



Dear Parents and Carers,

This first half-term has been very busy but we have been extremely pleased with how well the children have settled into their new year groups and classroom settings.

Thank you to the parents who attended our Parents Evening last week. It was lovely to see so many of you, and to hear how pleased you are with your children's progress in school. I would like to also thank you for the lovely compliments you made about our hardworking school staff!

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

Mrs Kang, Headteacher



Gold Artsmark Award



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Earlier this half term we received news from the Arts Council that our school had been awarded the Gold Artsmark Award. We are immensely proud to be recognised for giving our children the creative opportunities to celebrate the diversity of our school through its arts culture.

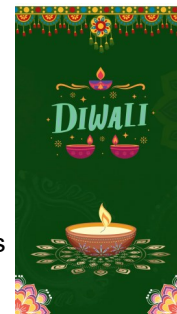
The Arts Council commended the school on its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the way the arts have been used to *"positively represent the richness and diversity of your community and the wider world through your curriculum..."* and ***creating an environment, which, through the arts, every individual can shine!***

We are incredibly proud of this achievement!
Well done to all the staff involved in successfully securing the award.



Diwali

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights is celebrated by our Sikh and Hindu families. This year, Diwali is on 8 November. We will be holding parent workshops during the first week after half term - dates for these have already been sent to parents. This is a ticked event so don't forget to bring your tickets with you! On behalf of all the staff and children, we would like to wish everyone celebrating, a very Happy Diwali. May the festival's lights fill your lives with good health, peace and prosperity.



Lockdown Practice

On the first newsletter of the year in September, we included some information regarding Lockdown Practice and Fire Drills.

This is to inform you that next half term we will be carrying out both Lockdown Practice and Fire Drills at some point.

Reminders and Diary Dates

Today, Friday 23 October is the last day of this half-term, and the day will end at the normal time of 3.20pm.

Monday 2 November - Staff Training day

Week commencing 2 November - Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (collection to take place all week)

Tuesday 3 November - Children return to school

Tuesday 3 November - Year R Diwali Parents Workshop

Wednesday 4 November - Year 1 Diwali Parents Workshop

Thursday 5 November - Year 2 Diwali Parents Workshop

Monday 9 November - Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 10 November - Year 1 Phonics Workshop (more details to follow)

Tuesday 10 November - Cinema Night (more details to follow)

Tuesday 17 November - Year R Phonics Workshop (more details to follow)

Harvest Collection for Luton Foodbank



We would like to thank you all for your generosity in supporting our Harvest Challenge for Luton Foodbank. We received so many donations of food for this worthwhile cause, and the children loved to see the display that was created from these donations during their Harvest Assembly, which was led by Rev. Boelman, our Chair of Governors and Yasmin Sultana, the representative from the Foodbank.



Drop off and Collection Times for Autumn Term 2026

A reminder that classroom doors open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am promptly at the start of the school day, and at the end of the day the doors open at 3.20pm and close at 3.30pm. This 10 minute period gives parents more flexibility, particularly for those who are working or have children in different classes. We hope this also helps to stop congestion outside the school gates, on the playground and at the classroom doors.

As the weather changes, to avoid you and your children waiting in the cold for longer than necessary, please do not arrive any earlier than 8.45am. On very cold and rainy days we will open the classroom doors as soon as we can.

If you need to speak to your child's teacher you can always contact them via email, but if you did prefer to speak to them in person, please wait until the end of the school day and wait until the rest of the class has gone before addressing them so that they can fully focus on the children in their care. Equally, if the teacher needs to speak to a parent, they will ask you to wait until the other children have left class.

Children need to be collected by somebody of college age or above, so please do not send high school children to pick up as they will not be allowed to. If you are sending another person to collect your child, and their name is not on the green home collection form, please make sure you call the school office to let us know who is coming before home time, so that a message can be taken to class.

Medical Appointments

You should only make medical appointments for your child during school hours if it is **absolutely necessary**.

Children who do have an unavoidable medical appointment in the morning must be back in school by 11.50am at the latest if they are having a school lunch.

You must notify the school by 9.25am if your child has a medical appointment and is going to be late in. If you do not notify the school, a lunch will not have been ordered for them and you may have to take them home for the lunchtime period and bring them back in time for afternoon registration.

Please do not collect your child during the lunch break for any appointments.



Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

This is the first time that we have held a Pre-Loved Uniform sale. We were so overwhelmed with all the uniform donations we received that we decided to hold a sale so parents could benefit from buying good quality uniform at a fraction of the price! All monies received will go to the School Fund.

