographical knowledge of earthquakes and global food production further up the school, pupils have shown curiosity and commitment in all that they do. Creative learning has also flourished, with pupils producing impressive artwork inspired by Vincent van Gogh and engaging in thoughtful writing and practical investigations.

Enrichment has once again played a key role this half term. Pupils have represented the school at sporting events and festivals, contributed to the community through initiatives such as the Eco Committee's work, and enjoyed memorable trips and experiences, including visits to Attwell Farm and outdoor learning opportunities. These experiences continue to broaden pupils' horizons and build confidence.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to our Year 6 pupils and staff for their dedication and hard work in the lead-up to SATs. Pupils approached this important milestone with determination and maturity, supported by staff who have shown unwavering commitment throughout. We are incredibly proud of the effort and resilience demonstrated by everyone involved.

As we look ahead to Summer 2, we remain committed to ensuring that all pupils continue to thrive, succeed and enjoy their learning. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 1st June for another exciting half term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Mr. Ahmad
Headteacher
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Acorn & Oak Pupils: Down at the Bottom of the Garden



This half term, pupils have been immersed in the topic Down at the Bottom of the Garden. They have demonstrated great enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored plants, fruits, vegetables and minibeasts through a rich blend of sensory play, storytelling and hands-on experiences, while developing their understanding of growth and life cycles.

Pupils have particularly enjoyed planting seeds, tasting a range of fruits and creating artwork using a variety of materials and techniques. The focus stories—The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Jasper's Beanstalk and Handa's Surprise—have inspired learning across the curriculum and provided meaningful opportunities for discussion, creativity and exploration.



Acorn & Oak Pupils: Maths and English

In Maths, pupils in Acorn Class have embraced Messy Maths sessions with enthusiasm. Through engaging songs and number rhymes such as 5 Little Speckled Frogs and Handa's Fruit Song, they have explored counting, number, shape and measure. These concepts have been brought to life through exciting sensory experiences, including splatting foam flowerpots and catching frogs in slime.

Our Oak room pupils have been developing their confidence in addition and subtraction, alongside applying their learning to real-life contexts such as using money in a shop. Their growing independence and practical understanding have been particularly evident.

In English, pupils have enjoyed exploring sensory stories linked to the garden theme. In Acorn Class, pupils have developed early writing skills through a wide range of mark-making opportunities, using different textures, tools and sensory materials. In Oak Class, pupils have demonstrated creativity by producing their own stories inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar, as well as writing clear and purposeful instructions on how to plant a sunflower.

During the half term, pupils also engaged in planting sunflowers, exploring the life cycles of chicks and frogs, and taking part in a bug hunt.



A particular highlight has been welcoming Acorn pupils to Forest School, where they explored the colours of the changing season as spring transitioned into early summer. These outdoor experiences have supported the development of curiosity, observation skills and a strong connection with the natural world.

In addition, pupils have enjoyed weekly music lessons, exploring rhythm and sound through playing the drums. In PE, pupils have shown great enthusiasm and creativity as they moved their bodies in ways inspired by the growth and movement of plants.



Nursery Pupils: Grow, Change, Amaze



This half term, Nursery pupils have been immersed in their topic, Grow, Change, Amaze. They have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored planting seeds, growing vegetables, foods from around the world and the importance of maintaining a healthy diet.

Pupils' learning has been enriched through a range of engaging stories and experiences. A particular highlight has been observing chicks hatch from eggs, which supported pupils in developing their understanding of life cycles and the importance of caring for living things. Pupils approached this experience with excitement and care, with many demonstrating confidence when holding the chicks.



Maths and Early Learning

In Maths, pupils have explored shape and space, linking their learning to the work of the artist Arcimboldo. They demonstrated creativity by creating their own portraits using fruits and vegetables and recording their work using iPads. Pupils have also been developing their understanding of number, including how numbers can be made by combining two smaller numbers.

Pupils have continued to make strong progress in their fine motor development and pencil control, producing drawings with increasing detail. Some pupils are now beginning to form the initial letter of their name, marking an important step in their early writing journey. In phonics, pupils have begun to recognise initial sounds in words and are becoming familiar with the letters introduced in class.

