# Autumn Newsletter

## A message from Mrs Bartley

It's been a bumper term with children and adults settling into their new classes and roles. We started the new academic year with a launch of our vision, 'and values and new class names to help us think about inspirational people. It took a bit of getting used to for all of us but we've just about got used to them now! This term, in Collective Worship we have focused on the values of Community and Compassion and exploring what makes a strong community and how we can all make a difference.

As always, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our community. Firstly, a huge thank you to all the volunteers including PTA who came into school to help clear up the grounds. A second thank you for your donations to the Food Bank at Harvest and to those who have made a shoe box. Sharon and xxxx talked to the children about what a difference these can make to children in other parts of Europe at Christmas.

***Community in Action***

I would like to commend our Play Leaders who are doing a sterling job of leading games and activities for the children at breaktimes and lunchtimes and also to our Year 6 Buddies who always take their job of looking after the new Reception children so seriously.

Finally, we would really appreciate the community help in pulling together to improve road safety outside the school. Now that the road from Upware has been closed there has been an increase in large vehicles using the road. In collective worship we discussed what we could do to make a difference. The children suggested making posters and writing to Cambridgeshire County Council and the Parish Council for help and we also discussed what we could do individually to ease the traffic by walking to school if possible or park a little further away to prevent the road becoming so congested. Please don't forget you can always use the village hall car park. Please see the poster that will be put up near the school.

***Attendance***

I am delighted that our current attendance is 98.4% for this half term. Of the absences, 10% are due to medical or dental appointments. Please try to make these appointments after school or in the holidays whenever possible. 20% of the absence is due to holiday. A reminder that holidays will invariably be unauthorised and could result in a fine being incurred.

***E-Safety***

In PSHE and Computing, we discuss how to keep safe online. We have made a leaflet to share with children reminding them of age restrictions and things to do to keep safe. Please go through this with your children. There are also some resources on the following websites: https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org and https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides

# Mixed Football Tournament

On Monday 19th October, children from Mandela (Y4) and Earhart Class (Y5/6) competed in a mixed football tournament at Great Heath Primary in Mildenhall. The team played four group matches, which ended in three wins and one draw. Thanks to their excellent teamwork, skill and determination, the team did not concede a single goal during the group stage! Their strong performance and better goal difference secured them a place in the semi-finals. In the semi-final, the team played fantastically well and worked tirelessly until the final whistle however ended up losing 1-0. Throughout the tournament, the team showed excellent fair play, sportsmanship and positivity. They should be incredibly proud of coming 4th out of 21 school teams!



# Cross Country Tournament

On the 29th September, children from Earhart Class represented the school at a cross country competition at the Links Golf Course in Newmarket. Our runners competed in a challenging 2.4km race, demonstrating excellent stamina, endurance and determination from start to finish.
There were some particularly impressive individual performances on the day, including one of our Year 6 boys achieving an outstanding 6th place finish overall. Well done to all that took part!

# Girls' Football

On Tuesday 13th October, a team of girls from Earhart Class and Pankhurst Class proudly represented our schools at a girls' football tournament held at Great Heath Academy in Mildenhall.
The team showed excellent determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the afternoon,
competing against several other schools.
In our four group matches, we drew two games and lost two. Although the results did not quite go
our way, the girls played with enthusiasm and never gave up, demonstrating great sportsmanship
and supporting one another throughout the tournament.



# KITT Medical




We are pleased to inform you that our school has recently installed a new emergency Kitt Medical Anaphylaxis Kit.

The kit contains emergency adrenaline auto-injectors designed to provide rapid, life-saving care in the event of a severe allergic reaction.
Our school team has successfully completed training to ensure staff members are fully equipped to recognise the early signs of anaphylaxis and confidently administer emergency medication if a serious reaction occurs.

# Harvest Service and Ely Foodbank

Our school community came together to celebrate Harvest with a service in St Mary's Church on 14th October. This year, we asked for donations for Ely Foodbank. Thanks to your kindness, we collected a very generous amount of tinned goods and essential items. The donations have now been sent to Ely Foodbank where they will be used to create parcels for families facing hardship across East Cambridgeshire.
Thank you to you all for your generosity.




