SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 5

20TH NOVEMBER 2026

'Transforming lives through inspirational learning'

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

December is just a moment away and before we know it, we will all be feeling very festive and excited!

You will see from the diary dates at the end of the newsletter a list of wonderful traditional Christmas events that we are planning in school. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of these events and share the joy of the Christmas season with one and all. Further information about these events will follow separately, but if you have any questions, please email the school office team.



The festivities will start with our 'Light up The Christmas Tree' assembly on Friday 4th December. SP Landscapes have very generously provided the school with a huge tree to go in the school hall and all children and staff are invited to design and make a homemade Christmas decoration which they can then place on the tree. We are very excited about this event and looking forward to seeing school 'beginning to look a lot like Christmas'. Can children please bring their decorations into school on Thursday 3rd December. We look forward to seeing all their creations.

Engage and Empower!

YEAR 1 - SQUIRRELL CLASS



Year 1 had a fantastic Engage and Empower Day and have now been introduced to our new learning theme of 'Who was The Lady with the Lamp?'. The children were introduced to Florence Nightingale and learnt about why she is still remembered today. We experienced what life would have been like for Florence and her team of nurses and took part in a team building activity. We all took on a role and acted out how to improve our hospital and help our injured soldiers. We are looking forward to learning more about Florence and how hospitals and nursing have improved over the years.

YEAR 3 - NIGHTINGALE CLASS



Year 3 stepped into the icy world of Antarctica, discovering just how cold and extreme this frozen continent can be. Through fascinating videos, they explored its breathtaking landscape and used their learning to create powerful Antarctica poems. They also enjoyed reading Emperor's Egg, following the incredible journey of the emperor penguin as it battles the harsh Antarctic conditions. By making links to their reading lessons, they deepened their understanding of this remarkable animal and its amazing life cycle.

YEAR 5 - OWL CLASS



Year 5, Owl class had an exhausting list of all the things they needed for a 'Desert Survival Kit'! Most said how they would like to live in the desert, which Mrs Milner thought was interesting as she heard they had previously been complaining of the heat throughout the summer! They did make her laugh! They are all looking forward to learning more about the Desert, especially the desert animals and the Experience Day on Monday 23rd November.

We are incredibly proud of our Remembrance Day display. The children put a great deal of thought, care, and respect into creating their poppies, and the finished display is truly beautiful.

It has been wonderful to see how much meaning the children have taken from their learning about remembrance, and their creativity shines through in every poppy. We are extremely proud of their efforts and the thoughtful way they approached this important occasion.

When a representative from the Royal British Legion visited our school, he was so impressed by the display that he asked for a photograph to be sent to him to share. This was a wonderful compliment and a real testament to the children's hard work.

Well done to everyone involved in creating such a meaningful tribute. 🌺



CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to our Children in Need fundraiser last Friday. We are thrilled to announce that we raised a total of £123.05!

If you would still like to donate, there's still time to make an impact. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue to support these causes. Thank you once again for your kindness and support!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 16TH- 20TH NOVEMBER

'Break the Silence: Kindness Starts With Us'

This week has been 'Kindness Week' and the children have been talking about kindness, courage, helpfulness and cooperation. They have been looking at how they can be kind to others and collecting examples of their kindness at school. The children were also given secret kindness missions, which they have been brilliant at completing. We are very proud of the 'paper chain of kindness' that the children have built this week.



PARKING



We kindly ask for everyone's cooperation and consideration during school drop-off and pick-up times. We understand that parking can be challenging when the school car park is busy or full. However, we ask all parents and carers to park thoughtfully and safely, avoiding junctions, bends, dropped kerbs, and residents' driveways.

Parking considerately helps to keep visibility clear, reduces congestion, and ensures that emergency vehicles, residents, pedestrians, and other road users can access the area safely. Most importantly, it helps us create a safer environment for our children at the busiest times of the school day.

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.

