



Newsletter – 19 October 2026

Welcome

It's been lovely to see so much happening across school this half term, from children taking on new responsibilities and getting creative with their learning, to families coming together to support our school and wider community. I'm particularly proud of our children's enthusiasm and the many ways they are contributing to school life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy catching up on what we've been learning and celebrating.



– **Mr A Butterworth-Drury**
Headteacher

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Notices and reminders



For everyone's safety, please ensure children do not ride bikes or scooters on the school site. Children's bikes and scooters should be left neatly in the bike shelter and are left at your own risk.



Please remember that toys, Pokémon cards and other trading cards should be left at home to help avoid distractions, disagreements and treasured items becoming lost or damaged.



A quick reminder that children should not use the trim trail before or after school. The trim trail should only be used when a member of staff is supervising it.



Thank you for parking considerately by avoiding parking on the yellow zig-zag lines and across drives.



Did you know that research shows that if you read with your child every day (including discussing the book and asking questions), it can help them make an additional 12 months' worth of progress by year 4?



As well as being a no smoking site, we are also a no vaping site. For the comfort of all members of our community, please refrain from smoking or vaping on school site.



We know that occasionally families may arrive late. If the door has already closed at drop-off time, please come to the school office rather than going through the closed door. All children arriving late must be signed in at the office.

Celebration Assemblies



We're delighted to welcome families back to our Friday Celebration Assemblies to share the special moment when their child receives a certificate. If your child has been chosen, we'll send you a text invitation by 2:00pm on Wednesday for that Friday's assembly. We know this gives families limited notice, but keeping the celebration linked to that week's achievements means we're unable to send invitations earlier. Up to two adults are welcome to attend.

- Making a difference as we grow together -

If you're joining us, please arrive at the school office before 8:50am and wait there for a member of staff to collect you. Unfortunately, we're unable to admit families once the assembly has started.

If you can, please keep your visit a surprise so your child can enjoy the special moment when they receive their certificate!

Parents' evening



Parents' evening will take place after half term on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 November, from 3.30pm to 6.00pm.

Appointments will be 10 minutes and will be bookable through Arbor on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will be one appointment per child, per family. We ask separated families to attend together wherever possible. If there is a specific reason why separate appointments need to be considered, please contact the school office to discuss this with us.

Have your say on our policies



As part of our ongoing policy review, we'd value the views of parents and carers on the policies listed below. Please take a look at any that are relevant to you and share your feedback with us.

Anti-Bullying policy

Child-on-Child Abuse policy

Provide your feedback here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/kFZgwRszWs>

(Form closes at 6:00pm on Friday 6th November)



Our new Children's Government



Congratulations to our newly elected Children's Government: Lucas, Rabi'ah, Isaac, Arthur and Kobe.

They all ran excellent campaigns and are already bringing forward some good ideas for us to consider in school this year. We look forward to seeing their ideas develop and keeping families updated on what our Children's Government achieves.



Hope House Food Bank donations



A huge thank you to all our families for your incredibly generous donations of food and other essential items for Hope House Food Bank. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated, and we were pleased to deliver all the donations to the Food Bank last week.

The food bank uses a voucher referral system, and we can issue vouchers through school. If your family needs support from the food bank, please contact us, as we can provide a voucher. You can also find details of locations and opening times here:



<https://eastwestnottingham.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

Thank you again for your generosity and for supporting our community.

Early Years Diversity Party



We were delighted to welcome parents and families to our Reception and Nursery Diversity Party. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the different cultures, backgrounds and traditions that make our school community so special.



Throughout the celebration, the children explored different countries, languages and traditions through a range of activities. Families helped us learn about what makes them unique, while the children enjoyed sharing stories about their own families and listening to the experiences of others. It was lovely to see their curiosity, respect and enthusiasm as they learnt more about one another.



A huge thank you to all the parents and families who joined us and helped to make the afternoon so memorable. It was a lovely celebration of our Reception and Nursery community and a wonderful reminder that, although we are all different, we all belong together.

- Making a difference as we grow together -

Sponsor our school pets



Did you know that you can help us care for our school pets by sponsoring them? We currently have three rabbits and three guinea pigs in residence, which the children love seeing.

Any help towards their care is greatly appreciated. If you'd like to find out more about sponsoring our rabbits and guinea pigs, please speak to the school office.

