



PAXTON PRESS - 9th January 2026



**YOUR WEEKLY "HELLO" FROM MISS O**

Hello and happy Friday and Happy New Year to our wonderful Little Paxton families,

I hope that you all had a lovely break and had the chance to spend time with family and friends over the holidays. It is great to all be back together again and the children have settled back into school really brilliantly. I know that the children, and staff, are getting used to the school routine again it is always quite a shock to the system after a busy Christmas break.

We started 2026 with our reset assembly where we review what it looks like to be a member of the Little Paxton school community. We look through our values and the things that we do to enable our school to be a safe and happy place (for example at Little Paxton we let others learn)

Some of our Year 5 had their first swimming lesson on Monday afternoon and they were very well behaved. On Wednesday a group of staff had Team Teach Behaviour Training at school. I was one of the lucky people to complete this course. It was really inspirational and helpful and gave us even more strategies to support our children who find school especially challenging at times. There will be more information arriving in your inboxes soon about this training and how you may see if/hear about it being used within our school.

The school value we are focusing on this half term is CREATIVE. I am really looking forward to seeing how the children apply this value to their learning and wider school life. The workers of the week will all be 'creative' children. During this term we will not only be looking at Art and DT but children who ask lots of 'what if' questions; having innovation and imagination in their learning (not just in Art/DT across the curriculum); explore alternative solutions to a task, creativity with the equipment in provision/the classroom/at lunchtime and those who present a piece of learning imaginatively. The children have been earning praise points already this week but we do not have any champions.

Without a doubt my highlight of this week was the Pantomime, OH YES IT WAS! It was such a fantastic experience and I loved seeing the children's faces during the performance. A massive thank you to Mrs Gatward for bringing everything together and organising such a great trip AND a massive thank you to the staff team (and volunteers) for their hard work during the journey and show itself! Thank you to all of you for your kind words this morning, it really does make a difference to us. The children were a real credit to yourselves and the school. It was wonderful to see Freya and Dylan on the stage, they were brilliant sports (my favourite part was when one of Dylan's friends realised it was him up there and shouted his support) The trip was so magical and it was great to do something as a whole school. The team who stayed behind in school also had a brilliant time. They got the wall bars out in gymnastics; some of the children gardened

with Mrs Castle; they did some clay work and all ate lunch together in the hall. Mr Saxby said they had such a great time together.

If you, or anyone you know, shops in Tesco, then we are about to have our 'Woodland Walk and Sensory Garden' as one of the "pots"/organisations. There is more information about this later in the press. Please do grab a token (or a handful) and pop them into our box and encourage everyone you know to do the same!

All that's left for me to say is have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday at 8.50am when the gates open

The newest member of our team



Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Williams on the safe arrival of their precious daughter Jemimah born on the 15th December. All are doing well.



## News from the Garden - Sensory and Woodland Walk

GREAT NEWS FOR US AT LITTLE PAXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL!

# Stronger Starts.

**We are calling out for your votes/tokens to get a share of Tesco's Stronger Starts fund**

Stronger Starts provides grant awards of up to £1,500 to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people. Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive grant awards and Tesco customers can vote for the group they think should take away the top award in their local Tesco store and.....

**Our school is one of the groups on the list!**

**Our project will be titled:**

## **'Sensory and Woodland Walk'**

We hope to develop a sensory pathway providing another wonderful place for the children to enjoy during break times.

**Make sure that you put your token in our box and please encourage friends, neighbours and anyone else that you can think of to do the same!**

**Stores involved will be:**

**St. Neots Extra**

**Eaton Socon Express**

**St. Neots Loves Farm Express**

**This should be starting Monday 12th January, but it may depend on each store as to when they launch**

## Workers of the Week



*1 - This half term we are celebrating being creative!*

## FOUNDATION

**Marvelous Merlin - CECILY**, this is because she is super creative and has a great imagination. She loves the creative area where she can be found drawing or creating something. She talks about her creative process with pride which is lovely to hear. Keep being creative, Cecily!

**Splendid Sparrow - RIVER** Because she is always so creative in her choosing. She is imaginative and loves to roleplay, especially in the home corner and kitchen outside. River works hard to expand her learning and also thinks of creative things to make when being busy. Well done River!

## YEARS 1 AND 2

**Lovely Lark - OLIVIA P** for always having great ideas and for doing some great rapping in our music lesson this week.

**Super Starling - ESMAE** has been very creative in RE. She used her imagination to share her ideas and added thoughtful details to her work.

**Wonderful Woodpecker - DYLAN** for having a great idea to fundraise during the school holidays and running 5k!

## YEARS 3 AND 4

**Remarkable Raven - WILLOW-** She is such a creative person who loves to draw and create! She has also grown more creative with her writing and explanations. Willow loves to dance and use her imagination to create games with her friends too!

