



Headteacher's Weekly Update: Thursday 25th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week and have enjoyed the early autumnal sunshine. This week's update comes a day early as I am not in school tomorrow.

Encouraged and Inspired: Flying High Together:

Here are a few of my highlights of the school week that have encouraged and inspired me...

1) Inspired to Write: A bit of a spoiler for a later item in this update but it has been a joy to hear lots of children across the school talk so enthusiastically about their wonderful ideas for stories to write. More about that later...

2) Calm Corridors: Our Behaviour Role Model focus for this week has been calm corridors and being good stewards of shared spaces. The children have been flying high with this all week. I started tours for Year R 2026 this week and it was really lovely to hear prospective parents comment on just how nicely calm and focussed the whole school was inside and out of the classrooms. Well done children on being such great behaviour role models.

Harvest Service: As per our email earlier, it is our Harvest Celebration Service **tomorrow in the Abbey from 2pm - 3pm**. It will be Year R's first service in the Abbey and as ever parents are very welcome to join us for the service. We require the first 12 rows of seats for the children and these will be marked as reserved rows. Sadly I must give my apologies as I will not be at the service tomorrow: it is my father-in-law's funeral and I will be supporting my family at this difficult time. I will leave you in Mr Langford's very capable hands and I look forward to hearing all about the service that the children very much lead.

Hilliers: The start of October next week brings with it our whole school trip to Hilliers on Thursday for our Curiosity Day. It is always a real privilege to watch the children's curiosity ignited by the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Everytime we go, new discoveries are made and a deeper appreciation for nature is forged. All the details have already been communicated but do remember children are to be dropped off directly at Hilliers and picked up from Hilliers at the end of the day.

INSET Day: Friday 3rd October is an INSET day so the school is closed to children as the staff team complete training together. We are focussing on providing challenge for all in every lesson and thinking creatively about task design that enables all children to fly high in their learning.

500 Word Story Competition: We are really excited to be championing the BBC 500 Word Story Competition this year. The children (Years 1 - 6) have engaged with a live lesson on the BBC this week as the competition was launched to get inspired with imaginative ideas. Teachers will be adding this to the home learning for each week through October to give all the children a chance to have a go at writing a story of their own that is no longer than 500 words. The competition closes on Tuesday 7th November which is just after half term. Children's stories need to be typed to be submitted and we recommend they do this on Google Docs and submit to their teacher through Google Classroom. It is of course okay for the children to write their story on paper and have a parent type it up for them as long as the story is the child's own original work. Spelling and punctuation is not part of the judging criteria: what matters is an imaginative and engaging story. Teachers will submit all stories to the national competition but our school governors have also kindly agreed to read all the stories and pick a winner for each class. We believe in the power of story and imagination and we want all the children to see that they have stories to tell to entertain and inspire others. We can't wait to see what they come up with.



We are walking in the footsteps of Jesus with Love Trust and Forgiveness

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More information on the competition can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words> and children can rewatch the live lesson if they need more inspiration. Let's get writing!

Dates for your Diary: Please see the all important Dates for your Diary. Dates will be added throughout the term and we will highlight new dates in yellow so you can see what is a new addition. https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qagv3rcTOhIGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit?tab=t.0

Prayer: I'll finish with a harvest prayer which you are most welcome to join me in praying:

Dear God,

We thank you for all you provide; for all the blessings in our lives, the beauty of the world around us. As we celebrate Harvest together as a school tomorrow, we pray for those who are struggling at the moment, those living in poverty or on the edge of it. We thank you for the good work of Food Banks across the UK and pray that they would have bountiful stock to meet the needs of the community they serve.

Amen

--
Mr Mark Harris
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"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"