



Cranwell Primary School Newsletter Page 1

SENDCo and Class 6AB Changes

I am writing to share an important update regarding our Special Educational Needs Provision here at Cranwell Primary School.

Our wonderful SENCO, Mrs Nicky Olsen, will sadly be leaving Cranwell Primary School at the end of the spring term on Thursday 2nd April 2026.

Nicky has been a deeply valued and cherished member of our school family since joining us in 2005, and she has led our SEND provision with unwavering dedication since 2010. Over the years, she has given so much of herself to the children and families of our school community. Her compassion, patience and tireless commitment have made an immeasurable difference to the lives of so many pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Those of you who have worked closely with Nicky will know just how much love, care and wholehearted passion she brings to every child's learning journey. She sees the potential in every pupil and works relentlessly to ensure they feel supported, understood and empowered to succeed. Her impact on our school is profound, and she will be missed more than words can truly express, both professionally and personally.

We are incredibly grateful for the many years of dedication, warmth and expertise she has given to Cranwell Primary School. While we are so sad to see her go, we wish Nicky every happiness and success in her next chapter, and she will always remain a much-loved part of our school community.

SENCO Transition

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Fiona Birchenall, our highly experienced Year 6 teacher, has been completing SENDCo training over the past two years and will officially become our new dedicated SENCO from Monday 20th April 2026.

Mrs Birchenall has been working closely with Mrs Olsen since September 2025 and brings extensive experience supporting pupils with a wide range of additional needs, both in the classroom and now at a strategic, whole-school level. Many of you will already have met with Mrs Olsen and Mrs Birchenall together this academic year, helping to ensure continuity and a smooth handover.

Class 6AB

While this is a huge step for the school, our absolute priority remains our Year 6 children in their final year at primary school. This is such an important and formative time for them, with SATs, transition arrangements, and the move to secondary school ahead. We are fully committed to ensuring that they continue to receive the stability, care and high-quality teaching they need during this crucial final stage of their primary education.

Class 6AB is currently being taught by Mrs Birchenall, Mrs Albrighton and Mrs Wood.

To protect the learning and wellbeing of our Year 6 pupils during their final year, Mrs Birchenall will take on the SENCO role on a part-time basis from April until mid-June. This arrangement ensures that her current Year 6 class continues to benefit from her support and guidance during SATs preparation and their transition to secondary school.

Mrs Albrighton and Mrs Wood will continue teaching in the class until the beginning of June, when Mrs Debbie McCann will take over 6AB for the remainder of the academic year. Mrs McCann is a highly experienced class teacher who has been teaching at Cranwell since 2022. She has already taught many of the children in the class at various times, and we are confident she will provide continuity and strong support for the pupils. You might be wondering why this change is happening; it's because Mrs Albrighton is expecting! What fantastic news! As a result, Mrs Albrighton will begin her maternity leave sometime in June.

If you need to discuss your child's SEND provision during the Spring Term, please, in the first instance, contact your child's class teacher via enquiries@cranwell.lincs.sch.uk.

As with any staffing transition, we recognise that moving into a new system and new personnel takes time, patience and understanding. We are carefully managing this change to ensure a smooth and supportive transition for both pupils and families, and we appreciate your continued support as we implement these new arrangements.



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Class Photographs

Class Photographs will be taken on Thursday 5th March 2026.

Assessment Time

SATs week for Key Stage 2 is nationally arranged for the week beginning 11th May 2026. All Year 6 children will be participating in the tests.

Year Two SATs testing will take place throughout May and early June. Therefore children need to be in school during this time.

Year One Phonics Screening will be taking place during the week commencing 8th June 2026 and is a Government requirement. Information about the test can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics

Year 4 Multiplication Test will be taking place during the 2-week period from 1st June 2026 to Friday 12th June 2026.

Therefore, please ensure your child is in school during these periods.

Absences during this time will be classified as unauthorised, and fines may be issued by Lincolnshire County Council.

If it Snows!

If you are unsure whether the school will be open on a day when it snows:

We will send out a Parentmail which will provide relevant information as to whether we are closed.

Also, you could check www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures

...or listen to BBC Radio Lincolnshire.

A decision sometimes can not be made until 8am, therefore remain at home until the latest time possible to safely travel to school. Please note, even when radio stations/LCC websites are contacted by school, it can often take a considerable time for the information to be available for broadcasting or uploading.

