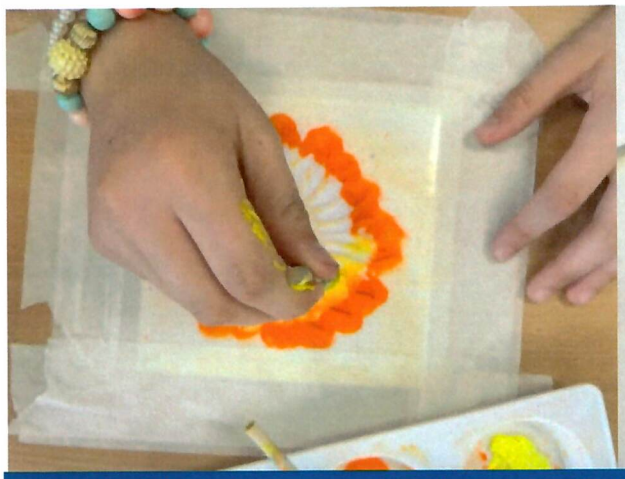




# Malcolm Sargent Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 2026

## Headteacher's message



Sophie Ross, Headteacher

Now that my first half term as your new Headteacher has drawn to a close, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received. It was a busy and rewarding few weeks and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know the children, families and staff who make Malcolm Sargent such a special school.

There is so much to celebrate here; the children's curiosity and enthusiasm, the care and commitment of the staff, and the many opportunities which extend learning beyond the classroom. From sporting fixtures and musical activities to our House Council's visit to the Houses of Parliament, last half term offered plenty of moments of achievement, discovery and joy.

A particular focus was ensuring that every child experiences a calm, purposeful and welcoming school day. We have been establishing shared routines, from a positive morning welcome and learning ready for children as they arrive, to our "Wonderful Walking" around school. These small, everyday habits help children feel secure, understand what is expected and make the most of their learning time. Thank you to our staff for the thought and consistency they have brought to this work, and to the children for their positive response.

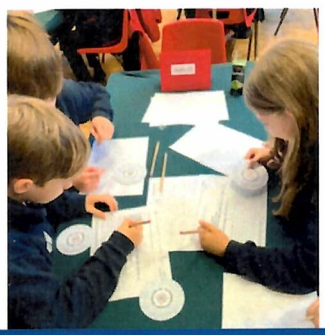
Our teachers have also been working together to strengthen classroom practise with a focus on giving every child more opportunities to think, discuss ideas and explain their understanding.

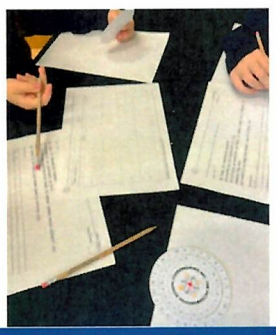
More recently, we have begun introducing a more sociable approach to lunchtimes. Our aim is for lunch to be a time to eat, talk and belong. Conversation starters, cutlery and cups on tables and smaller groups collecting their meals are helping us to develop a calmer experience, with time for children to enjoy their food and one another's company. We will continue to listen and refine these arrangements as they settle in.

Throughout all of this, our values - Engage and Inspire, Nurture and Growth and Pride and Joy - remain at the heart of what we want for every child. I want our children to feel known, encouraged and proud of their school, and to experience the sense of possibility captured in our words "Love to Learn".

Thank you for your support, conversations and feedback during last term. Building strong relationships with families matters enormously to me and I look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming months.

I hope all our children, families and staff enjoyed a well-earned break over the recent half term, and everyone is ready for this busy term leading up to Christmas!





## Year 6 became codebreakers!

Last term, eight of our top Year 6 maths pupils took part in a Codebreaking Day at The Peterborough School.

They spent the day cracking Caesar Wheels, Vigenere, and Rail Fence codes to decode secret messages.

Out of 20 teams, Malcolm Sargent came third overall! They had a great day and thank you to The Peterborough School for hosting!

## Lunchtimes: time to eat, talk and belong

At Malcolm Sargent, we want every child to feel welcome, valued and part of our school community. Our new 'family dining' approach gives children time to enjoy their food, build friendships and develop everyday skills, bringing our school values into lunchtime. Children now come into the hall with their year group and sit together, with cups and cutlery ready on the tables. Each table is invited to collect school meals in turn, reducing time spent standing in queues. Children with packed lunches and school meals now sit together, so everyone can enjoy lunch with their friends, whichever meal they choose. Our approach reflects our values:

**Engage and Inspire:** conversation starters encourage children to share ideas, ask questions and take an interest in one another.

