

Harston and Newton Primary School

Newsletter no. 9

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The work on the new entrance gates and pedestrian path are nearly finished, though we are still waiting for the vehicle gates to be completed. The work is intended to improve the security of the site and the safety of the children. **Please can all parents and children use the path and not the driveway when they enter school from the Station Road entrance.** The gate at the top of the path, which leads round to the playground, will be open at the beginning and end of the school day so children can access the bike sheds and go round to the playground to line up. **No vehicle movement will be allowed on site between 8.45-9.10 and 3.00-3.40 p.m.**

Year 1 and 2 History off the Page

On Tuesday 20th January, Topaz and Opal Class travelled back in time to the days of Florence Nightingale. We started the day by helping Miss Nightingale to prepare for her trip. The children spent time doing lots of practical activities - painting boxes and cards, making candle holders, notebooks, lockets, medals and sashes and using a quill and ink to write a job application.



Later we worked in groups to identify the owners of various different suitcases. It was great fun being able to look at all the different items and artefacts. Luckily, we managed to get everyone back the correct suitcase. In the afternoon we had to help Miss Nightingale in the hospital. The children took on jobs in

the kitchen, gardens and laundry as well as taking on cleaning duties.



The children had great fun taking on the roles of patients and nurses on the hospital ward - many arms and legs were bandaged that afternoon!



It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of great hands-on learning taking place. Many thanks to all the various adult helpers we had throughout the day, we could not have done it without you.

Punctuality and Attendance

Please can we remind all families that the school day starts at 8.50 a.m. and **children should arrive at school between 8.45 - 8.50 a.m. ready for a prompt start.** Learning activities start straight away and children arriving late disrupts the class and upsets many children. Arriving ten minutes late each morning means missing 50 minutes of school a week, which really adds up over a term.

The pedestrian gate from Station Road and the gate to the playground will be closed promptly from 9.00 a.m. every day.

Visit from the Faraday Institute

On Tuesday 27th January, Amethyst class enjoyed a workshop led by Cara Parrett from the Faraday Institute, as part of their work in science and RE. Having studied Darwin's theory of evolution, they had the opportunity to examine lots of fossils and also to consider whether the scientific and the Christian views on creation complemented or conflicted with each other.

There were lots of thoughtful questions and the children were interested to learn that scientists can also be people of faith.



Emerald Class Verulamium Museum

On Wednesday 28th January, Emerald Class visited the Verulamium Museum in St Albans which is built on the site of one of the largest Roman cities in Britain. Our museum teacher Emma led us through a Roman marketplace workshop, where we discovered how the Romans had used many artefacts, many of which we still use today. We then explored the museum, learning about many more artefacts that had been unearthed on that very site. The sun shone on us as we ate outside and visited the excellent playground; the children came up with their own game of Celts and Romans. Finally, we visited the hypocaust which was ancient Roman underfloor heating. What a fantastic day of learning!



Parent Consultation Evenings

We will be holding our Spring Term Parent Consultation Evenings during the week 23rd – 27th February

You will need to book an appointment using the Arbor Portal or App which can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Please book your appointment before the booking system closes on **20th February 2026**

The dates and times for each class are:

	Mon 23/02/26	Tue 24/02/26	Wed 25/02/26	Thu 26/02/26	Fri 27/02/26
Class Amber			15.30 - 18.00	15.30 - 17.00	
Class Topaz Year 1			15.30 - 18.00	15.30 - 17.00	
Class Opal Year 2			15.30 - 18.00	15.30 - 17.00	
Class Emerald		15.30 - 17.30	15.30 - 18.00	15.30 - 16.00	
Class Amethyst	16.00 - 16.30		15.30 - 18.20	15.30 - 16.20	15.30 - 16.50

Please note that only one parent can make an appointment. The exception to this is where parents are separated. In this case, if you are a separated parent and cannot book an appointment through the Arbor Portal or App, please email the school office so that we can make the appointment for you.

Deadline for Reception 2026 Applications

The deadline has passed for applications for a Reception place in September 2026. All parents will hear if their child has been allocated a place on the National Offer Date of **16th April 2026**.

Advance notice – World Book Day

We will be marking World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**. We will be asking children to come to school on that day **dressed as a character from a favourite book**. Please do not feel that you need to buy a costume – look through your dressing up box (if you have one) and your child's wardrobe. Lots of characters wear ordinary clothes and can be created with a simple prop and a little ingenuity

Stars of the week

Many parents will be aware that each week class teachers pick a child who has made a special effort with their learning, and they are celebrated as “Star of the week”, “Subject Specialist” and “Sports Personality”. We share these in the newsletter each fortnight.

