



Picknalls Pages



Tapping into Life at Picknalls

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, families and staff for their continued support, commitment and partnership. This year has been filled with achievements, memorable experiences and countless moments of growth, both in and out of the classroom. It has been wonderful to see our children embrace new challenges, develop their confidence and demonstrate the values that make our school community so special.

This newsletter celebrates many of the recent highlights from this term and reflects the hard work, enthusiasm and success of everyone involved. As we look back on another successful year, we also take time to wish our Year 4 children and their families every success as they move on to the next stage of their education. While we will be sad to see them leave, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us. We know they will embrace the opportunities ahead with confidence, kindness and resilience, and we look forward to hearing about their future successes.

To all of our families, thank you for being such an important part of our school community. I hope you enjoy looking back on the wonderful memories shared of this year. Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our returning families back in the new academic year, refreshed and ready for another exciting year together.

Mrs Tapp
Headteacher



Goodbye & Good Luck!

We have a few members of staff leaving at this time.

Mrs De Soyza has been one of our class teachers since 2002 and will be sadly missed. We wish her all the best for her well deserved retirement.

Miss Goodwin is moving onto a new career after leading our Nursery for 8 busy years. We wish her good luck and are sure she will be amazing in her new role!

Miss M Horne is leaving to concentrate on studying for her degree. We look forward to hearing how she gets on and wish her well.

We would like to thank Mrs Grocott for all her assistance with Year 4's wellbeing and transition visits.

After 27 years of dedicated service, we are saying a fond farewell to Miss Derry as she starts a new chapter in her life. She will be greatly missed, and we thank her for her many years of service and wish her every happiness in the future!

We are changing the structure of our lunchtime supervision from September, therefore we are, regretfully, saying goodbye to Miss Barlow, Miss Edwards and Mrs Borysova. They have kept our pupils safe, happy, and well-fed for many terms.



Volunteers

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our Volunteer Coffee & Cake afternoon, it was lovely to see everyone. If you have completed and returned your form we will be in touch with you soon. If you weren't able to come on Wednesday and would like to offer your help in school please contact the office or email Mrs Cornes l.cornes@i2e.org.uk



Holiday Clubs

Use this link to our website's page of [clubs](#) available to local children during the school holiday. This includes [Happy Hours](#) and [Progressive Sports](#).



Nature Near Me

Nature Near Me is a community initiative driven by the schools of Uttroxteter sustainability group. Children were asked to submit art that reflected nature in our local area. United Reform Church very kindly allowed us to use their space to display the amazing work and it is now on display in an empty shop in the Maltings. If you're not able to visit and view it for yourself, [here is a link to some photos!](#)



Governors Corner

As another school year comes to an end, the Governors would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone: pupils, staff and parents, for all the hard work that they've put in during the year. This time of the school year is always an emotional one as we say goodbye to our leavers, hoping that, as they move on to the next phase of their lives, they have fond memories of Picknalls.

We would like to welcome our new Governor to our team, Gail Jones, we look forward to working with her in the future.

We wish you all well and, for those returning in September, recharge your batteries ready to do it all over again!



PTA

We have had a fantastic year and have raised over £10,000! This was spent on lots of exciting events like Orangutan week, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory week, Visit by Holmes Chapel Zoo and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and much more...

We've already booked a secret visitor for one of our enrichment days next year and have begun to plan lots of scientific activities for a fun packed week in the Spring term.



Picknalls Points Winners

Picknalls Points winners for last half term of the year were:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| • Gracie M | • Zaki A | • James M |
| • Elliot C | • Kasper I | • Brae S |
| • Mason L | • Harriette T | • Phoebe C |

Congratulations to you and we hope you enjoyed your cool drink, sweet treats and receiving your rosettes from Mrs Tapp. We can't wait to find out who will be the first winners next year!

Well Done!

We have had yet another fun-packed and busy half term with the added bonus of three heatwaves!

• Well done to all our budding musicians for performing a very entertaining Soiree.

• Also on a musical note (!), our choir performed beautifully while supporting Oldfields Hall Middle School's performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

• We went wild on World Environment Day with [Staffordshire Wildlife Trust](#) and [Holmes Chapel Zoo](#).