**Nurture and Growth:** a welcoming atmosphere helps children build friendships, feel included and develop confidence and independence.

**Pride and Joy:** children practise good manners, show consideration for others and enjoy being part of our school community.

The benefits we are working towards include:

· A sense of belonging: everyone sharing the same dining experience.
· Time to enjoy food: at least 15 minutes to eat and socialise, without feeling pressure to rush eating.
· Stronger friendships: opportunities to chat, listen and get to know others.
· Everyday life skills: using cutlery, taking turns and becoming more independent.
· Positive eating habits: enjoying meals in a relaxed, sociable setting.
· A calmer lunchtime: less time queuing and more time settled with friends.

Teaching assistants support their year group during the first 15 minutes. Children who need longer can stay and finish eating with support from our lunchtime supervisors. Children can then have up to 30 minutes of outside play each lunchtime.

We have explored friendly conversation in assemblies, and the posters below show some of our table conversation starters. You might like to ask your child what they have chatted about over lunch or use the parent prompts to learn about their day. Thank you for your support as our new routines settle. We will continue listening to children and refining the arrangements to make lunchtime a happy, welcoming part of every child's day.














**Here are some of our Youth Counsellors attending the Stamford Youth Council meeting with the Mayor and Local MP!**

## Wear it Bright for Anaphylaxis



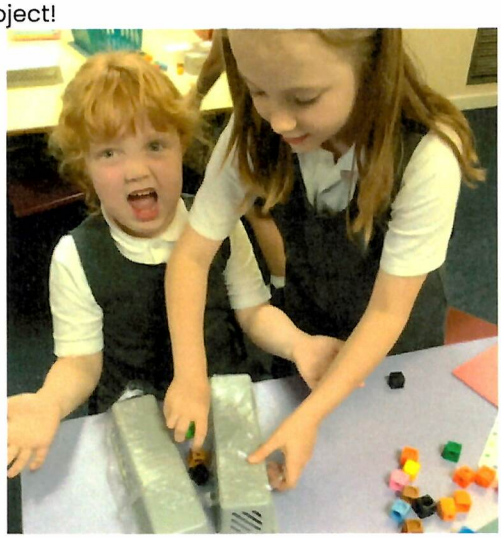
On 2 October, we held a 'Wear It Bright' day to raise allergy awareness at our school. This is so important for adults and children.

We are proud to be fully compliant with Benedict's Law, and have been aligned to its principles for many years.

## Year 2 engineers have been hard at work in DT

In DT, our Year 2 budding engineers have been working hard on their topic 'Baby Bear's chair'. Children are set a design brief to create the strongest chair they can for Baby Bear. Some of the skills they learn during this project include generating and communicating ideas using sketching and modelling, learning about different types of structures found in the natural world and in everyday objects, testing the strength of their own structures and then finally evaluating their design. Here are the children in the 'research phase' of their project!



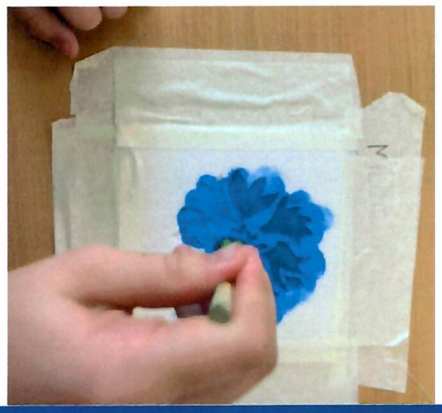




Last week, our Y6 pupils took part in an art workshop run by Stamford Diversity Group. The workshop focused on developing stencils to be used as part of a new project called 'Threads (of Strength and Solidarity)'. The project involved pupils from schools across Stamford and the local Afghan community (inspired by Indian block print) each producing a panel of flowers for a community garment, an Abaya of Peace (full length outer garment) which will be sewn together before becoming part of a community exhibition. The project will culminate in a multi-disciplinary event on 27 February when the community Abaya of Peace and a Ukrainian embroidered Rushnyk will be showcased and accompanied by music, by Stamford harpist Eleanor Turner and Iryna Muha with contributions from the Ukrainian choir and dance group and local poets. The event will portray the Afghan and Ukrainian story of Threads of Strength and Solidarity, as represented in the Abaya and Rushnyk.