PCSO VISIT

On Tuesday 24th November, we are excited to welcome our PCSO team - PC Louise Wappett-Griggs and PCSO Hannah Rogers - into the school. They will be visiting Hedgehog class as part of their 'Real Life Heroes' learning, chatting to our pupils over lunch time and sharing an assembly with the whole school about their role in our wider community. If time allows, the team also hope to be available on the playground at the end of the day to chat to families. Do say hello and stop for a chat with the PCSO team if you can.

SPORTS WHEELCHAIRS







For the last two weeks, we have been fortunate to have had the use of some sports wheelchairs from a company named Get In And Go. They have provided us with 8 chairs, and the whole school (including the staff) have absolutely loved the opportunity to experience something new. It has given us all the chance to reflect on how incredibly difficult it can be for people with disabilities to access sport and how impressive it is for them to succeed in sports.

The children have learned the basics of moving around in the chairs, which was much harder than they anticipated. Some of the classes have progressed onto throwing and catching activities and Year 6 even managed to play an adapted version of basketball.

It has been wonderful to see everyone enjoying these activities and we hope the children have been sharing with you how much fun they have had. A big thank you must go out to the brilliant PFA for helping fund this unique experience!

We have been asked to share information about an ethically approved research study investigating a new child-friendly therapy for children aged 3-8 years who may be experiencing difficulties following a traumatic event. The study aims to explore whether this therapeutic approach can help young children process their experiences and improve their emotional wellbeing.

Please see the poster for information for further details about the study.

Participation is entirely voluntary.



CYCLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

We have received reports from members of the local community regarding some pupils cycling to and from school in an unsafe manner. We are concerned that, unless greater care is taken, someone could be seriously injured.

We ask all parents and carers to speak with their children about the importance of cycling safely and behaving responsibly when travelling to and from school. This includes being aware of pedestrians, following road safety rules, and showing consideration for others using the roads and pavements.

We actively encourage cycling as a healthy, sustainable, and enjoyable way to travel to school. However, with increased independence comes increased responsibility.

We will continue to reinforce road safety messages in school, but we need the support of families to ensure these important conversations are also taking place at home.

The safety of our children, families, and wider community must always come first. Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Churches Together
NEWMARKET

Newmarket Community Pop-Up Shop

Christmas Appeal

Help us make Christmas special for our community

Our Pop-Up Shop has supported **10,000** client visits since 2021, providing food and essentials to those in need.

This Christmas, we need your help to continue this vital work.

How you can help

Financial Donations

Help us meet the costs of running our weekly service and our Christmas Special.

Christmas Gifts

Donate suitable items including:

- Toiletries
- Christmas extras such as crackers and chocolates
- Gifts for young children
- Gift bags

Christmas Special Event

Thursday 17th December

Warm Hub from 12 noon

Turner Hall, St Mary's Square

Together we can bring hope and joy this Christmas



Become a Supporter

Businesses, organisations and individuals can all make a difference — whether through a donation, gifts or by becoming an ongoing supporter.

To find out more, please contact Miranda McCoy ✉ mirandamccoy21@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for your support

WRAPAROUND

The Nest

Ofsted Registered

WRAPAROUND CARE

SCHOOL'S OUT? THE NEST IS OPEN!

PD Day Childcare

Full Day 8:00am – 5:30pm **£35**

Shorter Day 9:00am – 3:00pm **£25**

SNACK INCLUDED

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

LOCATION
Based at the preschool building on The Pines Primary School site, Red Lodge, Suffolk.

WHO CAN ATTEND?
Open to preschool children and children from The Pines Primary School, aged 3 and over.

ACTIVITIES
A fun, safe and engaging day with a range of creative, play and outdoor activities.

Subject to sufficient bookings.

thenest@cgmcaregroup.co.uk | 07915 073138 | The Nest – Wraparound Care

We accept Tax-Free Childcare

The Nest

Ofsted Registered

WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB

AT THE PINES PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE, RED LODGE

21ST, 22ND & 23RD DECEMBER

THREE DAYS OF WINTER FUN!

