

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 3

16TH OCTOBER 2026



‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’ 



The last two weeks at The Pines has continued to be a busy and exciting place, filled with opportunities for children to learn, grow and succeed. We are proud of the many achievements of our pupils and grateful for the support of our wider school community.

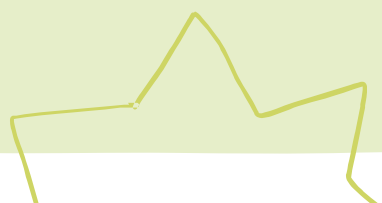
We were delighted to welcome Lightwave and would like to thank them for delivering our Harvest Assembly. Thank you for your generous donations, which will help support those in our local community. The assembly gave the children an opportunity to reflect and be thankful.

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Wandlebury, where they immersed themselves in an Iron Age experience, learning traditional skills such as bread making and weaving.



Our Reception families took part in a special pebble-laying ceremony, creating a meaningful memory for the children to begin their journey with us.

Years 1 to 6 were treated to a wonderful theatre performance, providing a valuable opportunity to experience live theatre to spark their imaginations. These experiences enrich our curriculum and create lasting memories for our children and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity they show.



TINY CONCERTS

This week, the children had a magical visit from Tiny Concerts where they found out more about the famous writer Hans Christian Andersen. The hall was turned into a theatre with blacked-out doors, a real stage, lights and even a mini orchestra (string quartet) to set the scene. We heard the story of his early life with his 'dirty, mean' teacher Mr Meisling and how he fell in love with the famous singer, Jenny Lind. The children also heard three of his stories: 'The Ugly Duckling', 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'The Nightingale', which were brought to life with giant silhouette puppets and music. After sections of audience participation, we all left the performance buzzing with excitement, keen to find out more about Hans Christian Andersen and his stories



POPPY APPEAL

After half term, we will welcome visitors from the Royal British Legion and other guests into school to help us mark Remembrance in early November. Prior to Remembrance Day, we will be selling items from the Royal British Legion's poppy Appeal to help raise money for the charity.

Please see the items available in the pictures below. Items can be purchased for between 50p and £1. We invite you and your children to buy one of the poppy appeal items from the school office as of next week - Monday 19th October. It would be helpful if your child could bring exact money for the item they wish to buy. If items remain at the end of next week, we will continue the Poppy Appeal sales for the week after half term too (Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th November). We thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



GARDENING CLUB

Our gardening group has been busy this term, with crops continuing to grow and a successful harvest of produce from our garden. The children have also worked hard to clear and improve the entrance to Forest School, with fantastic before-and-after results. Alongside their outdoor work, they have enjoyed a range of creative nature-inspired activities, including leaf painting and rock painting. We are very proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity.



DAFFODILS

If any of you have any daffodil bulbs that you might be able to donate to school, please let us know. Now is the time to plan bulbs in preparation for next Spring so please help us to prepare for a bright and beautiful Spring term!



PARENT & CARER SURVEY



**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**

We value your views and would like to hear about your experience of our school. Whether it is how we communicate with you, support your child(ren), or work with families more broadly, your feedback helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can make improvements. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using this [link](#).

Your feedback will provide key information for us to inform our ongoing self-evaluation and development to support the children and our community.

The survey will close on Friday 23 October.

ALL Y6 PARENTS **SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

Applications for secondary schools for 2027 intake are open.

The deadline for making your application is 31 October 2026

Applications can be made online, using the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-2027-2028>

PARENT CONSULTATIONS - REMINDER

Please do not forget to book a slot for the upcoming parents' evening, booking is available now on the MCAS app. Remember, the booking window will close at midday on Monday, 19th October. If you need any assistance with the booking process, feel free to contact the office for help.



500 WORDS COMPETITION

The 500 Words Competition is the UK's largest children's story writing contest for ages 5-11, inviting original stories of 500 words or fewer, with the 2026 entry window running from 29 September to 6 November and offering prizes such as book bundles, illustrated stories, and a grand final attended by Her Majesty The Queen. So why not use half-term to get creative and write a fantastic story about anything you would like!

Please note that stories will not be accepted if received after 9:00pm on Friday 6th November.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#z4bvvg8>



HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

AUDLEY END - HALLOWEEN SPECIAL | 17TH OCTOBER – 1ST NOVEMBER

Audley End Enchanted Railway are holding a magical, spooky-not-scary adventure through the Enchanted Forest! Board the Halloween train to meet the Pumpkin Queen, with a special gift for every child. Continue your adventure with a whole host of tricks and treats, from potion making and magical stage shows to the brand-new Pumpkin Village, filled with autumnal photo opportunities. Plus, enjoy marshmallow toasting around the fire, mini golf and pumpkin picking (all for a small additional cost) plus so much more!

Book here - <https://bit.ly/4jUkgCE>

MILDENHALL AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

Open Day
October 30th 2026
11am- 3.30pm

Tickets: Mildenhall Museum and Mildenhall Library.

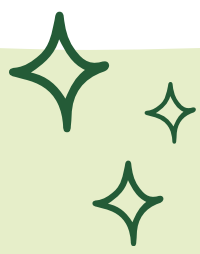


MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

The Museum of Zoology on Downing Street, Cambridge are inviting children to pop in to on Thursday 29th October between 10:00 – 4:30pm to explore Autumnal animal colours with a Museum trail and real specimens for you to handle. Their expert, friendly volunteers and staff will be there to help you out. All activities and entry to the Museum is FREE.

ANGLESEY ABBEY

Anglesey Abbey is running a Halloween trail from Saturday, October 25, to Sunday, November 2, with a sheet that you will take you around the grounds with games to complete to help Wanda the Witch's cat, Luna, make her way through the forest. The trail costs £6 per child and includes a prize - booking is advised to avoid any disappointment.



PFA NEWS



WINTER FAIR RAFFLE PRIZES

We are looking for raffle prize donations for our Winter Fair on 4th December.

If you own or work with a local business and can donate a gift, voucher, or experience prize, we would love to hear from you, please email: pfa@pinesprimary.org

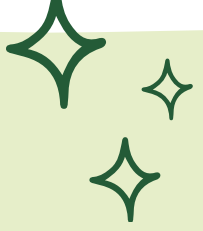
As a thank you, we will promote your business through our Facebook pages and school newsletter!



You can raise FREE donations for the PFA EVERY time you shop online. Just use easyfundraising! Over 8,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

3rd
Nov

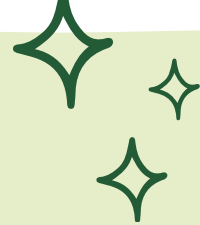
Hedgehog Class Phonics Info
Evening 5-6pm- Adults only please

11th
Nov

Remembrance Assembly- Dont forget
to wear your poppy



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



20th
Nov

Non Uniform Day

27th
Nov

Staff training day - No pupils on
site

4th
Dec

PFA Winter Fair

15th &
16th Dec

Nativity - More details to be shared soon

17th
Dec

Christmas Jumper Day &
Christmas Dinner Day

17th
Dec

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert- More details
to be shared soon

17th
Dec

Last Day of Term & PFA Tuck Shop