## Hedgehogs rescued from the school field

Two baby hedgehogs were found on the field by Miss Blades. They were behaving unusually for this time of the year, so Miss Blades scooped them up and took them to the vets for a check-up.

Unfortunately, they were found to be quite poorly with internal parasites so Prickleback Hedgehog Rescue has been nursing them back to health. Both hedgehogs are doing well and have been named Hansel and Gretel. Thank you to Miss Blades for her prompt care of these little creatures!






## Congratulations to our Head Girls

Huge congratulations to Libby and Deeya who beat off some fierce competition to be crowned Head Girls! All applicants had to write an application letter and then have a face to face interview with Mr Cox. Unfortunately we had no applications from any boys to be Head Boy.

Well done to all of our applicants! It was a very close call with some fantastic submissions but a huge well done to Deeya and Libby for their success! Our Head Girls will be running House Council meetings, leading on student initiatives, ensuring our pupils' voice is heard, as well as acting as role models for the rest of the school.

## Halloween-themed artwork for Year 1

Year 1 have been getting wonderfully creative in their art lessons this term, exploring an exciting bubble-painting technique with a magical Halloween twist! Using a mixture of washing-up liquid and paint, the children created their very own bubbling witches' cauldrons, watching with excitement as the colourful bubbles grew and popped onto their paper, leaving behind fascinating patterns, shapes and textures. This unusual technique encouraged the children to experiment with colour, explore different artistic effects and discover how everyday materials can be used in imaginative ways. The element of surprise made the activity even more exciting, as no two bubble prints were quite the same!





## Showcase of talents in EYFS

In EYFS, one of our topics has been all about 'Our Talents'! We had lots of fun exploring and celebrating our different talents. We started by creating our very own talent show invitations before hosting a special talent show for both children and staff. It was a fantastic week of celebrating our unique talents, building confidence and, most importantly, having lots of fun!







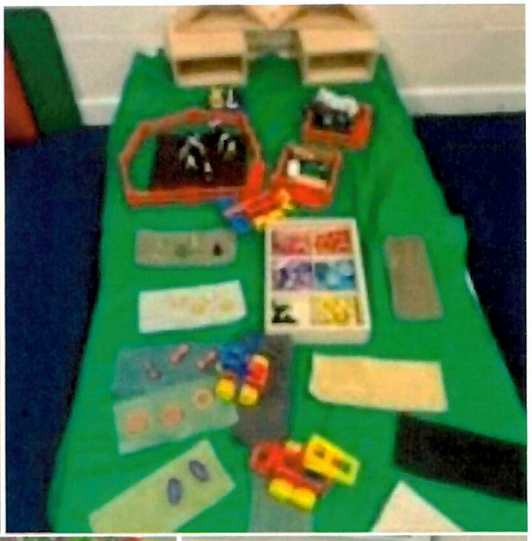
## EYFS have settled in beautifully

Our EYFS children have had a fantastic start to their education journey with us at Malcolm Sargent!

The first half-term was all about establishing routines, learning initial sounds in phonics to start their reading journey and how to interact with new people. As with all EYFS learning, this is taught through child-led, play-based learning, picking up on special interests with adults assessing and extending the learning in the moment.

There are 17 separate areas of the EYFS curriculum including word comprehension, number, understanding the world and motor skills.

Last term, the children learnt about harvest, attended a Harvest Festival and explored their rich and vibrant learning environment, including an extensive outdoor learning zone.








## Year 6 Artwork

Our Year 6 children started the new school year exploring ways in which photography can be used to create abstract art. Inspired by American photographer, Edward Weston, they took macro photographs before carefully editing them and turning them monochromatic to create interesting and inspiring abstract outcomes. They used their digital photograph skills to create album covers on Picollage and adjust the hue and saturation of the images to create some striking final pieces.





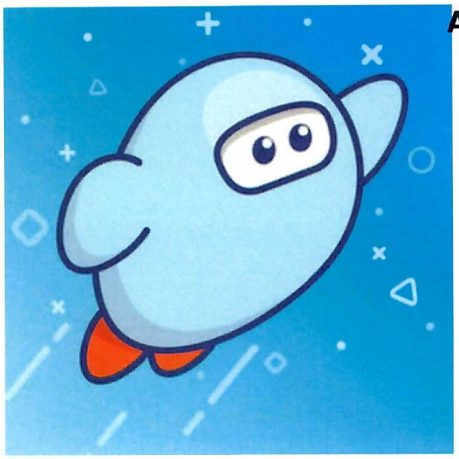












## Audiobook, e-book and e-magazine access for all children

We are in our second year of subscribing to Sora, a fantastic app which gives all our pupils access to thousands of books, in audio or digital form as well as over 250 up-to-date e-magazines. Our pupils need their 4-digit library code to login. All children have been reminded on how to use the app and an announcement with a 'how to' guide has been shared as an announcement on Seesaw.