Friendship Week 9-13 November 2026



Odd Socks Day takes place on 9 November and marks the beginning of Friendship Week. During the week we will be raising awareness of anti-bullying and celebrating the importance of friendships and what being a good friend looks like. More information will follow after half term.

Starting School September 2027

If you or anyone you know has a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, you should apply online now for them to attend our Infant School in September 2027. You have until 15 January 2027 to formally apply for a September 2026 Infant School place to be considered in the first round of applications. Click [here](#) to apply for a Starting School Place.

School Tour Dates

We are offering school tours during this term to parents of children who are due to start school in September 2027. Please contact the school office for more details if you or someone you know would like to attend one of our tours.

Transfer to Junior School September 2027

For Year 2 parents only: You should have received a letter from the Admissions team inviting you to apply for a Junior School place for your child. If you have not received a letter, you can click [here](#) to apply for a Transfer to Junior School. Applications should be made by 15 January 2027 at the latest to be considered in the first round of applications.



Values-based Education
VbE Quality Mark



Artemark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Parking around School

I cannot express enough how disappointing and disheartening it is to continually receive complaints from local residents about parents' parking and the way they are spoken to, sometimes even being sworn at! This is not what we want our children to witness.

I strongly urge parents to think about where they park and avoid blocking driveways. I understand the road is a public highway but it is an offence to block a resident's car when it is on their driveway; this would be very frustrating if it were to happen to us so please be respectful to others.

Please phone Parking Enforcement on 01582 548523 if you have any concerns about parking around the school.

Grapes in Packed Lunches

Grapes are an excellent and easy way to help your child eat fruit but we would like to remind parents whose children bring a packed lunch to school not to send whole grapes in as they can be a choking risk.

Instead, please ensure you cut the grapes lengthways before putting them in your child's lunchbox or giving your child grapes at home.



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all of you that visited the Book Fair and supported the school by purchasing books and other items.

The sales totalled £519.92 and from this the school received commission of 40% which raised a fantastic £207.71!!

This will be spent on books for the school's library, so all the children will benefit! The Book Fair raffle will be drawn after half term.

'Living the Values the William Austin Way...'

Our Value for October is Caring

By being caring we think of caring for ourselves, our belongings and other living things such as our pets. Caring people think about people in their family, their friends and others who are different or less fortunate and try to help when they can. We can also care for our environment and look after it.

You can show you care by:

- **Helping others.**
- **Picking up litter/fruit/coats and equipment.**
- **Playing with someone who is on their own or feeling upset.**
- **Caring for family, friends and animals.**

Parental Involvement

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you as parents and carers for how you support your children in school. We have had a number of events in school and I have been so impressed by just how many of you have attended! From the Welcome to the Year Group meetings for Years 1 and 2 that were held at the beginning of October, to Parent's Evening last week. Thank you all for supporting your children and the school in the various events we invite you to.

National Poetry Day - 1 October 2026

The whole school enjoyed National Poetry Day. This year's theme was 'wonder'. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 took part in a poetry activity exploring the wonder of leaves. They used their senses to explore the leaves. Children performed poetry to their parents and shared poems that they had popped in their pockets throughout the day.



WOW MOMENTS!!



Congratulations to these Super Stars for showing the Value of Happiness throughout September!!

**In Year R we had Mikhaeel (Buttercup), Ilayya (Daisy), Hassan (Poppy), and Khansa (Snowdrop).
Our Year 1 stars were Eshaal (Beech), Aria (Oak), Meerab (Pine), and Lincoln-Paul (Willow).
Our Year 2 winners were Hibbah (Kingfisher), Sultan (Lark), Adab (Owl) and Meher (Puffin)**

Super Star Assembly Awards

Congratulations to Jubayda (Kingfisher), Mohsin (Lark), Aqsa (Lark) and Rayan (Puffin) and Haleema (Beech), Halima (Oak), Hafsa (Pine) and Haniya (Willow) on achieving their Super Star Awards for Art and DT for creating some fantastic self portraits. Well done!



Honorary Award for Story Writing

Congratulations to Mohsin (Lark) and Beatrice (Puffin) who received a special reward as a 'thank you' for the outstanding book they created in their own time for Miss Johnson. Mohsin and Beatrice presented Miss Johnson with the book on Thursday morning and it made her day! She was very impressed with the story that Mohsin had written linked to the Harvest assembly and the beautiful illustrations by Beatrice!

Well done!

