
SPIRES FEDERATION



To provide an aspirational education which inspires all to SHINE in our community so that they are happy, confident and equipped for life in all its fullness.



OPENING
DOORS



OPENING
MINDS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Miss D Winters
Executive Head
Teacher



Mrs E Toulson
Executive Deputy
Head



Miss N Vaughan
Senior Federation
Lead and SENDCo

WELCOME TO TERM 1

Welcome to Our First Newsletter of the Year!

We're delighted to welcome everyone back after the summer break. It's been wonderful to see the children return with such positivity—smiling faces, calm attitudes, and a real sense of excitement for the year ahead. Our new Reception pupils have especially impressed us with their independence and cheerful energy as they settle into school life.

Over the summer, our dedicated staff worked incredibly hard to prepare the learning environments across all three schools. The results are fantastic! We've had several visitors to the Federation recently, and they've been full of praise—not only for how vibrant and welcoming our schools look, but also for the excellent behaviour and attitudes of our pupils. It's a credit to everyone involved.

This term promises to be full of exciting opportunities and adventures, and we're looking forward to sharing them with you. Please keep an eye on the Dates for Your Diary and look out for updates via Arbor, which will include important information and reminders.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term.

Kind regards,

Senior Leadership Team





CONKERS



We have been learning all about me, my family, my village and my local area this term. Then, we ventured into the world of farms—discovering the animals that live there and learning about harvest time. The children explored where our food comes from and how it grows on farms and in gardens.

As the seasons changed, we celebrated Autumn and learned about traditions from different religions, as well as fun celebrations like Halloween. The children loved exploring these themes through stories, crafts, and activities.

Alongside our topic work, we've been focusing on important life skills. Conkers have learned how to stay safe in school and move carefully when playing with friends. We've practised sitting respectfully during Collective Worship and lining up sensibly. At lunchtimes, the children have been developing independence—collecting their own knives and forks and even clearing and cleaning their plates after eating.

It's been wonderful to see how much confidence and knowledge the children have gained this term



CONKERS

Conker's have been enjoying settling into our school rules and routines. The children have begun to learn about numbers and phonics. We have been creating fun learning opportunities in the classroom following our drawing club books and the children have loved learning about Autumn and the changes in the weather.



FOREST SCHOOL

This term, the children have really enjoyed the freedom at Forest School. We've seen lots of hide and seek games in the trees, the rope swing has been very popular, the arts and crafts area is always busy, and the books and singing are a lovely opportunity to come back together as a group at the end of our afternoon. The children have learnt how to use simple tools safely and have understood our fire circle rules, which has meant that we've been able to light the campfire and enjoy warm drinks.

BLOSSOM



We have had a beautiful first ever term in Blossom Class!

The children settled into new routines and have really impressed their new teacher with their amazing knowledge!

They have embraced the challenges of learning about materials and their properties, nouns and verbs, as well as Islam in R.E





BLOSSOM

We began a new programme in Maths called Mastering Number and have learnt how to use new equipment with confidence.

Our geography topic on Local Travel gave us the opportunity to explore our local park and we had a great time discovering the facilities, despite the rain!

In Art, we have explored Pop Art and mastered the techniques ahead of making our final pieces. We also enjoy our weekly PE lessons with Premier Education.

OAK



What a fabulous first term in Oak class. The children have come back after the summer with a real enthusiasm for learning!

They have settled in well to the class routines and have really enjoyed learning all about Scandinavia!

We have had the great pleasure of Lincolnshire Music Service coming in to teach us how to play the ukelele.





OAK

Extracurricular sports have been the name of the game with kurling competitions, Pop Lacrosse enrichment days and girls football club with Coach Kieran!

Some of our Oak girls enjoyed a great afternoon of football at Digby School.

We also have enjoyed exploring states of matter in science! Experiments all round!

What will next term hold for us?

