

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Seeing as it's been a while since I shared a newsletter myself with you all, I'd like to start it with a quote:

"Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." Oprah Winfrey

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

www.claypoleprimary.org



Believe & Achieve





From Mr Wells

End Of Term Message

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful pupils, families and staff for everything they have contributed this year.

Many of you will know that I have been away from school for some time. I am pleased to have been able to return before the end of term and to see our school community together once again and understand what the priorities are for September. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the kindness, understanding and support that has been shown during my absence and on my return. It has meant a great deal to me personally.

Schools are built on relationships, and I have been reminded how fortunate we are to have caring and dedicated people around us. I am incredibly grateful to the staff, who have continued to provide our children with the high-quality education, care and encouragement they deserve every day. Thank you to Mrs Silby and Miss Lyon for their leadership of the school during my absence. I would also like to thank parents and carers for your continued support and partnership throughout the year.

Most importantly, I want to congratulate the pupils. They continue to impress me with their enthusiasm, resilience, kindness and determination. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage or simply through the way they care for one another... they have made me feel very proud.

Illness has robbed me of months of my life this year but that doesn't necessarily mean those months had no value - which leads me to this quote, I'd like to share with you (a new favourite of mine) - from poet Donna Ashworth:

"There will come a day when you will glance at your child, and be met by an adult. It will wipe the very floor from under your feet, when you realise in that moment that you were only ever minding them until they fly away. Because back then, when you were consumed with the daily grind of parenting, you felt like this was forever. Yet we know nothing is truly forever. Just a handful of years you will know them as a child, and if you are blessed, many more you will know them as an adult. Drink them in if you can. Drink them in."

As we head into the summer break, I hope every member of our school community has the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year of learning and growth together.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and restful summer. We will welcome the children back on Thursday 3rd September 2026.



What's Happening & When?

Key Dates

When

What

Thursday 3 rd September	Welcome Back To School, families
Friday 23 rd October	End of Term
Monday 2 nd November	Back To School
Friday 18 th December	Finish for Christmas.



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

CLAYPOLE SCHOOL PTFA
Thank You! ♥

What a fantastic day!
We are so grateful to everyone who came along, supported and helped make our Summer Fayre such a huge success.

LITTLE JOHN'S HOG ROAST

WE RAISED AN AMAZING
£1,501.77

A very special **THANK YOU** to **Little Johns Hog Roast**, who very generously donated ALL of their proceeds from the evening to the PTFA, making a significant contribution to our fantastic fundraising total.

Thank you also to all of our volunteers, local businesses, staff, families and friends for your support and generosity.

Every penny raised will go towards funding school trips, activities and resources to enrich our children's experiences.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Reminder Regarding Absences & Fixed Penalty Notices

Attendance & Absences

As a reminder, the government increased the amount of money parents who are fined for taking their children out of school will need to pay - with County Councils expected to apply the measures comparably and consistently (under the current rules it is the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents - which means the process can vary from council to council across the country). Please be prepared for a far stricter approach/enforcement by our Local Authority.

Under the Education Act parents have a legal duty in England to make sure their child is getting an education when they reach compulsory school age. This is defined by law as the school term after they turn five to the last Friday in June in the school year in which they turn 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

From August all Local Authority schools were obliged to consider a fine when a pupil misses 10 or more school sessions for unauthorised reasons. A session counts as either a morning or an afternoon in school. Therefore 10 missed sessions are the equivalent to five whole days of school.

Unauthorised reasons can include (but no exhaustive):

- Holidays;
- Days off;
- Feeling tired;
- Bad weather;
- Parent unwell to bring child to school;
- Persistent absence due to child refusal;
- Birthday celebrations;
- Lack of information regarding absence (i.e. 'feeling unwell')

As the Headteacher, I can only grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. School will only grant term time holidays if there are exceptional circumstances, of which parents must provide 4 weeks' notice in writing, if the holiday is to be granted. If the term time holiday is not deemed to be an exceptional circumstance, then the absence will not be authorised.



