



17 Oct 2025

Contents:

- Headteacher's insight
- News from our classrooms
- Events and reminders

Headteacher's insight

As we approach the final week of this first half term, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by! With the weather turning colder, it's been lovely to see children embracing the change of season while continuing to show great energy and enthusiasm for learning.

This week, a huge well done goes to the KS2 children who represented our school so brilliantly at the recent cross-country event. Competing against four other schools, they demonstrated fantastic effort, perseverance, and sportsmanship—we're all incredibly proud of them. Year 5 continue to make excellent progress in their weekly swimming lessons, and it's wonderful to see their growing confidence and skill in the water.

Across the school, we've been so impressed by the creativity and engagement shown in homework activities. The thought, imagination, and pride children are putting into their work at home is really shining through—thank you for the support you continue to give.

Next week, we're looking forward to our first **STEM** days of the year, which will feature exciting hands-on learning opportunities and online safety workshops for all children in Years 1–6. We'll also be hosting **Online Safety Workshops** for parents and carers on **Thursday 23rd (4:30–5:30pm at Marleigh)** and **Friday 24th (9:00–9:45am at Fen Ditton)**—we hope many of you can join us to explore how we can work together to keep children safe and confident online.

Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful PTFA for all their support this term and for organising the Halloween Trail event taking place over the half term. It promises to be a fun and creative way for families to get involved—perfect for the spooky season ahead!

Wishing everyone a fantastic final week of term and a well-deserved, enjoyable half-term break.

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



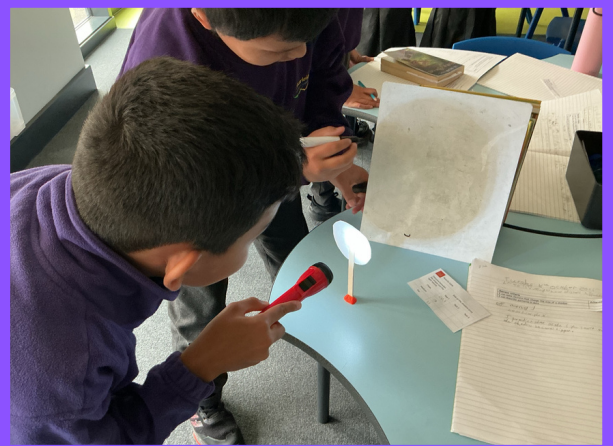


News from our classrooms

Owls Class

This week in Owls Class, year 4 and 5 have been busy exploring music, science, and maths in some really exciting ways! In music, we have been learning to play '**Somewhere Over the Rainbow**' on the glockenspiel.

In science, the class investigated how the distance of a light source affects the size of shadows by moving lights closer and farther away from objects. In maths, the pupils worked on their addition and subtraction fluency using chalk on our playground. Lots of learning in different ways, well done this week Owls!





