



Celebrating the End of Another Amazing Year

As the school year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've had together. It's been a year filled with learning, growth, and countless memorable moments. We couldn't be prouder of our pupils, staff, and parents who have worked tirelessly to make this year a success.



To Our Wonderful Pupils: Your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work have been truly inspiring. From the classrooms to the playground, you've shown what it means to be resilient, curious, and kind. Whether it was mastering a new topic, excelling in sports, or participating in school events, you've made this year unforgettable. Well done!

To Our Dedicated Staff: Your passion for education and commitment to our pupils' success is unmatched. Thank you for your creativity in the classroom, your patience, and your unwavering support. Each of you has played a crucial role in shaping a nurturing and stimulating environment where our pupils can thrive.

To Our Supportive Parents: Your involvement and encouragement have been invaluable. From attending parent-teacher meetings to helping with homework and supporting school events, you've shown that education is a partnership. We are grateful for your continuous support and collaboration.

Goodbye and Good Luck to Our Year 4 Pupils: To our Year 4 pupils, it's time to bid you farewell as you move on to your next school. You've grown so much during your time here, and we are confident that you'll continue to shine and make us proud in your future endeavours. Remember, you will always be a part of our school community, and we wish you all the best as you embark on this exciting new chapter.

Looking Forward to September: As we celebrate the end of this school year, we also look forward to the new beginnings that September will bring. A new academic year filled with opportunities for learning, discovery, and growth awaits us. We can't wait to welcome our pupils back and meet our new arrivals.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to making this year a remarkable one. Have a wonderful summer break, and we'll see you all in September for another exciting year Picknalls!

Warm regards,

Mrs Tapp
Headteacher

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Emergency!

The emergency services came to visit Picknalls this half term. A fire engine, Police car and community responder vehicle parked up for the afternoon and every child got a visit. Mrs Tapp said "I can't thank all the emergency services enough for not only spending the whole afternoon with us but for all you do to keep our community and families safe!"



A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Support!

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news that our Summer Fayre was a tremendous success, raising a whopping £2050! Your generous support, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply attending the event, made all the difference. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this incredible achievement. The funds raised will go a long way in enhancing our school's resources and programs, benefiting every pupil at Picknalls.

While we were disappointed not to be able to hold the Proms@Picknalls this year due to the weather, the overwhelming success of the Summer Fayre has certainly lifted our spirits. We hope to bring back the Proms@Picknalls next year and continue creating cherished memories together.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and community spirit. Here's to many more successful events in the future!



Nursery Places Available

We are delighted to announce that we still have places available in our nursery for children aged 3, starting this September. Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) program offers a fantastic range of curriculum opportunities, providing the best nurture, care, and support for your child's early development.

Last year, we experienced an unusually high number of nursery enrolments, which had a knock-on effect, leading to some children within our catchment area not gaining a place in Reception. We believe this situation is unlikely to occur again next year, so we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and secure your child's place in our outstanding nursery program.

Don't miss out on giving your child the best start to their educational journey with our dedicated and caring staff. Enrol now and be a part of the Picknalls family!

For more information and to apply, please visit our website or contact the school office.

Important Notice: Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

We have noticed a significant drop in the number of families applying for Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium. This decrease not only affects the support we can provide to eligible families but also has a negative impact on our school budget for next year.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we strongly encourage you to apply. The additional funding we receive through Pupil Premium is crucial for enhancing educational resources and providing extra support to our pupils.

Applying is simple and confidential. By applying, you ensure that your child receives the benefits they are entitled to and help our school secure the necessary funding to continue offering high-quality education and support to all pupils.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website or contact the school office. Your support is greatly appreciated and makes a significant difference to our school community.



Are you entitled?

Thank You For Your Donation

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt thanks to [Whichrate Consulting Ltd](#), Uttoxeter, for their generous donation to our school. Thanks to their support, we have been able to purchase a wealth of brand-new reading books specifically for Key Stage 2.



This donation will significantly enrich our school library and provide our pupils with a wide variety of exciting new reading materials. The importance of fostering a love for reading cannot be overstated, and these new books will undoubtedly inspire and engage our young readers for years to come.