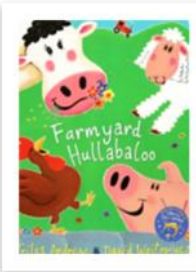
Supporting Learning at Home

The school continues to encourage parents and carers to support pupils' development at home through regular reading, with a recommendation of at least 15 minutes each day. Opportunities for drawing and colouring further support fine motor development and creativity.

Talking with pupils—whether in English or their home language—alongside singing songs and discussing feelings, plays a vital role in developing language and communication skills. Parents and carers can also support learning by helping pupils to recognise numbers in the environment, practice counting to five and represent numbers using their fingers.



Reception: 'Down at the bottom of the Garden'



This half term, Reception pupils have been immersed in their topic, Down at the Bottom of the Garden. They have shown



great enthusiasm as they explored plants, animals and minibeasts, discovering fascinating facts about creatures from the farm, the African savannah and the tiny world of worms and bees. A range of high-quality texts has enriched their

learning, helping to deepen understanding and spark imagination.

A particular highlight of the half term was the visit to Attwell Farm, which brought pupils' learning to life. This provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to experience animals up close. They demonstrated care and confidence while stroking rabbits, guinea pigs and hens, and many showed great bravery when feeding the goats. Alongside meeting the animals, pupils thoroughly enjoyed the soft play area and bouncing on the giant pillow, making the day both memorable and engaging.



Reception: Phonics/Maths

In phonics, pupils have continued to develop their reading skills, with many now beginning to learn Set 2 sounds and read simple texts with increasing confidence. In writing, pupils have been building their transcription and composition skills, alongside practising accurate letter formation. It has been pleasing to see pupils growing in confidence as early writers, with many now able to write simple sentences independently.

In Maths, pupils have strengthened their understanding of number to 20, while also developing their knowledge of 3D shapes. They have explored pattern through copying and continuing repeating sequences, demonstrating increasing fluency and confidence in their mathematical understanding.

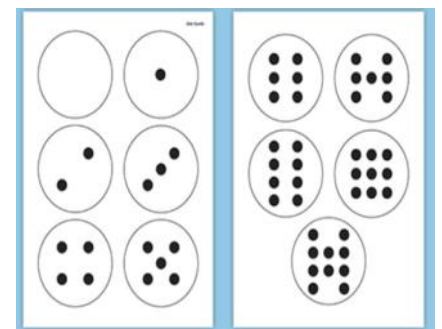
This half term has also included a range of enriching wider learning experiences. Pupils took part in Shakespeare Week, where they explored *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through storytelling and creative activities, including making magical potions, flower garlands and woodland headdresses.

In addition, pupils marked Earth Day by learning about the importance of caring for the environment and understanding the small, positive actions they can take to help protect the planet.

How Families Can Support at Home

The school continues to encourage parents and carers to support pupils' learning at home through simple, consistent activities. Reading together for at least 10 minutes each day has a significant impact on pupils' progress. Encouraging pupils to write their full name and simple sentences (for example, *I see the cat*) helps to develop confidence in writing.

Pupils also benefit from practising number recognition to 20, counting backwards from 10 and developing subitising skills to 10.



Year 1: Art and Creativity – Inspired by Van Gogh



This half term, Year 1 pupils have been exploring the artwork and techniques of Vincent van Gogh, one of the most influential artists of the Post-Impressionist movement. They have approached their learning with creativity and enthusiasm, developing a strong understanding of artistic techniques and expression.

Pupils began by experimenting with different types of lines and mark-making. They then applied these skills to closely study *Starry Night*, identifying Van Gogh's distinctive use of expressive lines before creating their own detailed line drawings inspired by his style.



Building on this work, pupils developed their understanding of colour theory. They explored how to mix primary and secondary colours and learned how to create tints and shades. This knowledge was then applied as pupils worked carefully to paint their own interpretations of *Starry Night*, demonstrating increasing control and confidence in their use of colour.

Looking ahead, pupils will continue to build on these skills by creating their own original landscape artwork in the style of Van Gogh. They will combine expressive line work with carefully mixed colours, bringing together the techniques they have developed throughout the unit.

Year 1 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this creative journey, showing imagination, focus and pride in their work.



