



PAXTON PRESS 29th September 2023



YOUR WEEKLY "HELLO" FROM MISS O

To our wonderful families,

I honestly can't believe that I am writing to you at this end of September! Where has the time gone? The children have all settled into school life so well and I would like to thank the brilliant staff team for everything they have put in place to ensure a happy and positive start to the school year. I am

incredibly proud of each one of them and I have been full of pride as I have walked round the school each week.

By the time you are reading this edition of Paxton Press I will probably still be trying to remove green hair dye from my hair after our go green for Macmillan day. It was great to see so many of you supporting us. The buzz was great, read more about how successful we were further in the Press.

On Monday we are going to the church to celebrate the harvest festival. Once again we are joining St James' church is supporting the amazing work of Jimmy's night shelter in Cambridge. If you are able to, please send your child in with something non perishable (that they are able to carry down to the church themselves) to donate as part of the service. This can be a tin of soup, a bar of soap or even a bag of dog biscuits. If you have any questions please ask any of the team. We will be able to share pictures of the services in Paxton Press next week. Massive thanks goes to Ms Hazell, Mrs Webb and Miss Milner for helping to teach the children the songs (I'm singing the Harvest Samba in my head as I am writing to you).

Our out of school club continues to be popular and useful to parents. A big thank you to Mrs Gatward who has taken on the organisation of our wrap around care including booking the children in and staffing.

As a staff team, we really do value your feedback and want to keep improving. With this in mind, you should have received a separate email with two questionnaires. One is asking for your feedback on the changes we have made this term (e.g. the positive phone calls home; dojo learning updates and drop in sessions) and the other has similar questions to the last survey we sent out. Thank you so much to everyone who has already taken the time to complete these.

These questionnaires are to find out if we have been effective as a leadership at the beginning of this year so please answer in regard to what has happened since September 2023, the start of this academic year. This will allow us to directly compare the responses with those we received last year. If there are any historic concerns you would like to speak to someone about we would be more than happy to talk to you, please arrange an appointment via the school office.

As they are so important for us I am adding the links again here but please only complete them once.

The Feedback questionnaire can be found here - <https://forms.office.com/e/WL0GdMQMGg>

The Parent questionnaire can be found here - <https://forms.office.com/e/qMimqG9QtR>

I know these may take a bit of time to complete but it would help us as a team so much to see what to do next and to measure the impact of the changes we have put in place this term.

Thank you so much for your support over the last month! We look forward to continuing to work together in October.

Something to know about Miss O

I love Paddleboarding! It's something I got into last summer and I have my own board. I just love being outside on the river and finding fantastic places to explore!



Messages from Team Paxton



Message from Mr Simkin

It's been a fantastic start to the year for Years 4-6. The children have settled well and they have been keen to demonstrate our values of be **kind, work hard and be our best.**

Year 4 have been going back in time to learn about the Victorians. They're learning all about Queen Victoria in History; they're writing a diary entry from the perspective of Oliver Twist in English; and their class novel, *The Other Edie Trimmer*, is all about a girl who accidentally falls back in time! After learning all about gruel and the horrible treatment of children in workhouses, it's safe to say that Year 4 are quite happy to remain in the 21st century.

Year 5 have been focusing on rainforests. They're examining the different layers and learning all about deforestation, and why we should protect the world around us. I had the pleasure of watching a Year 5 English lesson the other week, and I was very impressed by their presentation and their thoughtful ideas - so with a bit of luck, we'll have some very inspired writing about rainforests coming soon from Doves & Kingfishers!

Year 6s have been learning about World War 1. When they've learned about the trenches, they'll hopefully agree with the Year 4s that life in the 21st century is the easiest place to be! Last year's Year 6s told me "no sandwich, no shooting, no shooting, no war" - I'll be heading to this year's Y6s to find out what a sandwich has to do with it!

Keep working hard, Years 4-6: we can't wait to see what you do next.

Mr Simkin.

Message from Maxine Howells – Chair of Governors



A couple of weeks ago, at the first governing body meeting of the school year, I was pleased to be voted in as chair again for the second year. It is such a privilege to be involved with any school in this way and I would like to reassure you that I am committed to doing the best I can in this role to enable your school to be the best it can be for your children.