We are incredibly grateful to Whichrate Consulting Ltd for their commitment to supporting education and literacy at Picknalls First School. Their contribution has made a meaningful impact on the learning experience of our pupils, and we are truly thankful for their generosity.

Celebrating Milestones in Our Staff's Lives

As we near the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate and acknowledge some special events in the lives of our dedicated staff members.

Firstly, we would like to wish a belated happy 50th birthday to our proud Headteacher, **Mrs. Tapp**, who celebrated in May. Her leadership and dedication continue to inspire us all at Picknalls.

In June, we celebrated a remarkable milestone with **Mr. Bruce**, our esteemed site technician, as he turned 80 years young! His hard work and commitment to keeping our school safe and beautiful are truly appreciated by everyone.

At the beginning of July, we bid a fond farewell to **Mrs. Hunt**, who retired after an incredible 25 years at Picknalls. Starting as a parent volunteer, she later became a Teaching Assistant and then a qualified teacher. Her passion for education and nurturing young minds has left a lasting impact on our school community.

At the end of this month, we will also be saying goodbye to **Mrs. Palmer**, who is retiring after 29 years of dedicated service as a Lunchtime Supervisor and Cleaner. Her hard work behind the scenes has kept our school running smoothly and has been greatly appreciated by staff and pupils alike.

Looking ahead, we have more celebrations to come in August. **Miss Evans** will be turning 30, and **Miss Derry** will be celebrating her 50th birthday. Additionally, we extend our congratulations to **Miss Harris**, who will be tying the knot in August. We wish her all the happiness in her new journey.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking all these wonderful staff members for their contributions to Picknalls First School. Their dedication and milestones remind us of the vibrant community we have here at Picknalls.



Alzheimer's Society Cake Sale

We extend a massive thank you to everyone who baked or bought cakes from the cake stall in support of Mrs. Plant and her daughters' Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an impressive £281.38, including Gift Aid!

Mrs. Plant and her daughters have already surpassed their fundraising target on JustGiving. If you'd like to contribute, please scan the QR code or visit their [JustGiving page](#).

We wish Mrs. Plant and her daughters the best of luck on their 13-mile trek on August 10th!



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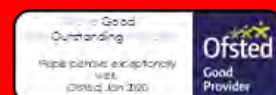


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Arts Week

The theme for this year's Arts Week was 'Impressionism'. Take a look at some of the amazing things we created during the week.



Boomwhackers

Here are Year 2 and 4 having an amazing musical time with the boomwhackers.



Visit from an Illustrator

We had a real, live illustrator in school! See [Amy Bradley](#) inspiring some of our Year 2 and 4 children below.



Class 3 - Degas

Here is class 3 busy making sculptures of a ballerina with pipe cleaners and tinfoil



More photos are available on our [website's Gallery](#) page.

Arts Week (continued)

Dance Workshops

We were very fortunate to have [Angelina Socci from Spotlight Academy](#) come into school to leads some dance workshops. The music was so upbeat and we loved learning the routine.



Year 3 Artwork



Year 4 Artwork

Year 4 used natural materials to inspire their artwork. Huge thanks to [Tesco](#) and Mrs Stubbs for the very generous donation of fruit!



More photos are available on our [website's Gallery](#) page.

What is RHE?

You may be aware that in September 2020, the UK government made Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Health Education compulsory in all primary schools. These subjects cover topics such as relationships, families, personal hygiene, puberty, and staying safe. RHE aims to equip children with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy choices and navigate relationships as they grow older.

All schools must make parent's aware of the content that is being taught, and materials used.