**Clever Kite - Our clever kite this week is MATILDA** for her imaginative and creative approach to her English work, producing sentences that really stood out.

**Fantastic Fisher - FREDDIE L** has been challenging his mathematical skills and creativity this week by solving Year 4 deep-dive problems.

## YEAR 5

**Ready Wren - SAMUEL** is ambitiously creative across his learning. He'll continually stretch himself, particularly in his writing, and ask lots of inquisitive, creative questions in class.

***Perfect Pigeon** - Our perfect pigeon is **IVY** because she has really impressed us over the last term with her progress and creativity in her writing. You are a super star Ivy, we are so proud of you!*

## **YEAR 6**

***Dedicated Dove** - **ELLA** is worker of the week because she has been creative with her writing and has used a wide range of vocabulary to express her ideas clearly and imaginatively.*

***Jubilant Jackdaw** - **CHARLIE B and ISAAC W** for showing great creativity this week with their clay modelling. Mr Saxby was very impressed with your clay cars!*

## Housekeeping

Next Thursday 15th January is Census day! This is important for our funding as the Government collects data for all school meals served and the more orders we have, the higher our funding. It is Burger Day! Choose from breaded chicken, beef or plant grill burgers, jacket potato or a sandwich. **Please double check your child's order as it is possible that any pre-orders may have been cancelled when the new menu was loaded by Schoolgrid and maybe this is the day for your child to try a school lunch.**



**BURGER DAY  
JAN 15TH**

**MAIN MENU**  
Breaded Chicken Burger  
or  
Beef Burger  
or  
Plant Grill (Ve) (Free From\*)  
or  
Jacket Potato  
with Various Toppings  
or  
Roll with Various Fillings

**SERVED WITH**  
Baked Potato Wedges  
Sweetcorn  
Coleslaw

**DESSERT**  
Golden Krispie Cake




f in X Instagram @hclcatering www.hcl.co.uk

Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability. \* Free from the key 14 allergens and plant based/vegan

#THRIVEin2025 Current total **£2628.65**



## Well done Jacob and Francesca

Francesca decided she wanted to cycle 25km to raise money for our Thrive event. She did amazingly given the weather and darker evenings, and she finally completed it on the 28th December on a big 5k cycle/walk with friends. On one of the village cycles she managed to chase Santa a bit too. She raised £30 sponsorship in total!

Over the holidays, Jacob finally managed to get around to do his sponsored bike ride to raise money for the school.

Jacob didn't quite make the 25 miles he was aiming for but was thrilled that he broke his personal record of 18 miles and raised £60.00!! The photograph is his celebration moment where he reached his goal line.





IMPORTANT! Dates to remember



## **January**

Wednesday 15th - Parent drop in - all years - 3.20pm - 4.00pm

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd - Year 6 residential trip

Wednesday 21st - SEND Parents Evening (Virtual) - Year 6

Wednesday 28th - SEND Parents Evening (Virtual) - Foundation to Year 5

## **February**

Monday 2nd Lower school trip to Grafham

Monday 9th - Friday 13th - Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - Parents Evening - 3.40pm to 7.30pm

Tuesday 10th - Upper school trip to Grafham

Wednesday 11th - Parents evening - 3.40pm - 5.30pm

Monday 16th - Friday 20th - **HALF TERM WEEK - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Tuesday 24th - Year 6 SAT information evening (Virtual) 6pm

Wednesday 25th - Young Voices

Wednesday 25th - Year 6 English Challenge - school hall

## **March**

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th World Book Week

Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th - Year 6 Bikeability

Wednesday 4th - Parent Drop in - all year groups

Thursday 5th - World Book Day

Wednesday 18th - Come See and Celebrate - during the school day - more details to follow

Friday 20th - Headteacher Spring Term Awards - 9.05am Lower School, 1.45pm Upper School

Friday 27th - LPSA Easter Event - Watch this space!

Events for you

Meet and Greet

**Meet and Greet**  
**Drop in**

*Do you just want some company  
or need some information?*

*If you have any disability,  
or support anyone with a disability,  
or struggle with your mental health.*

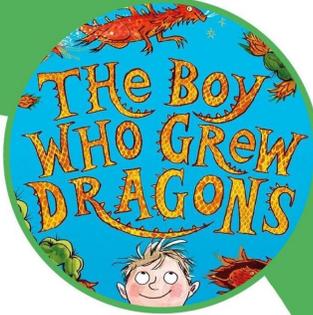
*Everyone welcome.*

**Last Wednesday of every month starting 25th  
February 2026 10:30 am**

**The Anchor Pub  
Little Paxton, St. Neots**

Sturdy Studio

## Story Readers Club



### The Story Readers Club

**St Neots Library**  
**Wednesday 28 January 4-4.30pm**

Join us at our first ever meeting to discuss our book pick and enjoy some squash and biscuits. Sign up at the desk to collect your copy of *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, and get reading!

