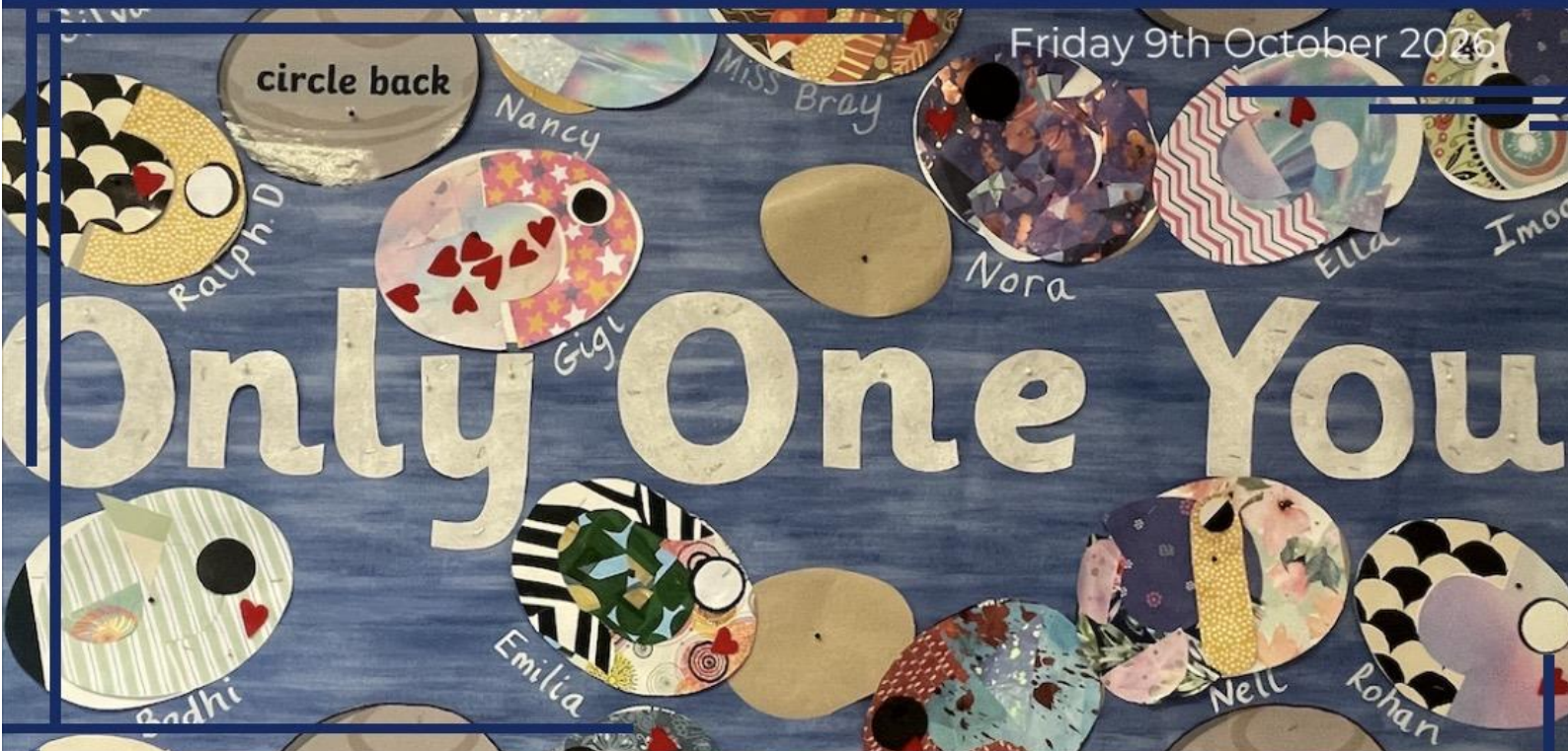


Friday 9th October 2026



The Harvest Festival always fills me with joy. It's one of my favourite times of year; not just because I am grateful for food and thankful for all the good things in life... but because it's the first time in the school year that brings the whole school community together – to celebrate & be thankful together. It's a pleasure to be able to see the pride on everyone's faces: the children performing, families watching and staff seeing the preparations come together. I leave you with the words of author Melody Beattie: "*Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.*"