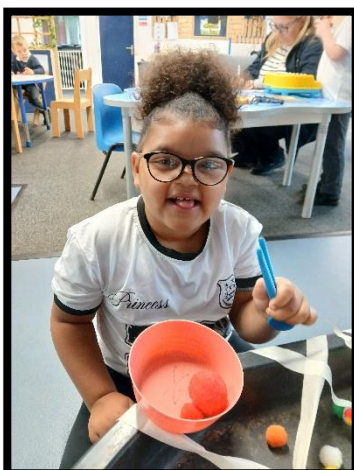
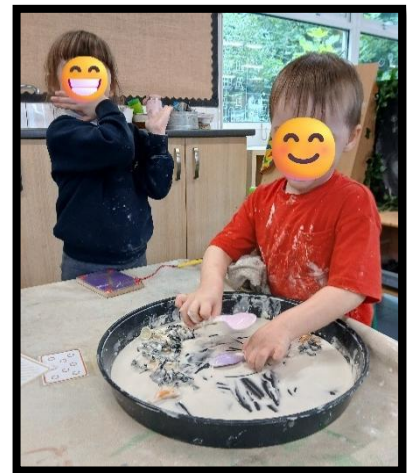
Learning and Exploring in The Nest



This term, The Nest have enjoyed sharing some wonderful stories, including Owl Babies, Peace at Last and Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

The children have had lots of opportunities to explore through sensory play, getting creative and messy with paint, cornflour and shaving foam.

In maths, we have been developing our early number skills through sorting colours, exploring numbers with blocks and joining in with number rhymes. It has been lovely to see the children learning through play and enjoying these experiences together.



Pumpkin trail 2026



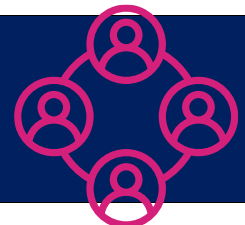
Thank you to all of our families for making this year's Pumpkin Trail such a wonderful event. We were blown away by the fabulous pumpkin designs and creations!



A special thank you also goes to those who donated cakes or treats, and everyone who came along to support our event. The winners of the different competitions have been announced on ClassDojo so please take a look to see if it was you.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and for helping to make these events so memorable. Thank you!

Parent support group



Our first parent support group of the year took place last week and provided a helpful opportunity to discuss some of the issues families can face and the support available.

We are also working to involve outside agencies in future sessions so that families can access advice and support on a wider range of topics. If there is something in particular you would find helpful, please get in touch with Clare Goodyear.



Year 1 Become Tudor Architects



Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed becoming architects as part of our Autumn term Enquiry! After weeks of research and planning, the children worked hard to create their own Tudor houses, carefully selecting boxes to create the traditional Tudor overhang.

They covered their houses in white paper, added black strips to represent the wooden beams and thoughtfully positioned windows, doors and roofs. We were incredibly impressed by the care, creativity and teamwork shown throughout the project, with children supporting one another and taking great pride in their finished models.

The children also showed fantastic resilience, solving problems as they worked and making thoughtful improvements to their designs. Their finished houses look brilliant and are a wonderful reflection of everything they have learnt this term.

Keep an eye out over the coming weeks, as our Tudor houses still have an important role to play in our Enquiry. You might be surprised by what happens to them next as we really bring our learning to life!



Photos and AI



Technology is changing quickly, and part of safeguarding children is helping everyone understand some of the new questions that come with it.

A recent [BBC News article](#) caught our attention because it explores what can happen when photographs are uploaded to AI tools. In one example, AI was used by a parent to add their child (who had been absent on photograph day) into a group photograph. While the reason for doing this is very understandable, the article highlights a less obvious consideration: a group photograph contains images of lots of children, not just our own.

Families can be reassured that we have clear and strict guidelines governing the use of AI in school, with safeguarding children and protecting personal information at their heart.

We're sharing this simply to raise awareness of an emerging safeguarding issue and to help families make informed choices, rather than because of anything that has happened within our school.

For more information, click the poster to be taken to a downloadable guide. As AI becomes an increasingly familiar part of everyday life, keeping informed is another way that home and school can work together to keep children safe.