REDWOOD



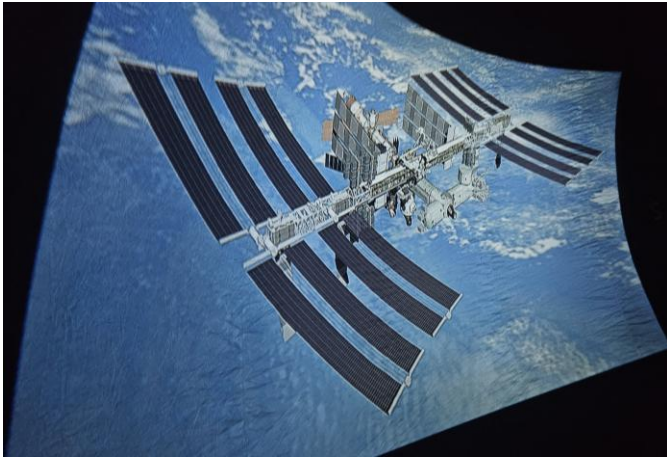
What a fantastic start to life in Redwood Class!

The children have embraced challenges with a real positive attitude, never ceasing to amaze the staff team – and all with a smile on their faces :)

We have produced some stunning pieces of learning in our non-core subjects: Impressionist watercolour paintings, fact files about Scandinavian countries and some deep conversations about Salvation in R.E.

Not to mention, we always find time for drama!





REDWOOD

We have also enjoyed a trip out to venture inside a Planetarium, embedding and extending our classroom learning about Earth and Space – it was great fun!

Some of our class competed against other schools in a sports tournament, held at Nocton Sports Hall. Our teams coming in 1st and 3rd place.

Have a lovely half term break

At The Spires Federation, we are committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Our approach to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is inclusive, proactive, and continually evolving to meet the needs of our pupils and their families.

We understand that navigating SEND support can be overwhelming, which is why we've created a dedicated Padlet resource for parents and carers. This Padlet is regularly updated with useful links, guidance, local services, and practical tools tailored to a wide range of SEND needs—from autism and ADHD to speech and language support.

Whether you're looking for advice or professional contacts, the Padlet is designed to be a one-stop hub for SEND support. We encourage all families to explore it and check back often as new resources are added.

 **Visit the SEND Padlet here:** [SEND at the Spires Federation](#)

If you have any questions or need help navigating the Padlet, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher/SENDCo or contact the Family Information Service listed on the Padlet.

Together, we can ensure every child feels supported, understood, and empowered

SEND INFORMATION



NEW ADVICE GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIANS



Ideas of where to get further support...

In Our Place

You can access some great online learning (understand your child's feelings, understand your child with additional needs, understanding your children mental health and wellbeing) through In Our Place:

<https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/courses>

All you will need to do is put in the password WE_CAN and put in your Lincolnshire postcode and you will be able to access a wealth of support!

ESCO

ESCO (Early Support Coordination) offer virtual drop in appointments via the phone where you can discuss support and services that are available.

Ring 01522 782111 and say that you want to book a drop in session with an ESCO Key Worker.

Lincolnshire Local Offer

The Lincolnshire Local Offer brings together information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

PAACT

Parents and Autistic Children Together are a friendly and informal group based in Gainsborough and Lincoln.

<https://paactsupport.com/>

Liaise

Liaise is Lincolnshire's Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

They provide confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people (0-25 years) with SEN and disabilities, and their parents and carers.

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/liaise>

Virtual Autism Hub

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/our-services/virtual-autism-hub>

Useful Websites

Autism

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/what-is-autism>

Behaviour

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/family-monsters/support/challenging-behaviour/>

<https://behavioursupporthub.org.uk/>

<https://www.123magic.com/parenting-tips/what-is-123-magic.html>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/challenging-behaviour/>

ADHD

<https://adhduk.co.uk/>

<https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>

Mental health

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Sleep

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/>

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/lpft-nhs/episodes/MHST-Top-tips-on-getting-extra-Zzzz-et79fn/a-a50tdbi>

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/childrens-sleep-ebook/>

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

<https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>

Autism East Midlands Hub

<https://www.autismeastmidlands.org.uk/>

Family Hubs

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/directory-record/62596/gainsborough-market-arcade-children-s-centre-part-of-the-family-hubs-programme>

Here 4 You

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/self-referral>

As children grow and learn, their ability to see and hear clearly plays a vital role in their development—both academically and socially. That’s why regular **eye and hearing tests** are so important, even if your child hasn’t shown any obvious signs of difficulty.

Eye Tests: More Than Just Vision

Children may not always realise they’re struggling to see clearly. Poor vision can affect:

- Reading and writing
- Concentration in class
- Confidence and behaviour

Routine eye tests can detect issues like short-sightedness, long-sightedness, or even more subtle conditions that might impact learning. These tests are quick, painless, and often available for free through the NHS.