## Year 4 are inspired by artist Maryam Arsian

Our Year 4 artists have been exploring the work of Maryam Arslan and creating their own impasto-style masterpieces! Using their breakfast designs as inspiration, the children recreated her style with a creative mix of paint, glue and sawdust to build texture and bring their artwork to life.

They loved experimenting with different materials and techniques to create bold, textured paintings. We are so proud of their creativity, imagination and fantastic finished pieces!





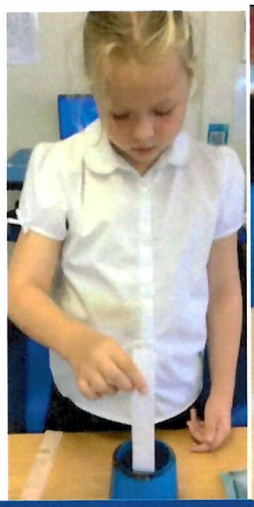


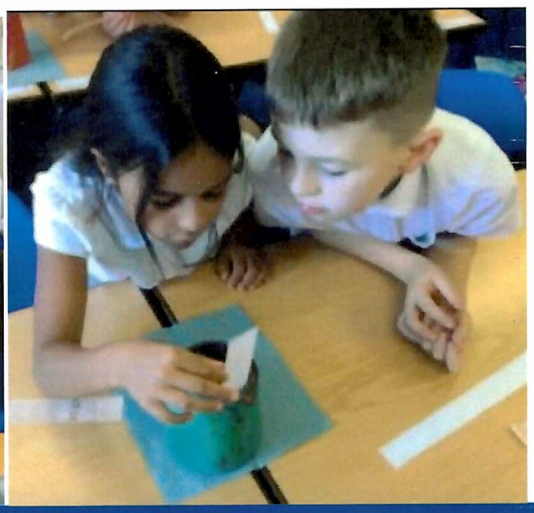
## House Councillors visit the Houses of Parliament

On 7 October, a group of our House Councillors visited the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. They enjoyed a guided tour of the Houses Of Parliament which also included going into both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. They were also able to walk through the King's Entrance, which only 1% of the entire population of the country has ever been able to do! What a special trip and one which we hope to be able to repeat annually from now on.

## Year 3 work scientifically

Our Year 3 scientists have been busy exploring the world around them through their "Conducting Experiments" unit!
Each week, the children have carried out a different science experiment, developing their scientific enquiry skills and learning about the key components of a successful experiment.
Through hands-on investigations, the children have been developing their curiosity, asking questions, making observations and thinking like real scientists! We are so proud of their enthusiasm and growing confidence in investigating, experimenting and learning from their findings. Here they are predicting which type of paper would soak up the most water.







## KS1 attend a Harvest Festival

Our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children attended a mini Harvest Festival, to celebrate the hard work of our farmers, and to learn about the importance of not wasting food as well as sharing food with those less fortunate than us. Pictured here is Mrs Harrison who led the special assembly with some of her Year 2 class who read out a Harvest poem.

Please remember that George's Food Hub is at our school every Monday and Wednesday at the end of the day, to pass on food to families who need it, either for free, or for a small donation if you can afford it.

Malcolm Sargent Primary

# E-Safety Information Event

We are giving you advance notice of an e-safety event here at school with Alan Mackenzie, our e-safety advisor. You may know Alan as we share his e-safety newsletter snips with you weekly.

