



STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Dear Families.

We deeply value the relationship between home and school as a vital part of school life. It's not only about what we offer families, but also about how the wider community contributes to enriching our children's experiences. This term has been a wonderful example of that partnership.

Houghton School Helpers – Autumn Fair Success

Firstly, we are incredibly grateful for the commitment of the **Houghton School Helpers**. Led by a passionate committee (though small in number) and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers, the Autumn Fair was a huge success.

The rain stayed away, visitors arrived in droves, and the event was not only a fantastic social occasion—it also raised **over £1,300**, which is an amazing achievement.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, supported before, during, and after, and came along to spend their pennies!

Parent Evenings – Next Week

Next week we will be holding our **Parent Evenings**. Appointment times will be sent out this week. This is a valuable opportunity to:

See how your child has settled into their new class

Discuss their strengths and areas for development

Spend time looking through their books

For children in **Years 1 to 6**, teachers will also share insights into learning behaviours and general classroom conduct.

While most children work consistently hard, some may need occasional reminders—this overview helps us share that information with you so that we can work together to ensure that every child thrives.

Parent Survey – Summer Term

We have also emailed you an analysis of the **Parent Survey** shared by the Trust last summer. Although not all families completed it, we truly appreciate the feedback received and hope the summary is helpful and informative.

Warm regards,
Ali Woollerson
Headteacher



Reminders and Updates


As we approach half-term, here are a few important reminders and updates—just in case you missed them!

Individual School Photos- Friday 3rd October

Please ensure children come to school in full uniform, including sweatshirts, jumpers, or cardigans. If you have a pre-school child, the photographer will be available from 8:15am to take family photos. Please come to the main entrance.

Harvest Festival – Friday 3rd October at 2:00pm

We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Friday afternoon and continuing our support for the Local Food Bank. Children should bring any donated food items to class in the morning. These will be taken to the church for our service later in the day.

 Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend, but please note that seating is limited. Due to the number of children, it will be standing room only at the back of the church.

Half-Term Dates – Please Note

Half-term is slightly longer this year, so just in case it hasn't been on your radar, or you've missed previous messages from school:

Children will finish for half-term on **Friday 17th October at 3:10pm.**

They will return to school on **Wednesday 29th October at 8:45am.**

Here is a link to our [term dates](#)

Please be aware that **any holidays taken during term time will be unauthorised** and may result in a **fixed penalty fine.**

A fine **must be considered** when a child has **10 or more sessions** (equivalent to **5 school days**) of **unauthorised absence** within a rolling 10-school-week period.



Urgently needed food items

Tinned soup
Tinned tomatoes 400g
Tinned potatoes
Tinned Sweetcorn
Tinned Carrots
1ltr UHT milk
1ltr UHT juice
Tinned fruit 400g
Curry Sauce
Custard
Rice pudding
Shampoo
Sponge puddings
Tinned Pulses
Shower gel



Year 6 have been learning about First Aid Skills from Paramedic Steve.



Hitting those high notes!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 3rd October
Individual photos

Friday 3rd October
Harvest Festival @2pm
St Catharine's Church

Mon 6th and Wed 8th October
3.30pm-6.30pm
Parent Meetings

Wed 8th Oct
9.30am- 10.30am
Open Morning for new starters 26-27

Fri 17^h Oct
Last day of term

Wed 29th Oct
Return to school

Wednesday 29th October
9.30am- 10.30am
Open Morning for new starters 26-27

Mon 10th Nov
1.30pm-2.30pm
Open afternoon for new starters 26-27

Fri 14th Nov
Year 6 Class Assembly

wc 17th Nov
Book Fair

Wed 26th Nov
Year 1 trip to
Newarke Museum: Toys

Class Assemblies

These will start at 9am and will finish by 9.30.

YEAR 6: Friday 14th November

YEAR 2: Friday 13th February

YEAR 4: Friday 6th March

YEAR 1: Friday 20th March

YEAR 5: Friday 24th April

YEAR 3: Friday 8th May

FOUNDATION STAGE: Friday 22nd May

Have Year 6 parents applied for a secondary place yet? Deadline looming!



From 1 September you can apply for your child's school place for the 2026/27 academic year



Secondary school application closing date
Friday 31 October 2025

Primary and Infant to Junior school application closing date
Thursday 15 January 2026

For hints and tips about the process, information on Leicestershire schools and to apply, visit 

leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions



Please share this with friends and family!

We're holding an **Open Session for New Starters (2026/27)** and would love to welcome prospective families.


Click here for more information and to register your interest:



<https://forms.office.com/e/UZUt3HjurK>

Did you know?

Half of our children come from outside our catchment area.

 We currently have **spaces available in Year 2 and Foundation Stage.**

Please contact the school office for further details.

