



Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

TUDOR TIMES



2025-26 Term: Autumn | Issue 1 | Date: October 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

As the seasons begin to change and we enter the heart of autumn, we give thanks for the fresh start this school year has brought. We are grateful for the energy, curiosity, and resilience of our children, and for the dedication of the staff who guide them each day.

We ask for your continued blessing on our school community—may it be a place of safety, growth, and kindness. Help us to nurture strong values, encourage learning, and support one another through every challenge and success.

Grant our families peace, patience, and strength as they support their children's journey. May this term be filled with purpose, joy, and progress.

Amen.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share that we've had a strong and purposeful start to the year. Pupils have returned with pride, and their engagement in the curriculum reflects the strong values instilled in them across all phases of the school.

Uniform standards are excellent, and attendance has improved significantly. We are grateful for your continued support in helping us maintain high expectations.

Primary Phase:

Year Group Attendance (%)

Year 1	96.0%
Year 2	96.0%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	94.3%
Year 5	94.0%
Year 6	92.3%

Secondary Phase:

Year Group Attendance (%)

Year 7	95.6%
Year 8	93.0%
Year 9	92.3%
Year 10	93.1%
Year 11	89.6%

We're especially proud of Year 7, who have made an excellent start with attendance at **95.6%**.

Our **Freddo Friday initiative** has been a great success, with **70% of secondary pupils achieving 100% attendance** in the first three weeks. Our target is to reach **80% next half term**, so please continue to support us in this effort.

We were also proud to receive the **Bronze Inclusive Attendance Award**, recognising the sustained work we've done in partnership with parents to improve attendance.

Uniform Expectations

Uniform plays a vital role in maintaining high standards and a sense of pride. In primary, please ensure pupils wear **plain black shoes with no logos**, and that they have their **blazer and tie**. We've updated primary leaders on expectations, and the upcoming half term is a good opportunity to purchase any required items.

We have **unapologetically high standards** for uniform. The majority of pupils have made a positive start by wearing the correct uniform with pride. Please refer to the full uniform expectations below:

Footwear:

- Plain black leather shoes (no logos, no trainers or boots)
- Heel height max: 5cm | Sole thickness max: 2cm

General Uniform:

- Blazer worn at all times
- Shirt buttoned to the top, tie worn correctly
- Charcoal grey trousers/skirt/shorts (no leggings or non-uniform items)
- Coats removed on entry; hoodies not permitted
- School bag required daily (no small handbags or carrier bags)

Jewellery, Make-up & Hairstyles:

- Only a watch permitted (no smart watches or other jewellery)
- No piercings; retainers must be removed
- Discreet natural makeup only; no nail varnish, false nails, or eyelashes
- Hair neat and tidy; no extreme styles or colours

Next term, we will begin explicitly teaching routines and expectations in **Year 5 and Year 6** to support learning and create a predictable, focused environment. Assemblies will be used to reinforce these routines.

Trust Review & Teaching Practice

This term, our Trust review described TGSA as "**transformational**" in the operational detail of our work. We've seen real improvements in the use of **mini whiteboards** for assessment and **cold-calling** to boost engagement. These strategies are not just practiced by teachers—they're taught to pupils too.

Next term brings **mock exams** for both **SATs and GCSEs**, and it's vital that school and home work closely together. Intervention and revision sessions will begin after the break.

I'm incredibly proud of our staff, whose hard work has made this term so successful. From **primary choir and art clubs** to **secondary cooking and debate clubs**, there's a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils to enjoy.

We wish you a restful half term and look forward to welcoming pupils back as we begin to build the festive spirit in the second half of the autumn term

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Bannon

Principal

Primary Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome all our pupils back to school this academic term. It has been a strong and positive start to the year, and we are proud of the progress already being made across our Primary phase.

We have continued to raise expectations around attendance, uniform, and behaviour for learning. Attendance has notably improved, with Years 1 and 2 leading the way at an impressive 96%. We are also pleased to share that 73% of our Primary pupils achieved 100% attendance in the first three weeks of school, as part of our exciting new Freddo Friday initiative.