Disabled Parking Considerations

We have limited disabled parking on the school premises, and we do have families who require these.

We are unable to enforce this but please be considerate and keep these spaces free for those that require them.

To avoid any misunderstanding when using the disabled bays, please display your Blue Badge.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Mobile Phones and Watches

We do not support children bringing mobile phones into school, however we do realise that some older children need them for safety reasons if they are walking home alone. If this is the case, phones must be left with the class teacher during the school day.

The school is not responsible for damage or loss of phones.

We do not allow watches into school which take photographs or have communication capabilities. Please understand this is for Safeguarding purposes.

HSE Alert

The HSE have released an alert regarding children's toys.

Children's products recalled due to asbestos contamination

A number of children's play products have been recalled as they may be contaminated with a small quantity of asbestos.

This includes:

- Hobbycraft: giant box of craft, sand and pom pom art kit, and easter bumper craft kit
- Colour Forge: basing sand
- My Living: world worm kit
- Stretcherz: stretch squad assortment and slammerz assortment toy

Please check to see if you have any of these products, if so, DO NOT use and click the link for further information on what action to take.

For more details, see product recalls and alerts from Office of Product Safety and Standards"

[Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/product-safety-alerts-reports-and-recalls)

Term Dates

Academic Year 2025-26

Term 4 : Ends — Thurs 2nd April 2026

Term 5 : Tue 21st April — Fri 22nd May 2026

Term 6 : Mon 1st June — Wed 22nd July 2026

Academic Year 2026-27

Term 1 : Thur 3rd Sept — Fri 23rd October 2026

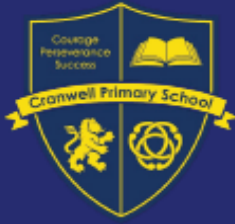
Term 2 : Mon 2nd Nov — Fri 18th Dec 2026

Term 3 : Tue 5th Jan — Fri 12th Feb 2027

Term 4 : Mon 22nd Feb — Thur 25th Mar 2027

Term 5 : Wed 14th April — Fri 28th May 2027

Term 6 : Mon 7th June — Wed 21st July 2027



CRANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL'S
**WORLD BOOK
DAY**

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

Come to school dressed as your favourite book character or even snuggled in your PJ's ready for a bedtime story!



WE WILL SPEND THE DAY NURTURING YOUR LOVE FOR READING WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES!



WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR FAMILY JOIN US TO HELP KICK START THE DAY WITH A BIG BREAKFAST! 8:15AM £1 ENTRY PP





Attendance

Supporting you to understand the new rules



A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law.

These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024**.

What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued.

This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.



First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

Second Offence

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.



Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance



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Specialist Teaching Team
Inclusion Service

Dyslexia Outreach

Working with School to Support Your Child's Learning

A free, online workshop, for parents and carers, to support your knowledge and understanding of how mainstream schools support children with SEND.

We will be sharing recommendations for effective ways of working together with school to ensure the best outcomes for your child.



Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7:00 – 8:00pm

If you would like to attend, please sign up [here](#).



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Tackling child exploitation



If you have any concerns about a child, please call:
01522 782111



Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn:

 /lincolnshirescp

 /lincolnshire-safeguarding-children-partnership

Identifying and reducing the impact of sexual and physical harm



If you have any concerns about a child, please call:
01522 782111



Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn:

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Online Harms



If you have any concerns about a child, please call:
01522 782111



Lincolnshire Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn:

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Identifying and reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children, young people, and their families



If you have any concerns about a child, please call:
01522 782111



Lincolnshire Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn:

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 /lincolnshire-safeguarding-children-partnership



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Specialist Teaching Team
Inclusion Service

Dyslexia Outreach

Is your child transferring from **Primary to Secondary** school in September 2026?

Would you like to find out more about how you can support your child to make this transfer as exciting and happy as possible?



Transition Workshop

Join us for a **free, online workshop**, sharing strategies for support and an opportunity to ask questions. Open to all parents and carers, regardless of which setting your child attends, or is transferring to.

Your child does not have to have a dyslexia diagnosis for this information to be relevant and useful!

Monday 11th May 2026 @ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

To attend on this date, please register at with LPCF at: <https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>
Once registered with the Forum, you can visit their Events page to sign up for this event.