# Early Bird and After School

This term has seen our school successfully launch our Early Bird Club.
Early Bird Club is run by Mrs Kent from 8:00 - 8:35 Monday - Friday at a cost of £3 per session. If you would like to book your child in for Early Bird Club or After School Club, you can do this on your My Child at School account in the Clubs section.
Thank you for your support with our wrap around care so far, we are pleased to be able offer this service to our busy families.

## Darwin Class

Our class name is Darwin Class, named after Charles Darwin, the famous scientist and naturalist who helped us to understand more about the natural world. This half term in Darwin Class, we have been learning 'All About Me'. We have welcomed a doctor and a vet into class to talk to the children, helping us to learn more about the people who help us in our community. We have settled in well, learning our new class routines and enjoying getting to know our buddies.
Our book focus has been The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson. We have used the book as inspiration to make a Gruffalo mud cafe as well as using it to inspire our art in drawing club.

## Seacole Class

Our class is Seacole Class, named after Mary Seacole, a pioneering Jamaican nurse who cared for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. This half term, Seacole Class have been learning about the five senses in Science and exploring how these help us to understand the world around us. In DT, we have made Tzatziki dip and have been developing our food preparation skills, including claw grip, bridge hold and food hygiene. In English, we have been retelling Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne. We have practised how to redraft our writing to make improvements as well as learning how to use conjunctions to extend sentences and add more detail. In History, we have been looking at different sources and exploring what they tell us about the past, particularly in relation to Mary Seacole.

## Mandela Class

Our class is Mandela Class, named after Nelson Mandela, the first Black President of South Africa. He spent many years in prison for fighting for equality and fairness for all people. This half term, Mandela Class have been learning about systems of the body in Science, including the muscular, skeletal, nervous and digestive systems. In Geography, we have been consolidating our map and compass skills and learning about different types of settlements, such as cities, towns, villages and hamlets. In English, we have been reading Stig of the Dump and have written character and setting descriptions based on the text. We are now preparing to write our own chapter of the story using direct speech. In Art, we have been studying the work of Paul Cézanne before creating our own still-life drawings of fruit and flowers.

## Earhart Class

Our new class name is Earhart Class, named after Amelia Earhart, who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In Earhart Class this half term, we have been learning about place value and decimals in Maths. In History, we have been learning about the British Empire and exploring the significant individuals who contributed to building a bigger, stronger Empire. In both our reading and English lessons, we have been reading Skellig by David Almond. The story follows a boy called Michael, a mysterious creature named Skellig and the adventure they go on. One of our children commented, "This is an interesting book with lots of foreshadowing about what might happen next, including wings, shoulder blades and illness."

## Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School
## School Tours

SWAFFHAM BULBECK
CofE PRIMARY

**Is your child starting primary school in 2027? Or looking for an in-year transfer?**

We invite you to experience our vibrant, nuturing and inspiring learning community.
Come along to one of our upcoming school tours and see what makes us so special.

| Tuesday 8th December | Tuesday 15th December |
|---|---|
| 14:00 - 14:30 | 10:00 - 10:30 |

*"A real sense of community, where the children all know and look out for one another"*

Community — Compassion — Curiosity

Spaces are limited, so booking is essential.
Contact our school office to book onto a group tour or book a 1:1 tour

01223 811595 | office@blb.graceschools.org.uk

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SWAFFHAM BULBECK
CofE PRIMARY

# RECEPTION OPEN EVENT

*September 2027 admissions*

An opportunity for new and prospective parents and children to come and look around our wonderful school

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday | 11th November | 10am |
| Tuesday | 17th November | 2pm |

Contact the school office to confirm attendance

office@blb.graceschools.org.uk | 01223 811595

Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School, 84 High Street, CB25 0LX

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Fun Events for our School Community!

Support our school and get involved!

SWAFFHAM BULBECK
PTA
REGISTERED CHARITY 1179905

## Dates for the Rest of 2026

**Spooky Crafts**
15th October
3:15 – 4pm

**Spooky Disco**
22nd October
5:30 – 7pm

**Bonfire Crafts**
3rd November
3:15 – 7pm

**Christmas Bingo**
21st November
5pm

**Christmas Crafts**
1st December
3:15 – 4pm

**Christmas Fete**
11th December
3:15 – 4:30pm

Everyone welcome!

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Get Involved!

Support Our School!

SWAFFHAM BULBECK
PTA
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# AGM

## SWAFFHAM BULBECK PTA

Thursday 12th November

9am

School Hall

**All Welcome!**