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

WELCOME TO TERM 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start we have had to the new academic year! It has been fantastic to welcome everyone back after the summer break and to see so many smiling faces around our schools. The children have settled back into routines exceptionally well and have quickly embraced all aspects of school life.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to the many new families who have joined our Federation this term. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community and look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

As we move through the autumn term, we are looking forward to a year filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and continued success for all our children. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we work together to give every child the very best educational experience.

WELCOME TO TERM 1

We were delighted to welcome **Pudsey Bear** and **BBC Radio Lincolnshire** to our Federation recently as part of this year's **Run for Pudsey** campaign in support of **Children in Need**.

The excitement started at **Digby Church of England Primary School**, where Pudsey made a surprise visit to officially sign the school up to take part in Run for Pudsey 2026. The visit was kept secret, making it a wonderful surprise for both children and staff, who were thrilled when Pudsey arrived!

The BBC Radio Lincolnshire presenters then set themselves a challenge of their own. **Karl** ran from **Digby to Dunston**, encouraging Dunston to sign up to the campaign, before **Scott** took on the next leg of the journey, running from **Dunston to Nocton** to ensure all schools within the Federation were involved in the challenge.

The entire adventure was recorded and broadcast on BBC Radio Lincolnshire, capturing the enthusiasm, excitement and community spirit shown by our children and staff throughout the day.

Why not relive all the excitement by listening back to the radio features?

BBC Radio Lincolnshire - Scott Dalton, 08/10/2026

BBC Radio Lincolnshire - Scott Dalton, 13/10/2026

BBC Radio Lincolnshire - Scott Dalton, 14/10/2026

Keep an eye out for further information over the coming weeks about how our Federation will continue to support **Children in Need** through our Run for Pudsey activities this year. We are looking forward to getting active, having fun and raising money for this fantastic cause! 🐻 🏃 🏃 💛



runPudsey 2026

BBC RADIO Lincolnshire















HAPPINESS INSPIRATION NURTURE SUCCESS EVERYONE
SHINE
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

PIXIES



We have had a fantastic first term. It's been lovely to see everyone settled, making new friends and memories. In reception we have loved finding out our new book each week for drawing club and really starting to learn our letters and sounds! In key Stage One we have particularly enjoyed creating our self-portraits, being super scientists learning about animals and humans, and learning how to record the weather! We all got a big surprise when Pudsey visited and we sung our heart out in Harvest Festival. We are so excited for next term after a well-deserved break. Well done Pixies!

PIXIES





















FOREST SCHOOL

Reception have been fantastic at Forest School this term. We have learnt about fire safety and have enjoyed some hot snacks and drinks from the campfire. We have had the opportunity to use palm drills and have created some lovely conker creatures. The children have also enjoyed exploring the equipment – the hammocks and rope swing are always popular. The most impressive thing about this term with reception has to be the team work - it has been amazing! We all worked together and made a beautiful den that we have enjoyed playing in together ever since. Well done reception!

GNOMES

What an amazing start to this new academic year we have had in Gnomes! Our new year 3's have settled in beautifully and our year 4 have really stepped up to being the older role models of our class.

We have all really enjoyed our new topic on 'Extreme Earth' finding out about different earthquakes and volcanos around the world. We have also linked this to our class text, Escape from Pompeii, and are currently writing a report all about the lost city there.

In science, we have been discovering how light works and had fun exploring shadows as well as creating our own reflective safety jackets.

We have enjoyed a PE enrichment morning on archery this term, joined an online workshop about the new Gruffalo Granny book and created some lovely artwork for our harvest church service.







GNOMES

IMPS





Imps have had a fantastic start to the school year, and we have certainly packed a lot into our first term! We have thoroughly enjoyed reading our class book, *Holes*, and using it as inspiration for our own writing, developing our vocabulary and bringing our ideas to life.

In Geography, we have been exploring how volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis form, as well as the devastating impact they can have on people and the environment.

We have also been fortunate to enjoy plenty of sporting opportunities. Our Year 6 pupils proudly claimed the bronze medal in a multisport competition, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship. Through our enrichment sessions with Premier Education, we have tried archery and golf, and we also enjoyed our trip to Branston Swimming Pool to develop our swimming skills.

One of the biggest highlights of the term was the surprise arrival of Pudsey! His visit brought plenty of excitement to the school and gave us another memorable moment to add to an already busy term.

It has been wonderful to see the Imps, especially the year 5 's, quickly get up to speed, supporting one another and throwing themselves into everything we have done. We are incredibly proud of the positive start they have made and look forward to what the rest of the year has in store!

IMPS







SEND INFORMATION

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



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

EYE TESTS AND HEARING TESTS

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.

