



Townlands C of E Primary Academy

"A journey of learning in the light of God's love"

Faith, Honesty, Love, Friendship, Forgiveness, Hope, Respect

"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

The parable of the Mustard seed- Mark 4:30-32

Half Term Newsletter

October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Maternity Leave

As we approach half term, we would like to wish Mrs Thompson and Mrs Thomas all the very best as they begin their maternity leave. We thank them both for their dedication and contribution to our school and send our warmest wishes to them and their families as they prepare to welcome their new arrivals. We look forward to welcoming them back in due course. During Mrs Thompson's maternity leave, Mrs Lightfoot will take on the role of SENDCo.

Mount Cook – Year 6 Residential

At the end of September, some of our Year 6 children set off on their residential trip to Mount Cook, Derbyshire. The trip provided a perfect opportunity for them to build relationships and develop skills of communication and team building, as well as providing them with opportunities to try new activities such as archery, zip-wire and climbing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who volunteered their time and accompanied the children; Mrs Brown, Mrs Collidge, Mrs Geary and Mrs Shakespeare. The trip was a great success, and the children had a wonderful time.

Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest Festival celebration on 13th October at St Simon and St Jude Church. Thank you to all of you who have sent in donations for Harvest. These were taken to church and then distributed to Lawrence House (a homeless charity in Hinckley) and amongst the local community. The children sang with enthusiasm, and the service centred on the theme of giving.

St Philips Centre Roadshow - Religion and Belief

Our school was transformed into a vibrant multi-faith marketplace as pupils took part in the Religion and Belief Roadshow. Throughout the day, children explored a range of world religions, faiths and belief traditions through colourful stalls, artefacts, cultural displays, traditional clothing and musical instruments. Guided by faith practitioners, pupils asked thoughtful questions and took part in a number of hands-on experiences that brought Religious Education to life. The event promoted respect, empathy and a deeper understanding of different beliefs and cultures.

Parent Partnership

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. We greatly value your continued support and the opportunity to work together to support your children's learning. We are delighted with how positively pupils have settled into their new classes and routines this year. It has also been a pleasure to welcome so many prospective families to our Early Years open events and to share everything our school has to offer.

Reminder - Social Media Use

As part of our commitment to maintaining a positive and respectful school community, we would like to remind parents and carers of the expectations outlined in our Parent Code of Conduct regarding the use of social media. We recognise that social media can be a useful way to share information and celebrate achievements. However, when concerns arise, we kindly ask that these are raised directly with the school so that they can be addressed promptly and appropriately.

We respectfully ask parents and carers to:

- Contact the school directly if they have any concerns or questions
- Refrain from posting comments that could be viewed as offensive, derogatory or harmful to members of the school community.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us foster a positive, respectful and supportive environment for all members of our school community.

Events

Date	Event
Monday 26 th October 2026	School opens for the start of term
Tuesday 27 th October 2026	School photographs
Wednesday 28 th October 2026	Y5 Swimming starts for 6 weeks
Friday 30 th October 2026	Road safety – EYFS, Year 2 and Year 5
Friday 6 th November 2026	Flu immunisations all years
Wednesday 11th November 2026	School Council to represent Townlands at the Cenotaph
Friday 13 th November 2026	5BL/AN class assembly
w/c Monday 16 th November 2026	Anti-bullying week
Thursday 19 th November 2026	Parents/Carers maths session 8:45am - 9:05am
Thursday 26 th November 2026	Townlands Christmas Fair
Friday 27 th November 2026	3 / 4 CE class assembly
Tuesday 8 th December 2026	Foundation Stage Christmas production (both morning performances)
Wednesday 9 th December 2026	
Friday 11 th December 2026	Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast / Christmas jumper day
Tuesday 15 th December 2026	Christmas church service at St Simon and St Jude 10:00am for Years 1-6

We look forward to welcoming you and the children back on Monday 26th October 2026.