Here at Picknalls, Relationships and Health Education (RHE) focuses on age-appropriate topics that help them develop foundational understanding and skills related to relationships, health, and personal well-being. We use 1Decision as an interactive support tool to enhance lessons for every pupil. Lessons include:

1. Understanding emotions: Children learn to recognise and express their own feelings and emotions, as well as understand the feelings of others. They may learn basic strategies for managing their emotions.
2. Friendship skills: Children learn about the qualities of good friendships, how to be a good friend, and how to resolve conflicts with peers in a positive way.
3. Healthy living: Basic concepts of personal hygiene, nutrition, and exercise may be introduced. Children might learn about the importance of washing hands, eating a balanced diet, and staying physically active.
4. Safety: Children learn about basic safety rules, such as road safety, fire safety, and staying safe online. They may also learn how to identify and respond to unsafe situations.
5. Respect and diversity: Children are introduced to the concept of respect for themselves and others, including people from different backgrounds, cultures, and identities. They learn about kindness, empathy, and treating others with fairness and dignity.
6. Family: Children learn about different types of families and the importance of family relationships. They may explore topics such as love, care, and support within families.

The content and delivery of RHE at Picknalls are tailored to the developmental level and understanding of young children, using age-appropriate language, activities, and resources. The emphasis is on building a strong foundation for later learning about relationships, health, and well-being when they reach Middle School.

J De Soyza, RHE Lead.

Please visit our [website's RHE page](#) which includes our long term plan which shows the topics each year group will be learning about during the school year.



Important Guidance: Name Your Child's Belongings

We would like to kindly remind everyone to ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labeled with their name. This includes sweatshirts, coats, water bottles, and any other items they bring to school.

Over the past two weeks alone, we have accumulated 20 unnamed sweatshirts in our lost property collection. While we make every effort to reunite lost items with their owners, it becomes challenging when items are not labeled.

Labeling your child's belongings not only helps us quickly return lost items but also teaches them responsibility and helps them to take ownership of their possessions. It ensures that they can easily identify their belongings among others, promoting independence and organisation.

Please take a moment to check that all items are clearly marked with your child's name, including any new purchases or replacements. This

small effort goes a long way in ensuring a smooth and organised school experience for everyone.



New Attendance Rules: August 2024

Hopefully, you are aware of the change in school attendance rules the DfE is introducing from 19th August. Schools will only allow time off for specific reasons listed in the new attendance rules.

These are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances (the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance)

Schools can also allow absences for education outside of school.

Any leave of absence must be requested in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with.

New Rules for Fines: There will be one set of rules for the whole country about giving out fines for absences. Fines for unauthorised absences will go up to:

- £80 if paid within 21 days.
- £160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days.

The new guidance explains how schools should support pupils with physical or mental health problems. It gives information about doctor's notes, support for pupils with special needs, and part-time timetables.

Attendance and School Culture: Schools will focus more on working with families to find ways to improve attendance.

Attendance Contracts: These used to be called 'parenting contracts,' but now they will be called 'attendance contracts' to better describe the agreement between parents, schools, and/or local authorities.

New Attendance Policy: This is now available on our [website's Policies page](#) along with the DfE's guidance: [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#).

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.
Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.
£160

2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN. **IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10**
If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.
1 Day = **2** Sessions

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS
+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
4 children & 2 parents = **£1280**
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4 If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...
2ND TIME
2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280
No discount for early payment
3RD TIME
A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

New Curriculum

We are thrilled to announce that starting this September, Picknalls First School will be introducing a brand-new, Academy Trust-wide curriculum! This exciting development is being rolled out across all schools within the ULT, ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible, broad and balanced, education from ages 3 to 18.

Mrs. Tapp has been sharing details about the new curriculum with the children during her assemblies. Why not test your child and see if they can name all 13 individual subjects included in this comprehensive program?

With this new curriculum, we will no longer use a connected curriculum approach. Instead, we will ensure that children meet all National Curriculum expectations for every subject. This change is designed to provide an ambitious and progressive educational experience, covering all key areas of learning.

We are confident that this new curriculum will greatly benefit our pupils, providing them with a strong foundation for their educational journey. We look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on their learning and development.

The National Curriculum
Handbook for primary teachers in England www.nc.uk.net

Governors Corner

As the Chair of Governors, I am pleased to share with you an exciting update on our commitment to supporting our wonderful school. Over the past few months, we have been diligently working on an action plan that outlines how we intend to support the school in the coming year.