Year 2: Living Things and Their Habitats



This half term, Year 2 pupils have been building on their prior learning about plant and animal life cycles through their Science topic, Living Things and Their Habitats. They have approached their learning with curiosity and enthusiasm, engaging in thoughtful discussion and exploration.

Pupils began by identifying and categorising things that are living, dead and non-living, which prompted rich discussion and careful reasoning. They then developed their understanding further by exploring the seven life processes, deepening their knowledge of what it means for something to be considered alive.

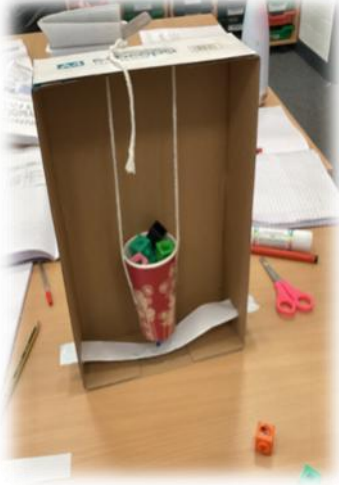
Building on this foundation, pupils investigated how living things are suited to their habitats. This included practical fieldwork around the school grounds, where pupils explored a range of microhabitats and carefully observed the living things found within them. A particular highlight of this work was the exciting discovery of a moth pupa in one of the playground raised beds.

Pupils have also demonstrated strong connections across their learning, linking their understanding of habitats in Science to their studies of continents, oceans and climates in Geography. This has supported a broader understanding of how environments shape the living world.

Year 2 pupils have shown excellent engagement throughout this unit, developing both their scientific knowledge and their enquiry skills.



Year 3: Geography—Shakes and Quakes



This half term, Year 3 pupils have been exploring earthquakes through their Geography topic, Shakes and Quakes. They have developed a strong understanding of how and why earthquakes occur, demonstrating curiosity and engagement throughout the unit.

Pupils learned that the Earth's crust is made up of large sections known as tectonic plates, which are constantly moving. They explored how earthquakes occur when these plates slip, collide or slide past one another, releasing built-up pressure as energy and causing the ground to shake.

To deepen their understanding, pupils took part in a practical investigation, designing and building their own seismographs using simple materials such as cups, string, cardboard and strips of paper. Working collaboratively, pupils created "mini earthquakes" by gently shaking tables and observing how their seismographs recorded vibrations as wavy lines. This hands-on experience helped pupils understand how real seismographs measure the strength and duration of earthquakes.

Building on this, pupils learned about the Richter scale and compared different magnitudes, discussing the impact of both minor tremors and more powerful earthquakes. They also developed their geographical skills by using atlases and world maps to plot real earthquake locations, identifying patterns and recognising that many earthquakes occur along tectonic plate boundaries.

Pupils further explored the impact of earthquakes on communities, considering damage to buildings and infrastructure, as well as the challenges faced by people when rebuilding their lives. Throughout the topic, pupils have strengthened key geographical skills, including map reading, interpreting diagrams, using precise vocabulary and working collaboratively to test ideas and draw conclusions.

Year 4 Pupils: Vikings

Year 4 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed stepping into the world of the Vikings. Their learning has been enriched by the class text *How to Train Your Dragon*, which has sparked imagination and brought the topic to life.

Pupils began by exploring who the Vikings were, why they travelled to Britain and the impact of their early raids. They demonstrated strong engagement with historical events, particularly when writing diary entries from the perspective of Viking raiders, capturing both the excitement and danger of arriving on British shores.

Pupils were especially captivated by Viking longboats, learning how these impressive ships were constructed and why they enabled the Vikings to become successful explorers and traders. Their detailed, labelled drawings reflected careful observation and a growing understanding of design and purpose.

Building on this, pupils explored the story of King Alfred the Great and his role in defending Wessex against Viking invasion. They developed a secure understanding of key historical events, including the establishment of the Danelaw, and demonstrated this through thoughtful discussion and sequencing activities.

To deepen their understanding of daily life, pupils compared the roles of Viking men, women and children, and produced detailed illustrations of Viking homes, farms and communities. They concluded the unit by exploring Viking culture and creating high-quality pieces of writing to showcase their learning.

