



TUDOR TIMES



2025-26 Term: Autumn | Issue 2 | Date: December 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

As we reach the end of this term, we give thanks for the gift of family, friendship, and community.

We are grateful for the dedication of our parents, whose love and support help our children grow in wisdom and joy.

Bless our homes this Christmas with peace, laughter, and togetherness.

May the holiday season be a time of rest and renewal, and may the New Year bring hope, strength, and continued blessings for all.

We pray for safety, happiness, and health for every family in our school community.

May the spirit of Christmas remind us of the importance of kindness, generosity, and unity.

Amen.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding few months across the school.

Our pupils have enjoyed a range of enriching experiences, including the trip to Twycross Zoo, which brought learning to life in such a memorable way. Secondary students visited the art gallery to support their Arts Award qualification, deepening their appreciation of culture and creativity. Our GCSE Geography pupils travelled to Leicester City to broaden their understanding of regeneration, linking classroom learning to real-world contexts. Meanwhile, our Primary children delighted in their annual Christmas trip to the theatre, a tradition that continues to spark joy and imagination.

This term, pupils have worked extremely hard, and we are already seeing positive outcomes predicted for our current Year 11 cohort. Attendance across all year groups has continued to improve, and this is only possible thanks to your ongoing support. There is still more to do, but by working together we can ensure every child thrives.

As we head into the festive break, I hope you and your families enjoy a safe, fun, and restful Christmas. Thank you for your support and commitment to our school and we look forward to building on this success in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Bannon

Principal



Primary Principal's Message



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a wonderfully busy and rewarding term, I wanted to share some highlights from across our school community and celebrate everything our children, staff, and families have achieved together. This half term, every class took part in our World Kindness Day workshops, exploring how small acts of kindness make a big difference. The children embraced the activities beautifully, showing empathy, teamwork, and thoughtful behaviour throughout. We also saw fantastic support for our Children in Need coin trail — thank you to everyone who contributed and helped create such a fun, memorable event.

Our Fab Friday sessions across the key stages have been another real highlight. It has been lovely welcoming parents into classrooms to celebrate children's work and see their learning first-hand. Your support and engagement mean so much to us and to the children. A huge thank you also goes to all staff, families, volunteers, and the wider community for supporting our Christmas Fayre. It was a joyful, festive occasion and one of our most successful events thanks to your enthusiasm and generosity.

Well done to all the children who earned their Freddo Friday rewards and achieved their Race to 50 milestones this term. Their dedication, positivity, and enthusiasm for learning have really shone through.

As we look ahead to the Spring term, we are excited to continue strengthening our partnership with families. We have Parents' Evenings, more Fab Friday opportunities, invitations to Celebration Assemblies, and a range of enrichment activities planned. We look forward to welcoming you back and building on the fantastic momentum from this term.

Thank you once again for your continued support, commitment, and positivity. We wish all our families a happy, safe, and peaceful Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs W Cooper
Primary Principal

Remembrance Day



On Remembrance Day, pupils from Year 5 to Year 11 joined a live-streamed assembly from the Royal British Legion, hosted by JJ Chalmers. The assembly featured moving tributes, poetry, music, and the traditional Two Minute Silence, providing an opportunity for reflection and respect.

Following the assembly, the Primary Principal, Associate Principal, and members of the Student Council laid wreaths in the school's garden as a mark of remembrance for those who served and sacrificed.

We are proud of the respect and maturity shown by our pupils during this important occasion.



Celebrating Excellent Attendance!



On 4th December, we were delighted to host a Reward Breakfast for pupils in primary and secondary who successfully completed our 20-Day Attendance Challenge. This achievement reflects their commitment to learning and the support they receive at home.

Thank you to all parents and carers for encouraging regular attendance – it makes a huge difference to your child's progress and wellbeing. Let's keep up the great work together!



We were thrilled to take our students on an exciting ice-skating trip as a special reward for completing Race 2 50, as well as hosting a 'Christmas Movie and Snacks' reward, our initiative that celebrates excellent attendance and outstanding behaviour. This achievement reflects the hard work, commitment, and positive attitude of our students. The day was filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of impressive skating moves! A huge well done to everyone who earned their place on this trip & the movie – you truly deserve it.

Check out some of the fantastic photos from the day and join us in congratulating our students for their dedication and success.

Children in Need

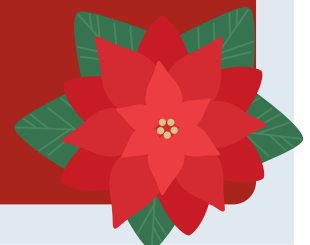


We are thrilled to share that, as a whole school, we raised an amazing £320.05 for Children in Need!