As an ex headteacher myself and still involved within education, I am acutely aware of the benefits governors can bring. Our 3 main roles are to:

1. Set the vision and strategic direction of the school. At Little Paxton, there is already a vision, "Together, we grow deep roots in learning and strong wings to soar". We consider how the work of the school matches this. In the Spring term we will be taking a closer look at this statement and what it means for us, considering whether it is still right (it very well may be) and then taking a wider strategic look at planning forward.
2. Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school. This had been an area of weakness for governors historically at Little Paxton – as picked out in the 2020 Ofsted. Supported by the Local Authority and following some training ourselves, this is something where I feel as governing body we are now much better. We both support and challenge our school leaders.

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school. At Little Paxton, as chair, I see an overview of all budget planning, we have a finance governor and have just set up a resources and finance committee. This is an area we are looking to strengthen further.

We need you

Miss Owen and I wrote to you last week as we currently have two vacancies for parent governors on our governing body and we would love some more parents to nominate themselves. If you would like to talk about this, please contact Miss Owen or me (my email is chair@littlepaxtonprimaryschool.org.uk) and we can talk more about what is involved. We don't need hours of your time, just a commitment to attend:

- 4 FGB meetings per year
- 3 committee meetings per year (if resources and finance , these may be virtual)
- 3 school visits per year

All training is provided, an interest in finance is a benefit but not essential. We just want people committed to supporting and challenging our school leaders on the further improvement of Little Paxton Primary.

Please send nominations to the school office by 9am on Friday 6th October. Please contact the school office for a nomination form if you don't have last week's letter.

Message to you all

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Moore is currently unwell. On behalf of the governors, I am sending our very best wishes for a full recovery to her.

In the absence of Mrs Moore, again, as you will know, Miss Owen has been stepping up as Acting Head. I would like to thank Miss Owen for her excellent work, when I speak to her she always credits the team too, so thank you to Mr Saxby, Miss Dellar, Mr Crabb and Mr Simkin The absence of a headteacher can be a difficult time for a school, so I would like to thank the whole staff for their hard work, commitment and for ensuring, that, supported by the Local Authority, they continue to provide the very best for the children.

Thank you to you as parents and carers for your continued support, and to the children too for their continued efforts and enthusiasm and for making Little Paxton a great school.

Maxine Howells

Weekly parent drop in sessions



No appointments necessary. An opportunity for you to speak to members of the staff team and talk about any issues that may have arisen or that you wish to discuss. If a longer appointment is deemed necessary, these can be made with the school office.

All meetings will take place in The Nest.

Years 4/5/6 - Monday at 3.25pm

EYFS and Year 1 - Tuesdays at 3.25pm

Years 2 and 3 - Thursdays at 3.25pm

Macmillan Big Breakfast Morning and Go Green Day

Thank you so much!



Wow!!! What a team and what a buzz! We were delighted that so many people were able to attend. The atmosphere was fun and friendly in the school hall.

Special thanks need to go to everyone who helped to plan, shop, cook, set up, serve and smile to make this event go so well. Thanks to donations from Tesco, Kingfisher Church and the LPSA we have raised a whopping **£551.50. Thank you all.**

Special mention for Mrs Bridgewater for getting up especially early to cook for us!!!

We will forward all funds to Macmillan immediately.

Here are a few examples of what our money could mean to people supported by Macmillan

£551.50 could pay for a Macmillan Nurse for just over 15 hours, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

£551.50 could pay for a Macmillan Information and Support Assistant for over 30.5 hours, giving people living with cancer the opportunity to ask questions and talk through their concerns.

£518 could support our Cancer Information and Support team to run our Macmillan Support Line phone service for an hour. In this time, they could deal with 24 calls and web enquiries from people who want questions answered, need practical or financial support.

The remaining £33.5 could pay for 75 copies of The Cancer Guide. This Macmillan booklet can help someone recently diagnosed with cancer and their families, understand more about cancer, its treatment, and the help available.







Workers of the week



Last week's winners have had a drink and a biscuit with Miss Owen today, their photos are in the Press today - did you spot them?

Our worthy winners this week were

Super Starling - Harry

Wonderful Woodpecker - Ruby

Remarkable Raven - Coraline

Perfect Pigeon - Kaelan

Marvelous Merlin - Amber

Knowledgeable Nightingale - Juliette

Clever Kite - Charlie

Ready Wren - Diaz

Fantastic Fisher - Robbie

Dedicated Dove - Thomas

Heroic Hawk - Sofia

Rocking Robin - Alice

Harvest Festival

The children will be walking to St James Church on Monday for a harvest festival celebration. If you are able to send in a non perishable item for them to carry with them to be sent to support Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge, that would be amazing.