Tuesday 9th June 2026 @ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend on this date please sign up [here](#).

Please note, both sessions have the same content, so please sign up to the most convenient date for you.

If you are unable to attend either workshop but would like some advice about your child's learning or transition, you can contact us directly:

Jane McWatt (South)
Tel: 07717 226448
jane.mcwatt@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Odette Read (North)
Tel: 07778 534478
odette.read@lincolnshire.gov.uk



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Your experience matters

Do you have sight or hearing loss, or support someone who does?

We want to understand what it's like to use health and care services if you have sight or hearing loss. Your feedback will help improve services and remove barriers. If this is you, or you care for someone who does, please share your experience.

Tell us what works for you

Complete our survey by:

- Visiting: lincolnshire.icb.nhs.uk/sensory-impairment
- Scanning the QR code



Alternatively, contact us by:

- **Phone or text:** 07814 939396 or **email:** licb.involveus@nhs.net

We can also visit your community group – **invite us at licb.involveus@nhs.net** – or have a conversation with you in person or over the phone.

Survey closes: 13th March

Prefer British Sign Language, large print, audio, Easy Read, or Braille?
Tell us and we'll send it.



HANDS UP WHO CARES?



ARE YOU A **YOUNG CARER**?

ARE YOU WORKING WITH A **YOUNG CARER**?

A Young Carer is a young person under the age of 18 years helping to care for a family member with a physical disability, mental health condition, illness or addiction.

There is help and support available for Young Carers and their families.

For more information, please contact Lincolnshire Young Carers:

Tel: 01522 553275

Email:

youngcarers@lincolnshire.gov.uk



WE DO!





SUPPORT FOR LINCOLNSHIRE YOUNG CARERS

There is support available for children up to the age of 18 who help to care for someone at home. That person may be a parent, sibling, grandparent, or any other relative who has a:

- Physical disability
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- Misuses alcohol or drugs
- Sensory impairment (hearing or sight loss)
- Life limiting condition
- Any other long term illness or condition

The role undertaken by young carers can include:

- Helping the person they care for to get dressed or washed
- Extra housework, shopping, or cooking
- Helping with medication
- Emotional support
- Helping a sibling with a disability

Young carers often take on responsibilities which affect their friendships and relationships, learning and development, health and wellbeing, or future career choices. They can experience increased levels of stress or anxiety, feelings of isolation and loneliness, lack of time to take part in social activities, and difficulties in keeping up with their education or homework.

We all share a responsibility to identify and support young carers. In Lincolnshire we offer a range of support to help our young carers, including:

- Young Carer needs assessments
- Young Carer Groups
- Young Carer Card
- Emergency planning
- Agency support from specific services
- Online support groups

Free training is also available for all professionals in Lincolnshire. For more information or if there is a child you know that you think may be a young carer in need of support please contact:

Lincolnshire Young Carers
Tel: 01522 553275 or email
youngcarers@lincolnshire.gov.uk



HANDS UP WHO CARES? WE DO!





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Hello,

We know that starting school is a big step for your child and for you as a family and it can be an exciting but also a daunting time. You may have questions or you may just not know where to begin, don't worry we are here to help.

We wanted to invite you to some exciting opportunities to help you and your child to get ready for school.

Attached to this email is a poster with dates for the sessions which will be online live events for parents/carers on starting school. Please choose the session with a time that suits you.

You can access the sessions through these links below:

Thursday 23rd April 6.00-7.00pm [Join the meeting now](#)

Wednesday 29th April 1.30-2.30pm [Join the meeting now](#)

Your local Children's Centre/Family Hub also has all sorts of sessions available which will help with socialisation, turn taking, sharing and communication skills. Your local Children's Centre/Family Hub timetable is available on this link [Find a children's centre – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Click here for useful information on Starting Reception - [Home - Starting Reception](#)

We are looking forward to seeing you at one of our sessions, but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards
The Early Years Team

Ready Steady go to School

This is a short free online session aimed at Parents/Carers of children who will be starting school in September 2026. Come along and meet one of our Early Years Team to explore practical activities and top tips to help your little one on their journey to school

Thursday 23rd April 6.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 29th April 1.30-2.30pm

Family hubs Lincolnshire
BEST START IN LIFE
Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL Working for a better future