This term, we hosted our first Primary Whole School Fab Friday, where we celebrated and showcased the wonderful artwork created by our children. These events have been a fantastic opportunity to bring our school community together, and we look forward to continuing them throughout the year. Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 have already held Fab Friday and Marvellous Monday events, and we are grateful to all parents for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.

We will share further updates regarding our celebration assemblies in the upcoming term. Thank you for your continued commitment to your child's education and to our school community.

We are also very grateful to you all for generous food donations for Open Hands Harvest collection.

Warm regards,

Mrs W Cooper

Primary Principal

Young Carers



A young carer is a child under 18 who regularly looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled or has a mental health problem or an addiction.

Children may engage in:

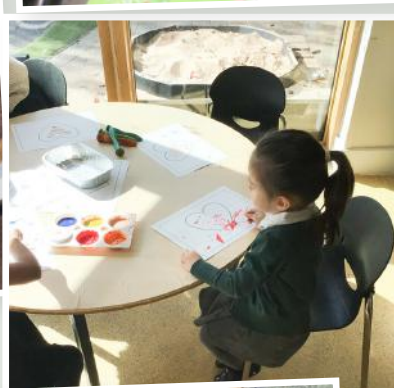
- Shopping, cleaning, cooking
- Managing medicines or money
- Providing personal care
- Helping get people out of the house
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Providing emotional support



TGSA can support young carers. If you, or a family member, needs support please contact Rohina Dassu at office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk.

All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence. For more information about Young Carers in Schools, follow this link: [Young Carers in Schools](#)

We had a brilliant time at Nursery and Pre-School's Marvellous Monday to celebrate Grandparent's day. The children created cards, paintings and puppets for their grandparents. The children showed their families around the classroom and enjoyed playing together.



Pre-School



The Caterpillars class has been learning about Autumn. We went exploring through the school's fields and the forest to watch the leaves fall from the trees. The children enjoyed collecting sticks, leaves, acorns and conkers on their walks. While we were out the children visited the outdoor learning space, where the children chose nursery songs to sing; their current favourites are Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Miss Polly had a Dolly.



Reception



In Reception we have been learning about the different seasons, focusing on Autumn. The children have been discovering touches of Autumn in the forest, around the field and in our outdoor area. They have loved being explorers and were excited to share their discoveries with the class.



In Maths we have been practising our subitising (looking at a group of objects and knowing how many there are without counting them). The children have been noticing these groups of objects in all different areas – how many cups of tea, how many snacks in our picnic basket, how many cars are driving on the road, how many scooters are racing around the track?

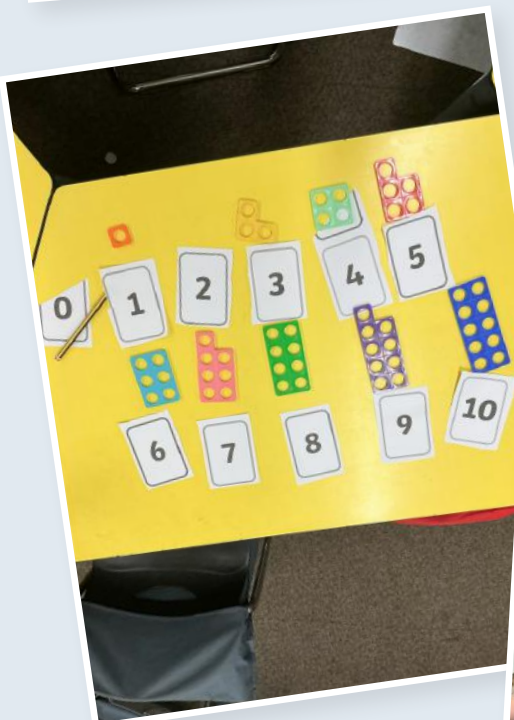
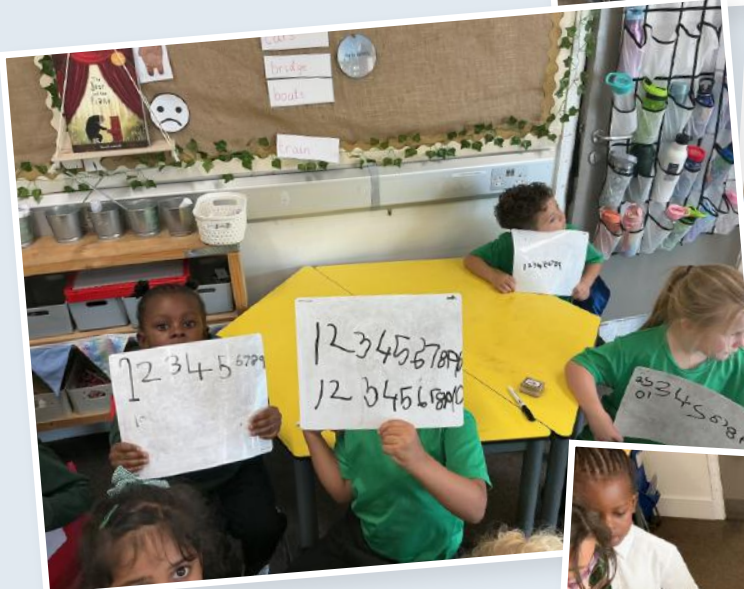