Pupils brought in their pennies to contribute to the total, and a special shout-out goes to Ms Halfpenny, who taught her lessons in a Pudsey onesie—raising an incredible £155 on her own!

In addition, 88 pupils generously chose to donate back their Freddo Friday attendance chocolate award, which we then contributed on their behalf.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness and creativity in supporting such a worthy cause!



Over this term the children have been fascinated by boxes and using their imagination to create wonderful role-playing games. This week the children made cars out of the boxes and were trying to find Jenny Jigsaw. They found her with the three bears having a picnic. We spoke about how Jenny could be a good friend to the three bears. The children had wonderful ideas such as sharing toys, hugging our friends, and helping them. The class then shared out the raisins with everyone as an example of being good friend.



The children created a large poppy for Remembrance Day; they worked together by taking it in turns to put their handprints on the poppy cut out. The children wanted to add red glitter as it will "make it shiny!" Afterwards the children enjoyed creating their own poppies using loose parts.



Reception enjoyed learning about Autumn this term and a part of that was learning about vegetables that grow at this time of year and healthy foods we can make with them. We worked together to make pumpkin soup, taking the opportunity to learn to safely use a knife, before trying it. We also spent lots of time outdoors exploring pumpkins and making soups in our mud kitchen.



To mark Remembrance Day we have been spending time learning about different people who's job it is to protect us including the armed forces. We worked hard to build a bridge across a lake for all our tiny people to get across after learning about all the amazing ways the armed forces help people. We spent time making poppies in lots of different ways. For Children in Need we made coins and added them to the whole school display. We also make our own giant Pudsey and this supported us to practice using glue sticks and scissors.

Reception (continued)



As a part of our "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" story theme, the children were delighted with our immersive experience. They loved reciting the story while going through a course we had set up for them pretending to have to go through the grass, cave, river, snowstorm and mud. It was a great way to support them to remember and retell the story.



Year 1



Year 1 have been busy exploring the world of animals! We've learned how to sort them into different groups, discovering what makes each one unique. To bring our learning to life, we've also been designing and building special habitats for mini-beasts, making sure they have everything they need to thrive. As part of our learning journey, we enjoyed a wonderful performance from Holy Trinity Church about the birth of Christ, which helped us understand the true meaning of Christmas.



**Childcare
Bookings
for Schools**

Breakfast Club

Please click the link below to book your child's place for wrap around care. Breakfast club runs from 8am and breakfast is provided followed by games and activities.

[Breakfast Club – Tudor Grange Samworth Academy](#)

Year 3



3 Oak had a Stone Age experience day to enhance their history topic and the children enjoyed dressing up in Stone Age clothing, making metal coins, hunting for artefacts and making cave paintings.



Year 4



Our Year 4 pupils have been busy exploring the fascinating process of digestion in science lessons. To bring their learning to life, they carried out a hands-on experiment using bread, plastic bags, water, and tights to model how food travels through the digestive system.

The activity sparked lots of lively discussion within the groups as pupils thought carefully about how to represent each stage of digestion — from chewing and swallowing, right through to absorption. It was wonderful to see their curiosity, teamwork, and creativity shine as they worked out how to show the different processes.

This practical experiment not only helped pupils understand how our bodies break down food, but also encouraged them to think critically and problem-solve together. A fantastic example of learning through doing!





Year 5 were part of a Victorian workhouse today where they learnt about the brutal working conditions and activities they would have to complete. They completed folding, sorting and untying knots. We all agreed that school life is a lot better than the workhouse.



Anti-Bullying Week At TGSA Primary

This term, our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils took part in powerful anti-bullying workshops led by the Mental Health Team, helping them explore empathy, resilience and respectful relationships.

Our Secondary School Councillors inspired younger pupils by delivering assemblies to both KS1 and KS2, sharing important messages about kindness and standing up for others.



All year groups joined together virtually to watch a special Kindness Assembly by 52 Lives, reinforcing the importance of compassion and community.

We're proud of our pupils for engaging so thoughtfully and taking steps to make our school a safer, kinder place for everyone.



Year 6



Year 6 were visited by the local museum service this term to learn all about World War 2. The children were given lots of information about evacuees and the blitz. As part of this, children were invited to dress up in evacuee clothing, wear authentic gas masks and take part in lots of activities to develop their understanding. This term we have been learning all about World War 2 and this opportunity gave all our students plenty of excitement and enrichment to take into their studies.



Children in Need Success!



We're delighted to share some fantastic news — on Friday 14th November our Primary school community came together and raised £52.19 for Children in Need!

