



The Bugle

March 2025

A message from Mrs Ramsell ...

We've had a fantastic start to 2025, filled with exciting activities, excellent learning, and the welcome return of sunshine! Last week was especially fun, with everyone enjoying World Book Day—The Conga was a huge hit!

There's still plenty to look forward to. It's wonderful to see all our Year 6s receiving their high school offers and preparing for the adventures ahead ... and it won't be long until 16 April 2025 when we'll know who'll we will be welcoming as we find out the names of new friends joining our New Intake 2025.

Summer is on the horizon, but there's still lots to do!

**Easter holidays break up day is Friday, 11 April 2025
and we return to school on Monday, 28 April 2025.**



School Uniform

Sunshine is returning, and hopefully, we'll be able to set up the pre-loved uniform shop during pick-up times. However, it's always available to view in school if you need to replace any uniform.

We are now accepting good quality blue uniform again—cardigans, jumpers, hoodies, and polos—so please feel free to drop them off with us. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



A new school lunch menu will be introduced from April 2025. Details will be sent home in due course and will also be available to view on the website.

Parking in the Lane

Just our regular reminder to be respectful to our neighbours and do not block their driveways or park on them unless you have their express permission. Please also avoid parking near or in the Farmer's driveway to ensure we maintain good relationships with everyone. Thank you.

Arbor MIS

We have recently introduced a new Management Information System (MIS) in school called Arbor. There is no direct impact on families, except that we now have a 'old' School Gateway and 'new' School Gateway working side by side until the migration is complete. You may see reference to this on any payment confirmation you receive.

This means that any changes to telephone numbers and email addresses may not update automatically. Please let the office know of any updates so we can ensure our records remain accurate. Thank you for your support!

Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences: What you need to know about the changes.

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for unauthorised absences that occur after 19th August 2024.

5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave.

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period.

Penalty Notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

(No option to pay at £80 level)

Third offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' court.

Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.



Please consult your school's attendance policy and speak with your school if you are thinking of taking your child out of school during term-time. It is likely you will need to make a written request to take your child out of school and any leave of absence will need to be agreed by your Headteacher before it is taken.

Exciting Staff News!

We're excited to announce that our team just got even stronger with new teachers joining us!



Mrs. Gower has been supporting Year 2 as a supply teacher since October 2023, and we are absolutely delighted that she has decided to join us permanently from Easter 2025. She will continue as the Year 2 class teacher for the rest of this year. Welcome, Mrs. Gower—we're thrilled to have you on the team!



Additionally, Miss Conn, who has been a student teacher working with Year 4, will return after Easter to continue her training. We're also delighted to share that she will officially join us from the new academic year in her first permanent teaching role. We're so pleased she has chosen to begin her teaching career at New Swannington.

We're sure you will all join us in giving them both a very warm welcome!

Trip Payments – Outstanding Debts

As previously communicated, the school budget remains under significant pressure, and this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. It is essential that payments for trips, particularly residentials, are made on time.

As we approach our financial year-end, it is critical that ALL payments are received according to the agreed schedules. For example, the balance for Whitby 2024 was due to be paid in full by January 2025, yet despite reminders, some payments remain outstanding.

We appreciate that everyone is subject to cost of living pressures, however, we also have responsibilities to pay our costs. Therefore, given the ongoing budget constraints, any unpaid amounts will now be referred to our governing board and, if necessary, reclaimed through the LCC Debt Recovery process. All payments **must** be received by the end of this month to avoid this process. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Easter Activities



Our very popular Decorated Egg Competition is back again this year! We are always amazed by the fabulous and creative designs our children (and their grown-ups!) come up with.

This year, judging will take place on **Thursday, 10 April 2025**, so please bring your egg creations in on that day. Winners will be announced in **Celebration Assembly on Friday, 11 April 2025**.

We can't wait to see all the wonderful entries!



Easter Bingo and Wear What You Love Day

Easter wouldn't be Easter without our fantastic Easter Bingo fundraiser! It's always a great night for the whole family.

Due to fire regulations, we have a limit on numbers this year, so it's tickets **only**—if your name's not down, you're not coming in!

Tickets are 50p per person and must be pre-booked on the School Gateway App. Don't miss out on a fun-filled evening!

Wear What You Love Day is on Friday, 28 March 2025!

Wear whatever you love in exchange for a chocolate donation to support our Chocolate Bingo event.

Please bring your chocolate donations into school on 28 March 2025. Thank you for your support!



With so many great trips and events planned, there's plenty for everyone to look forward to. The Year 4 residential to Ironbridge will be such a fantastic experience, and the Think Tank trip for the younger years is always a great hands-on learning opportunity. Year 5's visit to Leicester Synagogue will be an insightful cultural experience too. And of course, Red Nose Day and the Decorated Eggs event will bring plenty of fun and creativity!

Spring really does bring a sense of renewal and excitement—hopefully, the weather keeps improving to match the energy of all these activities!