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

*Martyn Wells* Martyn Wells  
Headteacher  
BA (Hons) QTS, NPQH, NPQEL

[www.claypoleprimary.org](http://www.claypoleprimary.org)



Believe & Achieve





## What's Happening & When?

# Key Dates



### When

### What

|                                                  |                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October               | Open Evening [5-7pm – details within newsletter]                                                    |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                  | PTA Disco [details within newsletter]                                                               |
| Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct | Parent's Evening [4-7pm both evenings – slips sent home]                                            |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                  | Non-Uniform Day [see below] & End of Term                                                           |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                  | Back To School                                                                                      |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November                  | 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal' collection                                                               |
| Wednesday 18th November                          | PTA AGM ( The Hayloft, Five Bells.) – time TBA                                                      |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                  | Christmas Fayre (after school festive fun)                                                          |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December               | EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance [in St Peter's Church, 9:30am – families warmly welcomed] |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December               | Rock Steady Concert; Christmas Jumper Day; Christmas Dinner Day – <i>a very busy, exciting day!</i> |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December               | KS2 Christmas Carol Service [in St Peter's Church, 9:30am start – families warmly welcomed]         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Finish for Christmas.                                                                               |

Term Dates for 2026/27: <https://www.claypoleprimary.org/term-dates>

## Open Events For Prospective Parents

- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October (5-7pm) – *Open Evening*
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November (9:30-11:30)
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November (1:15-3:15)
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (1:15-3:15)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December (9:30-11:30)



# Open Evening

Wednesday 14th October  
5pm - 7pm  
for current & prospective families

Meet Our Staff  
Visit Our EYFS Area  
Sample Life At Claypole  
Speak With Our  
Children

  
**Claypole**  
*Church Of England*  
**Primary School**



Come join us on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**: whether you're a current or prospective parent, spend time with the staff and some of our children for our annual Open Evening.

Classrooms will be set up with a variety of activities that will test your skills and creativity. For prospective parents, our EYFS classroom will be set up so that you can see the quality of the provision that Claypole provides.

No booking required.

We look forward to welcoming you into school.





Puffins Topic

# Stone Age Art



This week, Year 2 have collected their own materials for painting. They used sticks, finger painting, grass and leaves... all to create different marks on the 'cave walls.' They even used horse hair as that is what was used in the Stone Age!





