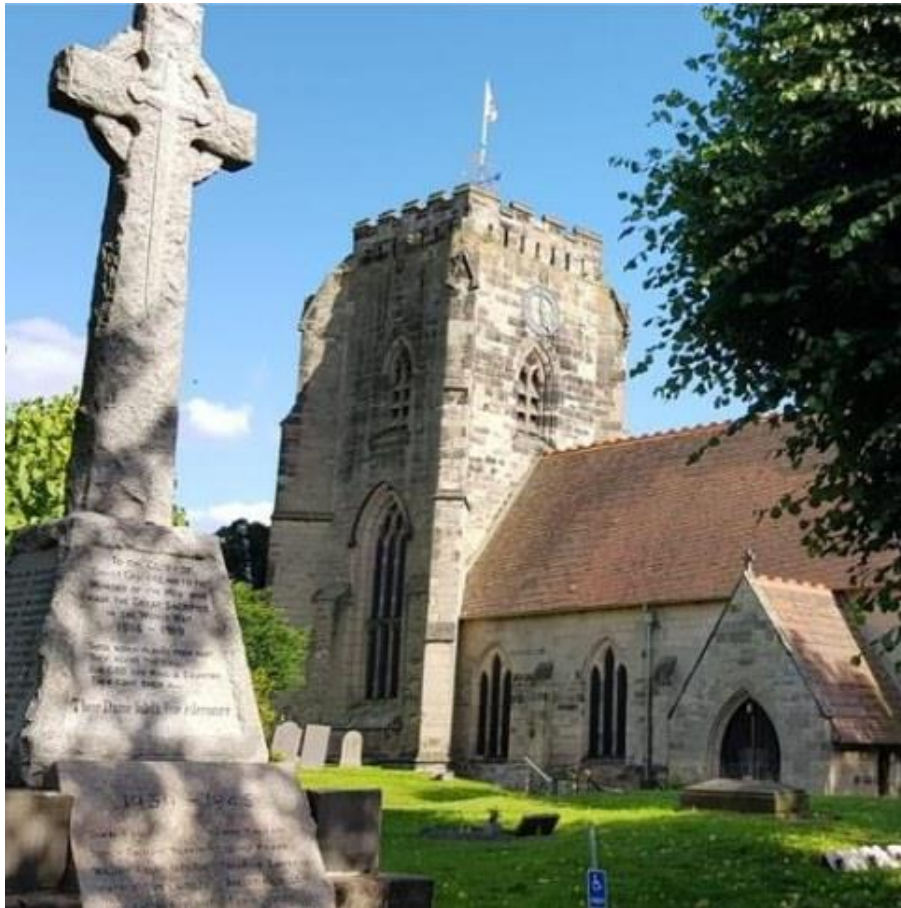




The Nethersole CofE Academy Friday
9th October 2026

Headteacher Welcome



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting two weeks in school, and there is so much to celebrate across our school community.

Our children have already enjoyed a range of memorable learning experiences beyond the classroom. Pupils have visited the **Black Country Living Museum**. They are due to visit the **Coventry Transport Museum**, and the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, where they will explore fascinating aspects of World War II history. Meanwhile, our Year 3 and Year 4 children will be transported back in time through an engaging and interactive **Stone Age workshop**, bringing their learning to life in a truly memorable way.

We have also been delighted to welcome many new families to our school through our **EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Open Mornings and Afternoons**. It has been wonderful to see so many prospective families visiting our school, meeting our staff, and experiencing the warm, nurturing environment that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

A particular highlight was our recent **Phonics Workshop**, where many parents and carers joined our Year 1 children in Bond Class. The session was filled with enthusiasm and

provided a fantastic opportunity for families to see first-hand how phonics is taught in school and learn ways to support reading development at home. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to such a successful event.

As always, our children continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, curiosity and positive attitudes towards learning. We are looking forward to many more exciting opportunities, visits and events throughout the term and thank you for your continued support.

Warm Regards

Mrs S Goode

Changes to Free School Meals!

You may be aware that, from 1st September 2026, the **Free School Meal Eligibility** has changed.