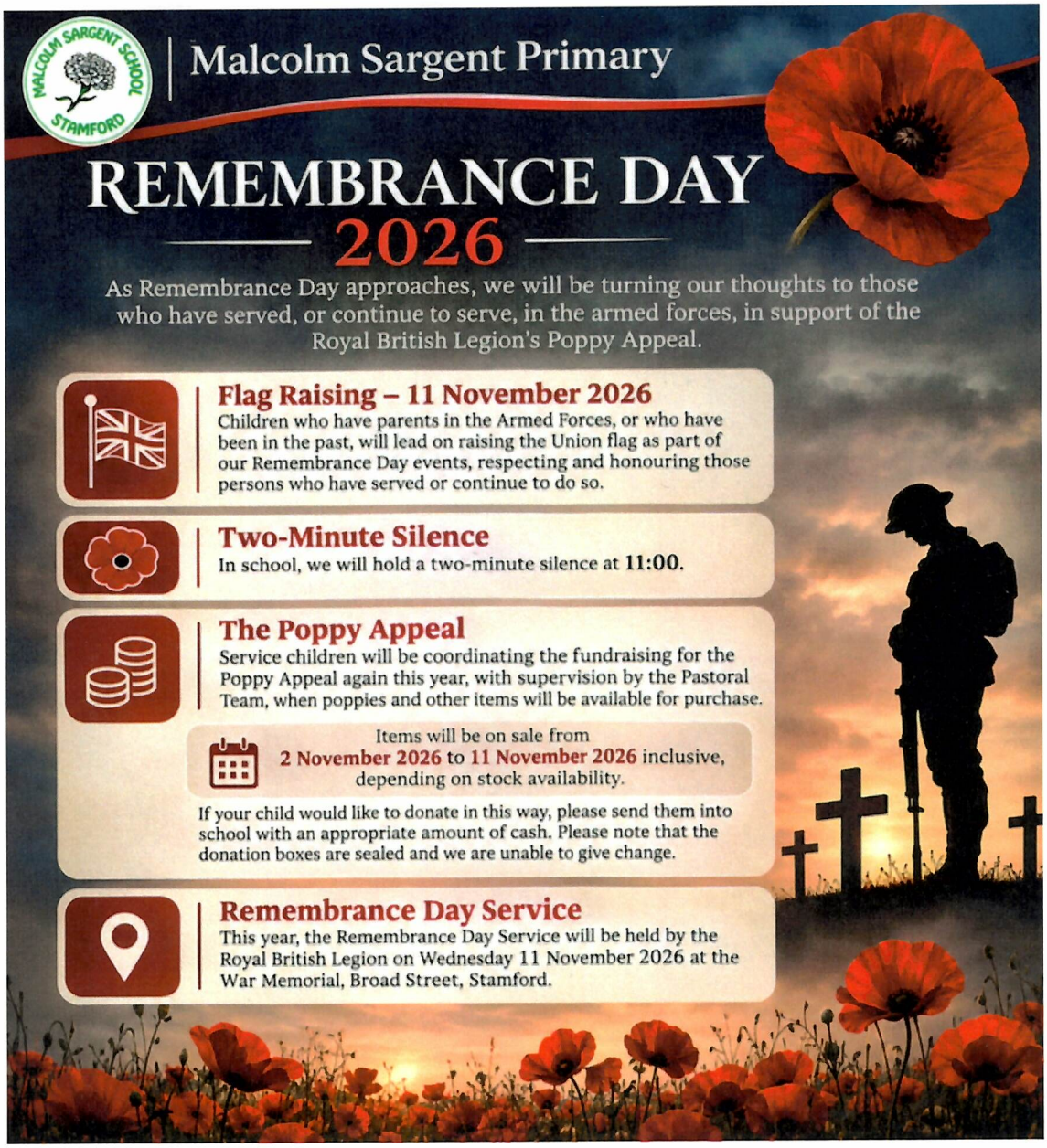
**Tuesday 19 January 2027** | **6:00pm – 7:00pm**

## Topics to be covered:

- Managing obsessions
- Time spent on devices
- Controls and protections

We will remind you of this event closer to the time.

www.malcolmsargentschool.co.uk 01780 756056




We are proud that our Y6 children will be walking down to the Stamford War Memorial on Broad Street, on 11 November, to represent our school at the service.

## EYFS meet Room on the Broom animals

Our EYFS children had an amazing visit from Zoo Lab kindly funded by Malcolm Sargent School PTFA. In class the children had read 'Room on the Broom' and during the Zoo Lab visit, they heard a variation of this story 'Zoo on the Broom'. They met all the animals from the story including a tarantula, a corn snake, a hissing cockroach, a giant land snail and a tree frog. The children were able to touch and stroke some of the animals and we learnt lots of facts about them too! We are very grateful to our wonderful PTFA for funding such a fantastic enrichment experience.