This half term marks the culmination of pupils' learning about early Britain. Across the year, pupils have explored the Roman invasion in the autumn term, the rise of the Anglo-Saxons in the spring term, and the Viking period in the summer term. They have engaged enthusiastically with history, taking part in a wide range of activities and experiences to deepen their understanding.

Given the strong interest shown by pupils, further exploration beyond the classroom is highly encouraged. The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery currently hosts the Staffordshire Hoard, a remarkable collection of Anglo-Saxon gold, believed to have been hidden during the Viking raids.



Year 5: History—Field To Fork

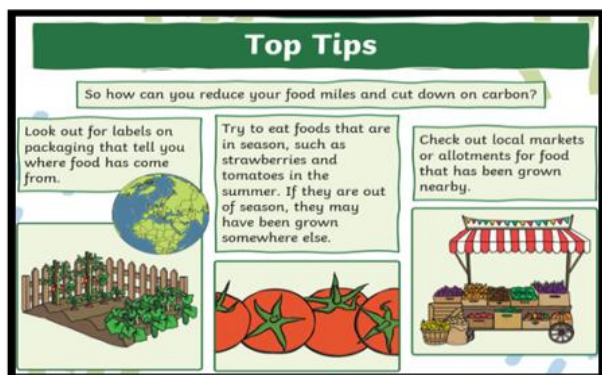
Year 5 pupils have been exploring their Geography topic, *Field to Fork*, developing a deeper understanding of how food is produced and distributed around the world. They have shown curiosity and thoughtfulness as they examined the connections between people, place and the environment.



Pupils began by locating and identifying different climate zones on a world map, developing their geographical knowledge and map-reading skills. They also explored how these climate zones are changing over time, linking their learning to the wider issue of climate change.

Building on this, pupils investigated farming in the United Kingdom, exploring where different types of farming take place and the challenges faced by farmers. They considered how weather patterns and climate change impact food production, developing a clear understanding of the relationship between environmental conditions and farming practices.

Throughout the topic, pupils engaged in meaningful discussions about sustainability, considering the importance of reducing environmental impact and making responsible choices. This has supported pupils in developing a broader awareness of how their actions can contribute to a more sustainable future.



Year 6 Pupils: Preparing for SATs and Celebrating Success

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Year 5 pupils have demonstrated strong engagement and thoughtful reflection throughout this unit, developing both their geographical knowledge and their understanding of global issues.

At the end of SATs week, Year 6 pupils visited Ackers Adventure Park for a day of outdoor activities and team-building experiences. This provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to relax and celebrate their hard work.

During the visit, pupils took part in a range of activities, including climbing, tobogganing, archery and problem-solving challenges. These experiences encouraged teamwork, resilience and confidence, while also allowing pupils to enjoy new opportunities outside of the classroom.

The day was a fitting way to recognise pupils' efforts and achievements, providing a memorable conclusion to an important period in their school journey.

Year 5 Pupils: Bikeability

Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a Bikeability course towards the end of Summer 2. This programme is designed to equip pupils with essential life skills, supporting not only their ability to cycle safely but also fostering independence, confidence and a strong sense of wellbeing.

Through the training, pupils will develop important road awareness and decision-making skills, enabling them to cycle more safely and confidently in different environments.

Further information will be shared with parents and carers in the coming weeks, including details about how pupils can take part in this valuable opportunity.

BOOST Afterschool Club



BOOST afterschool club has continued to run successfully this half term, supporting pupils in developing positive, lifelong habits around physical activity, healthy eating and overall wellbeing.

A particular highlight has been the Smoothie Bike session, where pupils created their own healthy smoothies using pedal power rather than electricity. This engaging activity allowed pupils to combine physical activity with an understanding of healthy choices, all while having great fun.



In addition, on Saturday 2nd May, a group of pupils who attend BOOST club took part in the Junior Great Birmingham Run at the Alexander Stadium. Pupils completed a 2.5km run, demonstrating determination and enthusiasm throughout. They represented the school extremely

well and were a credit to the Springfield community. This opportunity was generously funded and supported by The Springfield Project, as part of their commitment to improving the lives of young people in the local area.