Your child could be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- **Universal Credit**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **Income related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Guarantee element of Pension Credit**

Some families who have no recourse to public funds are also eligible for free school meals, please check out the webpages on the Warwickshire website for more details.

Could we please urge you to scan the QR code on the attached flyer (page 2) to check your eligibility and apply.

To find out more and for help with applying please contact freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or call freephone: 0800 408 1558

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



School meals are free for lots of families, check if you are eligible to apply!

So much more than lunch...

A free school meal:

- creates healthy eating habits
- improves learning and behaviour
- saves money and time
- helps schools get extra funding

Did you know that claiming free school meals means that your child may get access to free school holiday activities and food?

HAF

To find out more and for help to apply for free school meals, please contact:
freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk
or call freephone: 0800 408 1558



Can I apply?

Your child could be eligible for free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- guarantee element of Pension Credit

You should still apply if your child is aged 4-7 and receives a universal free school meal

Some families who have no recourse to public funds are also eligible for free school meals, please see the webpages below for more details.

Depending on the benefits you receive and your level of income, your child may also get access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme and their school could receive extra funding for them. Find out more and apply at:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fsm



Dates for the Autumn Term 2026

OCTOBER

Friday 2 October- Reception visit to Packington Farm

Tuesday 6 October- Year 1 and 2 visit to The Black Country Museum

Monday 6 October-Friday 9 October- EYFS Open mornings and afternoons for prospective parents (More details to follow) **Thursday 8 October-** Harvest Festival at Polesworth Abbey (Children only)

Tuesday 13 October- Year 5 and 6 visit to Coventry Transport Museum

Thursday 15 October- Year 3 and 4 Stone Age day in school

Tuesday 20 October- Reception Parent workshop- Phonics (9.00am)

Tuesday 20 October- Parents Evening

Wednesday 21 October- Parents Evening

Friday 23 October- Headteacher Awards (9.00am)

Friday 23 October- Children break up for half-term

NOVEMBER

Monday 2 November- INSET day (School closed to all pupils)

Tuesday 3 November- Children return to school

Tuesday 10 November- Year 3 Parent workshop- Reading fluency (9.00am)

Friday 13 November- Great Athletes afternoon

Friday 20 November- Children In Need

Tuesday 24 November- Year 2 Parent workshop- Reading fluency (9.00am)

Friday 27 November- INSET day (School closed to all pupils)

DECEMBER

Monday 7 December- Evening Carol service at Polesworth Abbey - All children and parents / carers - 6pm.

Wednesday 9th-Friday 11 December- SEND Reviews

Wednesday 9 December- EYFS Nativity performance (9.15am)

Thursday 10 December- Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11 December - Nethersole School Christmas Fayre - 3.30 until 5.00pm - more details to follow!

Monday 14 December- Christmas production (KS1 parents and grandparents) 1.45pm

Tuesday 15 December- Christmas production (Year 3 and 4 parents) 1.45pm

Wednesday 16 December- Christmas production (Year 5 and 6 parents) 1.45pm

Thursday 17 December- Christmas Service at Polesworth Abbey (Children only)

Thursday 17 December- Christmas Dinner Thursday 17 December- Christmas disco

Friday 18 December- Children break up for Christmas

OPAL Playground



OPAL Play at Lunchtime - We need your help!

As the weather is changing, all the children in the school will need the following:

- **A pair of wellies (named.)**
- **A waterproof jacket / pair of waders / waterproof 'puddle suit.'**

The children will going out for OPAL Play at Lunchtime in ALL weathers!

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. One of the reasons we are developing the programme at Nethersole is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer have many opportunities for play.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

We are delighted to have launched our **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** programme at lunchtime and it has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and engagement. The

playground and school grounds has been buzzing with excitement as pupils explore the wide range of new activities, resources and opportunities available to them.

From creative and imaginative play to construction, role play, ball games and teamwork challenges, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Children have embraced the opportunity to make choices about how they spend their playtime, developing their creativity, communication skills, resilience and friendships along the way.

It has been fantastic to see so many happy, active and engaged children at lunchtime, and we are looking forward to continuing to develop our OPAL provision over the coming weeks. Thank you to our staff, pupils and families for supporting this exciting initiative.

