



Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Welcome back!

Welcome back (and of course welcome to our new families) to the start of the Autumn term. It is lovely to see how excited the children have been to talk about their learning so early in the new term.

It has been lovely to see the smiling faces of all our parents, families and children at different times of the school day. One of my favourite things is catching up with you all for a chat at the school gate so please keep talking to me and letting me know the different things happening in and out of school for you.

It has been great to welcome Mrs Cabras and Mr Harding to our school family too. Mr Harding is spending time teaching the Foxes for a few weeks so he will be a regular face and port of call on the playground. Mrs Cabras is our Squirrels teacher and is loving the challenges of being in a smaller school, having come from a large town school in Ipswich.

The Pantry is the new catering company for our trust schools. Emma has been busy this week, making sure that the salad bar looks amazing as well as cooking all the delicious new recipes. Emma is really enjoying cooking the new meals and the children have been clearing their plates at lunchtime, with several children going back to the salad bar for a top up of lovely fresh vegetables. Thank you Emma for getting the new system up and running and continuing to make delicious dinners for our children.



As another attendance incentive, and a way to make the day more special, if your child has a birthday on a

school day, they can come to school wearing their own choice of clothes for the day. Wearing non uniform for their birthday will allow them to feel special and we can help celebrate as part of our school community.

We will be introducing Stay and Play sessions for families with children aged 18months -3 years on a Wednesday morning. Look out for the flyers for you to share with friends and family, inviting them in to school for the morning.

Hedgehogs class



Children in hedgehogs class have been blackberry picking and eating the blackberries as part of their snack at breaktimes. They have been busy looking at The colour monster and using this to help them talk about feelings as part of their All about Me topic for this half term. They have also been busy "fishing" for numbers, developing their motor skills and talking about themselves.

Squirrels class



There are now Red Squirrels and Grey Squirrels in Mrs Cabras' class.

They were really excited to start their outdoor learning curriculum again. They were really keen to introduce Mrs Cabras to our forest area and show her how good they are at taking risks and working collaboratively at base camp. They were also looking for different signs of wildlife in our local area. They found feathers, egg shells and footprints and were able to predict the animals and birds they had come from.



Foxes class

In Foxes class, they have been starting to explore their new topic by starting to read their new class book "The Explorers". They have been developing the language skills by looking at different types of sentence and deciding whether they are statements, commands, questions or exclamations. They have experimented with conjunctions and thought carefully about the types of punctuation needed for each. They have been starting to explore the works of different collage artists and the techniques that they used to create their masterpieces. They have also



Our Autumn topic is:

EXPLORERS

Geography/History: In this topic, children explore the lives and achievements of famous explorers and the impact of their discoveries. In Key Stage 1, pupils begin with Amelia Earhart, learning about her pioneering flights and courage, and Ernest Shackleton, exploring his Antarctic expeditions and perseverance. In Key Stage 2, learning extends to historical explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Francis Drake, examining their voyages, discoveries, and the wider effects on the world. Across both key stages, children develop historical enquiry skills, understand chronology, and reflect on how exploration has shaped societies, encouraging curiosity, resilience, and a sense of adventure in the past and present.	Science: In KS1 Children will identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. They will identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats. In KS2, children will be investigating forces looking at the effects of gravity, friction and magnetism, air resistance and water resistance. They will also explore the effects of simple mechanisms when different forces are applied.	Key Texts: There are just some of the wonderful texts that link to our topic which we will use to inspire our learning.
Music, Art and DT: In Music KS1 children will be exploring musical storytelling, exploring tempo and dynamics. KS2 will be creating compositions based on an animation through the theme of mountains. Lessons in the second half of the term, they will be exploring traditional carols and Christmas songs. In art and DT the children will create collages using a range of media that depict key discoveries from the POV of the explorers. They will explore the works of Henri Matisse and Faith Ringgold. Children will also combine modelling materials to create a model of a famous landmark/landscape that has been discovered.	Outdoor Learning: Use map skills and orienteering to create new walking trails for Herringham Hall visitors. Children create maps of their walking trails and host a day event for parents. Use natural resources to create images from great explorers and great discoveries.	The big questions we will answer 1. Who are the worlds best explorers and what did they discover? 2. What were the greatest achievements of our chosen explorers? 3. What was the legacy of our explorers?

The Explorers topic map will be coming home with your children today so that you can see what they are learning this term. The EYFS topic plan for their Topic All about Me will also be sent to EYFS parents.



Thank you to Luna and Jess who have kept the school looking beautiful over the summer by coming in to water the plant boxes- they are still looking bright and colourful as we start

the term!

***Pending permissions:** Please check your Arbor accounts to ensure that you have given your child/ren permissions (or not) to be included in the newsletters or social media. Many say pending and we cannot include them in any pictures whilst this is the case.

