



★ **Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and positive few weeks at Kidgate, and I would like to thank our children, families and staff for the enthusiasm and support they continue to show. It has been lovely to see our values of Respect, Resilience and Kindness reflected in so many aspects of school life, from the children's learning in class to the way they care for and encourage one another.

As we move towards the end of our first half term, we have lots to look forward to, including our Harvest Festival at St James' Church and the events planned for the weeks ahead. Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us and for helping us make Kidgate a happy, calm and ambitious place where every child can thrive. I hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter and celebrating everything happening across our school community.

Mrs Susan Cook | Principal



Harvest Festival – St James' Church

On Friday 16th October 2025, we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at St James' Church at 10.00am, parents/carers are welcome to join us for the service.

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we are inviting families to contribute to both the church collection and our school Foodbank.

Our Foodbank plays an important role in supporting members of our school community who are in need.

Contributions can include non-perishable food items, toiletries, or other essentials. Every donation, no matter how small, helps ensure that all children and families within our community have access to the support they need.

If you are planning to bring items to the church on Friday 16th, we would be very grateful if you could also consider leaving something for our school Foodbank at the school reception or with the class teacher.

Together, we can make a real difference and show the children the importance of generosity, kindness, and supporting others.

Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. We truly appreciate your help in making this Harvest Festival meaningful for everyone in our school community.

EYFS September 2027 Intake Open Days

Is your child due to start school in September 2027?

We warmly invite you to join us for a guided tour on the below times and dates.

Tuesday 3rd November – 9.15 am and 4.30 pm

Or

Wednesday 4th November – 9.15 am and 1.15 pm

Please contact the school office to book onto a slot or for further information 01507 308620.

Healthy Snacks at Break Time!

KS2 children can bring in a healthy, nutritious snack to enjoy at break time. There are lots of great options to choose from, including:

 **Fresh** fruit

 **Dried** fruit, such as raisins

 **Non-nut** cereal bars

 **Fruit** Winder-type items

Thank you for helping us encourage healthy choices and supporting your child to bring a suitable snack for break time. ❤️

Swimming Badges/Certificates

Class 5D are currently swimming this half term as part of their swimming programme.

At the end of the programme, if your child has successfully completed a swimming badge (for example, 50 metres), they will come home with a slip to confirm this achievement. Please take this slip to the Leisure Centre to collect your child's swimming certificate.

Please note that there will be a £3.50 charge for the certificate, payable at the Leisure Centre.

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility

There are changes to eligibility for free school meals from September 2026.

Applications can be made via the Lincolnshire County Council website.

[Apply for free school meals – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

We would encourage families to check the updated eligibility criteria, even if they have not previously qualified.

● Children in Need – We're Going Spotty!

Friday 20 November

We will be supporting BBC Children in Need on Friday 20 November. Children in Need raises money to support children and young people across the UK, and we are looking forward to joining in as a school.

Further details about how children can take part and our fundraising plans will be shared with families nearer the time.

We're going spotty for Children in Need! Children are invited to come to school wearing spots, spotty clothes or colourful accessories to help us celebrate the day and support this fantastic cause.

More details about donations and the day will follow nearer the time.



Kidgate Academy are Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champions



Great news! Kidgate Academy are Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champions.

This means that they will be raising money for us from 06 Sept 2026 – 06 Mar 2027 every time anyone uses their Co-op loyalty card.

Just to clarify this is the Lincolnshire Co-op on Newbridge Hill near ALDI and not the big one in the town centre or the one on Newmarket.

No Toys from Home

Please do not send toys or sensory items into school from home. Toys can be easily lost or damaged and can sometimes become a distraction during the school day.

Where a child needs a sensory aid to support them in school, suitable sensory resources will be provided by the school.

Thank you for helping us keep personal belongings safe and classroom routines calm and consistent.

Earrings and PE

Please remove earrings for PE once your child can safely do so. If their ears have recently been pierced and the earrings must stay in, please cover them securely with suitable plasters or tape before school on PE days.

Covering earrings does not make every activity safe. Teachers will assess the risk, particularly for contact sports and gymnastics. If your child cannot take part directly, they will still be included in an appropriate role, such as scoring, refereeing or coaching.

Where possible, please arrange new piercings at the start of the summer holidays to allow time for healing. Thank you for helping us keep PE safe and inclusive. Mrs Cook



Earrings removable?
Remove for PE



New piercing?
Cover before school

Parking

Please do not park or stop on the yellow lines on Cinder Lane or Kidgate at drop-off or collection times. Cars stopping on the yellow lines cause congestion and make it harder for children and families to walk safely along the pavement.

Please use the local car parks and keep the yellow lines and pavement clear. Thank you for helping everyone get to and from school safely.

Yellow lines



Pavement





FIRST HALF-TERM DIARY DATES

September – October 2026

A few important dates for families to pop in the diary.

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5 th October	Wrates individual school photographs.
Friday 9 October	Flu vaccinations. Glow Ball
Tuesday 13 th October	EYFS Phonics Workshop
Wednesday 14 th October	KS2 Cross Country – afternoon, TBC
Friday 16 th October	Harvest Festival
Monday 19 th – Friday 30 th October	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
Tuesday 3 rd November	Class 5J Start Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 3 rd November	Reception 2027 Open Days
Wednesday 4 th November	Online Safety - Years 2-4
Wednesday 4 th November	Reception 2027 Open Days
Thursday 5 th November	Online Safety – Years 5 & 6
Friday 6 th November	Healthy Relationships Workshop Years 5 & 6
Thursday 19 th November	Glow Ball
Friday 13 th November	Healthy Relationships Workshop Years 5 & 6
Tuesday 17 th November	Parents Evening – Details to follow
Thursday 19 th November	Parents’ Evening – Details to follow
Friday 20 th November	Children In Need – Details to follow
Thursday 3 rd December	EYFS Nativity – Details to follow
W/C 7 th December	Christmas Craft Afternoons – Details to follow
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 11 th December	Non-Uniform for Christmas Bingo – Details to follow
W/c 14 th December	Christmas Parties – Details to follow
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Bingo – Details to follow
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Service – St James’ Church – Details to follow



ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY MATTERS

Good attendance makes a real difference

Regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to learn, make progress, build friendships and feel fully part of school life. Even a few missed days can quickly add up over the course of a year.

To put attendance into perspective:

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

What attendance can mean across a 190-day school year

100%	0 days lost	Every day in school
97%	about 6 days lost	just over 1 school week
95%	about 10 days lost	nearly 2 school weeks
90%	19 days lost	nearly 4 school weeks
80%	38 days lost	nearly 8 school weeks

Figures are approximate and based on 190 possible school days.

For example, 80% attendance means a child is absent for around 38 school days across the year — nearly eight school weeks of learning. At 90% attendance, around 19 school days are missed, which is nearly four school weeks. We understand that children are sometimes genuinely too unwell to attend school. However, we ask families to support us by making attendance and punctuality a priority whenever children are well enough to be in school.

If attendance begins to fall, we will work with families to understand any barriers and offer support where we can. Our aim is always to work together so that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We would again like to emphasise the importance of excellent attendance and how important it is to not take children out of the academy during term time. We are unable to authorise holidays during term time unless exceptional circumstances are provided. <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance/school-fines>

Your child may be allowed to miss school for: • doctor, hospital or dental appointments • a death in the family or funeral • religious observation

Our attendance policy is available to view on our school website [Policies | Kidgate Academy](#). It is our job to build strong relationships with you, as parents and carers, listening to and understanding barriers to attendance and working in partnership with you to remove them.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every Kidgate child make every school day count. ♥

Our school attendance this week is:

96.0%