Grantham & District Competition

# Football Champions



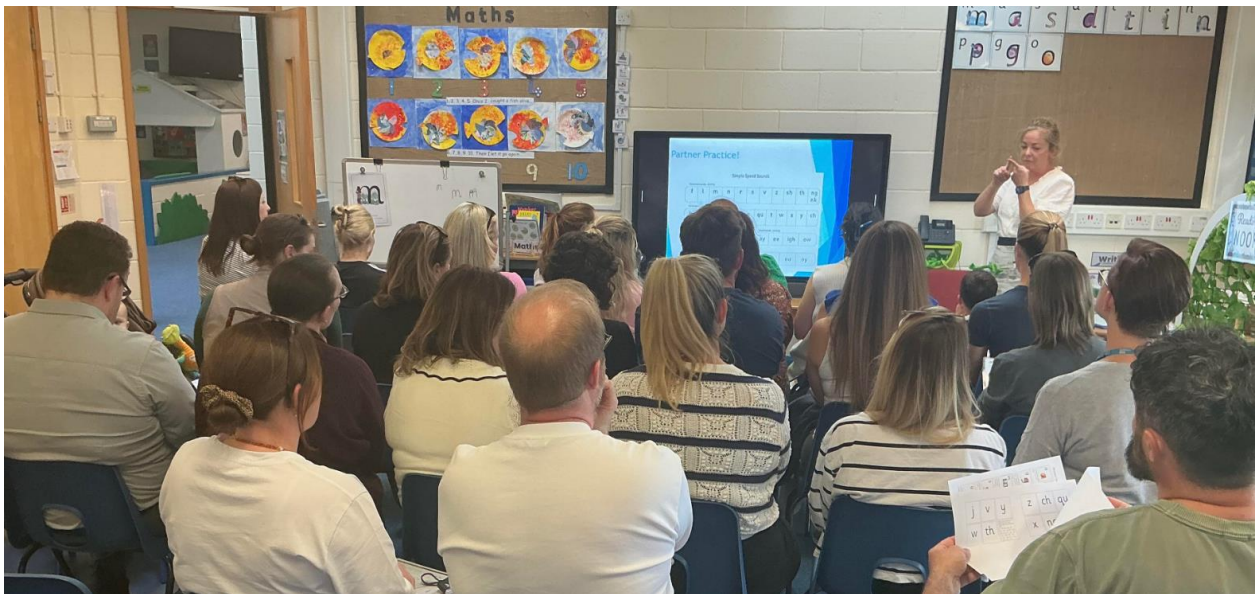
Third year in a row! What a team performance! Played 8, won 7, drew 1 – undefeated... and only 1 goal conceded during the entire tournament! Incredible achievement. Well done Team Claypole. Next stop: County Finals!





Parent/Carer Workshop

# Phonics In School & Home



It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our Phonics Workshop this week. For more information & guidance, visit: <https://www.claypoleprimary.org/phonics> and contact school directly if you'd like to know to help more at home.



Blythswood Care

# Christmas Shoebox



Watch where they go and to who here: <https://youtu.be/HxGQIlfyQTE>

Every year, thousands of people take part in **Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal**, filling shoeboxes with gifts for children and adults affected by poverty, trauma and exploitation.

A shoebox filled with simple, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, clothing, sweets and a small gift can bring joy to someone who may have very little. It is about more than the things inside.

**Each box is personal. Each one is an expression of care. Each one lets someone know they have not been forgotten.**

Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993, they have delivered more than 2.9 million shoeboxes – each one is different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need. The individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low-income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine. In Collective Worship this week, we will be sharing a video of where and with who last years 'Christmas Shoeboxes' ended up. This Christmas, your shoebox could help reach people in **Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.**

Please consider completing a 'Christmas Shoebox' and return it into school for **Monday 9th November for collection.**

For filler ideas, click: <https://blythswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/SBA-Fillers-and-Certificate-2026.pdf>



## Working With Parent/Carers

# Parent/Carer Forums

We are looking to form a workshop of parent/carers to help us develop our **RSE Relationship & Sex Education Curriculum** and; with the changes due to the **Food Standards** next year, looking to hear from families about food in school. If being part of a working group/forum with our staff is of interest, please contact school – we'd love to hear from you.

## Christian Value This Term

# Koinonia: Truth



This term, our Christian Value focus is 'koinonia' with focuses in Collective Worship on kindness, compassion, responsibility, truth, co-operation, forgiveness & reconciliation, self-control and acts of/spirit of service.

More information can be found [here](#).

Next week, our focus will be [truth](#).

You can follow or Collective Worship by subscribing to our YouTube channel too:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClaypolePrimarySchool>

# NON-UNIFORM DAY

★ Friday 23 October ★

**Wear your own clothes and help support our Christmas Fayre!**

If you are able, please bring in a good-quality, unused item or gift.

## Donation ideas:

Toiletries • Sweets & chocolates • Drinks •  
Gift sets • Candles • Games • Small gifts

All donations will be used in our Christmas raffle hampers, tombola or as prizes at the fayre.

Thank you for your support!

★ Claypole School PTFA ★



Claypole Church of England Primary



Parents ♥ Teachers ♥ Friends ♥ Together

Small  
changes  
make a  
big difference  
♥

**Help us raise £800  
for our outdoor reading area!**

The school has asked us, Claypole School PTFA, to fund the replacement of the outdoor reading area outside the KS1 classroom. The current toadstools are being replaced and the space will be updated to create an inviting, inspiring area for our younger children to read, imagine and grow.