Attendance continues to be an area where we are focussing our school improvement. We have been lucky enough to secure some great prizes for the end of term, to give to those who make great improvements with their attendance and those that achieve over 95% for the term. These include vouchers for days out at different places locally. We really encourage your children to be in school as much as they possibly can be so that we can maximise their learning opportunities throughout the year.

Attendance	
Helmingham- 3 rd and 4 th September	
Hedgehogs	100%
Squirrels	83.3%
Foxes	86.7%
Whole School	84.1%
Helmingham – 7 th - 11 th September	
Hedgehogs	100%
Squirrels	83.3%
Foxes	90%
Whole School	90.5%

Mrs Powley x

Notes from the office!

NUT-FREE SCHOOL REMINDER

- Please **do not send** any foods containing nuts into school.
- Some children have severe nut allergies, and even small amounts can cause a serious reaction.
- Please check ingredients carefully, especially in chocolate products.

Examples include:

- Some Kinder Bueno products
- Some Milka chocolate products
- Other chocolates containing hazelnuts, peanuts, or nut fillings

Thank you for helping us keep all children safe. ♥

Free School Meals
Are you entitled?

Important: Free School Meals

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its guidance on Free School Meals (FSM), with important changes coming into effect from September 2026. Please read the following carefully to understand how this may affect your child.

From September 2026 From the 2026/2027 school year, there will be two types of FSM eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM** - this continues to be based on the current eligibility threshold. It applies to pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual

household earnings of £7,400 or less. Pupils in this group will attract Pupil Premium funding for their school and will qualify for additional support, such as the Holiday and Activities Food Programme.

•Expanded FSM - This is a new category for pupils whose households receive Universal Credit but do not meet the criteria for Targeted FSM. Pupils in this group will be eligible for free school meals only.

Transitional protections for existing claims will end. This means that eligibility will no longer be protected until the end of a child's current phase of education.

Suffolk County Council will carry out checks on all pupils currently eligible for FSM between June 2026 and the start of the new school year. This will ensure schools know which pupils qualify for Targeted or Expanded FSM from September.

Applying for FSM If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals and believe you may be eligible under the new criteria, please submit an online application via the Suffolk County Council website after 8 June 2026: Apply for free school meals - Suffolk County Council.

Need More Information? If you have any questions or are unsure whether you meet the new eligibility criteria, please contact the Free School Meals Team at: freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk.

A note from the SENDCo:



Welcome back! We will be planning meetings with you all in the coming weeks to make sure that learning provision is appropriate for all our

children. Please update us with any changes in circumstances so that our records are accurate and up to date.

AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues Oct 6th: 2pm Harvest Festival at Framsdon church

Mon 19th Oct: am Open Morning for new Reception intake parents

Wed 21st Oct: FOHS Dress down day and Halloween disco

Fri 23rd Oct: Break up for half term

Wb 23rd Nov: Assessment week in school

Wed 2nd Dec: Open afternoon for new Reception intake parents

Thurs 3rd Dec: Pantomime trip to Bury

Tues 8th and Thurs 10th Dec: Parents Consultation evening

Wed 16th Dec: Nativity play (outdoor)

Thurs 17th Dec: Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 18th Dec: Last day of Autumn Term

A few regular reminders:

We do expect the children to read at home throughout the week. EYFS and KS1 should read for 10 mins daily and KS2 for 20 mins. We ask that you fit this in at least 4 times a week as this has a big impact on progress and attainment.



Curriculum Visions Schools

Our Curriculum Visions access continues. Please feel free to access this website using the passwords below. This is a website that has an online library of non fiction books and videos to support our topic work so please make sure you dig into this.

Your school passwords:

Username: henley.primary

Password: IP60QX (no gaps)

WOW BOARD!



We continue to celebrate the children's achievements on our WOW board in school. If your child has won awards out of school for their sporting achievements or out of school activities, then please let us know so that these can be celebrated in school too.



Please make sure that you are checking the class pages on the school website. This will give you the most up to date information about what they are learning in class. All

class will be adding a termly newsletter with information about the topic, recommended resources and activities to try at home.



Timestables Rockstars is a fun way to learn times tables! The children in KS2 all have their own log in details so please support your children to log in as often as possible.



Doodle spell is our new online spelling app to support your

child to make further progress in improving spellings. Please ensure that they rehearse these at home too.

School numbers:

Helmingham: 01473 890267

Please see below the staff email addressed so that you can contact your child's class teachers directly in the first instance if you have anything to share or discuss. They will not respond to emails between 6pm and 8am (to protect their personal time) but will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

Mrs Reeve (Hedgehogs)

j.reeve@consortiumtrust.org.uk

Mrs Cabras (Squirrels)

c.cabras@consortiumtrust.org.uk

Mrs Richardson (Foxes)

a.richardson@consortiumtrust.org.uk

Offices

office.helmingham@consortiumtrust.org.uk

office.henley@consortiumtrust.org.uk