Suitable for children aged 7-9

Free, book a place at the desk or email [stneots.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:stneots.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



## A message from the Children's Commissioner



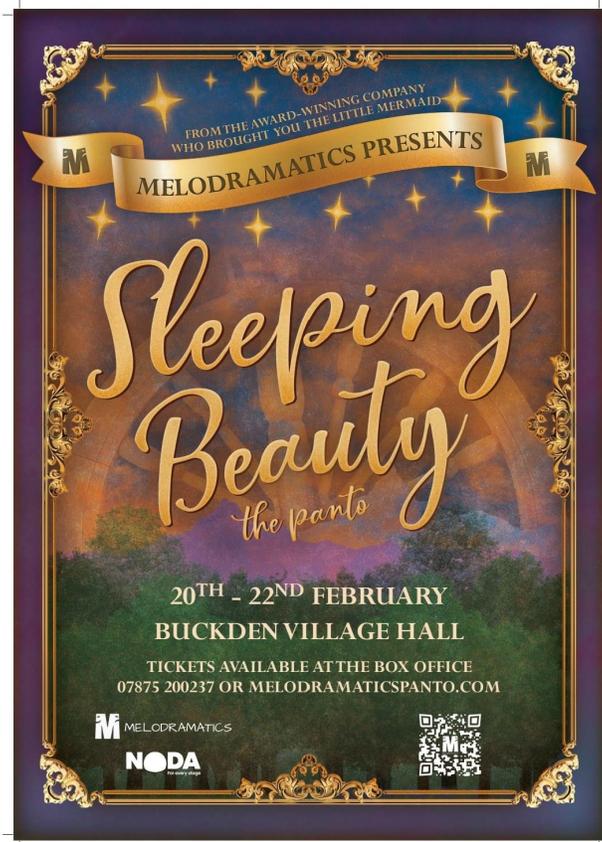
Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

A guide to help navigate this subject has been published here -

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#)

## Events for you

If you want to continue the Pantomime experience - please support a local production including cast members you may recognise!!



## Hunts Child and Family Centre

There is so much information and events to visit locally but the document is too big to share. Please visit the family centre webpage to find out more.

[Child and Family Centres - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

# Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter January 2026

## A Bit About Me

Hi, my name is Katie, and I am your school's link EIFA.  
As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem.  
If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details below.

## Parenting Top Tip



### Building Independence in Children

A key way to help children become more independent is by giving them chances to solve problems on their own. As parents, it's natural to want to step in when we see our child struggling — we often assume they must be stressed or frustrated. But many times, they're simply learning.

Instead of fixing things right away, try taking a step back. Allow them to make mistakes, try again, and figure things out at their own pace — this is how all of us learn. Maybe your child is working on tying their shoelaces, taking longer than expected to complete a puzzle, or navigating a tricky moment with a friend who isn't sharing. Before jumping in, pause and see whether they actually ask for help.

You can continue supporting their independence by acknowledging the effort.

## Activity Idea



Letting your child lead the play.

Set aside an agreed time with no distractions where possible and let your child teach you something they are good at, like to do or facts they know. This could mean you may be gaming, dancing, singing, making slime, learning magic tricks and sports skills, or solving maths questions. Child led play and interaction works with all ages and is great for connection.

## Upcoming EIFA Workshops

To book, please see the EIFA workshops poster or contact your EIFA.  
We are also hosting some evening workshops this half term.

- **Sibling Rivalry** – 13/01/2026 @ 12:00–13:30
- **Understanding and responding to Challenging Behaviours** – 15/01/2026, 12:00–13:30
- **Sleep** – 20/01/2026, 12:00–13:30
- **Sleep** – 20/01/2026, 18:00–19:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Anger** – 22/01/2026, 12:00–13:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Worry** – 27/01/2026, 12:00–13:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Anger** – 02/02/2026, 18:00–19:30
- **Supporting your Child with Feelings of Worry** – 05/02/2026, 18:00–19:30
- **Family Wellbeing** -10/02/2026, 12-13:30

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability?

[www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips.

For **Cambridgeshire's Local Offer** go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer)

Contact me directly on <https://forms.office.com/e/4sxC2C78Fy>  
✉ [katie.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:katie.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Drop-in sessions

January 2026

### Online drop in

30-minute bookable appointment slots

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Email [katie.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:katie.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
to book a 1:1 meeting with your EIFA via Microsoft Teams

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential 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



Financial help available

## Money Worries?

We offer free, confidential debt advice and budget coaching and explain the options for getting your finances under control.



Money Advice St Neots (Mast) is a St Neots based charity and has a vision to help people live debt-free lives.

### Get in touch

 <https://mast.support>

 [help@mast.support](mailto:help@mast.support)

 01480 260234



Charity number 1200532. Regulated by the FCA (reference 809318)

Thanks for reading