STAFF NEWS

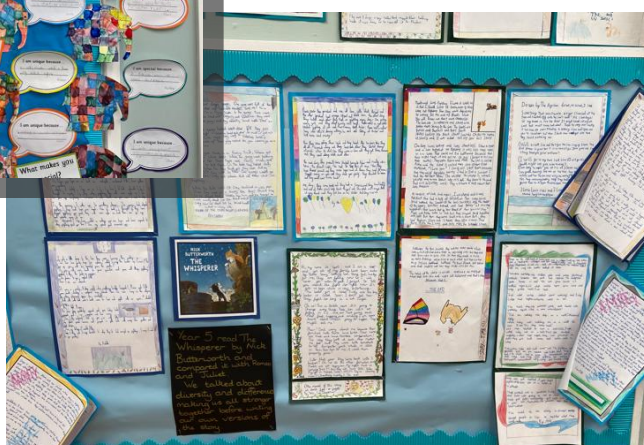
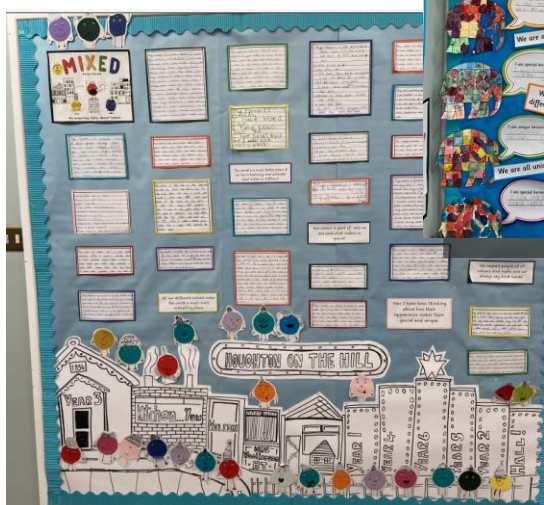
We are delighted to share some joyful news with you—Miss Hill is expecting a baby! This is a wonderful time for her and her family, and we are all thrilled for her as she begins this exciting new chapter. She is planning to start her maternity leave around February half term, so she is with us for a little bit longer. You will of course start noticing her growing bump!

To support continuity and consistency for our children and families, we are equally pleased to announce that Mrs Pausey has agreed to return to school full-time and will be in Foundation from Monday to Friday. Her experience and familiarity with our youngest pupils will be a great asset during this transition.

Miss Hill also holds the role of SENDCO, and we understand that parents may have questions about how this important role will be fulfilled during her maternity leave. We are currently working closely with the Trust to ensure a smooth and effective plan is in place, and we will share further details with you later in the year.

EVERYONE WELCOME

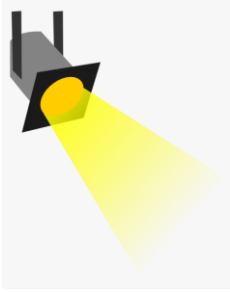
Promoting respect and acceptance through books and writing.



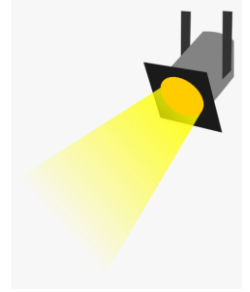


AUTUMN IS HERE





SPOTLIGHT ON Computers: Online safety



PROJECT EVOLVE®

Supporting Our Pupils to Become Safer Digital Citizens

As part of our ongoing commitment to online safety, we are excited to be using resources from the *Project Evolve* website to help children develop their understanding of how to stay safe and act responsibly online.

Each class will begin their online safety sessions with a short assessment using the *Knowledge Map* tool on the Project Evolve site. This helps us identify what children already know and where they may need more support. Teachers will then tailor lessons to meet the specific needs of their class, ensuring that every child receives relevant and meaningful guidance.

In some classes, this assessment will be sent home via a QR code on the weekly homework sheet, allowing children to complete it with support from parents or carers. Other classes will complete the activity in school, led by their teacher. Either way, the aim is to spark important conversations about online safety and help children become more confident and informed digital citizens.

We encourage parents to explore the Project Evolve website themselves and to support their children with the homework assessments where possible. These short activities can be a great way to start discussions at home about how to stay safe online.

Together, we can help our children navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Parking Reminder **Please Be Considerate**

Considerate parking is a regular topic in our newsletters and Dojo messages. While most parents follow the Highway Code and avoid parking in unsafe positions—such as over kerbs or across driveways—we continue to experience issues with a small number of vehicles.

Recently, there have been several occasions where **visitors or staff were unable to enter or exit the school car park** due to inconsiderate parking. This tends to happen at the **start of the school day** and during **pick-up times for clubs or Tea Club**.

To help ease congestion:

•If there are **available spaces after 5:00pm**, parents are welcome to park in the school car park.

•**Please do not block the school entrance** at any time.

Thank you for helping us keep the school site safe and accessible for everyone.

Remember: You are welcome to use the **Old Black Horse car park** during **drop-off and pick-up times**. This helps ease congestion and supports safer parking throughout the village.