We welcomed many of our parents and grandparents into school for FAB Friday. The children enjoyed engaging in activities to celebrate their grandparents and showing their families around their classrooms.



In Year 1 we have worked hard on embedding routines, and have explored different ways to develop our understanding on the story book 'The Bear and the Piano'.

We have been learning about number lines and practiced writing numbers. We ended our half term with parents coming in to share books with their children.



Year 4 have had a fantastic first half term!

In DT, we have been exploring different structures to help us design and now build our own pavilions with a frame structure.



In Science, we have been learning about classifying living things. A particular favourite lesson was exploring our playground to find different plants and animals to identify using a branching key. We loved finding things like ladybirds, crane flies and earthworms.

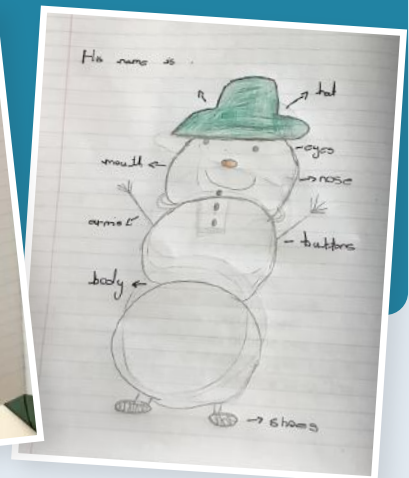
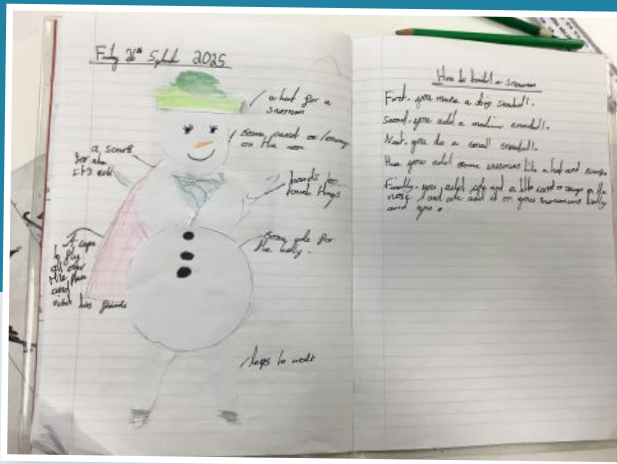
In RE we have been using lots of drama to explore different stories in Christianity. Our theme has been "What kind of world did Jesus want?" This picture shows us exploring the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Finally, we have also had an assembly all about the NSPCC. This helped us to learn about different kinds of abuse, and how we can deal with these or any other worries or stresses we might face. The children practised the Childline Number which is free to ring at any time.

The children have settled in really well to Year 4 and we are looking forward to what we will learn next.



In Year 5 we have been feeling festive in October and had fun learning about The Snowman. We made our own paper snowmen and created instructions for how to build one.



Today Year 5 discussed the conflict between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We focused on the decisions that were made by each side and whether the Anglo-Saxons should pay off the Vikings to stop them from attacking.