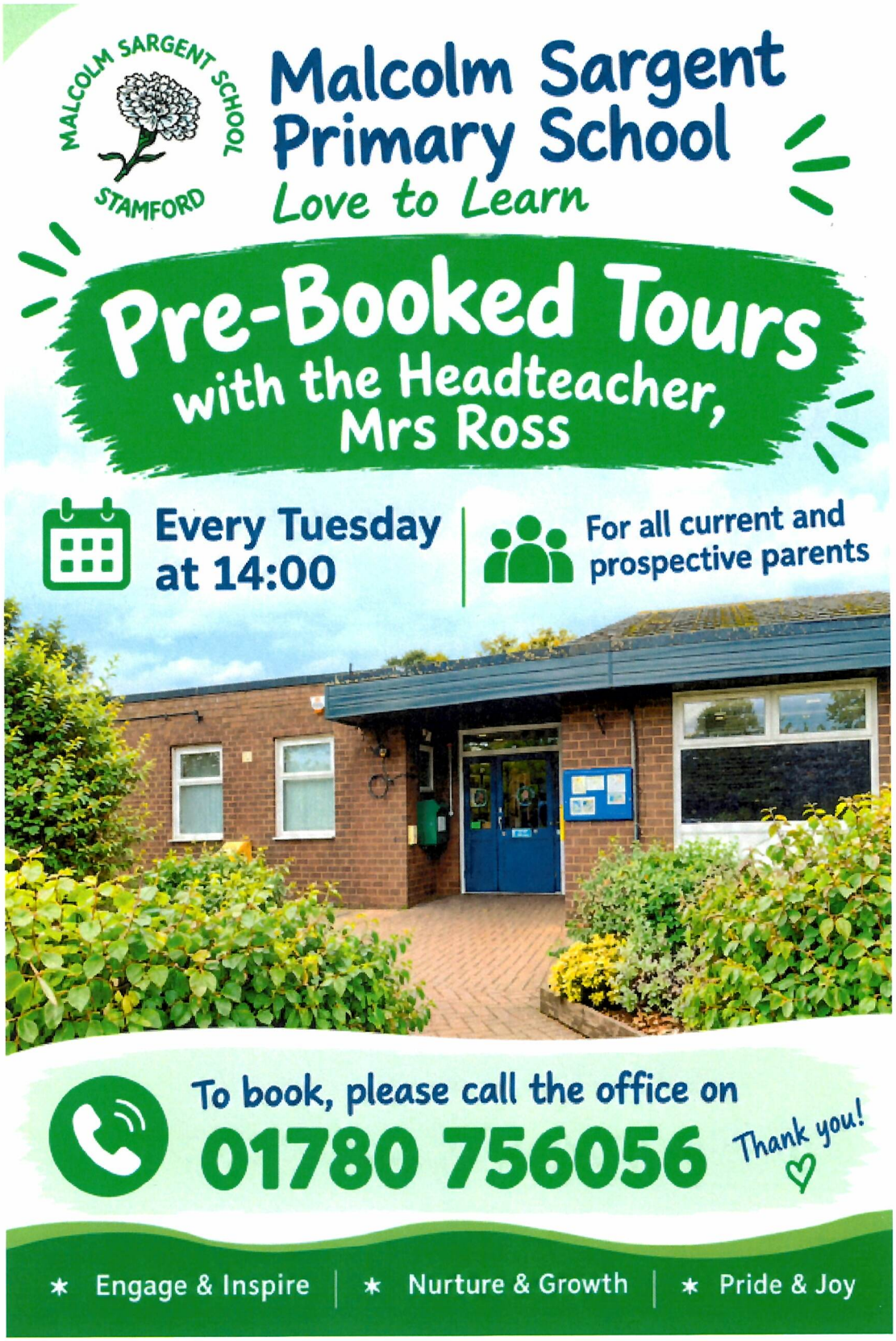






**School tours with Mrs Ross**

Mrs Ross is offering tours to all our current (and prospective) parents so if would like to meet Mrs Ross and have a tour of our school, please book in with the school office. Tours are usually every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm but if that is not suitable, please enquire and we may be to accommodate you at another time or on another day.