Parents Evening



An email was sent out to all parents this week inviting you to book slots for parents evening. If you have any issues please speak to the school office.

Flu Sniff

Full details have been sent out to all parents this week. Please follow the link to book your child on.

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/cambridgeshire>

The nursing team will be attending school on 5th December. They cannot administer the sniff to your child without consent.

Please speak to the school office if you have any issues

Gardening Club

A big thank you to one of our volunteers, **Mr Rowland-Henson** who has managed to secure a **Bulb4Kids** pack and in November we will be taking delivery of 600 flower bulbs and 10 trowels - watch this space for details of what masterpiece they are hoping to grow.

School Uniform

We still have good quality items of school uniform available for a donation to school. Please pop to the office to have a look through.

Little Paxton School Association



Lots of exciting plans for events during this school year - more details next weeks.

Individual Appointments for Little Paxton Primary School

Appointments available on the following dates, from 9am.

Meet with Education Inclusion Adviser Charlotte Dean at our school premises on the following dates.

5th October 2023

9th November 2023

14th December 2023

To make an appointment, please email me at charlotte.dean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk I will contact you to confirm a time.

Education Inclusion Family Advisor's offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

Reminder - Starting School



We know that we have just returned to school but parents pre-school aged children are starting to think about joining us next year!

We will be opening our doors to warmly invite them to see our amazing school and to find out a little more about what we have to offer.

Our sessions will be from 9.45am to 10.15am - this is so that you can see the children learning and you can see how well our current foundation have settled in so quickly.

Wednesday 18th October

Wednesday 29th November

Wednesday 25th January 2024

Please email office@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk to book a slot.

Reminder of dates coming up



Monday 2nd October - Harvest Festival at St James' Church - within the school day

Monday 16th October - Parents Evening

Tuesday 17th October - Parents Evening

HALF TERM - Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

NEW DATE *Wednesday 1st November - Hilltop Parents Evening - Zoom - 6pm (details to follow)

Friday 3rd November - Individual photo day

Wednesday 8th November - COME SEE AND CELEBRATE - (details to be confirmed)

Friday 17th November - Children in Need (non uniform day)

Burwell residential for Year 4 - Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd November

Tuesday 5th December - Flu Sniff for all years (Booking details to follow)

Monday 11th December - KS2 Christmas Concert - St James' Church

Tuesday 12th December - KS2 Christmas Concert - St James' Church

LAST DAY OF TERM - Wednesday 20th December

Friday 8th December - Christmas Fayre

KS1 Productions will be on **12th and 14th December** - (details to be confirmed)

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 15th December - Early Years Nativity Tea Party for parents - 2pm

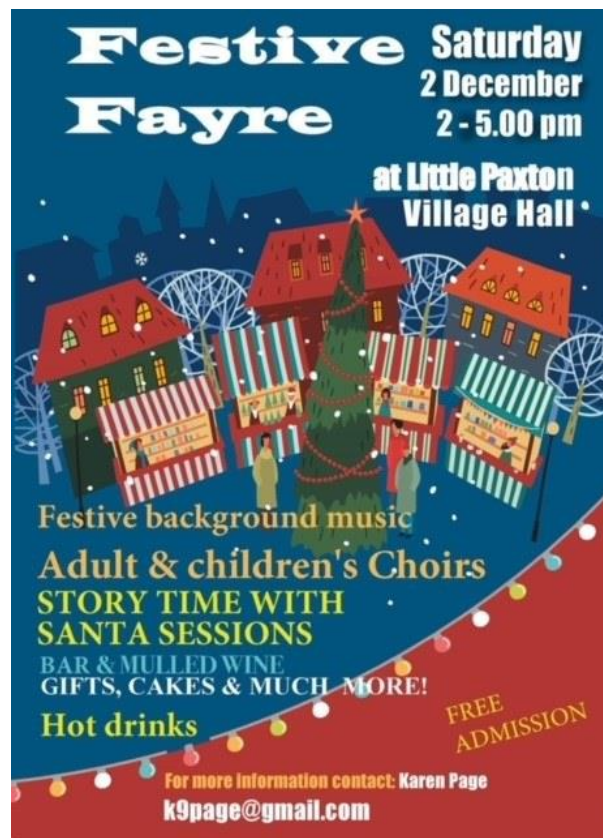
(There may be additions to these dates and possible changes)

OUT OF SCHOOL

St Neots Museum



Paxton Fayre



Team Paxton