Our action plan focuses on several key aspects to ensure the continued growth and success of our pupils:

Data

- To understand and support in assessing and reviewing standards across the school
- Monitor whole school reading, writing and maths data and the closing of the gap for disadvantaged pupils alongside opportunities provided
- Monitor whole school writing data and to see the impact in books of our new writing procedures
- To support us moving towards new ULT assessment expectations and using Arbor as a data and comparison tool
- Use the IDSR to know our position in regards to National benchmarks in data, vulnerable groups, stability etc.

Curriculum

- To support the development of and understand the new ULT 3-18 curriculum intent, implementation and impact rationale
- To understand the key drivers and language around the new curriculum
- To understand the strengths and areas for development across the school's curriculum, priorities, quality of teaching and data
- To understand our RHE intent and curriculum

Staff Wellbeing

- Support leadership & staff well-being and engage with staff wellbeing requests
- Monitor the use of and the impact of the wellbeing budget as requested by the staff wellbeing team
- Do a staff survey around staff well-being, safeguarding and aspects of support from Governors
- Support the ULT in developing a vexatious policy to support staff with an increase in abusive and threatening parents

Governance

- Governor self-review aspects – each governor to do a minimum of 1 self-review activity a year and to see all self-review reports
- What is our impact as Governors on the school, the children and the education provided?
- To appoint an attendance link Governor
- To work through the deep dive questions for Governors
- Offer relevant CPD opportunities to Governors, including welcome to being a Governor for new Governors
- To develop a Governor induction pack

Finance

- Discuss and approve/reject budget requests and monitor the impact of spends on the quality of education

Parents

- Governors be visible to parents and the community with aspects such as attending Oct parents evening, attending key events, attending induction evenings, Governor corner on the newsletter

ULT

- To know and abide by the updated ULT scheme of delegation

We are confident that these focus areas will drive positive changes and make our school an even better place for learning and growth.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible parents, pupils, and staff for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your dedication and hard work are what make our school so special.

Warm regards,
Paul Johnson



Gallery of Events

Here are a few photos of some of the things we've been doing this summer. Including: Zorbing during [Healthy Living Week](#), class 3 at [Conkers](#), puppet making and Healthy Living with [Phunky Foods](#), class 2 and year 4 skateboarding, class 7 at [Redferns Cottage](#), year 1 visiting the ducklings, year 4's artwork, Language Festival and visit to the park and our incredibly noisy [Sing Up Day!](#) Additionally, this week we enjoyed a day of inflatables and grass sledging. Huge thanks to [DC Bouncy Castles](#) and [Staffordshire Wildlife Trust](#) for providing these.

There are too many photos to fit in here so to see more please go to the [website's Gallery page](#).



Sport@Picknalls

Our trophy cabinet is bulging at the seams after another fantastic year of sport. Just take a look at all our achievements for this Summer Term. Special thanks to Mr Cope and Mrs Jordi for their dedication and support they give to our gifted young sportspeople.

Remember you can follow [@AtPicknalls on X](#) to see all our sporting progress.

Athletics County Finals

Some fantastic performances at the Sportshall Athletics County Finals saw us finishing in 3rd place!



CADSSA Swimming Champions

CADSSA Swimming Champions! Superb swimming from the whole team, which culminated with awesome displays with Picknalls winning all the relays.

Year 4 Tag Rugby

In the sunshine, our year 4 TAG Rugby team were magnificent. They ran like the wind, tagged brilliantly and scored a vast amount of tries. This great bunch drew the final and the shared the champions trophy!



Year 4 Netball

Another successful evening saw our Year 4 pupils getting bronze medals in the East Staffs Netball tournament. 🏀 🏆

Dove Valley Swimming Gala

What a summer of sport for Picknalls! These superstars won the coveted Dove Valley Schools Swimming Gala.

They were all magnificent and swam like dolphins!

They have one very proud teacher!



East Staffs Cross Country

A very warm, May evening saw sixteen speedy pupils run in the East Staffs Cross Country Competition. Everyone ran brilliantly with some super finishing positions.