# OPEN EVENING

## Wednesday 11 November 2026
## 4.00pm - 6.30pm

FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
COME AND DISCOVER MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Headteacher welcome at 5.00pm & 6.00pm**

EXPLORE OUR CLASSROOMS AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
SEE CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND WORK ACROSS THE SCHOOL
MEET OUR TEACHERS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM
DISCOVER A SCHOOL WHERE CHILDREN LOVE TO LEARN
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CURRICULUM AND WIDER OPPORTUNITIES
MEET OUR PTFA, TRUSTEES AND ACORN CHILDCARE TEAM
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

No booking required



We'd love to show you what makes Malcolm Sargent special

Malcolm Sargent Primary School, Empingham Road, Stamford. PE9 2SR
01780 756056 • enquiries@malcolmsargent.lincs.sch.uk • www.malcolmsargentschool.co.uk

# Malcolm Sargent Primary SPORTS UPDATE

## Top of the league positions for our footballers



Our mixed Year 3–6 football teams recently took part in a local football tournament, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sporting spirit throughout the competition. The tournament began with all teams competing together before splitting halfway through into two separate leagues — the Premier League and the Championship League.

Both of our teams performed brilliantly! Our Championship League team showed great resilience and teamwork, producing some strong performances to secure an impressive joint first-place finish! Meanwhile, our Premier League team enjoyed an equally successful tournament, playing nine matches and conceding just ONE goal throughout the competition! Their excellent defensive record helped them finish joint top of the Premier League, narrowly missing out on first place on goal difference and finishing second overall.

It was particularly pleasing to see children from different year groups working together, supporting one another and representing Malcolm Sargent Primary with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part. Their hard work, positive attitudes and commitment to their teams were a real credit to the school.



## Girls' football team crowned tournament champion

A huge congratulations to our Year 5 and Year 6 girls' football team, who recently competed in two more league football tournaments, playing an incredible 10 matches without conceding a single goal!

Their fantastic teamwork, determination and skill saw them crowned tournament champions! The girls will now go on to represent the Grantham/Stamford area at the Lincolnshire County Finals later this year.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

Another amazing football achievement — go girls!



## Cross country victory for MSPS pupils!

We entered ten boys and ten girls into the 2026 Barnack Cross-Country Championship Fun Run and were delighted that three of our boys were placed first, fifth and ninth, finishing second overall in the boys' group. The girls finished first, fifth and eighth and were placed first in the girls' group.

Overall, we were crowned the winners! Well done to all our runners; all those before-school running sessions paid dividends!

## Malcolm Sargent Primary

**Here is the list of most recently updated policies** which can be found on our website.

- Mobile Devices Policy
- Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Attendance Policy for Pupils
- Admission Policy for 2028–2029
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

Malcolm Sargent Primary

# Attendance Matters

*Every School Day Counts!*

Regular attendance is essential for children's learning, wellbeing and personal development. The national expectation is for pupils to achieve **95%** attendance or above.

### The Impact of Missing School

| Attendance | Absence in a School Year |
|---|---|
| 100% | Every opportunity to learn! |
| 95% | Nearly 2 weeks missed |
| 90% | Nearly 4 weeks missed |
| 85% | Over 5 weeks missed |

### Reporting Absence

Please notify the school office on **01780 756056** or email **enquiries@malcolmsargent.lincs.sch.uk** on each day of your child's absence, with the reason.

### Medical Appointments

Wherever possible, please arrange appointments outside school hours. If this is not possible, please provide appointment evidence and minimise time away from school.

### Term-Time Holidays

Holidays should be taken during school breaks. Unauthorised term-time absence may result in a penalty notice, in line with national attendance regulations. Please contact the school if you believe exceptional circumstances apply.

### Our Pastoral Team

If your child's attendance falls below 90%, our Pastoral Team will contact you to offer support.

- **Mrs Buck** – Years 5 and 6
- **Mrs Reid** – Years 3 and 4
- **Mrs Hargreaves** – Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2.

### We are here to help.

Our priority is to work together to ensure every child feels happy, safe and ready to learn.

**Thank you for helping us maintain excellent attendance and giving every child the best possible opportunity to thrive!**

# Fundraising, Events and Future Projects

## Our Fundraising Success

The PTFA raised an incredible

**£28,401**

last year!

## How the Money Was Used

The PTFA spent

**£24,768**

last year, reinvesting funds into enriching the experiences and opportunities available for our children.

## A Highlight of the Year

The Holi Colour Run was a huge success, raising nearly

**£5,000!**

## Christmas Fayre



**Friday 27th November**

**3.10pm – 5.30pm**

- A new after-school time to make the event easier to organise, run and tidy away.
- We hope it will also be even more successful at raising money.
- If it works well, it may become a regular feature for future fayres!

## Current Projects / Ideas

- Ongoing commitment to curriculum enrichment.
- A possible additional music rehearsal space (e.g. a cabin).
- Library development and refurbishment.
- Air conditioning or field shade options for the warmer months.