Mrs Goode and Miss McManus

Early Adopter Free Breakfast Club

We are continuing to offer our 'FREE' Breakfast Club this term. We hope the children will join us for fresh bagels, crumpets, toast, fresh fruit and fruit juice every morning. We also hope to continue to enjoy spending time outside playing football, using the gym equipment and getting lots of fresh air!

The Early Adopter Free Breakfast Club -

What this means -

1. A free breakfast for all children if families want to access it.
2. 30 minutes of free childcare for all children if families want to access it.
3. Breakfast Club starts at 8.10am and runs until 8.40am Monday to Friday.
4. Booking sessions in advance so that we know how many children to expect. You can book for the whole half term or each week.

Our current Wraparound provision is still be available from 7.40am Monday to Friday, but families accessing this will only be charged for 30 minutes; the second 30 minutes will be free!

Please encourage your children to come along and join us for breakfast.

Booking is now open.

Class Updates - Carle and Donaldson



Nursery

Our Nursery children have enjoyed a wonderful two weeks of learning linked to the changing seasons and healthy eating. We shared the stories *Oliver's Vegetables* and *Hello Autumn*, which inspired lots of discussions about vegetables, autumn changes and the world around us. The children then enjoyed a trip to the Co-op, where they helped to buy ingredients for making their own vegetable soup. Back at Nursery, they worked together to prepare and make the soup before tasting it in Forest School.

As part of our learning about autumn, we went on an autumn walk into Polesworth to collect natural resources, noticing the changes taking place in the environment. The children enjoyed exploring different colours, textures and seasonal signs as they gathered leaves, seeds and other autumn treasures.

In Maths, we have been developing our sorting and matching skills through colour-matching activities, helping children to recognise, identify and group colours confidently.

We are incredibly proud of all the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our Nursery children towards their learning. Well done, Nursery!

Mrs Satchell and the Nursery Team









Class Updates - Anning

We have had a lovely couple of weeks in Reception. We went on our first School Trip to Packington Farm where the children met Farmer Jules and Farmer Roy who talked to us about animals and different things we can get from them like meat and wool for clothes. We learned about different animals that might live in the forest, we made dens for different animals and woodland art. In Maths we have been exploring number composition of 2 and 3 using number blocks to support this. In Literacy we have continued our work linked to Funnybones and went on a walk around our local area to find similar places from the story, we even took our little skeleton friends with us. The children have continued to develop their phonics knowledge and blending practice in our daily sessions. We have been getting ready to write by doing lots of fine motor activities to strengthen our hands and improve dexterity. Well done Reception!

Miss Millington





Class Updates - Bond

We have enjoyed a fantastic couple of weeks in Bond Class. In English, we have continued to enjoy our class text, *Lost in the Toy Museum*. The children have been developing their descriptive writing skills by creating character descriptions of the main character, Bunting. They have also practised following instructions while making their own jigsaw puzzles and have written recounts of our recent school trip to The Black Country Living Museum.

In Maths, we have been using mathematical vocabulary to compare objects by their height, length and mass. We have also been exploring the concept of wholes and parts, learning that a whole can be divided into smaller parts in different ways.

Our Art lessons have seen the children experimenting with colour by mixing paints to create different shades. We have also begun work on some beautiful artwork inspired by the famous ceramic designer Clarice Cliff, and we are looking forward to sharing our finished pieces soon. In History, we have been comparing schools today with schools in the past, discussing the similarities and differences and reflecting on how much school life has changed over the years.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our visit to The Black Country Living Museum. The children were immersed in history throughout the day, taking part in an interactive toy workshop and examining how toys have changed over time. They experienced a Victorian classroom lesson, gaining a fascinating insight into the school days of the past. They loved exploring the museum's historic buildings and streets, rounding off their adventure with a ride on a traditional double-decker bus!

Bond Class were a real credit to our school during the visit. We received many compliments from museum staff about the children's excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. They represented the school wonderfully and made us all extremely proud.

Well done, Bond Class!

Mrs Tweed, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Craig





Class Updates - Milne

Milne Class have had a very busy and exciting couple of weeks!