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Star of the Week

Year R – Esther M

Year 1 – Zoe M

Year 2 – Jack L

Year 3 – Oliver B

Year 4 – Joseph D

Year 5 – Saven M

Year 6 – Rytas A

Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Andreas A - Engineer

Topaz Class – India D - Historian

Opal Class – Allea JS - Historian

Emerald class – Matty M - Writer

Amethyst Class – Blake N - Writing

Sports Personality

Stella A



Wednesday 28th January 2026

Star of the Week

Year R – Felix C

Year 1 – Rafael L

Year 2 – Denis B

Year 3 – on trip

Year 4 – on trip

Year 5 – Emily D

Year 6 – Alfie P

Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Narihito MN - Maths

Topaz Class – Presley A - Computing

Opal Class – Hiran D - Maths

Emerald class – On trip

Amethyst Class – Aydan H – Reading

Sports Personality

Roman



SPORT

Girls Football Team

Sawston Girls FC U12 are currently looking for new players. We are looking for Year 6 and Year 7 girls that are interested in joining or trying out a new sport. Please get in touch if you are interested, or come and try our training session on Thursday 6.00-7.00pm at Sawston Village College Astro. Or contact marleybeveridge_9@hotmail.com for more information.

Diary Dates

PTFA AGM 7.00 p.m. (TBC) 30th Jan 2026
New Age Kurling 2nd Feb 2026
PTFA Neon Disco 6th Feb 2026
Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey . . 12th Feb 2026
Yr 6 and Yr R National Weighing and
Measurement Programme 12th Feb 2026
PTFA Own Clothes Day 13th Feb 2026
Parent Consultation Evening (Amethyst)
. 23rd Feb 2026
Parent Consultation Evening (Amber, Topaz and
Amethyst) 25th Feb 2026
Parent Consultation Evening (Amber, Topaz and
Amethyst) 26th Feb 2026
Parent Consultation Evening (Amethyst)
. 27th Feb 2026
World Book Day 5th Mar 2026
Let Girls Play Football Event 6th Mar 2026
Netball Competition MVC (TBC) 9th Mar 2026
Year 5 and 6 to Boggle Hole . . . 9th – 13th Mar 2026
Small Schools TAG Rugby (AM) 18th Mar 2026
Music Assembly (TBC) 19th Mar 2026
PTFA Class Topaz Cake Sale 20th Mar 2026
PTFA Own Clothes Day 27th Mar 2026
PTFA Easter Egg Hunt 27th Mar 2026
Skipping Week (IN SCHOOL) – 20th -24th April 2026
Class School Photographs 27th April 2026
PTFA Own Clothes Day 1st May 2026
Tennis Festival (Linton VC) 7th May 2026

Maths Challenge 19th May 2026
PTFA Own Clothes Day 21st May 2026
Small schools Quadkids Athletics . . . 4th June 2026
Year 3/4 Girls Football Festival . . . 17th June 2026
National School Sports Week . 15th-19th June 2026
PTFA Emerald Class Cake Sale 26th June 2026
Dynamos Cricket 30th June 2026
PTFA Own Clothes Day 10th July 2026
Individual School Photographs 19th Nov 2026

Term Dates

Academic Year 2025/26

Spring Term 2026

Half Term – 16th – 20th February 2026
Spring Term Closes – Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Summer Term Opens – Monday 13th April 2026
May Day – Monday 4th May 2026
Staff Training Day – Friday 22nd May 2026
Half Term – 25th – 29th May 2026
Summer Term Opens – Monday 1st June 2026
Summer Term Closes – Friday 17th July
Staff Training Day – Monday 20th July

Academic Year 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Staff Training Day – Tuesday 1st Sept 2026
Autumn Term Opens – Wednesday 2nd Sept 2026
Staff Training Day – Friday 23rd Oct 2026
Half Term – 26th Oct – 30th Oct 2026
Autumn Term Closes – Friday 18th Dec 2026

Spring Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 4th Jan 2027
Spring Term Opens – Tuesday 5th Jan 2027
Half Term – 15th – 19th Feb 2027
Spring Term Closes – Thursday 25th Mar 2027

Summer Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 12th Apr 2027
Summer Term Opens – Tuesday 13th Apr 2027
May Day – Monday 3rd May 2027
Staff Training Day – Friday 28th May 2027
Half Term – 31st May – 4th Jun 2027
Summer Term Opens – Monday 7th June 2027
Summer Term Closes – Tuesday 20th Jul 2025