Seasonal crafts, baking, games, challenges, treasure hunts and more!

FULL DAY
8:00AM – 6:30PM
£40 PER CHILD

SHORTER DAY
9:00AM – 3:00PM
£30 PER CHILD

EARLY BIRD OFFER
10% OFF
ALL BOOKINGS
Book and pay in full by 1st December to save 10%!

SIBLING DISCOUNT
10% OFF
additional children's bookings.

OPEN TO ALL LOCAL CHILDREN AGED 3 AND OVER

Discounts cannot be combined.

thenest@cgmcaregroup.co.uk | 07915 073138 | The Nest – Wraparound Care

PINE CONES PRE-SCHOOL

THE PINES PRIMARY SCHOOL

BREAKFAST CLUB

8-8.45AM AT PINE CONES

£6 A SESSION
(GOVERNMENT TAX FREE CHILDCARE PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED)

TOAST, CEREAL, JUICES AVAILABLE

BOOKING VIA MCAS IS ESSENTIAL
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP BOOKING
CALL THE OFFICE ON 01638 790135



FF

THE PINES PRIMARY SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
THURSDAY 15:20-16:20
KEY STAGE 2

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.THEFOOTBALLFUNFACTORY.CO.UK

PFA NEWS

❄️ WINTER FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS ❄️

Reminder - if you do not wish to take part in this year's raffle, please return any unused ticket books to your child's class teacher or the office ASAP. This will enable us to maximise fundraising and give every ticket an opportunity to be sold. We have a limited number of tickets.

If you would like to support the raffle and need extra tickets to sell to friends and family, please let us know! Thank you to those who are already doing this!

Please return all completed ticket stubs with payment, in an envelope or sandwich bag, to the office or your class teacher before Thursday 3rd December.

Thank you and good luck! ☃️

Prizes:

We have some fantastic prizes on offer this year, including:

❄️Center Parcs Family Day Pass for 5 people
❄️Family Day Passes for Jimmy's Farm, Anglesey Abbey, South Angle Farm, Imperial War Museum Duxford and Cambridge Ice Arena
❄️4D Dance: one free term for a child and four adult sessions
❄️Red Lodge Karting vouchers
❄️The Walnut Tree, Worlington vouchers
❄️Red Lodge Pizza & Kebab voucher
❄️Red Lodge Fish Bar voucher
❄️Amazon vouchers
❄️Abbeygate Cinema tickets (4 tickets)
❄️Becky Jackson Horse Riding child lesson voucher
❄️Jumppin Jacks Funhouse passes
❄️Planet Laser voucher
❄️Plus many more vouchers, gifts, experiences and prizes kindly donated by local businesses and organisations.

❄️We will also have a selection of hamper prizes, created from the generous donations received from our families and school community.

PFA NEWS



WINTER FAIR – VOLUNTEERS

To enable the Winter Fair to be a success we need volunteers to help run stalls and games. Without enough support we may not be able to offer as many fun areas as our previous years. If you can spare any help, it would be much appreciated, please complete the following form: Winter Fair Volunteer Sign Up Form Thank you!

GAME CARDS ON SALE SOON!

The aim of our Winter Fair is to give the children as much fun and enjoyment as possible, while also raising valuable funds for the school.

As in previous years, we will be selling Game Cards in the lead-up to the event. Each card includes six stamps, which can be exchanged for a variety of fun games and activities on the day! More details coming soon!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd Nov	Animal Experience - Year 5, Year 2 and Reception
25th Nov	Year 5 visit to Newmarket Academy
27th Nov	Staff training day - school closed to children
30th Nov	9am SEND Cafe
4th Dec	PFA Winter Fair
10th Dec	9am Year 4 Class Cafe
14th, 15th & 16th Dec	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity - More details to be shared soon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner Day
17th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert- More details to be shared soon
18th Dec	Last Day of Term & PFA Tuck Shop
4th Jan	Staff training day - school closed to children