In Art, the children have been experimenting with different painting techniques and exploring colour and pattern. They have now begun creating their final pieces inspired by the work of **Clarice Cliff**, carefully applying the skills they have practised to produce their own vibrant designs.

In English, the children have worked incredibly hard on their writing. They have been learning to write clear sentences and have now successfully completed their retell of *Little Red*. We are very proud of the progress they have made and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout the unit.

The highlight of the last two weeks was undoubtedly our visit to the **Black Country Museum**. The children had a fantastic day exploring the historic buildings, discovering what life was

like in the past, and taking part in exciting hands-on experiences. They particularly enjoyed visiting the old-fashioned school, exploring the shops and houses, and learning about how people lived and worked many years ago. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to bring our learning to life and created lots of memories that the children have enjoyed sharing back in class.

Miss Ennis



Class Updates - Simmonds

We have had such a lovely two weeks in Simmonds class! We have now moved on to a new book called *Wolves*, a non-fiction that tells us all about how wolves live in the wild! We hope to create a poster full of information for you to read at parents evening! In maths, the children are all working on individual targets and we are finding that they are increasingly

enjoying the lessons which is so nice to see! They have been doing a lot with place value and some addition, and they are enjoying using the maths equipment to help them answer questions. This week, we were fortunate enough to be able to visit the Black Country Museum, and I am honestly so proud with how the children behaved, they were so caring and supportive of one another as well as engaging with the learning while we were there. Thankyou so much to the parents who came with us on the trip and made it possible! Finally, we have been incredibly creative and crafty, outside exploring, making things and painting. I am loving teaching our class and I hope the kids are having fun too! I look forward to the final few weeks of this half term!

Thanks – Miss Sinclair 😊









Class Updates - Jemison

In Jemison class we have started our new book, 'Stone Age Boy', which nicely supports our history topic for this half term. We are using it to help us explore the features of instructions and ultimately write our own. In maths, we have been working on place value and learning how 100 can be split in different ways. In history, we found out all about the changes that happened between the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We learned about how life changed for prehistoric people when they discovered how to make bronze and had a go at making our own Iron Age houses from paper and then wattle and daub. We also made our own Stone Age paint in art, using mixtures of coffee, turmeric, paprika, flour and water to make different colours. A couple of very messy - but fun - sessions! In Science, we have been learning about food chains and making our own examples of food chains in the ocean. Keep up the good work Jemison class!

Mrs Johnson





Attenborough

Attenborough Class have been super busy over the past couple of weeks!

We have had so much fun particularly, in English, following instructions on how to make Stone Age Paint. We then used our knowledge to create a whole class art piece! We are using these instructions to explore time adverbs, adverbs of manner and imperative verbs to write our own instructions!

In Maths, we have been focusing on comparing four-digit numbers and place value as well as revisiting multiplication during our daily sessions and mastering number.

We have really enjoyed our art and history lessons. We have worked on learning and making wattle and daub, making Stone Age paint and line drawings.

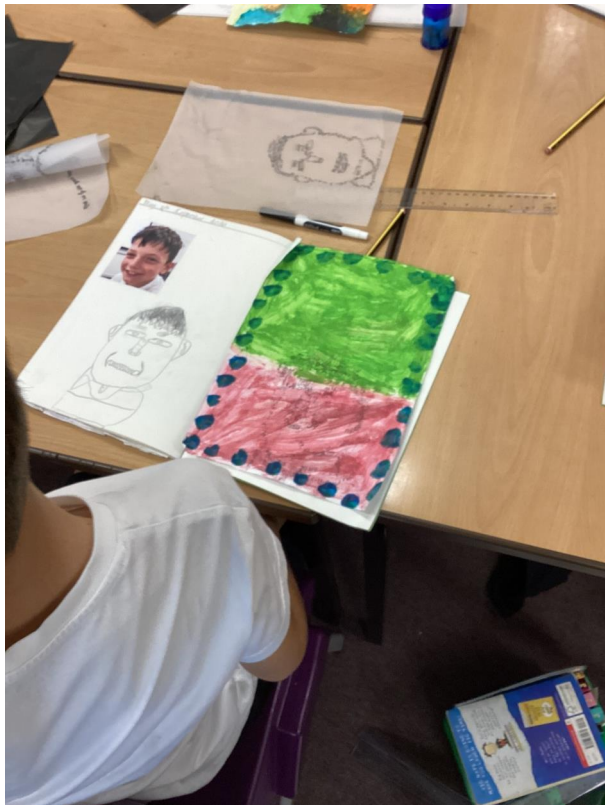
Well done Attenborough Class!