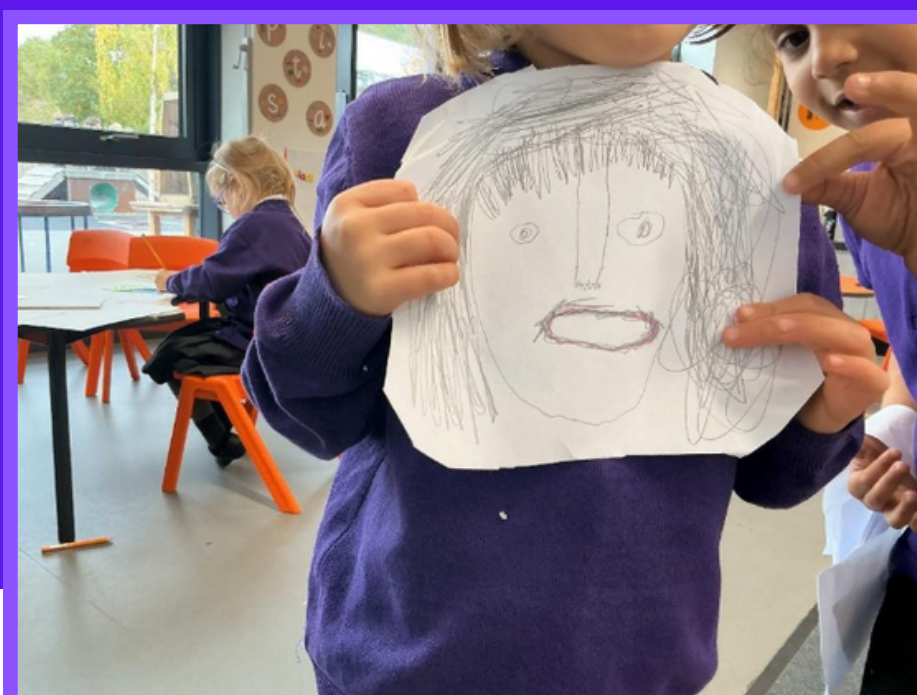
Butterflies Class



This week, we've been learning all about patterns in Maths. The children have enjoyed creating their own repeating patterns using natural objects such as leaves, sticks, and stones during our outdoor learning time. We also had fun making sound patterns using musical instruments and body percussion – ask your child if they can clap or tap a pattern for you at home!

In Art, we've been looking at self-portraits. The children learnt about the key features to include, such as eyes, nose, mouth, and hair, and discussed how to add detail to make their pictures more realistic. They all worked carefully and thoughtfully on their own portraits – we can't wait to display them in our classroom!

In Phonics this week, we have been learning the sounds 'm' and 'd'. The children have impressed us with how well they are beginning to use these sounds when reading and writing simple words like mat, mad, and sad. Keep practising at home to build their confidence!





... continued

During Busy Learning Time, many children chose to den build outside, showing fantastic teamwork as they communicated, shared ideas, and problem-solved together. It's been lovely to see them supporting one another and celebrating their creations.

In Literacy, the children have been reading the book *Oi Frog!* and exploring the concept of rhyme. They have enjoyed finding rhyming pairs throughout the story and have been very creative coming up with their own alternative rhymes. This has been a fun way to develop their listening skills.

Reading Reminder

Please remember to send your child's reading book and reading record into school every day. This helps us ensure your child has an opportunity to share their book with an adult during the week, which will support their progress.





Dragonflies Class

This week in Dragonflies we have been working hard as we head towards the end of our first half term. In English we have been planning our own stories, thinking carefully about interesting characters and exciting settings to bring them to life. In science we've been learning more about food chains and how animals and plants depend on each other to survive.

The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm in their learning, and we're really proud of how much they've achieved this half term.





Anglian Learning's primary schools join forces with Stapleford Granary for Inspire25

Pupils from Marleigh Primary Academy were invited to attend Stapleford Granary to take part in a 60-minute immersive musical and theatrical experience.

Guided by an experienced team of artists and practitioners from Anglian Learning and Stapleford Granary, The Tin Forest encourages pupils to step inside the story through movement, listening, sound, and song. From mechanical birds and human sound machines to body percussion and choral singing, pupils became part of the story itself.

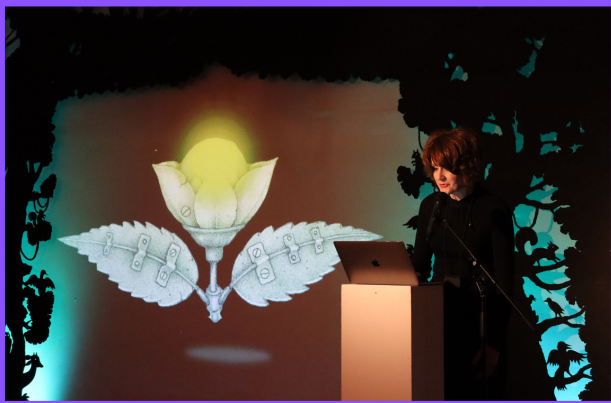
All pupils who took part contributed beautifully to the unique showcase and should be proud of their creativity and collaboration with other primary schools from across Anglian Learning. We are thankful to Kate Romano, CEO and Co-Artistic Director of Stapleford Granary, for providing our pupils with this aspirational opportunity, to Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead at Linton Heights Junior School (a Lead School for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Music Education Hub (MEH), for successfully leading the event and to all staff for helping to prepare pupils for their performances and supporting on the day.