Primary School Council



Two of our school councillors took part in a zoom call today with other primary schools from across the country. They discussed ways to continue sharing kindness within our school. At the end of the last school year, we were very proud to become a Kindness School through 52 Lives and this year we are continuing to work hard on promoting kindness within the school and taking it into the community. Both school councillors wrote down lots of ideas and we are looking forward to starting to talk about them in the first school council meeting and then implementing them.

Primary Online Kindness Workshop



This week, we had an online Kindness Workshop from the charity 52 Lives (www.52-lives.org) and their School of Kindness! We learned that kindness has three qualities – being friendly, generous and considerate. We learnt about the science of kindness and the positive impact it has on our physical and mental health. Next, we practiced empathy by watching videos of kindness in action and then said kind things to each other in the classroom. To put our kindness into action, we thought of someone we knew who could do with a little kindness. We then made them something in our classrooms and plan to give it to them this week. Finally, we looked at the quote 'be the change that you want to see in the world' and decided that **we** can help to create the kind of world we want to live in. The School of Kindness has a Kids' Club which is free to join, where you will get a free newsletter with kind challenges, stories, activities, jokes, competitions and videos to watch. Just visit www.schoolofkindness.org/kids-club to sign up.



Mental Health Support Team



On Friday, Primary had a visit from Deesh, our mental health practitioner, who came in to speak to our pupils about their mental health, kindness and positive affirmations. Lots of smiles were seen in the primary corridor and lots of kind words were being spoken and shared with others.



The Mental Health Support Team have been in school several times this term to support Secondary pupils; giving out posters and leaflets, and being available to discuss any questions and worries.

They were available at:

- Year 11 parents evening
- World Mental Health Day on Friday 10th October during Secondary lunchtimes
- Year 11 exam anxiety assembly

Next term they are holding **Year 11 Exam Anxiety drop in sessions** on **Monday 27th October**, at break and Year 10 and 11 lunchtimes.



Poetry Competition

Pupils at TGSA completed their first College competition last week, with 49 pupils entering the poetry competition. The range of themes, metaphors, symbolism and thought was an absolute privilege to read.

Judging the winner was a difficult task, but after careful deliberation we were pleased to announce Evie Leson (Cambridge) as the winner, with a beautiful poem titled 'Guided by Faith'.

Favour Iyoha (Oxford) took second place, with a hard hitting poem on unity, division, and dreams, titled 'Echoes of a Dream'.

In third place we had Hassan Aljadein (Oxford), with 'Rise Again', exploring journeys taken through dark times, and the strength to rise again.

We are grateful to all of the pupils who participated in this competition, not only securing points for their College, but also demonstrating the amazing creative talent to be found at TGSA.

Guided by Faith

BY EVIE LESON

*When the road feels heavy and shadows fall near,
I lift up my heart, for I know God hears.
Through trials and troubles, through joy and through pain,
His love is the sunlight that breaks through the rain.
Faith is a lantern, steady and true,
Light on the pathway for me and for you.
It teaches us kindness, forgiveness, and grace
To see every soul as a friend we embrace.
No mountain too high, no valley too deep,
God walks beside us, His promises keep.
And when we feel weary, unsure where to start,
His word is the compass, that steadies the heart.
So let us be faithful in all that we do,
Trusting His wisdom to carry us through.
For life is a journey, and blessings will flow,
When we walk with the one who loves us so.
So I will walk in his footsteps, wherever you go,
Sharing his goodness so others may know.
That hope everlasting, that love shining bright,
Is found in the power of Jesus, the Light.*

The Drama department is busy preparing the release of information for this year's musical show 'Matilda', that will be performed in June. As well as this, we will be launching a new and exciting National Poetry Competition called 'Poetry by Heart'. We are looking forward to our students, of all years, getting involved in these fantastic opportunities. There are also theatre trips being planned for our GCSE Drama students as part of our Curve Theatre School Partnership programme - they will not want to miss out!



Sports Captains



Congratulations to our newly appointed Sports Captains:



"I want to inspire younger students through sport, helping them grow in confidence and character."



"My goal is to be a positive role model for everyone around me, both on and off the field."



"I aim to motivate young children to reach their full potential, no matter their starting point or ability."



