Kniveton News

October 2025

What an incredible half term we have had here at Kniveton! It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our new reception children into our school community and also our new staff members. It seems so long ago when I think back to the first day of term in September, we have certainly had a fun packed, exciting half term of learning. From residentials and countryside walks using nature to create maps, through to Stone age activities, our pupils have continuously demonstrated our school values throughout and it is with a real sense of pride that we celebrate all of their hard work and success.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support this half term, whether that be with costumes or participating in home learning challenges with your children, it really is appreciated.

Enrichment at Kniveton

It is always such a pleasure to give our pupils the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment opportunities and this first half term has been no exception. Our pupils have undertaken different types of enrichment, through sport and role-play and been extremely enthusiastic in their endeavours. Participating in a variety of activities hosted by Rural Sports Partnership has given our learners the opportunities to develop skills in skateboarding, bikeability and a variety of sports during a recent sporting festival at Ashbourne Tennis Centre. Throughout them all, they have continuously displayed our school values. Our Year 6 have also had the excitement of a residential at Whitehall outdoor activity centre, which proved incredibly rewarding seeing the pupils outside of their normal school environment and achieving so much, whilst developing such positive relationships and teamwork with their peers.

Harvest Festival 2025

A huge thank you to everybody who contributed to our Harvest festival. It was such a special time to celebrate and collect produce in support of Ashbourne Food Bank. The Church looked wonderful and the children enjoyed participating in the event. Many thanks for your generous donations.

MUSIC LESSON UPDATE

We are currently exploring different options for the provision of music lessons within school as we have had no joy from the Derby Music partnership. As a school we feel strongly that our pupils have the opportunity to develop their musical talents should they wish. We have recently been approached by an independent teacher and are exploring this option If you have any contacts in this area, please let the school office know.

Importance of Attendance at Kniveton.

There have been a number of requests for leave of absence during term time. In line with the attendance guidelines issued by the local authority, no holiday absences will be authorised during term time. It is incredibly important that pupils attend school during term time to ensure they have received the input for their sessions. Absences make it very difficult for children to keep up and it is also difficult for staff to repeat sessions. We kindly ask that you refrain from booking holidays during term time. Many Thanks

97.10%

Attendance

Autumn term

FOREST SCHOOL UPDATE

Exciting news about our Forest school. We are currently awaiting a company to come and remove some dangerous trees and after spending considerable time during the holidays clearing the space, making it safe for all, we are hopeful that sessions will commence in the run up to Christmas. We know that the children will thoroughly enjoy being outside and have already started to implement forest school activities into their curriculum.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our school community. If you are interested in joining our team, or want some further information about the role of parent governor, please email us at school:

kpopple@kniveton.derbyshire.sch.uk

My School App.

We hope that you have found the switch in communications to My School App positive. We are increasingly communicating via this platform and request that all families ensure they have signed up to this app.

RBL Poppy Appeal

We are once again supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal in school. We have a selection of poppy items to purchase, snapbands for £1, keyrings and bracelets for 50p and any other donation for poppies. These will be sold at break and lunch by Class 3 pupils.

Christmas Cards.

The children have all been working hard on creating their own Christmas card designs. These designs will be distributed after the half term break for you to order packs to send to friends and family, should you wish.

Key Dates for the diary Autumn term 2025

Monday 3rd November – Back to school

Friday 7th November – Bonfire Bites

Monday 10th November – FOKS meeting 6pm

Wednesday 12th November – FOKS Xmas Photos – am in village hall..

Thursday 13th November – Open Day event for new reception starters Sept 2026

Friday 14th November – Children In Need day – wear your pyjamas day!

Monday 17th November – FOKS Wreath making workshop – 6:30pm start

Tuesday 11th November – Parents evening

Wednesday 19th November – Church service – 9:15am

Friday 28th November – Whole school disco 3:30-5:00pm.

Friday 5th December – Pantomime visit

Monday 8th December – Secret Santa

Thursday 11th December – Key Stage 1 and Reception Christmas Festival at Anthony Gell – 1:30-3:00pm

Key Dates for the diary Autumn term 2025.

Monday 15th December - Class 1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 16th December - Church Service

Tuesday 16th December - Class 1 Nativity – evening performance.

Wednesday 17th December - Class 1 Nativity – morning performance.

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas dinner day – pupils to wear Christmas jumpers!

Thursday 18th December - Class Christmas parties

Thursday 18th December - BREAK UP FROM SCHOOL

Should anybody wish to help out at events or join in with the FOKS, please contact Jo Burrows or Camilla Tosney – they are always accepting of extra hands!

FRIENDS OF KNIVETON SCHOOL (FOKS)

We are extremely fortunate to have such a supportive Friends of Kniveton School group of parents who host many fundraisers throughout the year, providing invaluable resources for our children here in school. The FOKS actively plan a selection of activities for the children to participate in, and this year sounds like it is going to be even more eventful! Please see below the information from FOKS for you to put into your diaries!

Bonfire Bites - Friday 7th November 2025

We ask all parents to bake or buy something (cookies, cakes, buns, biscuits, tray bakes) and bring them into school on Friday morning in preparation for the cake sale after school. This will take place in the village hall from 3:20 onwards, where the children can come and purchase lots of delicious treats for themselves, family and friends.

Christmas Themed Photos - Wednesday 12th November 2025

We have the talented Gemma Yeomans photographer in school, who will be taking photos with a Christmas back drop. In previous years this proved to be a great success! Any siblings not at school are welcome but need to be able to come during the morning from 9am.

If you would like to take part, please send your children in non-uniform on this day - dress down, Christmas jumpers, party clothes welcome, whatever your preference.

Wreath Making Workshop - Monday 17th November - 6.30-9.30pm

We will be hosting a make your own wreath workshop again this year. The cost is £42.50 with refreshments included. Please contact Jo Burrows to book your place - 07792283438

Christmas presents

We will be offering personalised tote or jute bags with your children's picture on for Christmas presents.. It is always nice to have personalised gifts and we hope that you will support in this venture. If you would like to be involved please contact Jo Burrows.

Christmas Disco - Friday 28th November

This will be held straight after school in the village hall. If your child would like to attend, please send them in non- school uniform on this day to help get the disco started in a timely manner! There will be a tuck shop available, so please send your child with some money to spend, along with the entry fee. More details to follow soon.

Christmas Pantomime Trip - Friday 5th December

This is a whole school trip that is funded by FOKS. School will send information out closer to the time.