You can [read more about the immersive musical experience here](#).

This project evolved from The Small Grains twinning project between Stapleford Community Primary School and Stapleford Granary. You can read more about this here: [Small Grains Report](#) | [Insights from Stapleford Granary](#).

Laura Rawlings

Deputy Director of Primary Education at Anglian Learning





Belonging by Design: Mental Health

Mental Health: It's Not All In The Mind

As part of the Mental Health strand of our Belonging by Design strategy, Anglian Learning is pleased to be offering a series of free webinars across this academic year for parents and carers.

These webinars are an important way for us to launch Anglian Learning's early-intervention approach to supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. By working in partnership with families and professionals, we aim to strengthen understanding, build resilience and promote positive mental health across our school communities.

The '*Mental Health: It's Not All In The Mind*' webinar series shares practical, evidence-based strategies, grounded in the latest research and medical understanding, to support your own and your children's mental health. Topics include: what causes depression, how everyday factors can affect our wellbeing, and ways to create opportunities for positive behaviour change.

The webinars are presented by Peter Templeton and Charlotte Catignani from The Foundation for Young People's Mental Health, whose work is rooted in scientific research and real-world practice. You can read more about their work and research by [clicking here](#). Recordings will be shared via email and will also be available on your school's website. We hope you find these webinars helpful in understanding and supporting mental health within your family.

Camilla Saunders

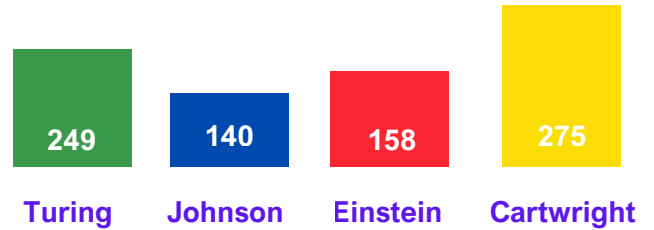
Director of Inclusion at Anglian Learning

Further reading:

- MindEd For Families
- How to talk to teenagers about mental health
- How to talk to primary age pupils about mental health
- Movement and mental health - Mental Health UK
- Food and mental health | Tips for everyday living | Mind
- Depression - It's really not all in the mind | YPMH



House Point Totals



School photos: Date change

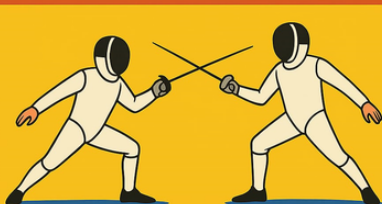
Individual school photos have been moved to **Friday 24th October**.

Flu vaccination consents

We recently forwarded the consent form for flu vaccinations, please note you must complete the form **even if you do NOT consent** for the vaccination at school. The school doesn't manage consents, these go straight to the vaccination team. We cannot pass on your consent, it must come from you.

FENCING

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL
3:15 TO 4:15
YEAR 1 – YEAR 6
FIRST SESSION FREE
TO BOOK PLACE CONTACT
enquiries@wwwfencing4kids.com
07886643982

COMING
SOON

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Katia - Owls
Sissy - Owls
Didi - Caterpillars
Emma - Dragonflies



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



1 WEEK TO GO!

Search Premier Education Holiday Clubs



Premier
Education

Let's get crafty together



Bring any crafty project that you're working on and connect with other likeminded people from the community. No need to book, just turn up.