"I want to support and uplift others by showing how sport can be a powerful tool for personal growth."



"I hope to spread positivity and show that sport is more than a hobby, it's a way of life."



"I want to create more opportunities in sport for those who might otherwise miss out."



"I'm passionate about helping others gain confidence and enjoy sport through inclusive opportunities."



"I'm excited to help young children express themselves and understand their emotions through sport."

On Thursday 25th September we had the privilege of hosting our annual Awards Ceremony, an event that was both inspiring and heartwarming. During the ceremony, we were proud to present 131 certificates to 109 outstanding students. In addition to our well-established Attainment and Endeavour awards for each subject area, we were excited to introduce a new set of Character Awards. These awards recognize students for their exceptional achievements in areas such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Sporting Excellence, and Resilience – qualities that truly define the well-rounded individuals we are proud to have in our school community.

The atmosphere in the gym was electric as family, friends, and faculty came together to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students. It was wonderful to see such a supportive crowd as Mr. Bannon handed out awards and vouchers to our deserving pupils. The evening was made even more special by a number of musical performances, including a fantastic rendition of "Food Glorious Food" by the talented cast of Oliver!. Their performance was a highlight of the evening, and it left everyone eagerly anticipating their next production later this year.

A particularly special moment of the evening was the presentation of the Samworth Cup. This prestigious award went to former Year 11 student Olivia Eba'a. The Samworth Cup is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding determination, courage, and the ability to persevere in the face of adversity. Olivia's strength, resilience, and relentless drive make her the perfect recipient of this award, and we couldn't be more proud of her.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who joined us in celebrating our students' accomplishments, and we look forward to another year of growth, achievement, and success.



Community Yoga



Here are a few pictures from one of our community yoga sessions on a Wednesday. The engagement around yoga has been great with students staying until 6.30pm and happily and comfortably engaging and interacting with others within the community.



Year 7 Boys Football Team



Our Year football team had a great first tournament, and although we didn't make it through to the next round, there were some great positive performances for the boys against some stronger boys. They lost 1-0 to Fullhurst in a close game where they couldn't find the net with 2 great chances (MOTM – Reece Britton). A solid defensive performance against Babington saw the boys draw 0-0 (MOTM Tyrese Tigere). A massive 3-0 victory over Herewoode with Harry Singh scoring 2 and Rocco Kinsley scoring 1 (MOTM Harry Singh). The final game with reduced time due to other teams needing to play saw the boys lose 1-0 against Lancaster with a late goal (MOTM Reece Britton).

A lot of positives from this with 2 clean sheets from Charlie Chamberlain but player of the tournament goes to Reece Britton for excellent defensive efforts, physicality and tracking back running around everywhere.



STEM Club



Students in STEM club took on the egg drop challenge last week. Using limited materials, they designed a protective structure to stop their eggs from cracking when dropped from a certain height. Starting with a one metre drop, all of the eggs survived. However, of all the eggs that were dropped, only one brave egg survived the fall from the balcony!



Year 11 Boys Football Team



Congratulations to the Year 11 football team on their win this week! The team played very well; they were very organised in the first half and created some chances but couldn't manage to find that elusive goal. In the second half, Farzad broke the deadlock and managed to score a fantastic individual goal. Darsim then added another to make the final score 2-0 which is a very good result against Babington.



Other Sports News



Year 8 Boys Football Team

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys football team who won the district football tournament earlier in the month. They won 2 of their games and drew one. The results were:

- Beat Herwoode Academy 2-0
- Beat Fullhurst 2-0
- Drew against Lancaster 0-0

The players of the tournament were Kane Darlow and Abdul-Alim Oshunkoya.

Year 11 Girls Netball Team

The Year 11s smashed it at the city group stages at the end of September, finishing runners up! They were a credit to us and played really well. They convincingly beat Leicester High, Soar Valley and Jonny North, and only narrowly lost to Fullhurst 3-2. All of them were great in the way they conducted themselves on court but special mention to Sofia who was a brilliant captain and led superbly. Kyla and Modesire who were so calm in attack and scored well. Ocean who doubted herself but proved to be a brilliant defender. Monet, Julia, Nicole, Macey and Lacie who were absolute machines and did not stop working and running!