The quote is  
**£800**  
and we'd love  
to make this  
happen for  
our children!  
♥

**We're looking for parents to  
lead on fundraising activities!**

We already have our usual termly discos, Christmas event and summer fayre, but we'd like to try some new ideas and other activities to help us reach our target.

Any ideas,  
ability or time  
to help would  
be amazing!  
♥

**Ideas could include...**



**Cake  
sales**



**Ice pop  
sales**  
(when the  
weather is good!)



**Sponsored  
challenges**  
(walk, run, cycle,  
more!)



**Quiz  
night**



**Movie  
night**

...and  
many more  
ideas!  
★ ★ ★



**Applying for grants -**

We're also applying for grants to support this project, so every bit of support makes a huge difference!

**Together we can  
reach our goal!**  
♥

— ♥ —  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# Could you help support Claypole PTFA?

A small team, a big impact, and room for a few more helping hands.

## More volunteers will help us keep doing all this

Claypole PTFA is currently run by just three volunteers. We are proud of the number of activities the PTFA delivers and the valuable funds these raise to support the school, but sustaining this level of fundraising needs a larger team.

With growing work and family commitments, and our eldest children now in Year 5, we expect to begin stepping back over the next year or two. There are lots of ways to help, from organising one event or taking on a small behind-the-scenes task to simply lending a hand when you can.

Any level of support would be genuinely appreciated.

## What families helped us achieve in 2024/25

PTFA funds supported trips, workshops, resources, books, the library renovation and the school pantomime.



## Interested in finding out more?

There is no obligation to commit. If enough people are interested, we can arrange a friendly, informal get-together to chat through the different ways you could help.

[pta@claypoleprimary.org](mailto:pta@claypoleprimary.org)