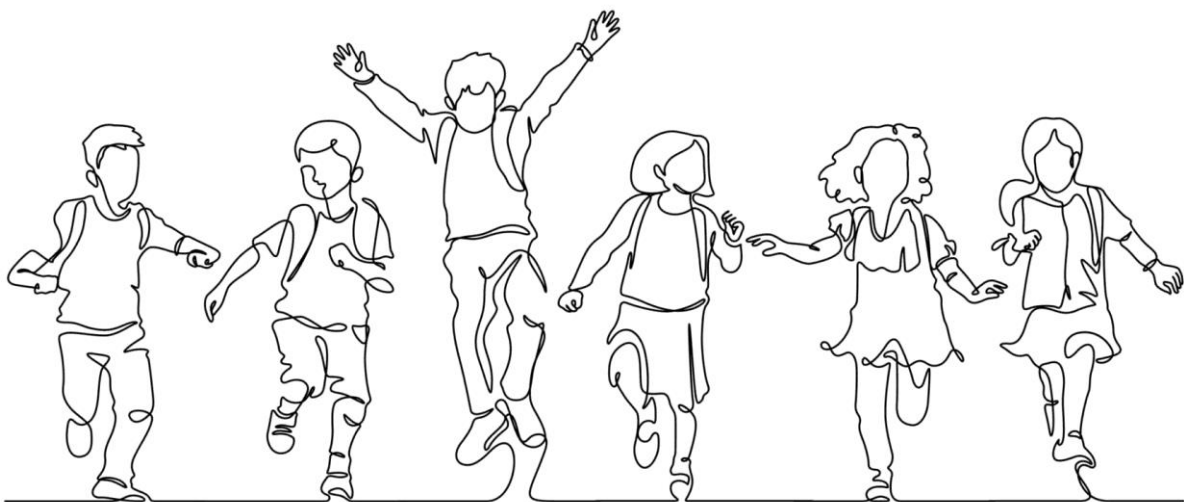
The current penalty is £80 per parent, which rises to £160 if not paid within 21 days.

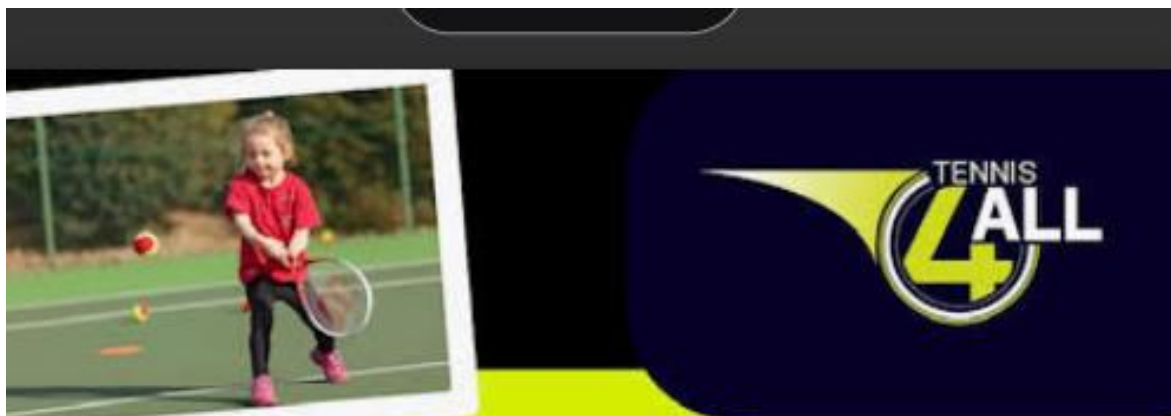
Under the rules, education chiefs are also pledging to tackle repeat offenders and those who may choose to regularly allow their children to miss school in favour of paying the fine. If a parent is given a second fine for the same child within a three-year period, this fine will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for a discount if paid early. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution may be considered. If you're prosecuted and have to attend court because your child hasn't been going to school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

The Department for Education expects children to attend school every day that it is open - unless they are ill; and if your child is missing - without permission in advance from the headteacher - then families may risk a fine if the number of absent days breaches the threshold.