From the moment the day began, the excitement was clear. Every child had the chance to add their pennies to the giant "25," and the result was simply amazing. The display not only looked wonderful, but it also captured the true spirit of the event — teamwork, kindness, and generosity shining through.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by donating, encouraging the children, or helping to make the day so special. Your support and enthusiasm truly made a difference, and we couldn't be prouder of what we achieved together.

Together, we showed that even small coins can add up to something big — and that when our school community unites, we can make a real impact.



Aladdin Performance



We were delighted to welcome a fantastic pantomime performance of Aladdin for the whole school. The children were thoroughly engaged throughout the show, especially enjoying the lively atmosphere created by the inclusion of modern songs. One of the highlights was when everyone joined in with the energetic "Soda Pop" dance, which brought smiles and laughter all around. It was a truly magical experience that left the children buzzing with excitement!



KS1 Curve Theatre Trip



The whole of Key Stage 1 had a fantastic trip to the Curve Theatre to watch the delightful performance of Aliens Love Santa Claus. The children were captivated by the colourful characters, catchy songs, and hilarious storyline. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre and brought lots of laughter and excitement to everyone who attended. A truly memorable festive treat!



School Councillors Shine on BBC Radio Leicester



We are incredibly proud of our school councillors from Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 who recently had the exciting opportunity to be interviewed on BBC Radio Leicester's Breakfast Show!

During their visit, the students spoke confidently about their favourite subjects, shared some of their most cherished school memories, and discussed what they're most looking forward to in the coming months. Their enthusiasm, insight, and maturity truly impressed the BBC team!

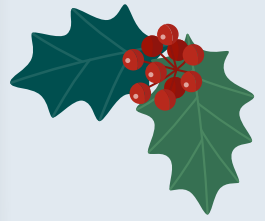
As part of the fun, the councillors also took part in a lively quiz challenge against one of our teachers – a moment filled with laughter and friendly competition. To top it all off, they recorded some mystery celebrity clues for listeners to guess during the show! A huge well done to all of the students involved – you represented our school with pride and confidence!



Student Leadership Update



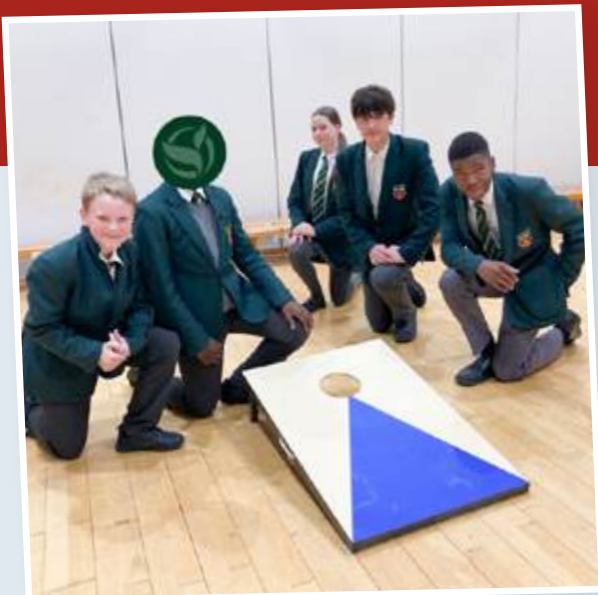
The first of December has arrived and our student leaders have decorated the tree in preparation for advent. They are also busy collecting toys for our annual Christmas charity to Leicester hospital to spread festive cheer and good will which aligns with our school values. It is a wonderful festive feeling and the students are working hard to share the goodwill and kindness of this time of year.



Cornhole Competition



This term pupils from all colleges gathered to compete in the school's first cornhole competition. The matches were hard fought, the competition fierce, and the atmosphere electric. Warwick excelled in their cornhole talent, exhibiting the composure, precision and strategy required to win. Well done Warwick!



Careers Fair



On 5th November, Tudor Grange Samworth Academy welcomed 19 volunteers into school for our annual Careers Fair. Pupils from year 6 to year 11 were given an opportunity to visit the Careers Fair where they spent time talking to sixth form colleges, FE providers, universities and workplaces including Samworth Brothers, the NHS, the police and Bellway. The pupils were very engaged and had some excellent conversations about their futures.



STEM Club has been busy this half term with a mix of fun, hands on challenges. Students used limited resources to design and race balloon powered cars, build paper rollercoasters with some impressive twists and turns and also made paper dogs that were able to walk across the tables. There's been lots of trial and error, plenty of laughs (and excitement) and some brilliant ideas along the way. All students are excited to see what they try next!



Netball

Year 11 Netball

Well done to the Year 11 Netball team who absolutely smashed it at the City Netball Finals in November, winning 4 and drawing 1. TGSA are officially City Champions! They will now be invited to the County Finals.

