



School Newsletter Friday 17th October 2025



Headteacher's insight

As we approach the final week of this first half term, it's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by! With the weather turning colder, it's been lovely to see children wrapped up warmly but still full of energy and enthusiasm both inside and outside the classroom.

The new playground markings have been an instant hit—bringing colour, fun, and fresh opportunities for active play during break times. A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA for their generous donation which made this possible; it's already making a real difference to the children's play experiences.

We're also looking forward to our **bake sale after school next Friday after school from 3.20-4pm and will be cash or card.** —always a highlight and a lovely way to round off the half term together. Thank you in advance to everyone for your support.

Congratulations to the KS2 children who represented our school so brilliantly at this week's cross-country event. Competing against four other schools, they showed fantastic determination, team spirit, and sportsmanship—we couldn't be prouder. Year 5 continue to make excellent progress with their weekly swimming lessons, and it's wonderful to see their confidence growing each week.

Across the school, we've been delighted by the creativity and effort going into homework tasks—thank you for your continued support at home.

Next week, we're excited to host our first STEM days of the year, which will offer hands-on activities including online safety workshops for all children in Years 1–6.

We'll also be holding **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).** These sessions will offer practical guidance and up-to-date information to help families support children's safe and responsible use of technology.

Wishing everyone a wonderful final week before the break!



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





Inspire25: Newsletter Article for Schools

13 October 2025



Please replace the text where highlighted in yellow and place a copy of the article in your next newsletter to parents and carers. Supporting photographs will be supplied to you.

Anglian Learning's primary schools join forces with Stapleford Granary for Inspire25
Pupils from Year 4 at Fen Ditton Primary School 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 by visiting
<https://anglianlearning.org/primary-schools-join-forces-with-stapleford-granary-for-inspire25/>.

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



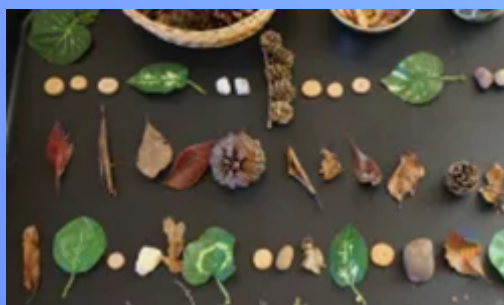
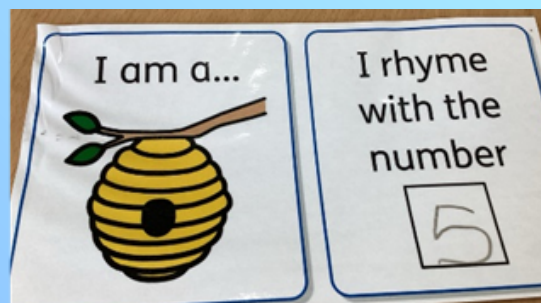


News from our classrooms

Butterflies Class

It's been a fantastic few weeks in Butterflies Class, filled with excitement, curiosity, and joyful learning. The children have settled beautifully into their routines and are growing in confidence each day. They have shown such enthusiasm in exploring new activities, working together with friends, and sharing their wonderful ideas. Whether creating in the art area, investigating outdoors, or joining in with songs and stories, it's been lovely to see their independence and love of learning shine through.

In English, the children loved sharing the hilarious story *Oi Frog!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field. They had great fun joining in with the rhyming words and giggled at all the silly places animals were told to sit! The story inspired lots of talk about rhyme and word patterns, and the children enjoyed coming up with their own funny ideas – like “mice on dice” and “cats on hats.” We also explored the book through creative activities, including drawing our favourite characters and matching rhyming pairs. It was a fantastic way to build early phonics skills while having plenty of laughs together!



In Maths, we have been exploring patterns in lots of different ways - spotting, copying, and creating repeating patterns using a range of materials such as beads, blocks, and natural objects. They enjoyed making colourful ABAB patterns and experimenting with their own creative designs. We also looked for patterns in our environment – on clothes, in nature, and even in our classroom! Through these activities, we have been developing maths vocabulary, fine motor skills, and ability to notice detail and ord



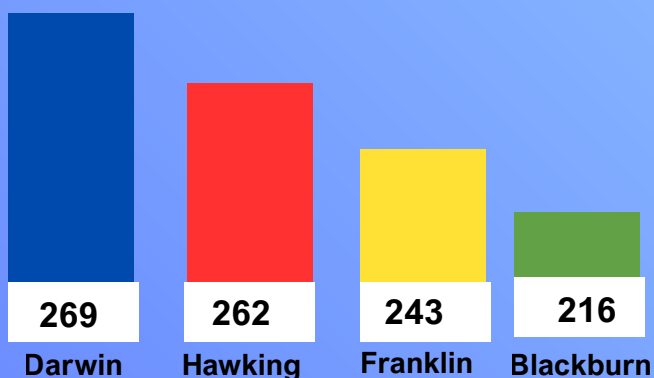
Butterflies Class continued....

