



Normanton-on-Soar Primary School

"Soaring High Together"

Headteacher message

Upcoming dates

31/1/25—PANTO in school—no Soaring High assembly for parents on this day

7/2/25—Pupil Parliament

14/2/25—INSET

School closed for half term

24/2/25—Back to school

Parents evenings will take place during w/c 17th March—lists for appointments will be issued 2 weeks beforehand

28/3/25—Mothers day gift stall—bring £1 and buy a gift

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025

We welcome 2 new families to our nursery and Mrs McLeman to daily post in school (now she is back from her exciting visit overseas!)

Please see INSET dates for NEXT YEAR below:

1st SEP 2025– admin day

2nd SEP 2025 – INSET

19th DEC 2025 – INSET

13th FEB 2026 – INSET

1st JUNE 2026 – INSET

27th JULY 2026 – INSET

We are noticing a very strong correlation between children's attendance and their performance in school.

Please keep holidays out of term time to give your child the best chance to be successful at school.

We continue to celebrate our children who read at least 5 times a week at home. Please write/sign and date the diary when you read at home.

All children should be reading 5 times a week as a minimum to improve their chance of becoming confident and independent readers who LOVE to read. I have been shocked by the extremely low numbers of children who are reading at home

Uniform and suitable clothing

Thank you all for continuing to attend school in uniform and wearing PE uniform on your allocated days. Our uniform is quite relaxed as we support children with sensory needs to adapt the uniform where necessary. We do, however, expect the children to wear the uniform every day.

Please make sure that the children, especially the younger children, come to school with warm hats and gloves when the weather is cold. We all go outside everyday for at least 30 minutes at a time.

We have plenty of second hand uniform that I am planning to place on a rail in the porch area. We ask for £1 per item to be donated towards school fund.

Don't forget to check wellies half termly to make sure they still fit and do not have any holes in! They get a lot of use!

Transition updates:

Mrs Clarkstone has been visiting the school each week from ELA to talk to the year 6 children about moving on to secondary school.

She has invited the children to write a postcard to a child in year 7 to ask any questions.

This is an unsettling time for children in year 6 as they do not yet know where they are going and this can cause some anxiety. We are mindful of this and are supporting the children in school.

The children will be planning and preparing their leavers show which will take place at the end of the summer term—watch this space!

A message from our Governors

"You'll be aware Normanton-on Soar Primary School formerly opened as a new school on 1 October 2024, following the Schools integration into the Equals Trust – Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The trust is made up of 15 primary schools and aims to allow schools to maintain a unique ethos and local identity, while sharing support services and adopting a collaborative approach to staff development and whole school improvement, whilst maintaining strong accountability. The Department for Education asked Equals Trust to make a decision on how the new academy school will be governed, having due regard to the reasons for sponsorship referenced in the Ofsted inspection reports for the School. Ofsted inspection reports graded the school as 'Requires Improvement', consistently classifying 'The quality of education' and 'Leadership and management' with this rating.

While the Trust are grateful for all the support the previous governors provided to Sarah, her team and to the children to enable them to access education and for the unwavering enthusiasm shown for the school, in the best interest of the School the Trust has now delegated governance to a committee of Trustees (formally known as an Interim Executive Board (IEB)). Richard Bines (Chair), Ian Walker (Vice-Chair), Peter Foale, Victoria Hayles, Phil Palmer (CEO) and Catherine Cox (Executive Officer), make up the team and have extensive experience of governance, including raising standards, teaching and learning, school leadership and strategic development. Among the Team are parents of children attending or who have attended schools in the Trust.

A two-year plan is now in place to enhance teaching and learning (T&L), as well as pedagogy, while simultaneously exploring the school's future. The IEB Trustees have a commitment to continuing the improvement and a recognition that high-quality education is paramount.

The Trustees and Trust are actively working to address the challenges faced by the school by providing support to the School in areas such as professional development, staff well-being, and financial management, whilst committed to transparency and collaboration with parents.

The Trustees approach to the school's future development will be characterized by a focus on, data-driven decision-making, building on existing strengths, prioritizing high-quality teaching and learning, and thoughtful consideration of SEN provision.

We look forward to working positively with the entire school community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions. Richard Bines, (Chair) On behalf of the IEB Trustees for Normanton-on-Soar School."