🏫 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.

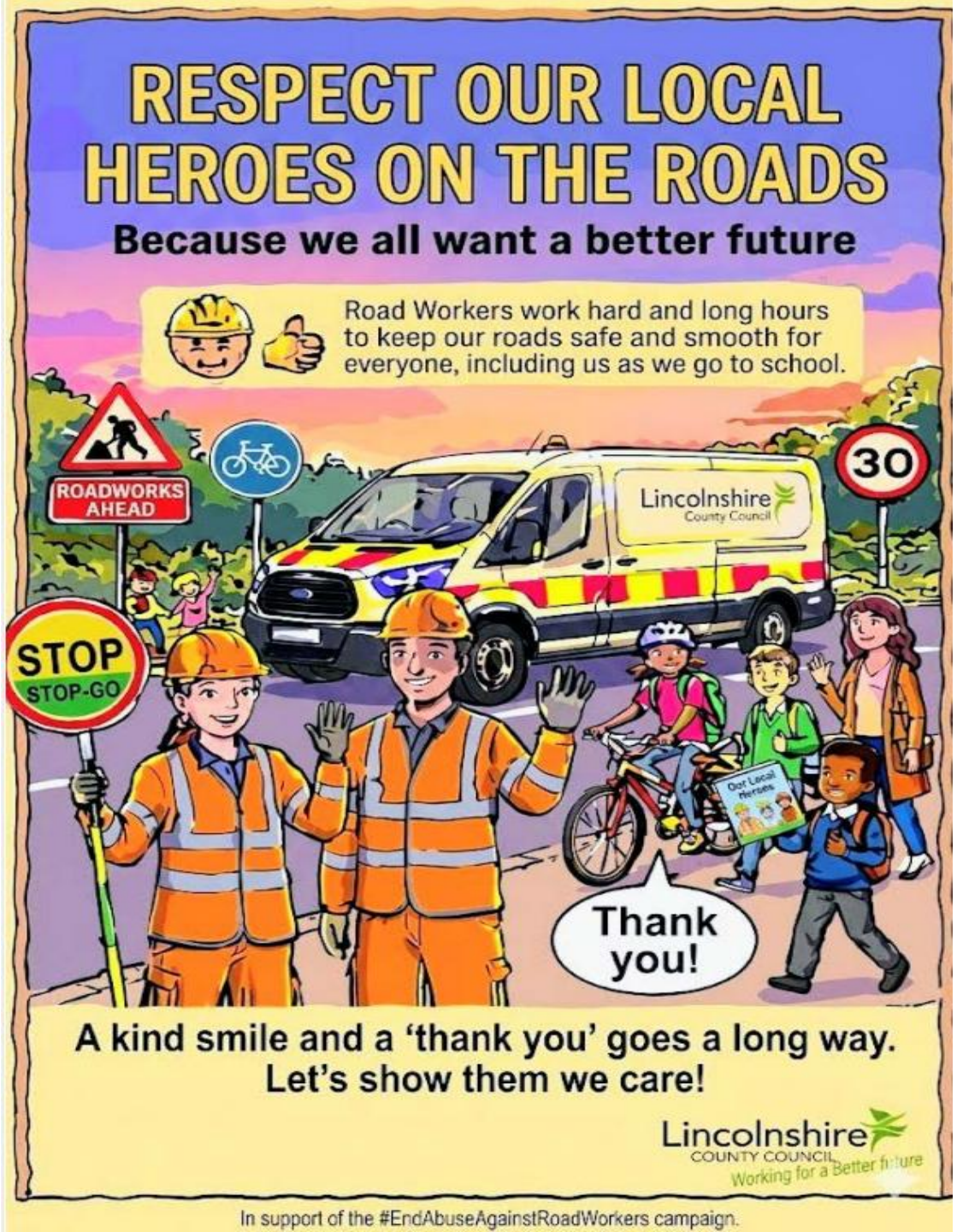
Let's work together to give every child the best start in life—by making sure they can see and hear the world around them clearly.

Specsavers offer free eye tests to children under 16 in full-time education. Book your here - https://www.specsavers.co.uk/free-eye-test?srsltid=AfmBOopdYa_fNESrPgxQ38XPfG6ZGvNirpH1zdy3AGxoGiJSPmVPf1TZ



Helping Your Child Decompress After the School Day

School can be tiring. Children work hard all day managing learning, friendships, routines, expectations, noise, and sensory experiences. A **soft landing** is a gentle, low-stress transition that helps children relax and regulate when they get home.



Staying Alive !

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Online safety Q+A
for Early Year and primary parents



Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL

📅 Tuesday 1st December
🕕 6:00pm - 7:30pm
💻 Microsoft Teams
🎟️ Sign-up required

Whether your child is using tablets, gaming online, watching videos, or starting to explore apps, this session is an opportunity to get advice and answers to your questions.