The Department for Education says there has been a 'worldwide rise' in absence and persistent absence from school since the pandemic, which broke the habits of coming to lessons each week combined with other barriers such as mental ill health.

We love being part of your child's life and want them in school with us every day. It's an honour & a privilege to watch them grow... and it happens in a blink of an eye. We meticulously plan our curriculum so that it builds on prior learning & threads together various subjects to help children deepen their knowledge and appreciate how learning interweaves. Consistent attendance ensures the best chance at achieving the outstanding progress your child deserves.





SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS

 July 28th, 29th, 30th
Aug 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th

 Full day 9am-4pm

 Full day Tennis Camps @ Caunton Tennis Club

 Ages 5-15 years.

 Caunton Tennis Club, NN23 6AS



SCAN ME

All Camps run by LTA Qualified, Licensed coaches with DBS checks.

£40 per day. Discounts for doing all 3 days and for club members

TO BOOK A SPACE PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE or SCAN

THE QR CODE www.tennis4all.org.uk/holiday-camps

Email james@tennis4all.org.uk

Phone 07771 962964



3 months - 11 years. After school club at Claypole school

Few remaining spaces available!

Little gates for Little people

Now enrolling for September 2026 for 2.5 to 4 year olds

Begin preparing your child for the transition to Claypole school

🌱 Where little minds grow and friendships blossom

🌈 A happy place too learn and grow within natural surroundings.

👣 Small steps today, big achievements tomorrow



👶 Play, learn and discover with us. **Fully funded sessions**, standard or stretched offer.

🔍 A safe place for little explorers. Set on 3 acres in the heart of the countryside.

To book a visit
contact Charlotte:
☎️ 01636 626067



📍 Little gates farm, Clensey Lane, Dry Doddington 📍



Celebrating Achievements

End Of Year Awards

It's a pleasure for the staff to sit and reflect together on all the wonderful achievements and progress their class have made over the academic year... and a wonderful problem to have when considering the 'End Of Year' awards. With so many worthy considerations, each child has done us all proud again this year.

The final 'End of Year' awards for each year group are:

Year Group	Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Citizenship	Outstanding Contribution	The Sue Wright 'Kindness Cup'
EYFS	Hudson Clarke	Alisha Dack	Charlie Smith	Winnie Pearce
Year 1	Pip Erridge	Albie Rockcliff-Simpson	Eve Peterken	Florence Snaith
Year 2	Tyler Barber	Ivy Dodes	Aurelia Mazur	Poppy Revill
Year 3	Rosalie Pearce	Isabel Rockcliff-Simpson	George Betts	Jan Gunnink
Year 4	Isaac Hobbs	Wren Stanesby	Isobel Rutherford	Hallie Curt
Year 5	Lilly-Mae Hazell	Tilly Foster	Frankie Fahey	Arianna Etok
Year 6	Felicity Widdowson	Izabelle Burton	James Booth	George Taylor

After many lunchtime deliberations, the overall winners this year are:

For Outstanding Progress: Lilly-Mae Hazell

For Outstanding Citizenship: Alisha Dack

For Outstanding Contribution: James Booth

The Sue Wright Kindness Cup: George Taylor





Contacting Staff

Contacts

All messages (including correspondences intended for staff) are to come via the school office via adminoffice@claypoleprimary.org or 01636 626268 which will then be forwarded to the right person.