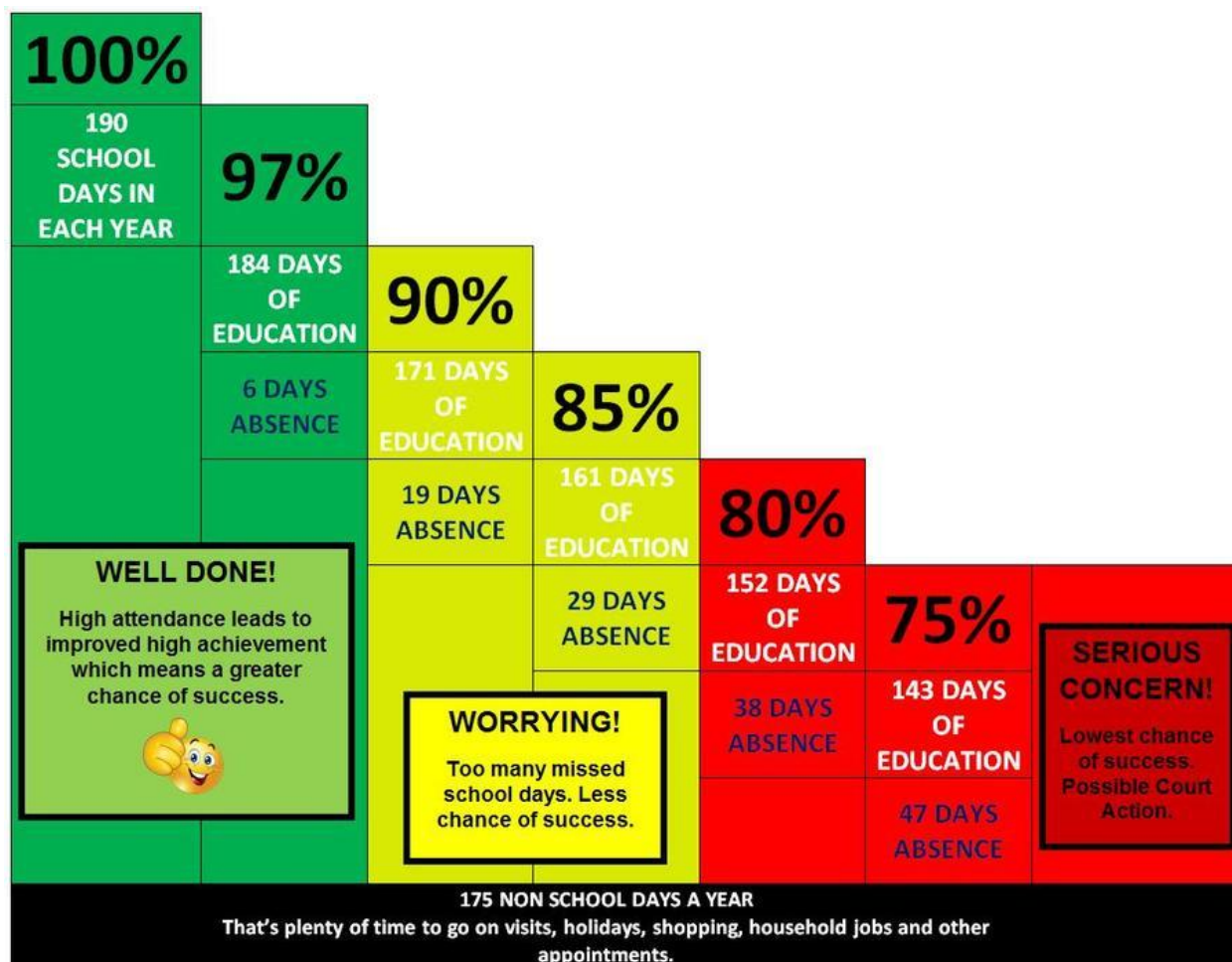
or message the PTFA Facebook page

Details for 2025/26 will be shared at this year's PTFA AGM.



Every Day Counts; Every Lesson Matters

# Attendance Matters



| Cumulative attendance each term in relation to number of days absent |              |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                                                      | Sessions     | 68     | 138    | 194    | 254    | 310    | 380    |
| Days abs                                                             | Sessions abs | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 | Term 5 | Term 6 |
| 1                                                                    | 2            | 97.1   | 98.6   | 99.0   | 99.2   | 99.4   | 99.5   |
| 2                                                                    | 4            | 94.1   | 97.1   | 97.9   | 98.4   | 98.7   | 98.9   |
| 3                                                                    | 6            | 91.2   | 95.7   | 96.9   | 97.6   | 98.1   | 98.4   |
| 4                                                                    | 8            | 88.2   | 94.2   | 95.9   | 96.9   | 97.4   | 97.9   |
| 5                                                                    | 10           | 85.3   | 92.8   | 94.8   | 96.1   | 96.8   | 97.4   |
| 6                                                                    | 12           | 82.4   | 91.3   | 93.8   | 95.3   | 96.1   | 96.8   |
| 7                                                                    | 14           | 79.4   | 89.9   | 92.8   | 94.5   | 95.5   | 96.3   |
| 8                                                                    | 16           | 76.5   | 88.4   | 91.8   | 93.7   | 94.8   | 95.8   |
| 9                                                                    | 18           | 73.5   | 87.0   | 90.7   | 92.9   | 94.2   | 95.3   |
| 10                                                                   | 20           | 70.6   | 85.5   | 89.7   | 92.1   | 93.5   | 94.7   |
| 11                                                                   | 22           | 67.6   | 84.1   | 88.7   | 91.3   | 92.9   | 94.2   |
| 12                                                                   | 24           | 64.7   | 82.6   | 87.6   | 90.6   | 92.3   | 93.7   |
| 13                                                                   | 26           | 61.8   | 81.2   | 86.6   | 89.8   | 91.6   | 93.2   |
| 14                                                                   | 28           | 58.8   | 79.7   | 85.6   | 89.0   | 91.0   | 92.6   |
| 15                                                                   | 30           | 55.9   | 78.3   | 84.5   | 88.2   | 90.3   | 92.1   |
| 16                                                                   | 32           | 50.5   | 75.6   | 82.6   | 86.7   | 89.1   | 91.1   |
| 17                                                                   | 34           | 44.4   | 72.6   | 80.5   | 85.1   | 87.8   | 90.1   |
| 18                                                                   | 36           | 37.7   | 69.3   | 78.2   | 83.3   | 86.3   | 88.9   |
| 19                                                                   | 38           | 30.1   | 65.6   | 75.5   | 81.3   | 84.7   | 87.5   |
| 20                                                                   | 40           | 21.6   | 61.4   | 72.5   | 79.0   | 82.8   | 86.0   |

