

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 1

18TH SEPTEMBER 2026



‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’ 



WELCOME BACK

It has been so lovely to see everyone happily return to school. The children look so smart in their uniform, and we really appreciate your support in ensuring the children are wearing the correct uniform and shoes. Can we please remind you to name EVERYTHING, including shoes, water bottles, coats, book bags – quite literally everything! 

We would like to give a special welcome to all the parents and carers of children in Hedgehog class. The school newsletter is emailed fortnightly on Fridays and is designed to update you on key messages and upcoming school events.

We are pleased to say that the children have settled into their new classrooms well and are enjoying getting to know their new teachers. We have been really impressed with how well all the children have settled into school. They have taken everything in their stride and coped so well with getting to know the routines. Children across the school have quickly gotten to know the routines and new members of staff.

Please remember your child needs a water bottle in school each day. Children in reception, Year 1 and 2 are provided with a piece of fruit. Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need to bring fruit to school for their morning snack.



WORKING TOGETHER

Here at The Pines, we value the strong partnership between home and school and share the same goal: helping every child thrive. We welcome open and honest communication and encourage parents and carers to raise any questions or concerns with us.

To support positive working relationships, we ask that all communication, whether in person, by phone, email, letter, or online, is respectful and courteous. Our staff should be able to carry out their roles in a safe and professional environment, free from intimidation, abusive language, or unreasonable behaviour.

By working together with mutual respect and understanding, we can create the best outcomes for our pupils, families, and staff.

Engage and Empower!

Hedgehog Class - Reception

"I wonder what makes us unique?"



Hedgehog class have started school and have been learning all about our rules and routines. They have done so well settling in and we are very proud of them. This half terms theme is 'I wonder what makes me unique?'. So far we have been learning to name the different parts of the body and testing out how we can move our bodies in different ways. We have also looked at our faces carefully in the mirror to help us paint our very own self portraits. We're looking forward to learning more about ourselves and our families as the weeks go on!

Rabbit Class - Year 2



We have used the book 'The Worrysaurus' to talk about feelings and change and what we can do if we feel a bit worried.

We have also talked about being a team and the children have shown brilliant team work in our 'pass the hoop' and 'carry the pople' games. Finally, we are starting to learn all about our new topic 'The Great Fire of London' and made Tudor houses.

Fox Class - Year 4 "Roman Britain"



We launched our new topic by investigating pictures of Ancient Rome and having some brilliant discussions about the sheer power of the Roman army. We discussed how they made a new camp every night when marching. The children immediately got hands-on, collaborating to build our own Roman fort. We also created fox artwork to represent our class name. It was wonderful to see the class so motivated and engaged after the long break.



Stag Class - Year 6 "The Great Air Race"



Year 6 have started to find out about The Great Air Race of 1934 from Mildenhall to Melbourne. We talked about the differences between air travel now and then. We did a pilot and navigator task outside where the children needed to guide their blindfolded partner through an obstacle course. This highlighted the importance of communication and collaboration when working with others. We also held competitions to see who could create the best paper airplanes for distance and accuracy.

MEET THE TEACHER!

It was wonderful that so many of you were able to attend the Meet the Teacher sessions which took place last week. We hope that you found the information both useful and beneficial. If you have any further questions or queries, please email the school office team (office@pinesprimary.org)

INFORMATION

In addition to the newsletter, your child's curriculum letter has been emailed to you.

This information will provide you with key learning points and events which are taking place within your child's class. This will also be added to the year group class page on the website. You will receive this information each term.

Diary dates for the term have also been given out today. Please put this on your fridge door or noticeboard as a reminder of what will be taking place at school over the coming term

The Pines Primary School		
Term: Autumn 2026	Year Group: 1	
Mathematics To begin the year, we will be looking at place value within 10. We will be exploring counting 1 more and 1 less. The children will be introduced to the terms greater than (>), less than (<) and equal to (=). These symbols can be quite confusing for the children so we will be revisiting them throughout the year. There is a fun song that the children will learn to help them remember which way round the symbols go.  We will then be moving onto addition and subtraction within 10. The children will be introduced to a part-whole model.  We will then be looking at the number bonds within and to 10. Alongside that, we will be adding and subtracting. We will then look at what it means to subtract for example, take away.	English Within our English lessons, one focus will be to apply phonics to support with spelling. It is important that we segment our words before writing them. For example, m-oo-n.  We will be rehearsing our sentences orally and work towards consistently using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces when writing a sentence.  Our English will be linked to our themes. The children have already been introduced to our current theme of 'Toy Story'. After half term our theme will be 'Who was the Lady with the lamp?'	Educational visits, visitors and key dates Meet the teacher – 9th September Individual Photos – 22nd September Parent teacher consultations – 21st and 22nd October Half Term – Monday 26th – 30th October Staff training day Monday 2nd November and Friday 27th November Non-School uniform day – 20th November Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity -Tuesday 15th December 16th December Christmas Jumper Day – 17th December
How to help at home - Support your child to complete their homework each week. - Read with and to your child a minimum of 5 times each week – keep note in your child's reading journal. - Learn how to form lower case and upper-case letters correctly. - Learn how to form numerals 0 – 9. - Talk to your child about their day: friendship, worries and peaceful ways to solve problems.	Key text 	Phonics We follow a phonics scheme called Rocket Phonics Each day we will review GPCs (Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence) and words which they already know. Then we will be taught a new GPCs with words that contain the GPC. Finally, they will put the new words into a sentence and practise spelling new words. Alongside, learning how to read and spell tricky words. Throughout the autumn term, we will review phase 2, 3 and 4 and start to introduce phase 5 GPCs.
		Handwriting In our handwriting lessons, we will focus on our letter formation to ensure that our letters are consistently formed correctly. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz



Parent Update

WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

We're excited to share some key information about The Nest After-School Club as we prepare to open our doors soon!