With kind regards

A Hawksley & L Martinson

Mrs A Hawksley and Mrs L Martinson
Co Headteachers

EYFS

EYFS have settled into school life really well, and we are incredibly proud of how confidently they have adapted to their new routines and environment. This half term, the children were surprised to discover a very unusual visitor in the classroom one morning... a tiger! It seemed that he wanted to stay for tea, so the children have enjoyed making him a delicious tea, thinking about how to keep him happy, and taking part in a range of exciting activities inspired by his visit.



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been very busy with lots of exciting learning and new experiences. We have explored our own history and developed our understanding of the past, while also investigating primary and secondary colours and experimenting with colour mixing. We enjoyed creating our own artwork inspired by the distinctive style of Clarice Cliff. In science, we have been learning about our senses and have had great fun using them to explore the world around us. This included tasting, smelling, listening to and observing a variety of different things. It has been a busy and enjoyable time, full of curiosity, creativity and discovery, and we are proud of all that the children have achieved.



Year 2

This term, Year 2 has thoroughly enjoyed learning about the seaside and the coast. In art, we created beautiful paintings of sea creatures and a beach collage, showing great patience and creativity. In science, we investigated materials and their properties, carrying out an experiment to discover the best waterproof material for a raincoat. During D&T, we designed, made and tasted our own healthy wraps, while in English we wrote beach setting descriptions and persuasive arguments to convince seagulls not to steal our lunches! We were also excited to perform our class assembly about the coast and were incredibly proud of the hard work, confidence and teamwork shown by all the children. Well done, Year 2, on a fantastic term of learning and achievement!



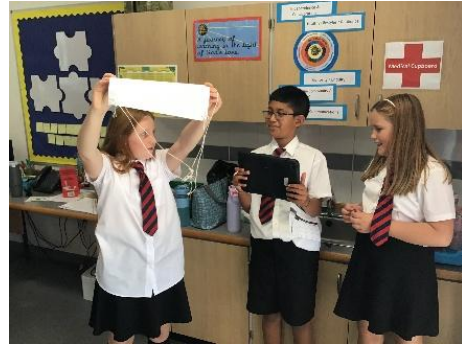
Year 3/4

It has been a very exciting term in Year 3/4! In geography, the children have developed an understanding for how land is used in their local area and enjoyed a field trip walk around Earl Shilton. In science, the children have been learning about different habitats and found invertebrates in the new wildlife area in school. In English, the children wrote detailed narratives based on the book 'Leaf,' by Sandra Dieckmann.



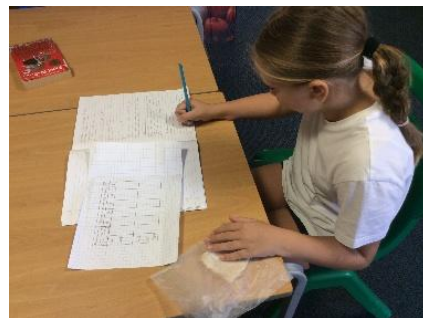
Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the year and have embraced a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. In English, we have used climate change campaigner Greta Thunberg as inspiration for our writing, creating both an environmental narrative and a biography. Our visit to the new pond area also helped bring our geography learning to life, supporting our understanding of oceans and their importance to the environment. In music, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring blues music, learning about its history, key features and influence on modern styles of music. It has been a busy and engaging term, with lots of enthusiasm and excellent learning across the curriculum.



Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have been busy exploring 'Living Things and Their Habitats' in Science. The children have developed their understanding of how living things can be classified and have explored the characteristics of different groups of plants, animals and micro-organisms. They have used their scientific thinking to ask questions, make observations and consider how organisms can be identified and grouped. To complete the unit, the children have designed their own investigation into micro-organisms, exploring whether mould grows more successfully under certain conditions. They considered how to create a fair test, which variables they would need to change and control, and how they could observe and record their findings.



ATTENDANCE

Why is it important?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school for 190 days per year. The government states that every child's attendance should be a least 95%.

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