Even small amounts of absence can add up over time and can mean that children miss important teaching, routines, experiences and opportunities to learn alongside their friends. Teachers will be able to discuss your child's attendance with you at Parents Evening, celebrate good attendance and, where there are concerns, talk through any barriers or support that may be needed. Our aim is not simply to focus on a percentage, but to work in partnership with families to ensure that **every child is in school, on time and ready to learn as often as possible.**



# Claypole

C of E Primary School

*Believe & Achieve*

Keeping  
children safe  
is everyone's  
responsibility



## Raising Concerns (as a school and/or as a parent)



### As a school

As a school, we have a responsibility to act on safeguarding concerns about children.

Where we have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, we will follow our safeguarding procedures and, where appropriate, make a referral to the relevant Children's Services / Safeguarding Team. The local authority will then consider the information provided and determine whether further assessment, support or intervention is required.



### Parents and carers

Parents and carers can also report concerns about a child's safety or welfare directly to Children's Services using the contact details below. You do not need to wait for the school to make a referral.



**If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.**

If you wish to contact the police for advice or report a non-emergency concern, call **101**.



For further advice and guidance about keeping children safe, visit the NSPCC website: [www.nspcc.co.uk](http://www.nspcc.co.uk)



### Lincolnshire – Children's Services

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>



**During office hours:**

Children's Services Customer Service Centre (CSC)  
**01522 782111**



**Outside office hours (24 hours):**

Emergency Duty Team (EDT)  
**01522 782333**



### Nottinghamshire – Children's Services

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-and-families-alliance/pathway-to-provision/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>



**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):**

Email: [info.nscb@nottscg.gov.uk](mailto:info.nscb@nottscg.gov.uk)  
Phone: **0300 500 8090**



**Emergency Duty Team (24 hours):**

**0300 456 4546**



*If you are worried about a child,  
please get in touch.*





CLAYPOLE SCHOOL PTFA  
FIRST EVENT OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR



**CAPTAIN  
FANTASTIC**

# DISC-GLOW IS BACK!

WITH CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

UV LIGHTS NEON FUN NON-STOP DANCING

Music, dancing, games and loads of high-energy fun!

## FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

### EYFS & KS1

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers & Puffins

**6.00 to 7.00pm**

**£4.50**

Includes a drink, snack & sweets

### KS2

Toucans, Hawks & Parakeets

**7.15 to 8.30pm**

**£3.00**

Refreshments available to buy

**TICKETS + SPENDING CARDS AVAILABLE NOW**

[www.pta-events.co.uk/claypolepta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/claypolepta)

Book tickets, pre-order hot dogs and sign up to volunteer

### HOT DOG PRE-ORDERS

**£1.50 each**

Add one when buying your disco ticket. Pre-ordering helps us reduce waste and make sure we have enough on the night.

### £5 DISC-GLOW SPENDING CARD

**10 punches worth 50p each**

Use it at the pocket money shop, face paints, refreshments and more, so children can buy treats without needing to carry cash.

### Cash is very welcome too!

When children pay in cash, the PTFA keeps 100% of the money raised for the school.