Topics include:
✅ Screen time and healthy online habits
✅ Parental controls and privacy settings
✅ Age-appropriate apps and games
✅ Popular online trends, risks and safety tips
✅ Any online safety questions you'd like support with

Suitable for parents and carers of primary-aged children. Parents of nursery and early years children are also encouraged to attend.

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2476488

ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Mrs T Elliott
Digby



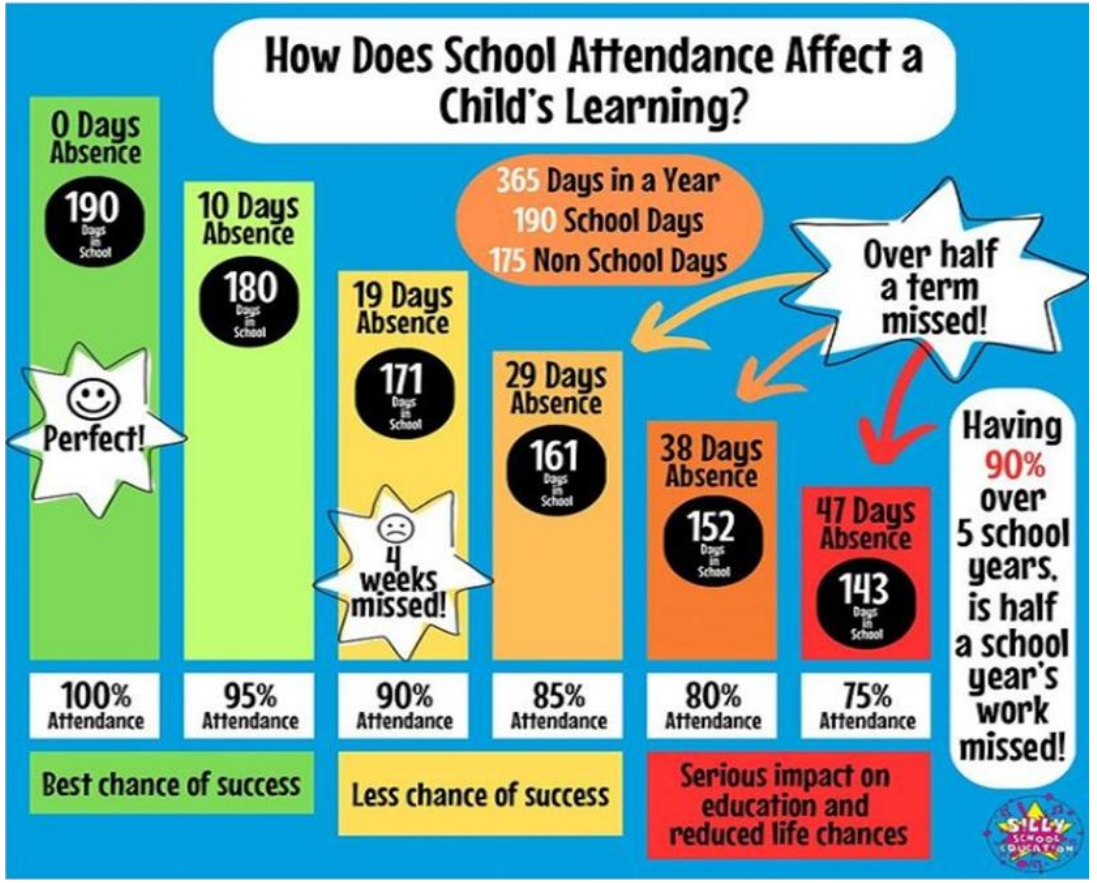
Ms J Hayward
Dunston



Miss Hoddinott
School Business Manager and
Nocton

ATTENDANCE

PIXIES – 97.3%
GNOMES – 91.5%
IMPS – 96.2%
WHOLE SCHOOL – 95.1%



Starchy Foods

Base each meal on a starchy food, such as bread, potato, rice, pasta, couscous.
Starchy foods give energy, fibre, vitamins and minerals.



- ✓ Bread, try different types, such as pitta bread, wraps, bread sticks or bread rolls.
- ✓ Other starchy foods, such as pasta or rice.
- ✓ Whole grain varieties are best for fibre, which is vital for a healthy digestive system.

Meat & Alternatives



Add some protein, for example meat, fish, eggs, beans or pulses. Protein foods build muscles and provide minerals.