Pupil Leadership and Sporting Events

This half term, a group of pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at the Schools Games This Girl Can multi-sport festival, held at Moseley School alongside other local schools. Pupils demonstrated enthusiasm and confidence as they took part in a variety of activities, including the opportunity to try new sports such as handball.



The event also provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to speak with a current Moseley School student, enabling them to ask questions and gain insight into life at secondary school. This supported pupils in building confidence and preparing for future transitions.

In addition, a group of Year 3 pupils took part in the Schools Games cricket festival at Kings Heath Cricket Club. Pupils competed against other schools in a range of formats, showcasing their batting, bowling and fielding skills. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event.



These opportunities have enabled pupils to develop new skills, build confidence and represent the school with pride.

Wider Opportunities and Enrichment

At Springfield, pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, enriching their learning and supporting their personal development. This half term has been no exception, with a variety of clubs and activities taking place across the school. Pupils have continued to benefit from a range of high-quality extracurricular opportunities. These include Boxing Club, delivered by Pat Benson Boxing, and multi-skills clubs provided by Aston Villa Football Club (AVFC).

Eco Council—Great British Spring Clean

This half term, members of the Eco Committee have demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental responsibility through a range of meaningful initiatives. A key highlight was their participation in the Great British Spring Clean, where pupils volunteered their time to help improve the local area. Working collaboratively, they collected an impressive five full bags of litter from around the school grounds, making an immediate and visible difference to the environment.



This experience not only enhanced the school surroundings but also encouraged teamwork and raised awareness of the impact of litter on the local community. Pupils represented the school with pride and responsibility, setting a positive example for others. The school community is encouraged to continue supporting this effort

by helping to keep the local area clean and tidy.

Earth Day Celebration

To mark Earth Day, the Eco Committee led a whole-school assembly focused on the importance of protecting our planet. They delivered key messages about sustainability, climate awareness, and everyday actions that everyone can take. To mark Earth Day, the Eco Committee led a whole-school assembly, sharing important messages about sustainability, climate awareness and the small, everyday actions that can contribute to protecting the planet.

Following the assembly, each year group took part in a range of engaging, hands-on activities linked to environmental themes. These experiences allowed pupils to explore key issues in a creative and meaningful way, deepening their understanding and encouraging them to consider how their actions can support a more sustainable future.



Eco Council—Switch Off Campaign Winners



As part of the school's recent Switch Off campaign, a group of pupils were recognised for their efforts and invited to attend a special sustainability-themed event at Aston Villa Football Club. During the visit, pupils learned about the club's environmental initiatives and gained insight into how large organisations can play a role in protecting the planet.

The visit also included an exciting behind-the-scenes stadium tour, providing pupils with a memorable and rewarding experience. This opportunity celebrated their hard work and reinforced the importance of taking positive action to care for the environment.



Attendance and Early Help

Regular attendance remains a key priority, as it plays a vital role in pupils' educational progress, wellbeing and overall success. Following recent attendance cases heard at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, five families from the school were issued fines and court costs totalling £6,477 across seven cases relating to persistent unauthorised absence.

These outcomes highlight the serious impact of poor attendance and the legal responsibility of parents and carers to ensure that pupils attend school regularly. The school continues to work closely with families to support improved attendance and reduce absence wherever possible.

Supporting Families

At the same time, the school recognises that some families may experience challenges that affect attendance. Where this is the case, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to contact the school to access Early Help support. A range of guidance and support services are available to help families overcome barriers and ensure pupils can attend school consistently.

During the school holidays, there are a wide range of local, family-friendly events available across the community. These activities provide valuable opportunities for pupils and their families to stay active, engaged and connected.

Families are encouraged to explore what is available locally and take part in activities that support wellbeing and quality family time.



E-Safety Reminders

E-Safety is a priority in Springfield, as we understand that our children live in a fully digital age. Over holidays, we recognise that children will be accessing the internet online more and will also be interacting more online with friends from school. As such, it is strongly advised that parents monitor what their children are accessing, who they are speaking to and what they are saying.