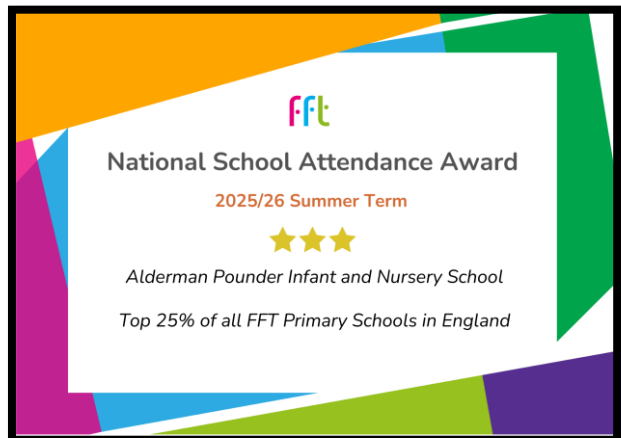
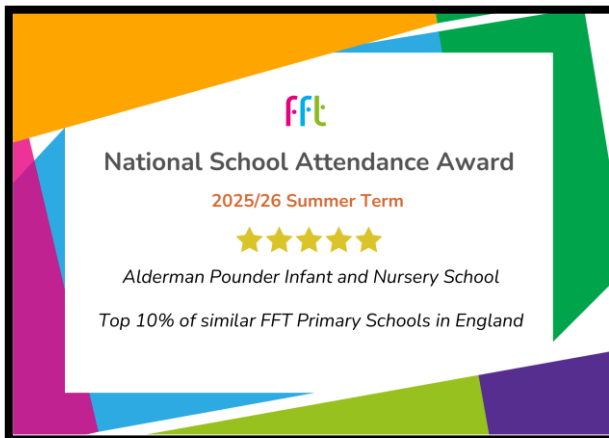


National Attendance awards



We're delighted to share that our attendance during the Summer Term 2025/26 has been recognised with two FFT National School Attendance Awards.

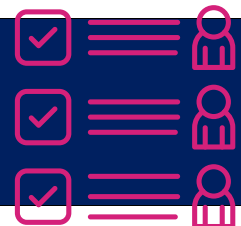
Our school was in the top 25% of all FFT primary schools in England and, even more impressively, in the top 10% of similar FFT primary schools in England for attendance during the summer term.



Good attendance is a shared effort, so this recognition belongs to our whole school community. Thank you to our children, families and staff for the part you each play in supporting children to attend school regularly and make the most of their learning. Building on this success means continuing to work together so that children are in school every day they are well enough to attend.



Attendance and illness



Our attendance success shows what we can achieve when school and families work together. Regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to enjoy their learning, build friendships and benefit from all the experiences school provides. Department for Education guidance emphasises that, while some absence is unavoidable, children should be in school every day they can be and that schools and families should work together when children experience difficulties with attendance.

We know it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough to come to school. The NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance provides helpful information about common childhood illnesses and when children should stay at home. For example, children with a slight cough or cold can usually attend if they are otherwise well and don't have a high temperature.

NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Click the image below to view the DfE and NHS poster full size:

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?'



If you're experiencing difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance, please speak to Clare Goodyear, our Family Support Worker, so that we can understand what is happening and identify how we can help. To report an absence, please contact the school office.

As part of our duty of care, we may need to speak with you if your child is absent for a period of time or has several separate absences. These conversations help us to keep children safe, support families and ensure that you understand any consequences of continued absence.

We really appreciate your support in making attendance a priority for all our children.



Support and safeguarding



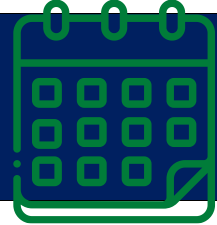
Our school safeguarding team can be contacted for non-emergencies, including during school holidays on safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk.

If you have urgent concerns for a child or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) team on 0300 500 80 80.

If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (08:30-17:00), contact the MASH Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 4564546. In an emergency call 999. To report a crime, call 101.



Key dates



A downloadable calendar of our term dates can be found [on our website](#).

We have a number of different events planned throughout the year. You can find a list of these on the live-link to our SMSC calendar and also using the calendar feature on ClassDojo: <https://canva.link/o52pv80973l1bva>



2026/2027 academic year term dates

Monday 2nd November – Children return to school

Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas

Monday 4th January 2027 – Children return to school

Friday 12th February 2027 – Break up for half term

Monday 22nd February 2027 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 23rd February 2027 – Children return to school

Thursday 25th March 2027 – Break up for Easter holidays

Monday 12th April 2027 – Children return to school

Monday 4th May 2027 – Bank holiday

Thursday 27th May 2027 – Break up for half term

Friday 28th May 2027 – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 7th June 2027 – Children return to school

Wednesday 28th July 2027 – Break up for summer holidays

Thursday 29th July 2027 – First day of the summer holidays



Thank you for reading

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