During the last couple of weeks, the children have been busy learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita and talked about how people celebrate Diwali around the world. The children enjoyed creating beautiful Rangoli patterns using coloured rice, Mendi patterns on hands and they made their own Diva lamps from salt dough! We also explored how Diwali is a time for families to come together and share kindness, linking it to our school values.



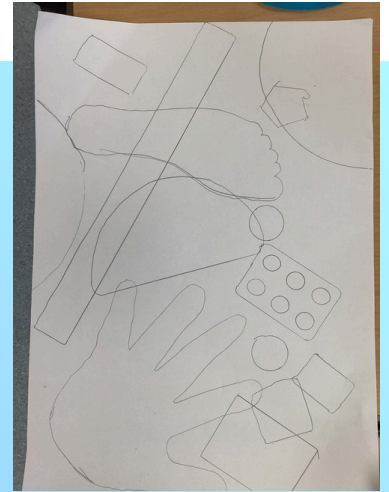
Alongside our celebrations, we went on a wonderful Autumn Walk to look for signs of seasonal change. We spotted a plethora of beautifully coloured crunchy leaves, which we used to make autumn collages and talked about the colours, textures, and sounds of nature in this special time of year.

House Points





Squirrels Class



This week in Squirrel Class, we have been busy learning how to use the column method of addition and subtraction in Maths. We have been super at remembering our number bonds within 9 to practise this skill.

Squirrel Class have been learning how to use apostrophes correctly. In an active English session, we wrote our own sentences based on using apostrophes for possession.

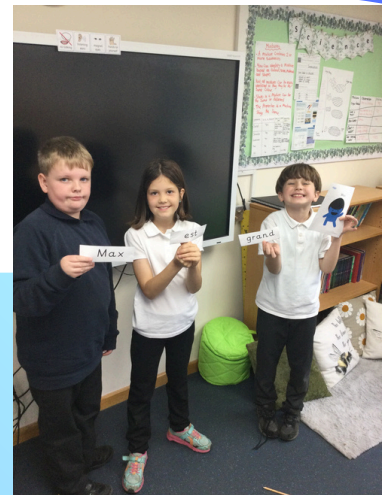
We have also enjoyed our Science lessons investigating light and shadows. We conducted an investigation to measure how the length of a shadow changes depending on the distance of a light source from an opaque object.

Whilst some of us enjoyed the Cross Country event at Marleigh Primary, the rest of us enjoyed an Art afternoon with Mrs Tabram and Year 4. We had fun drawing around objects we have in the classroom and then thinking about the colours we would use to create a 3D effect. This lesson we painted the block colours and next lesson we are going to complete our collages using different techniques we have learned such as dabbing, sponging, stippling and pointillism.





Owls Class



Owls class have been thoroughly enjoying our interactive installation art unit! We began with a small-scale art project that encouraged everyone to explore space and scale in imaginative ways. Building on from that, we then created our own installation artworks using everyday classroom items. It was great fun moving tables, arranging materials, and transforming our classroom into a 3D art space. The children collaborated brilliantly in their groups. They were problem solving, sharing ideas and producing some truly fantastic installation pieces.

In French, we wrapped up our unit on describing portraits/ people. The children each received a word in French and Miss Joynes read out a sentence and together the children worked out how to arrange them into sentences. They then described our friends' hair, eye colour and personality, making sure to use the correct masculine or feminine adjectives. It was a great interactive lesson.

Music this term has looked at film music and we created our very own pieces of music for the Wallace and Gromit: A close shave film. We created music for a love scene, preparing for action scene. Chase scene and danger scene and then played them alongside the film. It was great fun.

In Maths, we've started our new multiplication and division unit, focusing on factors, multiples, and identifying common multiples and factors between numbers. Meanwhile, in English, we've been busy writing our own reports on Immortals and Mortals. The class has shown wonderful enthusiasm for this topic and our book this term 'Who Let The Gods Out' by Maz Evans, producing some truly imaginative and detailed reports.





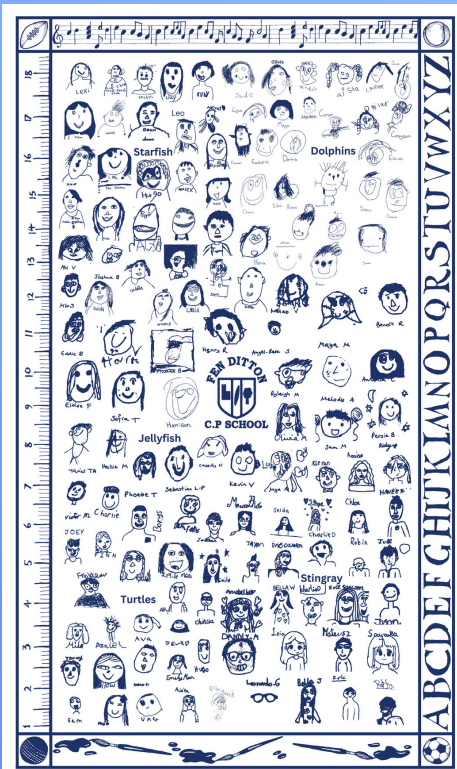
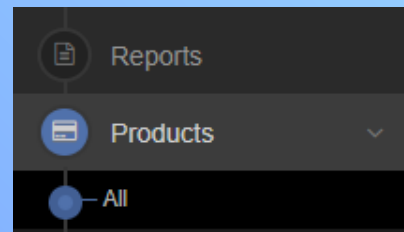
Pre-order Your 2025 Fen Ditton Tea Towel Keepsake

Following on from the success of last year's tea towels, we're pleased to announce your child will be drawing their self-portrait again for this year's edition! The tea towel will feature self-portraits from all children across every class, making it a wonderful gift and keepsake of their time at Fen Ditton.