1

When will The Nest be up and running?



After a long application process, our Ofsted registration visit will take place on **1 October**. Subject to everything going well, we hope to be up and running from **Monday 5 October 2026**!

2

Where will it be?



The Nest will be based at the **Pinecones Pre-School Building** on the school site.

3

Who can attend The Nest?



The Nest will initially be available for children from **Reception to Year 6**. In the near future, we hope to expand our provision to include pre-school children aged **3 years and over**.

4

What are The Nest's opening times?



We will operate Monday to Friday from the end of the school day, with three collection options:

15:15 – 16:30

15:15 – 17:30

15:15 – 18:30

5

How much will it cost?



15:15 – 16:30 | £6

15:15 – 17:30 | £10

15:15 – 18:30 | £15

All sessions include a healthy, nut-free snack.

6

How will I book?



Booking will be simple! Parents will be able to complete our online booking form, after which we will confirm your child's place and send an invoice for payment.

More information about bookings will be shared shortly.

Get in touch



thenest@cgmcaregroup.co.uk



07411255594



The Nest - Wraparound Care



Pinecones Pre-School Building,
The Pines Primary School

We can't wait to welcome your children!



FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Free School Meals have changed from September 2026.

As a parent or carer, you may need to re-apply for the 2026/27 school year — even if your child already receives Free School Meals. It only takes a few minutes to check, and applying could save your family up to £500 per child each year while helping make sure your child has a healthy lunch ready for the new school year

Apply here:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Nut free school



- This year we have children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts, even airborne particles can cause reactions
- We ask that no nuts or products containing nuts are brought into school.

IFG will be hosting a themed lunch on 1st October.
Unfortunately, if you have already ordered a lunch for this date,
your order will have been cancelled due to the menu change.
Could I please ask all parents and carers to check that a lunch has
been ordered for 1st October if required

A menu poster for 'Space Day' on 1st October. The background is a dark blue space scene with stars and planets. At the top, a large speech bubble contains the text 'Space Day' in red and '1st October' in blue. To the left of the text is a blue planet with a ring, and to the right is an orange planet with a ring. Below the speech bubble, the menu items are listed in bold black text, with some words in red. The items are: 'Space Ranger Pork Sausages (in a beef casing)', 'Or', 'Veggie Voyager Meat-Free Sausages', 'Served With', 'Crispy Chips, Baked Beans & Tomato Sauce', 'Followed By', 'Moon Crater Waffles & Chocolate Sauce'.

Space Day
1st October

Space Ranger Pork Sausages
(in a beef casing)

Or

Veggie Voyager
Meat-Free Sausages

Served With
Crispy Chips, Baked Beans
& Tomato Sauce

Followed By
Moon Crater Waffles
& Chocolate Sauce



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

CAKE, COMMUNITY & A GREAT CAUSE

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026
11AM - 2PM

THE JUBILEE CENTRE, MILDENHALL

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



Delicious cakes



Tea & coffee



Raffle & tombola



Games & challenges



Children's activities



And much more!

FREE ENTRY

Please donate what you can while enjoying
the refreshments and activities.

Please bring some cash for raffles, tombolas and games.
Card payments are also available through Macmillan CharityGo.

SUPPORTED BY



**Mildenhall
High Town Council**

All proceeds will support Macmillan Cancer Support.



PFA NEWS



Anyone who purchased tickets for the Summer Disco will have their tickets rolled over to the Autumn Disco. For anyone now looking to purchase tickets, we'll share an update soon!

The Pines PFA

Autumn Disco

Friday 16TH October

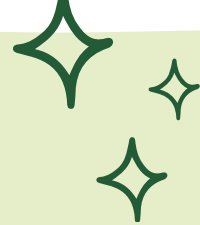
Cost: £5- includes 1 token for tuck shop

Fancy dress optional

**Reception, Y1 and Y2
4:15-5:15**

**Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
5:30-6:30**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



wc 21st
Sept

Y6 Bikeability

22nd
Sept

School photographer visit

25th
Sept

PFA Tuck shop

1st
Oct

Parents evening slots go live on MCAS

9th
Oct

PFA Tuck shop

12th
Oct

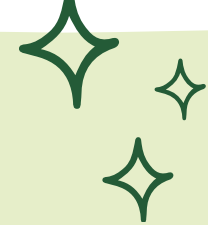
Y3 Wandlebury Trip

13th
Oct

YR Pebble laying ceremony



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



14th
Oct

Tiny Concerts

16th
Oct

PFA School disco

19th
Oct

Flu vaccinations

21st &
22nd Oct

Parents evening

25th
Oct

Half term

2nd
Nov

Staff training day - No pupils on
site

3rd
Nov

Pupils return to school

