

Headteacher Message:



What a wonderfully busy and uplifting week it's been at school! From the vibrant sea of yellow clothing on Wednesday for Mental Health Day, to welcoming prospective families during our school tours, hosting a school development visit from LSP, and even having filming take place today—it's been a week full of energy, colour and connection.

Wednesday's celebration of Mental Health Day was particularly special. It was so lovely to see the children and staff dressed in bright yellow—a colour many of us don't wear often, but one that brought a joyful atmosphere to the school. Miss Williams' bright yellow onesie was a particular highlight! In class, children took part in thoughtful discussions around mental wellbeing, and we hope it sparked some positive conversations at home too.

Thank you, Mrs Carey!

The school is sad to announce that Mrs Louise Carey will be stepping down from her role as Lunchtime Supervisor at the end of this half term. Mrs Carey has been a valued member of the Northleaze team for over 17 years, during which time she has supported hundreds of children in having safe, happy and enjoyable lunchtimes. She is a much-loved and respected colleague, and she will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

We're sure families will join us in wishing Mrs Carey all the very best for the future. Mrs Carey will continue to work at NAP Club, so she will still be a familiar face to many of our children.

Picture News Worship

This week's Picture News question was 'What can we learn from others who prove people wrong?'. This question relates to a news story about Ellie Goldstein, a 23-year-old model from Ilford, has made history as the first person with Down's syndrome to compete on the main series of *Strictly Come Dancing*. Families are invited to join the conversation and share their thoughts at www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss.

New Reception 2026 tours and Stay & Play Sunday 19th October

As part of the ongoing school tours for families applying for Reception places in September 2026, it has been a pleasure to welcome so many prospective parents and carers to the school this week. A variety of tour dates and times are available over the coming months, all listed on the school website. In addition, the school is delighted to invite current our current Nursery children—and any other local 3 and 4 year olds who will be starting school next year—to a special weekend **Stay & Play** morning on **Sunday 19th October from 10am to 12pm**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children and families to explore the Early Years environment and meet some of the team.

Diwali Theatre performance

Last week, a letter was sent to families of children in Years 1–6 regarding an exciting opportunity taking place next week. On Monday 13th October, the school will welcome the *Same, Same But Different* Theatre Company for a special performance celebrating Diwali. To help cover the cost of the performance, a voluntary contribution of £2.50 per child was requested. Thank you to those who have already made a payment. The item remains available on ParentPay, and the school would be very grateful for any further contributions to ensure the cost is covered.

New OPAL 'In the Wild Area' – donations welcome!

We are very excited to share that we're developing a brand-new "In the Wild Area" by the field as part of our **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** initiative! This space will give children the chance to explore, imagine, and create stories through nature-inspired/small world play. To help bring this area to life, we are looking for small animal, dinosaur or people figures that children can use during playtime. If you have any spare or unused ones (in good condition) at home that you'd be happy to donate, we would be so grateful. These small additions will make our wild area even more exciting and engaging for all our children—encouraging exploration, storytelling, and imaginative

play. Donations can be brought to the classroom or school office at any time over the next couple of weeks. Thank you so much for your continued support and for helping us make playtime even more magical!

SMSA Vacancy

With Mrs Carey's departure, we are looking for a caring, reliable and enthusiastic person to join our team as a Lunchtime Supervisor. Even if you are only available one day a week, we would be interested in you joining Northleaze. The role involves helping to ensure that our pupils have a safe, happy and enjoyable lunchtime experience. The responsibilities include:

- Supervising children in the dining hall, playground and around school during lunchtime
- Encouraging positive play and good behaviour
- Assisting younger pupils with eating where needed
- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils at all times
- Dealing with minor incidents, recording head bumps and reporting more serious issues to senior staff

If you, or someone you know, are interested, please pop in and speak to the school office or email us on office@northleazeschool.co.uk

Autumn artwork and Harvest donations

Year 6 created beautiful artwork for a harvest display which you can see in the entrances at All Saints Church and Keedwell Church at the moment. Using a technique called pointillism, they created these amazing pieces from hundreds of tiny dots in lots of vibrant autumnal colours. Please do pop and see them over coming weeks.



Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Service on Wednesday 22nd October. As we have done for many years, we invite children to bring in donations of food items that we donate to a local foodbank on that Friday. We will ask the foodbank to determine which items are most needed at the moment and we will share that next week. We are always amazed at the generosity of families at Harvest and hope you will be able to support it, however small.

Promotional Video Filming in School

As many of you may be aware, we have been filming a short promotional video in school today. The final version will be edited down to approximately five minutes and aims to showcase the wide range of opportunities and activities that take place across our school. It will be shared with current and prospective parents via our website and social media channels in due course.

We want to reassure families that all necessary parental permissions have been carefully checked and respected. Not all children who were filmed will appear in the final video, and children may only be visible in the background. Please help us to manage children's expectations by explaining that the video is a snapshot of school life, and not every moment or individual will be included. Thank you

Parking around school

We kindly remind all families and visitors to park considerately near the school, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times. While the surrounding roads are public highways and parking is not restricted, it's important to ensure that driveways remain accessible and pavements are kept clear for pedestrians.

As a helpful alternative, the car park at the top of Theynes Croft is available for use and is just a short two-minute walk from the school. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for our school community and local residents.

Tissue season!

As we enter the time of year with colds and coughs more prevalent, may we ask for donations of boxes of tissues for our classrooms? We do order tissues throughout the year but with more being currently in demand, it would be great if we could have some donations for each classroom to help with our school budgets! Just drop some to the office if you are able. Many thanks in advance – and thanks for the two families who surprised us with some large boxes today! Much appreciated.

This week in class.....

Over the last few weeks, Year 4 have also been learning about pointillism in Art. We have been studying the work of George Seurat who created a completely new style of painting using dots. We have experimented by using a different medium each lesson, including felt tips and paint applied using cotton buds.



Year 3 have been learning about different types of skeletons and discovering what it means to be a scientist! We've had lots of fun exploring how animals are grouped based on their skeletons, whether they have an endoskeleton, exoskeleton, or hydrostatic skeleton. The children have enjoyed investigating and sorting animals — from humans and dogs to insects and jellyfish — into correct categories. Through hands-on activities and discussions, we have developed scientific skills by making observations, asking questions, and thinking about how skeletons help animals move, grow, and survive.

Year 3 have also been busy practising their Harvest song, filling the classroom with beautiful singing and lots of enthusiasm as they get ready for our celebration. Alongside this our children have been enjoying their English lessons, diving into our new story *Leon and the Place Between*. They have loved exploring the magical world of the story, using their imaginations to create vivid descriptions and thoughtful pieces of writing. It's been wonderful to see their creativity shine as they bring Leon's adventure to life through their words!



Headteacher's Awards

KS2: Arun – Year 3



Class Certificates Awarded to:

Year 1: Benji and Jude
Year 2: Jaxon and Molly
Year 3: Freya, Finely and Marcie
Year 4: Toby and Olivia
Year 5: Bonnie and Henry
Year 6: Alice and Finn



Birthdays this week:

**Emma (Rec), Rosie (Y1), Toby (Y4)
and Jago (Y5)**

Responsibility Stars Awarded to:



Year 1: Thomas B
Year 2: Elis
Year 3: Indie
Year 4: Sophie
Year 5: Theo
Year 6: Senara

House Point Winners this week:

Yanley !

Key Dates

15/10/25 – Year 5/6 Cross Country
16/10/25 – Reception welcome service at All Saints Church
19/10/25 – Stay and Play (10-12pm) Current Nursery and potential Reception starters September 2026
22/10/25 – Harvest Festival at Church
24/10/25 – Last day of term 1
03/11/25 – INSET (School closed to pupils)
04/11/25 – **Children return to school – Term 2**
11/11/25 & 13/11/25 – Parents' Evenings
14/11/25 – Individual School Photos

INSET Days 2025-2026

Monday 3 November

Friday 16 January
Friday 13 February
Monday 1 June

Term Dates 2025-2026

Term 1: Tue 2 Sep – Fri 24 Oct
Term 2: Mon 3 Nov – Fri 19 Dec
Term 3: Mon 5 Jan - Fri 13 Feb 26
Term 4: Mon 23 Feb – Thu 2 Apr 26
Term 5: Mon 20 Apr - Fri 22 May 26
Term 6: Mon 1 Jun - Wed 22 Jul 26