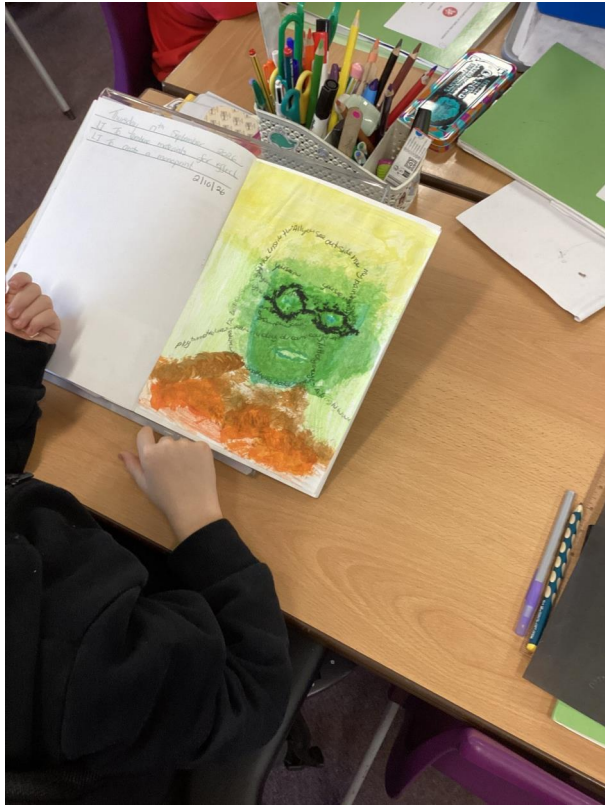
Miss Bennett

Benjamin

We have been busy in Benjamin class and have been working hard in all our subjects. In maths, we have continued working with decimals, developing our understanding of place value by comparing the relative size of digits within decimal numbers to three decimal places. We have also been adding and subtracting with decimals, using column addition. In English, we have begun exploring our new class text, *Young, Gifted and Black*, which has inspired thoughtful discussions about influential people and their challenges and achievements. In art, the children have continued working on their self-portraits and have enjoyed creating monoprints. During PE, we have been developing our football skills, focusing on control, passing and teamwork and in computing, we have been learning how to create stop-motion animations.

Mrs McShane







Zephaniah

In Zephaniah, we have been continuing to work hard. We have been focusing on a new book in English called 'Young, Gifted and Black', all about influential Black people. We have learnt about different people and chosen three of them about which to write a non-chronological report which we will start next week! In Maths, we have come to the end of our decimals unit where we have concluded with problem-solving with decimals. In PE, we have started football and have been learning how to dribble and tackle! In Art, we have combined the different parts of our poem portraits and also conducted research about artists who are famous for their self-portraits. In History, we have learnt about the experience of children who were evacuated in World War II and started writing a diary entry from the perspective of an evacuee. In Science, we have been classifying plants and had a wonderful trip into Forest School to see which different organisms we could identify. Our RE lessons have continued to have a focus on 'truth' and thinking about how Humanists find truth and what truth means to Christians. We have been editing our stop motion videos in Computing and developing our phonics skills in our French lessons. We have also enjoyed an extra OPAL play and a trip to our school library!