## Holi Colour Run

**Saturday 24th April**

*A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our PTFA and helps to make such a positive difference to our school!*

## Join Our PTFA!

# PTFA Volunteers

## We Need You!

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to:

- Join the PTFA Committee
- Help at School Events

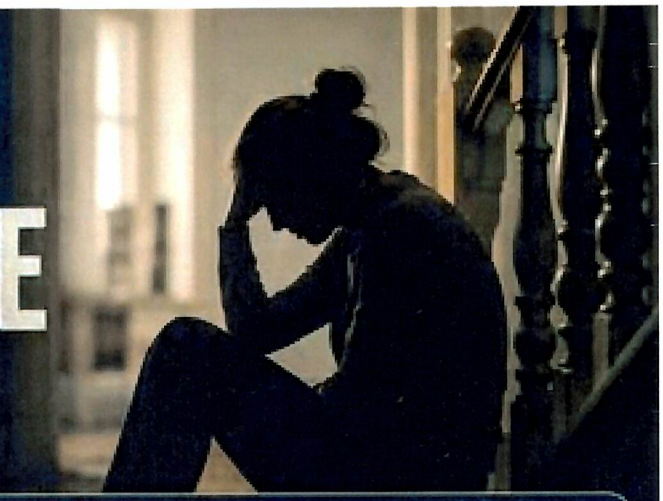
**Get Involved to Help:**

- Organise events
- Raise vital funds
- Enrich our children's experiences

*Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your support really makes a difference!*

If you are anyone you know are affected by this and need support, please speak to your child's class teacher or our pastoral team.

# CHILD TO PARENT ABUSE (CPA)



also known as Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA), is a pattern of harmful behaviour where a **child at the age of 10 or over, or teenager uses force, threats, or manipulation to control and intimidate their parents or caregivers.**

Unlike normal growing pains or teenage mood swings, this behaviour is rooted in **power and fear**, forcing parents to change how they live just to keep the peace.

## TYPES OF CHILD TO PARENT ABUSE

Children can use many different ways to take control of the household, including:

**PHYSICAL ABUSE:**
Hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, throwing things, or pushing.

**VERBAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE:**
Shouting, constant insults, calling names, and humiliating parents.

**COERCIVE CONTROL:**
Forcing parents to change their daily routines or stalking their movements.

**FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ABUSE:**
Stealing money, demanding expensive items, or damaging household property.

**THREATS OF HARM:**
Intimidating parents by threatening to hurt them, family pets, or threatening self-harm to cause guilt.

## CHALLENGES IT PRESENTS

Dealing with child-to-parent abuse is incredibly difficult for families and professionals because it creates unique challenges:

**THE SHAME AND SILENCE:**
Parents often feel like they have failed. They hide the abuse because they fear being judged as "bad parents" by society.

**FEAR OF CRIMINALISING THE CHILD:**
Parents rarely call the police because they want to protect their child's future. They do not want their child to end up with a criminal record.

**FLIPPING THE POWER DYNAMICS:**
Society expects parents to have the power and protect their kids. When a child takes control, the parent ends up "walking on eggshells" in their own home.

**COMPLEX ROOT CAUSES:**
The behaviour is rarely just "bad behaviour." It is often linked to underlying issues like past trauma, mental health struggles, neurodiversity, or witnessing domestic abuse between adults.

Organisations like the UK charity **Respect** provide specialised support for families.

In Lincolnshire, **PEGS** is an organisation that also provides support and can be referred to.

**For more information, visit:**

**www.respect.org.uk/pages/114-capva** | **PEGS: www.pegs-support.co.uk**

Please contact the **Safeguarding Team** at the school if you or someone you know is experiencing this type of abuse and support is needed.

You are not alone. Help and support are available.



Spanish with Eva





# After School Spanish Club

Come after school and learn Spanish in a fun way!

A welcoming club where kids build confidence in Spanish while having fun!

- **We converse** through real situations.
- **We create** with hands-on activities.
- **We connect** and build friendships.
- **We explore** Hispanic culture, music, traditions and more!

## Once a week

## Fridays

**RECEPTION / YR 1 / YR 2:**
15:10 – 16:00

**STAGE 2 – YR 3/4/5/6:**
16:00 – 17:00

Ready to learn, play and grow in Spanish?

## Limited spaces!

Book your place - spanishwitheva.dg@gmail.com