Safeguarding and Safety Directory

Useful Contacts

ChildLine: 0800 1111

Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264

NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 08088 005000

Domestic Violence: 0808 2000 247

Samaritans: 01522 528282

Family Services Directory: 0800 195 1635

[Lincolnshire] Social Services: 01522 782111

[Nottingham] Social Services: 0300 1310 300

Anxiety UK: 08444 775 774

'Healthy Minds Lincolnshire' is a children and young people's emotional wellbeing service - for further information please visit their website www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people

If you are wishing to contact 'Healthy Minds' regarding suitability for referral into the service of a child or young person in your care, please contact the Here4You line on: 0800 234 6342.



Holiday Activities & Food Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme offers free activities over the summer holidays for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. This initiative aims to provide enriching experiences during the break, ensuring that all children have opportunities for engagement and learning. Parents are encouraged to explore the range of activities available and to take advantage of this programme.

Lincolnshire families: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/holiday-activities-food-programme>

Nottinghamshire families: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food>

10 Top Tips for Helping Children STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

Over the summer our children will, of course, have significantly more spare time now they are out of school. For many youngsters, it may be that a considerable amount of this extra freedom is spent online, using social media apps, video games, streaming services and other digital tech to have fun. For that reason, it's even more important for trusted adults to focus on online safety during the summer break – ensuring that our children are not only aware of the most common threats but also know what to do if they encounter something in the digital world that upsets or disturbs them.

1 ENGAGE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES

It might not always be convenient, but try to make time to show interest in what your child's doing online. Ideally, get involved – by joining in with video gaming and discussing the apps they're using. It will make your child more likely to come to you with any future online worries or concerns.

2 FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

Teach your child to question what they see in the digital world. As fake news increasingly uses AI to create believable audio, video and images, it will become even more important in future years to question the content that we see – and to know how to confirm it as true.

3 BE A DIGITAL ROLE MODEL

Take opportunities to demonstrate your empathy and understanding of others online, giving your child a positive template to follow. Watching you being a good digital citizen will help your child to learn an appropriate level of respect for the feelings, thoughts and privacy of other Internet users.

4 EMPHASISE THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Among the internet's oceans of content, of course, are things which can be upsetting and concerning for young ones. There's always a chance that your child could stumble across inappropriate material, so it's wise to discuss in advance what they should do if this happens. Underline that they can always come to you if something online has worried them.

5 FIND A BALANCE

Communicating and competing online is fun, but shouldn't replace in-person socialising, exercise or being outdoors. Work with your child to find a healthy balance between their online and offline activities. Take into account what they're actually doing online: researching something or cooperating in a game, for example, is more valuable than simply browsing TikTok.

6 STAY AWARE

Keep an eye on your child's online activity and regularly check in with what they're doing. If you have serious concerns, you could discreetly view their browser history. The extent of monitoring should correspond to your child's age and maturity: younger children are likely to need closer observation.

10 REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN

Obviously, the digital world isn't without its dangers – but, when navigated safely, it remains an exciting, engaging and educational place. Be mindful of the many risks, of course, but don't let them discourage you from supporting your child to explore and enjoy themselves in the online space.

9 KEEP DEVICES UPDATED

Ensuring any devices that your child uses to go online have the most up-to-date firmware and software installed is hugely beneficial. Many people put off downloading these regular updates, but very often they contain vital software patches which help to keep your devices and data secure.

8 TEACH BASIC SECURITY

It's important that children learn to keep their personal data safe, and understand how strong passwords can help with that. Explain the basics of digital security (showing them examples, if possible) and when they're a little older you could move on to more advanced methods like multi-factor authentication.

7 TAKE (PARENTAL) CONTROL

It's wise to capitalise on the parental controls offered by most internet service providers and the devices and software that children use. These controls allow you to manage the kind of content your child is able to access, and they can usually be adjusted to reflect your child's specific age.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Believe and Achieve

Matthew 21:22

Instil in all the balance of academic, behaviour & character skills needed to succeed;

Inspire all to apply these skills through positive & proactive learning opportunities;

Innovate our approaches so all take the lead, utilise their talents and flourish.



 claypoleprimary.org

 [ClaypolePrimarySchool](https://www.youtube.com/ClaypolePrimarySchool)

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