Miss Hale









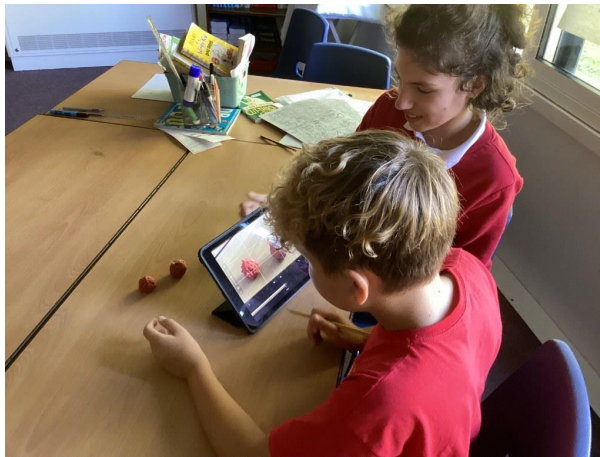


Rosen

We have moved on to a new book titled 'Young, Gifted and Black' in our reading and writing lessons. It is a non-fiction book all about inspirational black people; we've really enjoyed reading it and learning about these figures, and next week we will be using it to help with our own non-chronological report featuring 3 of the people we have chosen from the book. We are hoping to share some of our wonderful work with the rest of the school in Collective Worship one day! In maths, we've been practising the tricky concept of redistribution - it has been a challenge but I have been so pleased with the way everyone has persevered! Our history lessons continue to fascinate us and this week, we began writing a diary entry from the perspective of an evacuee. In PSHE, we had a great conversation about Maslow's Hierarchy of Need and discussed the things we need in order to reach our full potential as learners. In science, we have been learning about the plant kingdom and the four main categories that fall under this umbrella, and in art, we have been creating monoprints using carbon paper as well as conducting some artist research on Chila Kumari Singh Burman. The ultimate highlight of the last fortnight, though, has been creating our very own stop-motion animations using Stop Motion studio! If you haven't already had a look at them on Tapestry, please do! Outside of the classroom, we are loving spending time with our reception buddies and have been playing with them at lunchtime, helping them in the dinner hall and walking with them to the Abbey (where Father Philip gifted us our very own Bibles!). It is really lovely to see their friendships forming! Well done Rosen, keep up the hard work as we enter the last couple of weeks of this half term!

Miss Smith





Sport

On Wednesday 30th September, Key Stage 2 children were invited to take part in the first cross country event of this academic year. It is always one of my favourite sporting events and we were lucky enough that the sun shone for us. The children were fantastic and achieved some amazing results. I was incredibly proud to take our children to the event, as they supported one another, demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and consistently showed our school values. Their determination, encouragement and positive attitudes were wonderful to see and they represented our school brilliantly.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Miss McManus





School Uniform and PE Uniform

PE Reminder

Please make sure children come prepared with the correct PE kit:

T-shirts: Red or white with or without the school badge (**no logos**)

Bottoms: Black shorts, joggers, or leggings (**no logos**)

Jackets: Plain black (**no logos**)

Safety Reminder

Earrings and necklaces must be removed before PE.

Hair should be tied up securely.

As the winter months approach, we'll continue to get outside as much as possible. To keep warm and comfortable, children may also bring: rain coats / gloves.

Children may want to bring a change of shoes and socks too.

Thank you for your support with this.

Miss McManus.

School Council - Attendance, Punctuality and Absence

As we continue this half term, we would like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of regular and consistent school attendance. Research shows a clear link between good attendance and strong progress at school; children who attend every day are more able to

keep up with their learning, build confidence, develop friendships, and make the most of the opportunities school offers.

To help encourage excellent attendance—and to celebrate the children for their efforts—we are excited to introduce **two weekly attendance rewards**:

The Nethersole Attendance Bear

Each week during our Shine Worship, the class with the highest attendance will be awarded **the Nethersole Attendance Bear**. The bear will spend the week in their classroom as a symbol of the children's commitment to being in school and ready to learn. We hope this friendly competition creates a sense of pride and teamwork across all classes.

Weekly 100% Attendance Raffle Tickets

We recognise that achieving 100% attendance across a whole half term can be challenging, especially when children may occasionally be unwell. To make our attendance rewards fair and achievable for everyone, **every child who attends school 100% in a given week will receive a raffle ticket**.

At the end of the half term, we will draw a selection of tickets from the jar and award prizes to the lucky winners.

This means **every week is a fresh opportunity**, and all children have the chance to succeed and be recognised.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together to promote good attendance, we can ensure every child has the best possible start to their learning this year.