• We had a scorching time on our Great Fire of London enrichment day with support from [Peak District Survival School](#).

• We had some lovely comments about the way we organised our recent Sport's Days to make sure everyone kept safe in the extreme heat, thank you.

Summer Trips

We've enjoyed some more amazing Summer trips:

Reception stormed the walls of [Stafford Castle](#), Year 1 played around at [The Children's Country House](#) at Sudbury,

Year 2 went dippy in the pond at [Wolseley Bridge](#) and

Year 3 had an a-moo-sing time at [Lower Drayton Farm](#)!



Phonics Assessment

We are extremely proud to announce that our Year 1 pupils achieved an 85% pass rate in their recent Phonics Screening Check. Although we don't have this year's National Average to compare this against at present, last year's National average was 81%. We will, of course let you know the full results more in the Autumn term along with the Year 4 Multiplication Check.



Summer Fayre & Proms

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our new style of Summer Fayre, you help to raise an amazing £2209.50, our highest amount ever! The PTA will put this to good use in the next academic year.

It was such a shame that the heat made it unsafe for our Proms to go ahead. The children did get to perform to the rest of the school this week, instead.

Job Vacancies

We have a couple of [job vacancies](#) available at present:

[Teaching Assistant - Nursery](#)

The closing date is 7th August and interviews will be held on 12th August.

Miquill's, our caterers, have a few vacancies in the Uttoxeter area, for more information [see our website](#).

All applicants should send their CV to carole.truby@miquillcatering.co.uk



Coo-I Pitstop

Miss Goodwin was very surprised to find a visitor in her classroom this week. Those who know her will recall that she seems to have an affinity with feathered creatures, but instead of a crow this time she had a pigeon strutting his stuff in her classroom!

The unexpected visitor wasn't just a regular town centre bird; he was a bona fide, long-distance racing pigeon. The athletic flyer had left France 5 days prior, soaring through the skies with serious speed. He had almost made it all the way back to his loft in Newcastle Under Lyme, but decided he simply couldn't take the heat anymore. Needing a place to cool his wings, he touched down at Picknalls. We quickly checked the little adventurer's tags and gave his owner a ring. They were absolutely thrilled to hear that their speedy racer was safe and well in a box in the office with some water, bird seed and a crushed digestive biscuit. When we asked what the bird's name was, his owner told us his official racer code is No. 42. However, after making it through his French journey and landing right in our classroom, we all decided to wing it and name him Lucky! We are so glad he decided to flock to us. He certainly brightened up the day and gave us something to chirp about!



New Caterers

We are pleased to announce that, from September, our school meals will be provided by [Miquill Catering](#). You will continue to book and pay for meals via Arbor and the good news is

that meal prices will reduce to £3.50 from 1st September 2026. A menu is available to view and download from the ["Snacks And Lunch"](#) page on our website.



September 2026

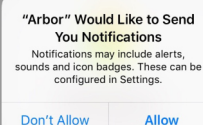
You should have received an email this week with the procedures for the start of next term attached.

If you have misplaced it you can download a copy [from our website's 'Letters' page by using this link](#).

It includes information on how we communicate with you, start of term dates, when and where to drop off and collect your children, parking, lunches, what to bring to school, uniform, reading books, attendance and reporting absences, after school clubs and Happy Hours.

Please remember to check our website for dates.

Download the 'Arbor' app to your phone and enable notifications as this is how we will message you (we can't send text messages).



Farewell Year 4

As the school year ends, we say a proud goodbye to our wonderful Year 4 pupils. They are ready to move on to middle school this September. It has been a true privilege to watch them grow into confident, capable learners. We will miss them dearly, but we know they will achieve incredible things in their next phase.

Thank You, Parents and Carers

We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible families.

Thank you for your support, partnership, and dedication over the years. From helping with homework to cheering at school events, your involvement has truly enriched our school community. We could not have done it without you.

We wish all our leaving families a fantastic summer and the very best of luck for the future! Go shine bright!