- ✓ Lean meats, such as chicken, turkey or ham.
- ✓ Include oily fish, such as pilchards, sardines or mackerel at least once every three weeks
- ✓ Cheese, such as cottage cheese, edam or soft cheese.
- ✓ Egg, such as quiche or omelette.
- ✓ Meat alternatives, such as tofu or tempeh.
- ✓ Dishes containing pulses, beans or meat, for example dahl, stew or bean salad.
- ! Use butter, margarine, mayonnaise or salad dressings sparingly, because these can be high in fat, or use lower fat alternatives.
- ✘ The school does not allow nuts in packed lunches.

Healthier Swaps

- ✓ Replace sweets and chocolate with dried fruit, a small bunch of grapes or fruit salad or sugar-free jelly.
- ✓ Replace cakes and pastries with fruit bread or malt loaf.
- ✓ Replace salted savoury snacks with rice cakes or breadsticks.

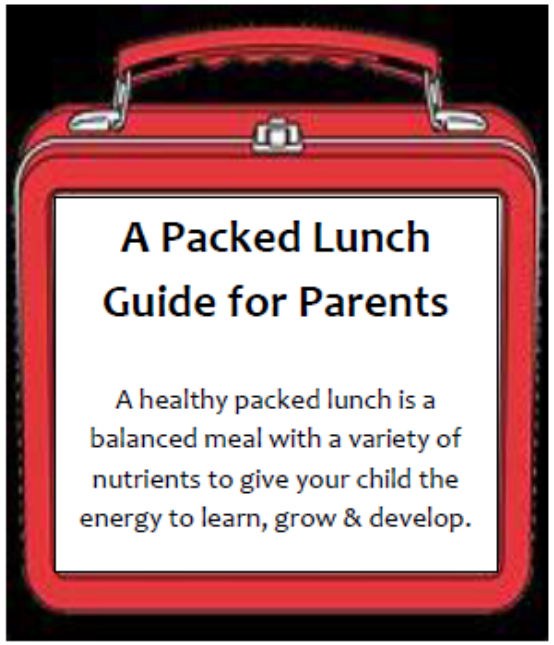


Milk & Dairy Foods

Up to the age of 5, milk is provided for children who want it and after that, parents can purchase it if they wish. Ask your school for information.



- ✓ A side dish of a low fat, low sugar yoghurt or low sugar rice pudding provides calcium necessary for strong bones and teeth as well as providing protein and vitamins



A Packed Lunch Guide for Parents

A healthy packed lunch is a balanced meal with a variety of nutrients to give your child the energy to learn, grow & develop.

Fruit & Vegetables



Don't forget to include fruit and vegetables. You can use fresh, frozen, tinned or dried. Fruit and vegetables are full of vitamins, minerals and fibre necessary for the body to function properly and to keep you strong and healthy.

- ✓ Add tomato, lettuce, cucumber or beetroot to a sandwich
- ✓ Include a portion of salad or roast vegetables
- ✓ Fresh fruit, such as apple, banana or pear.
- ✓ Dried fruit, such as raisins, apricots or figs.
- ✓ Fruit salad (fresh or tinned in juice) or vegetable salad.
- ✓ Finger foods, such as cherry tomatoes, cucumber sticks or celery are good with a dip, such as hummus or guacamole.



Using fresh fruit and vegetables, which are in season can help the environment

Drinks

Drinks, especially water, help children to concentrate and feel well. Water is freely available in school.



- ✓ You could try adding chopped fruit into water bottles to create new flavours
- ✘ Avoid squash, fizzy drinks and flavoured water, even those labelled 'sugar free' or 'no added sugar' as these can contribute to tooth decay and have little nutritional value

Snacks & Confectionery

Snack foods may be included occasionally but aim to make healthier choices. Snack foods tend to be high in fat, sugar and salt. Foods high in fat can cause excessive weight and may lead to heart disease. High sugar foods are high in calories and bad for teeth. High salt foods may increase blood pressure, which can lead to heart disease and some cancers.

✘ Chocolate, sweets, chocolate spread, jam, salted savoury snacks and crisp like products should not be included in lunch boxes. Hot school lunch desserts are only allowed cocoa powder and no confectionery.



RECEPTION 2027 - 2028

OPEN DAY

DIGBY CE PRIMARY

GRADED OUTSTANDING BY OFSTED IN ALL AREAS

Our school also accepts mid year applications!

- Forest School
- Outstanding Quality of Education
- Outstanding EYFS
- Onsite Wrap Around Care

Dates:
7TH OCTOBER 2 PM -6 PM
2ND NOVEMBER 9 AM -12 PM

Location:
Church St, Digby, Lincoln, LN4 3LZ



CONTACT SCHOOL TODAY TO BOOK A TOUR

digbyoffice@spiresfederation.co.uk

www.spiresfederation.co.uk

01526 320630