Tag Rugby

A fantastic performance once again from our Year 4 Picknalls pupils saw them becoming both East Staffs champions and 4th place.



Uttoxeter Cricket

A fantastic afternoon of local cricket. Our pupils performed brilliantly with some awesome bowling and excellent batting. Our three teams took all the honours. A big thank you to Mr Skinner and Mr Wright from Oldfields for organising and Uttoxeter Cricket Club for hosting.



East Staffs Cricket

A typical summers day didn't deter our cricketers from performing brilliantly once again. Superb batting and brilliant bowling alongside excellent sportsmanship saw our pupils become East Staffs Year 3 and 4 champions and bronze medalists.

Staffordshire County Cricket Finals

A fantastic day of cricket at the Staffordshire Year 3 and 4 County Finals. We played brilliantly after a shaky start and ended up as Staffs Champions. Some superb performances and sportsmanship.





CADSSA Football Year 4

Our Year 4 pupils produced some fantastic performances at the CADSSA football tournament.

They played brilliantly and finished as runners up!

Crown Green Bowls

A busy week of sport saw a group of Year 4 pupils represent school at a Crown Green Bowls competition. A relaxing afternoon following a hectic sports day in the morning. Our teams were a credit to the school showing great teamwork and sportsmanship.



Quadkids at Windsor Park Middle School

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils visited Windsor Park Middle School and competed brilliantly in 4 events each (50m sprint, 400m, long jump and howler throw).



Qualkids at Shobnall

There were some great performances from our pupils during the Quadkids athletics at Shobnall. An excellently organised event with the help of some super young leaders.



BREAKING NEWS!




Just as we were about to publish this newsletter we received some very exciting news which we felt we had to share with you now rather than wait until September.

The [School Games Mark](#) is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward school for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress.



Useful Links

Here are some links we think you might find useful and a brief description of each:

	The Parent Portal and App will replace ParentPay, SIMS Parent and Teachers2Parents, so all payments, communications and contact details will be in one place for you to access.
	Ofsted Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think of our school. The questionnaire can be completed at any time.
	We have several social media accounts to help keep you up-to-date with what's going on in school. We love to see your photo's from home too! Email us on instagram@picknalls.co.uk

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[Uttoxeter Learning Trust](#)

Happy Hours—[book your before and after school care](#): 07518 383775

[Happy Hours Facebook page](#)

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“IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING BETTER THAN SOMEONE ELSE - IT'S ABOUT BEING BETTER THAN YOU WERE THE DAY BEFORE”

OUR FOOTBALL

We are committed to create a supportive environment where players of all ages and skill levels can thrive and embrace values like teamwork and respect. Through dedication and hard work we aspire to make our mark in grassroots football while enjoying every moment of the journey together.

Both in and out of possession, we encourage all of our children to:

- **Work hard** - Out-run, out-think, out-play and out-compete
- **Play with purpose** - Be decisive and assertive in everything that they do
- **Be fearless** - Be brave and confident enough to try new skills and techniques
- **Be resilient** - Responding positively to any setbacks
- **Be passionate** - Develop a love for the game, being part of a team, and helping one another

STAY UPDATED

Sign up to be the first to find out when we add news, events, and more. We respect your privacy and will never share your information with any third-party vendors.

Picknalls First School Future Dates

Please note: all dates are subject to change. See our website's Calendar for the most up-to-date information

Sep-24						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2 Inset Day - no children in school	3 Inset Day - no children in school	4 Children back to school	5	6	7	8
9 3.30pm - Meet the Teacher Parents invited into classrooms	10 pm- New nursery and reception meet the teachers	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Oct-24						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	1	2	3	4 Harvest Festival	5	6
7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day - Everyone Wear Yellow	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 3.30pm: Parents' Evening	22	23 Request to bring donations of sweets for the Christmas Fayre 3.30pm: Parents' Evening	24 8.00am - Tempest Photography for family group photos	25 Last day of half term	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Half Term Holiday						
Nov-24						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
4	5	6	7	8 am: Remembrance Service (children only)	9	10
11 Anti Bullying Week	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	