The girls worked so hard and had a few last minute changes to the team due to illness or other commitments so the fact that they won this is even more of an achievement and testament to their resilience and positivity. All of the girls were fabulous ambassadors for our school and when we played Fullhurst, somehow we managed to have other schools cheering us on! Monet, Kyla and Sofia were voted players of the match.

Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 Netball team were fabulous at the final round of the city qualifiers in November. I could not fault their teamwork, support for each other and sporting behaviour on the court – a delight to be around on a cold dark evening.

Their performances were also outstanding:

- 10-0 win against Babington
- 8-0 win against City of Leicester
- 5-0 win against Leicester High

Needless to say the new defence combo of Mona and Favour was outstanding! Ana was voted player of the match in all three matches by the opposition. Special shout out to Lacey who was a beacon of positivity all night!

TGSA Bake Off



Students from all colleges created their own cupcake designs in order to enter the Bake Off competition. Finalists were picked by college leaders and the final bakes were created after school. Students were judged on their creativity, presentation, teamwork and flavour.

The results were:

1 st Place	Durham
2 nd Place	Warwick
3 rd Place	Oxford
4 th Place	Cambridge



Y11 Urban Regeneration Trip in Leicester



On Thursday 20th November, Year 11 pupils, accompanied by Mr Bannon, Mr Daybell, and Mr Delahunty, visited Leicester City Centre as part of their Geography Urban Regeneration study.

The pupils demonstrated maturity throughout the trip and engaged confidently with members of the public while completing their survey questionnaires. Their conduct and enthusiasm represented the school exceptionally well.



"Top tips for looking after your mental health at Christmas"

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Winter HAF Programmes



The Leicester City Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers a variety of activities and meals for eligible children during the school holidays. Here are some key points about the HAF activities in Leicester City:

Eligibility: The programme is available to children and young people receiving benefits-related free school meals.

Activities: HAF sessions include a range of fun activities, such as sports, arts, and crafts, alongside nutritious meals.

Duration: The activity programme typically runs for 4 hours a day for 4 days, but some providers offer flexible programs.

Nutrition: Each eligible child receives a nutritious and healthy lunch on each program day they attend.

Funding: The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education.

Registration: Interested individuals can find a list of HAF providers and follow their booking instructions on the [Leicester City Council's website](#).

For more information on how to apply for the HAF programme or to find out about specific activities and meals, please visit the [Leicester City Council's official website](#).



Bookings are now open for our Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and Holiday Scheme at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

For more details and bookings, please visit:

<https://eequ.org/leicesteroutdoorpursuitscentre>

<https://www.lopc.co.uk/childcare/holiday-scheme/>

WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

3 DAYS WITH A 1 DAY HAMPER (MON 22ND/TUES 23RD/WED 24TH)

OR

4 HOURS FOR 4 DAYS (MON 29TH/TUES 30TH/WED 31ST/FRI 2ND)

#HAF2025



Department
for Education



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK NOW!

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents, carers and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care. Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. The guides below offer expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, and safeguard any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.

10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators: Safety Over the Festive Season

[VIEW GUIDE](#)

12 Top Tips for Children & Young People to Enjoy a: Tech-Free Christmas

[VIEW GUIDE](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators: Creating Family Rules for Using Devices

[VIEW GUIDE](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know About: Setting Up New Devices for Children

[VIEW GUIDE](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know About: Setting Up Apps, Games & Software

[VIEW GUIDE](#)

National Grief Awareness Week

2nd – 8th December 2025

This year's theme, **Growing with Grief**, recognises that after loss, we may not be who we once were but we can grow into someone new, shaped by resilience, memories and love.

What support is available?

The Laura Centre - Specialist counselling for children, young people and families coping with loss.

Winston's Wish - Offers free grief support for children and young people under 25.

Child Bereavement UK - Provides guidance and emotional support for young people and families.

Cruse Bereavement Support - Emotional support from trained volunteers for anyone affected by grief.

Scan this QR code or visit the link for more about our support services:



<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/mental-health/>

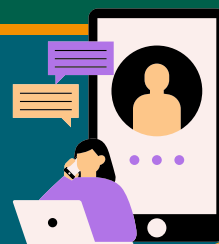
What is grief?

Grief describes the feelings we experience after losing someone close to us. There's no right way to grieve. It's OK to feel sad, angry, numb, anxious or confused. These emotions can change day to day or hour to hour. It can sometimes feel hard to talk about.



Helpful apps

- Apart of Me
- Tellmi



Supporting someone through loss

- Acknowledge what has happened
- Recognise it is difficult for them
- Give them space to talk if they want to
- Ask them how you can best support them

If you or someone else is in urgent need of support call **111**, **Option 2** or **999** in an emergency. Support is always available.