Over the year, children have engaged well in our E-safety lessons around appropriate conversations online and appropriate behaviour. However, the digital world changes rapidly and it can be difficult to keep an eye on what your child is accessing and doing online. Here are some top tips and some popular apps children use, as well as guidelines around them:

One of the most popular games with children, Roblox offers thousands of simple, easy to play minigames designed by others. It is important to recognise that Roblox is not responsible for the content on there, nor does it monitor chats between players. If you child plays Roblox, make sure the games they are playing are suitable and sit with them to check the messages they are sending and receiving online.

Snapchat is an online messaging service where you can share text, short videos and images with others. These messages are set to delete after 24 hours, unless screenshotted by the receiver. Under UK law, users **under 13** are prohibited, and there is a teen version to protect users between 13 and 17. Children at our school should not be using Snapchat.

Discord is an online message board where users can join huge servers across a range of topics. It has been made popular by Youtubers and influencers, who have their own servers to keep in touch with fans. These servers are not moderated by Discord itself, instead by other users. Under UK law, Discord has a minimum age limit of **13**, and requests a face scan or photo ID to access mature content.

<p><u>EdShed - Educational products for spelling, phonics, literacy and maths</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spelling homework is set by your child's teacher on EdShed. They will need to write our school name first before their personal login. •Children learn by playing bee themed spelling games.
<p><u>School login - MyMaths</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maths homework is set by your child's teacher on MyMaths. •There are two logins required, one is a school login and the second is a student login.
<p><u>Times Tables Rock Stars: Play</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TimesTable RockStars is designed to help your children practice their times tables. A 5 minute session everyday is perfect to build up those key skills.



COME & JOIN US FOR OUR

SUMMER FAIR

WEDNESDAY 8TH
JULY 2026

1:30PM

FREE ENTRY



Events

FACE PAINTING, GAMES, ICE-CREAM,
MOCKTAILS, PANCAKES & MORE!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22.05.26	End of Summer half term 1
01.06.26	Start of Summer half term 2—All pupils return to school
01.06.26	Arts Week Begins
04.06.26	RHE Parent Workshop—Year 5 Only
08.06.26	Healthy Eating Week
16.06.26	Year 3 Trip—Horse riding
19.06.26	Fathers Day Workshop
30.06.26	KS2 Sports Day
01.07.26	Y6 Transition secondary day/ Springfield pupils meet their new teacher
03.07.26	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
06.07.26	Year 5 Bikeability
08.07.26	Springfield Summer Fair
13.07.26	Year 6 Production PM performance for parents 2:15 – 3:00
14.07.26	Year 6 Production AM performance for parents 9:15 – 10:00
16.07.26	Year 6 Graduation Assembly
17.07.26	Pupils break up for Summer Holidays
03.09.26	Start of Autumn 1—All pupils to return to School

Lost Property

As the school approaches the final half term of the academic year, pupils are encouraged to check the Lost Property area for any items of clothing that may have been misplaced.

There will also be an opportunity for parents and carers to view lost property towards the end of the academic year, ensuring that all items can be returned to their owners where possible.

Parents and carers are kindly reminded to ensure that all items of removable clothing are clearly labelled with pupils' full names and class details. This simple step greatly supports the prompt return of lost items and helps to reduce the number of unclaimed belongings.

Free School Meals Checks (FSM)

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food can help pupils establish healthy habits for life and help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

You may be entitled to receive free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits or support. You could also raise additional pupil premium funding for your child's school to fund support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. The information collected in this form will allow us to make this assessment.

From September 2026, all households who are in receipt of Universal Credit, may be eligible for Free School Meals regardless of how much you earn.

Your child will be bringing home an application form during the first week back after the half term holidays. Please ensure you complete it fully and return it to the school office as soon as possible. This will ensure the checks can be completed in time for the new school year.

You only need to complete this form once!

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information. We will use the information you provide to assess entitlement to free school meals. The information may also be shared with other Council departments to offer benefits and services.

Parking and Road Safety

The school continues to prioritise the safety of all pupils, families and members of the local community during drop-off and collection times. Parents and carers are kindly reminded to park considerately and respectfully in the surrounding area.

In particular, it is important that vehicles do not stop or park in the cycle lane when dropping off or collecting pupils. This lane is in place to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, and obstructing it can create unnecessary risks.

By parking responsibly and following local road guidance, families play a vital role in helping to keep the school community safe. The school greatly appreciates the continued support and cooperation of all parents and carers in maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