Every Wednesday 2-4pm at
the Community Centre



The
Land Trust

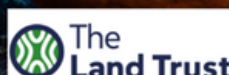


HALLOWEEN WORKSHOP

Wednesday 29 October
10:30-11:30am

who: for adults and children over 7 years
what: cookie decoration (materials provided),
pumpkin carving (carving kit provided, bring
your own pumpkin), seasonal activities

Free event at the community
centre
no need to book, just drop in



Free Baby and Children Clothing Swap



HALLOWEEN COSTUMES SWAP UNTIL 31 OCTOBER

HOW IT WORKS:

- BRING ANY CHILD AND BABY CLOTHES YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE
- HELP YOURSELF WITH ANYTHING ON THE RAIL
- YOU DON'T NEED TO DONATE SOMETHING TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP CLOTHES FROM THE RAIL
- ONLY CLOTHES THAT CAN FIT ON THE RAIL ARE ACCEPTED
- PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY BAGS OF CLOTHES HERE
- NO TOY DONATIONS
- NO OTHER BABY OR TODDLER ITEMS

WHO IS THIS FOR: EVERYONE! LET'S SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY BE MORE SUSTAINABLE

HALLOWEEN



PTFA self - guided Halloween Trail



Buy your tickets now!

When: 25th October - 2nd November



Tickets cost £1.50

Submit your answers online using the QR code on the map for a chance to win on of **10 prizes!**

Maps will be available to **collect** from the school office from **Monday 20th October**



Friday 31st October
from 4pm come to:

Buy your tickets now!



for a Halloween event.
Show your trail map to
get 10% off!

Now that's a treat!

<https://marleigh-primary-ptfa.sumupstore.com/>

Helping your children fly





FOLLOW US

Term Dates 2025/26

[For 2026/27 dates see our website](#)

Autumn term 2025

Thursday 4th September to Friday 24th October

Half term: Monday 27th October – 3rd November

Tuesday 4th November to Friday 19th December

Christmas holidays: Monday 22nd December to
Tuesday 6th Jan

Spring term 2026

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20
February

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday
10th April

Summer term 2026

Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July

Summer Holiday: Monday 20th July onwards

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July

Key Dates for Autumn 2025/26

Tue 21st Oct	Nursery stay and play session - all parents and carers welcome straight after drop off AM or PM
Wed 22nd Oct	Year 1 and 2 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Thu 23rd Oct	STEM day
Thu 23rd Oct	Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 5pm at Marleigh - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
Fri 24th Oct	Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 9am at Fen Ditton - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
Fri 24th Oct	Individual School Photos Last day of Autumn 1 half term
Mon 27th Oct to Mon 3rd Nov	Half term holiday - PTFA Halloween trail

Key Dates for Autumn 2025

Tue 4th Nov	First day of Autumn 2 for all children
Wed 5th Nov	Year 5 and 6 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Mon 10th to Fri 14th Nov	EYFS National Nursery Rhyme week
Tue 11th Nov	Remembrance Day - all children invite to wear a poppy if they wish to
Wed 12th Nov	Badgers Year 6 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 12th Nov	Panathlon sports festival - 12 children will be invited to attend - during the school day
Wed 12th Nov	Butterflies Year R Stay and Play - all parents and carers welcome straight after morning drop off 8:50-9:30am
Tues 18th Nov	Flu vaccination
Wed 19th Nov	Owls Year 4/5 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 19th Nov	Year 3 and 4 sporting experience - all children during school day
Wed 26th Nov	Squirrels Year 3/4 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 26th Nov	Butterflies Reception sporting experience - all children, during school day
Wed 3rd Dec	Yoga festival - 12 Year 3 and 4 children will be invited to attend - during school day
Thu 4th Dec	PTFA Festive Fayre - 3:30-5pm - all parents, carers and family welcome
Mon 8th Dec	Butterflies Reception Nativity - all parents and carers welcome 2:15
Wed 10th Dec	Year 5 and 6 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Thu 11th Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert - all parents and carers welcome 2:15pm
Fri 12th Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert - all parents and carers welcome 9:15am

Key Dates for Autumn 2025

Fri 12th Dec	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day - All children invited to attend school wearing non uniform that includes a Christmas or Winter jumper - Families invited to make a donation through our JustGiving page
Mon 15th Dec	KS2 (Year 3,4,5 and 6) Church carol concert - all parents and carers welcome 2pm
Wed 17th Dec	Nursery Christmas sing a long with parents and carers 2:30pm
Wed 17th Dec	Year 3 and 4 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Wed 17th Dec	Christmas dinner for children
Thu 18th Dec	Christmas sing a long with parents and carers 3pm
Fri 19th Dec	Last day of Autumn 2 half term