Hearing Tests: Catching the Quiet Clues

Hearing problems can be harder to spot, especially if they’re mild or intermittent. But even slight hearing loss can lead to:

- Speech and language delays
- Difficulty following instructions
- Social withdrawal or frustration

Early detection through hearing tests can lead to simple interventions that make a big difference—whether it’s temporary treatment for glue ear or support for longer-term hearing needs.

Specsavers offer free eye tests to children under 16 in full-time education. Book your here - https://www.specsavers.co.uk/free-eye-test?srsId=AfmBOopdYa_fNESrPgXQ38XPfG6ZGvNirpH1zdy3AGxoGiJSPmVPf1TZ

EYE TESTS AND HEARING TESTS

What You Can Do

Book regular eye and hearing checks, especially before your child starts school or moves into a new year group.

Watch for signs like squinting, frequent ear infections, or difficulty understanding speech.

Talk to your GP or school nurse if you have any concerns.

Let’s work together to give every child the best start in life—by making sure they can see and hear the world around them clearly.

VACANCIES

WE ARE RECRUITING!

WE HAVE THREE POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT NOCTON
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

- 1:1 TEACHING ASSISTANT (5 DAYS)
- EYFS TEACHING ASSISTANT (THURS & FRI)
- MIDDAY SUPERVISOR ROLE (MON & FRI)

For more information please visit our website -

<https://www.spiresfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Vacancies>

[es...](#)

OR

[EARLY YEARS TEACHING ASSISTANT \(LEVEL 3\) | 03 NOVEMBER, 2025 | JOBS AND CAREERS WITH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL](#)

[1:1 TEACHING ASSISTANT LEVEL 1 \(SEN\) | 02 NOVEMBER, 2025 | JOBS AND CAREERS WITH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL](#)



APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

JUST A REMINDER THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS IN YEAR 6, AND YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY APPLIED, THE MAIN DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY TRANSFER APPLICATIONS IS 31ST OCTOBER.

YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE AT

[HTTPS://WWW.LINCOLNSHIRE.GOV.UK/SCHOOL-ADMISSIONS/APPLY-SCHOOL/](https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school/)

OR

PHONE 01522 782030 AND MAKE AN APPLICATION OVER THE PHONE.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEAM

The deadline for secondary
school place applications
is 31 October



 GOV.UK

BEST START TO LIFE – SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

The early years team across North Kesteven have asked us to share with parents some key information that may be useful to families.

Coming in February, April and July/ August!!! We will be delivering some specific sessions to support families and children on school readiness. These will be called ready steady go to school and be delivered by an early years specialist teacher and an early years practitioner, both highly qualified early years staff. There will also be virtual sessions running for families to access. Please look out for the poster with dates that we will be sending over to you to share with families.

Alongside this we also have the below services available for all families to access:

[homepage | best start in life](#)

This government website provides advice and support for families from pregnancy to childcare right through to starting school and support for child development so has a wealth of important information for families to access. This is where they need to go to find out how much early years entitlement funding they can access but also will support them in understanding what they can do to support their child's learning at home.

[Start for life – Lincolnshire county council](#)

This website link will take you to the Lincolnshire start for life offer to provide information for families on what is available to support childcare and child development within Lincolnshire.