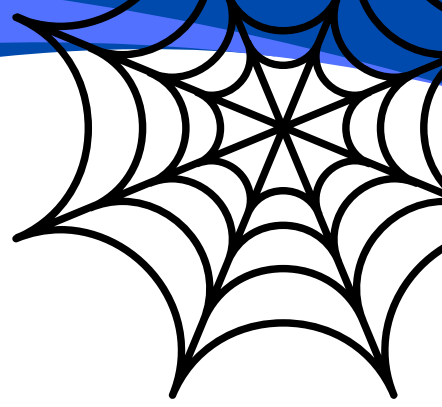
Tea towels are available for just **£8 each**, and you can order as many as you like via **My Child At School > Products**. Orders will be delivered to the school and distributed to children before the end of the Autumn Term—*just in time for Christmas!*

How to order

- [Log into My Child At School](#)
- Find Products > Tea Towels
- Add to basket!



**Order before the 22nd
October Deadline**



Please join us for Fen Ditton CP School's

Halloween BAKE SALE

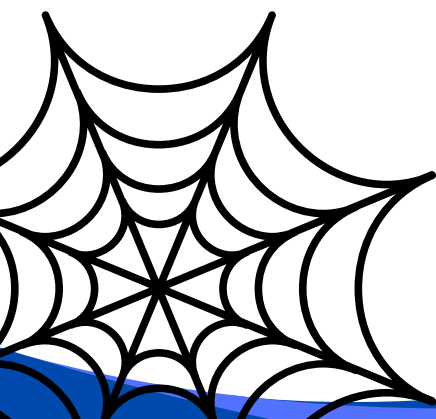
FRI 24TH OCTOBER

3.20pm to 4.00pm
Fen Ditton CP Playground

Cupcakes, Brownies, Biscuits,
Cake, Doughnuts and more!

Cash and card payments taken
All proceeds to benefit Fen Ditton CP School

Shop bought or baked donations welcome. Please drop baked donations to the school office by 9am on the 24th October





Key dates for your diary



- **Wednesday 22nd October: Deadline for ordering school tea towel!**
- **Thursday 23rd October:** 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
- **Friday 24th October: Deadline for returning and ordering Xmas cards**
- **Friday 24th October:** 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
- **Tuesday 24th October: Individual school photographs - Whole School (CHANGE OF DATE)**
- **Friday 24th October:** PTFA Halloween Bake Sale after school from 3.20-4pm, cash or card accepted.
- **Friday 24th October - Last day of Autumn 1 half term**
- **Friday 31st October:** Deadline for Year 6 Secondary School Applications.



Calling All STEM Enthusiasts!
We are looking for parent volunteers to share their passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths by giving a short talk during a school assembly. If you work in a STEM field or have an interesting STEM hobby, we'd love for you to inspire our pupils! Please email office@fendittonprimary.org and put for the attention of Mrs McLachlan if you would like to take part or find out more.





Reception Intake 2026 Open Days



Reception Open Day 2026

We invite you to visit our sister schools—**Marleigh Primary Academy** and **Fen Ditton Community Primary**—to help you choose the best fit for your family.

Register today for a group tour:

Fen Ditton

Friday, 10th October at 2pm

Thursday, 23rd October at 2pm

Marleigh Primary Academy

Friday, 3rd October at 2pm

Friday, 17th October at 2pm

REGISTER NOW



If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you need to apply for Reception for September 2026.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2026.



ANGLIAN LEARNING



The Foundation
for Young People's
Mental Health



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](#)



Term Dates 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Inset Day – Monday 1 September
Inset Day – Tuesday 2 September
Inset Day – Wednesday 3 September
Autumn Term Starts – Thursday 4 September
School Ends – Friday 24 October
Half Term - 27 October - 31 October
Inset Day – Monday 3 November
School Starts – Tuesday 4 November
Autumn Term Ends – Friday 19 December

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset Day – Monday 5 January
Spring Term Starts – Tuesday 6 January
School Ends – Friday 13 February
Half Term - 16 February - 20 February
School Starts – Monday 23 February
Spring Term Ends – Friday 27 March

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term Starts – Monday 13 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 4 May
School Ends – Friday 22 May
Half Term - 25 May – 29 May
School Starts – Monday 1 June
Summer Term Ends – Friday 17 July
Inset Day – Monday 20 July

You can now see our term dates
for 2026-2027 - click below!

[CLICK HERE](#)