### NEW TO CLAYPOLE SCHOOL?

**A very warm welcome to all our new families!**

School discos are drop-off events, so parents and carers do not normally stay. If you would like to stay, please volunteer and help us run the event safely.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our discos rely on parent volunteers. Help for the whole session or just part of it makes a huge difference.

**Sign up to volunteer at**

[www.pta-events.co.uk/claypolepta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/claypolepta)

## WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU GLOWING!

Friday 16 October | Claypole School

LET'S KICK OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH A BANG!

# 9th Newark Scouts

Come along and  
make new friends,  
try new things,  
learn new skills  
and have fun!



**Friendship**



**Adventure**



**Respect**



**Discover**



**Squirrels**

Ages 4 – 6



**Beavers**

Ages 6 – 8



**Cubs**

Ages 8 – 10



**Scouts**

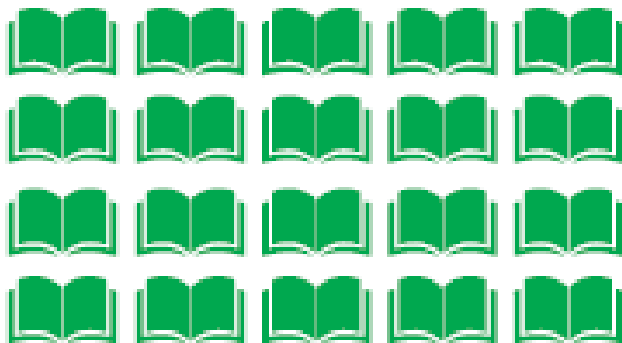
Ages 10 – 14

Get in touch: [mandy.twinn@newarkscouts.org.uk](mailto:mandy.twinn@newarkscouts.org.uk)

# Why Read at home?

## STUDENT A READS

- 20 minutes per day
- 3,600 minutes per school year
- 1,800,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 90TH  
PERCENTILE ON  
STANDARDIZED TESTS

## STUDENT B READS

- 5 minutes per day
- 900 minutes per school year
- 282,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 50TH  
PERCENTILE ON  
STANDARDIZED TESTS

## STUDENT C READS

- 1 minute per day
- 180 minutes per school year
- 8,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 10TH  
PERCENTILE ON  
STANDARDIZED TESTS

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**

[www.bettefetter.com](http://www.bettefetter.com)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

### PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

### REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

### DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

### UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

### PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

### ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

## Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



Reaching Out

# Contacting School



**Emails** (including correspondences intended for staff) are to come via the school office via [adminoffice@claypoleprimary.org](mailto:adminoffice@claypoleprimary.org)

We understand that parents will sometimes have questions, concerns or news that they feel are best directed to their child's class teacher or another member of staff.

To help us respond as quickly and appropriately as possible, we ask that **parent emails are sent via the school office**, rather than directly to individual members of staff.

We want to make sure that your message reaches the right person and, where appropriate, that relevant information is shared with other members of staff who may need to know. For example, a parent may contact a class teacher about something that appears to be a classroom matter, but the information may also be relevant to our **SENDCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead... or a member of the leadership team**.

Having correspondence come through the office allows us to make that judgement and ensure that the appropriate person is involved.

It means that we can:

- make sure your query reaches the **most appropriate member of staff**;
- ensure that important information is **not inadvertently missed or delayed**;
- identify when a concern may require input from another member of staff;
- provide a consistent response when a member of staff is absent or unavailable; and;
- ensure that matters relating to your child are dealt with by the people who are best placed to support them.

We recognise that some messages may be very straightforward and may only require a response from your child's teacher. Where that is the case, the office will simply make sure the message reaches them.

Our aim is to make communication between home and school **clear, efficient and supportive**, while ensuring that the right people have the information they need to help every child.

If you know you want to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Team, email:

[dsl@claypoleprimary.org](mailto:dsl@claypoleprimary.org)

and if you know you want to the SENDCO, email: [send@claypoleprimary.org](mailto:send@claypoleprimary.org)



# Claypole

*Church of England*

## Primary School