BEST START TO LIFE – SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

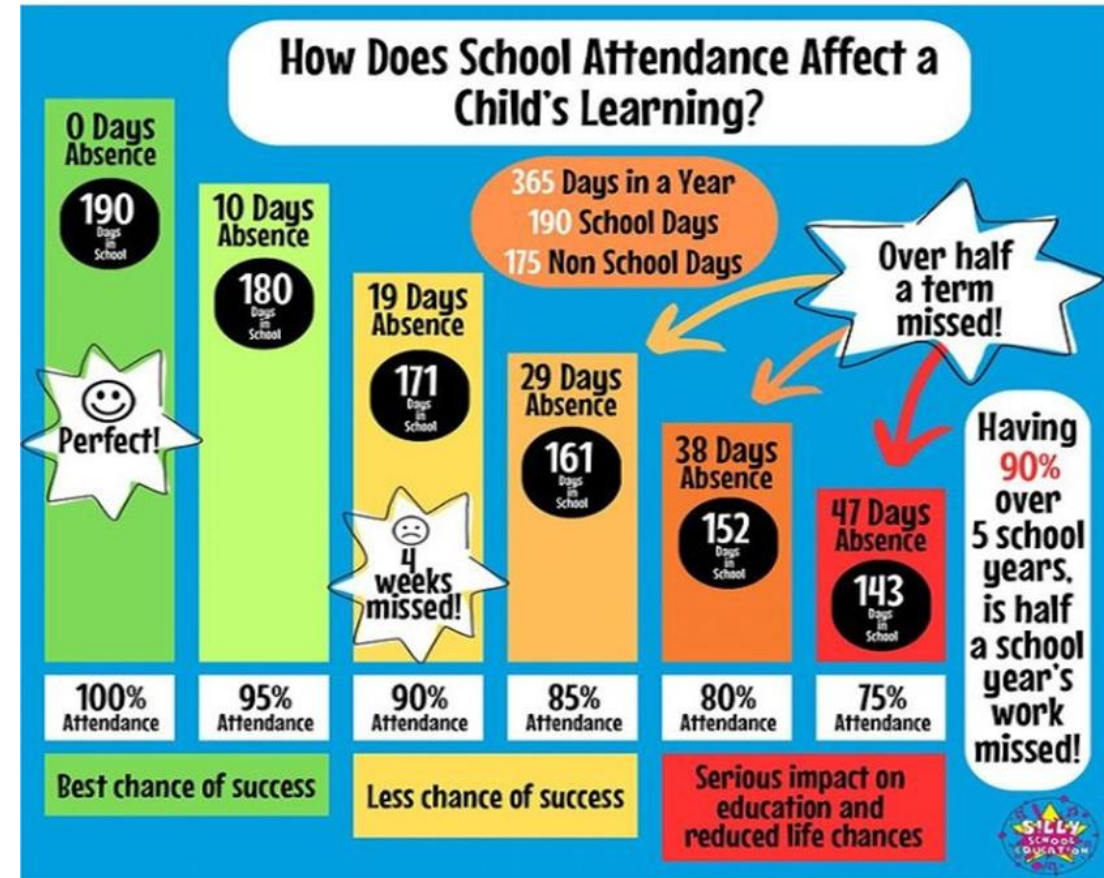
Lincolnshire's 47 children's centres are core to our start for life offer. The centres offer free stay-and-play drop-in sessions and universal programmes for all families from antenatal to age five. Further support is also available for children and young people up to 19 years (25 SEND). We would encourage families to visit their local children's centre to find out more. Any adult who is caring for a child can access a range of services at the centre. Use our directory to find your nearest children's centre.

Find a children's centre – Lincolnshire county council

<p>All children's centres offer:</p>	<p>Each centre offers additional services and activities according to the needs of the community.</p>
<p>Child and family health and maternity services advice and information for families resources to borrow childcare and early education advice and support specific sessions for children with additional needs specific sessions supporting speech and language activities holiday sessions aimed at 0-5 aged children and siblings up to 8 years old. Baby massage sessions sensory sessions support for parents on a range of issues evidence-based parenting support training and employment advice</p>	<p>We also have an enhanced offer delivered at our 10 family hubs which may also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">speech and language drop-in supportlending library resourcesSEND drop-in supportmidwifery appointmentssmoking cessation supportregistering your birthcitizen's advice 1:1 sessionssensory rooms and lending libraries

ATTENDANCE

CONKERS – 98.7%
BLOSSOM – 99.0%
OAK – 98.4%
REDWOOD – 97.5%
WHOLE SCHOOL – 98.3%



ADMINISTRATION TEAM



**Mrs T Elliott
Digby**



**Ms J Hayward
Dunston and Nocton**



**Miss Hoddinott
School Business Manager and
Nocton**



**DUNSTON ST
PETER'S CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

OPEN DAY

**Wednesday
8th October and
12th November 2025**

9.30 am - 5.00 pm

 **Dunston St Peter's
Back Lane,
Dunston,
LN4 2EH**

- Book an appointment to tour the school
- Meet the teachers
- Adventure into our Forest School
- Proudly rated 'Good' by Ofsted



CONTACT :

admin@spiresfederation.co.uk

01526 320027

**Did you know we
offer full wrap around
care from 7.30am to 6pm?**





**"Today is the first page
of a new book. Make it a
good story!"**

Popai Po



**HAVE A WONDERFUL HALF TERM!
THANK YOU**