

**ASPIRE**  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."  
- Henry Ford**

## Aspire Inset 2025

November 2025

What a great day of collaboration, learning and connection across our Trust community. It was good to be joined not only by Aspire colleagues, but also partners from Shine MAT and Underwood Primary, creating a powerful shared purpose from the outset. Paul Longden's SEND sessions were a real highlight. His practical guidance, paired with genuine recognition of the challenges we face, left many of us feeling encouraged, better equipped, and reassured that we're working together to support every learner.

The momentum continued into the afternoon, where you chose to dive deeper into areas that matter most for your pupils: Reading Fluency, Attendance Deep Dive, Building Resilience, or strategic SEND leadership. Thank you to our excellent facilitators from across both Trusts, your expertise and generosity strengthened collaboration even further. Alongside this, the Aspire Business Network made brilliant headway of its own.

Huge thanks go to Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School for being such warm and efficient hosts, and to everyone behind the scenes who ensured the day ran so smoothly. And of course, a special shout-out to Vanessa, who worked her magic and crocheted 170 blue hearts for our goodie bags, a thoughtful reminder of the value placed on every member of Aspire.

As we left at 3pm, the message was clear from your feedback: high-quality CPD, meaningful connections, and a shared drive for the same ambition, the very best outcomes for every child. Thank you for the energy, professionalism, and positivity you brought to the day. Together, we make the difference. ❤️

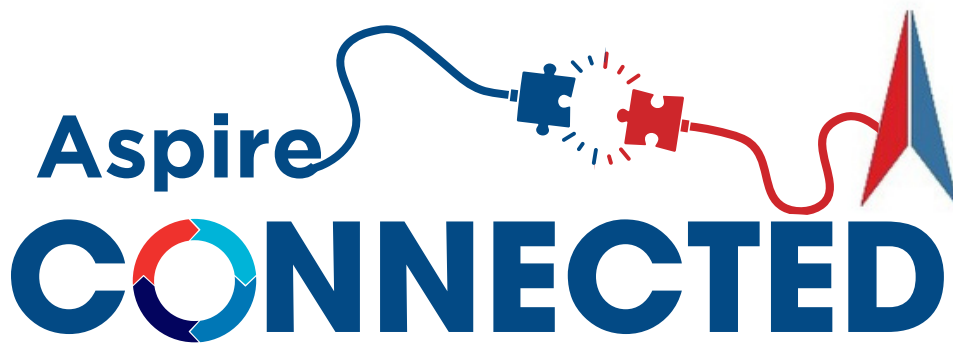
As we move into the final weeks of term, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all staff for your continued dedication, creativity, and care. It's been a term full of progress, innovation, and genuine teamwork across every school.

This has also been an exciting period for our Trust, with the Department for Education's formal approval of the merger between Aspire and SHINE. Work is underway, with TUPE activities, due diligence, and shared professional development sessions taking place across both trusts. Colleagues are already collaborating on areas such as attendance support, SEND expertise, and leadership development, and we are already seeing the benefits that come from being part of a larger organisation.

This time of year always brings moments to pause and appreciate the difference we make together, not just in outcomes, but in the lives of the children and families we serve. I hope everyone finds time over the festive break to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones.

Here's to a joyful December and an exciting new chapter ahead for our Trust community.  
Kate Watson  
Chief Executive Officer





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## Archbishop Cramner CofE Academy

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It's been an exciting term so far at ABCA. We are proud to have retained our title as Nottinghamshire County Champions in Table Tennis, with the team now heading to the regional finals in Wellingborough.

Our SEND pupils have begun their specialist horse-riding sessions as part of our inclusive sports offer, and KS2 enjoyed a fully funded Code4Drones coding workshop, provided through the Drone Coding Experience Fund, funded by the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority as part of the Reach for the Sky Challenge Fund.

We are also delighted that, after two and a half years of pupil-led fundraising and planning, our new Wellbeing Hub is now built and moving towards completion - a fantastic project shaped entirely by our children.



## St Peters CofE Academy

The school has enjoyed a vibrant and enriching start to the academic year, with a wide range of activities that reflect our commitment to offering life in all its fullness.

- **Reception Welcome Service:** We warmly welcomed our new intake and their families at a fully attended service that set a positive tone for the year ahead.
- **Pupil Parliament Development:** Our Pupil Parliament has evolved into six Take Care groups, strengthening pupil voice and giving children a more active role in shaping school life.

**Whole-School Artist Day:** Inspired by the book *The Dot*, pupils embraced the theme "everyone an artist," building confidence, creativity, and self-belief across all year groups.

- **PTFA Engagement:** The PTFA continues to go from strength to strength, demonstrated by a highly successful Back-to-School Disco that brought our community together.
- **Theatre Visit:** A touring theatre group performed *The Jungle Book*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and enriched their cultural experience.
- **Experience Church Curriculum:** Children participated in Experience the Lord's Prayer, engaging in a series of spiritual reflection activities delivered by our Foundation Governors and church volunteers.
- **Safety and Community Assemblies:** Severn Trent Water led a valuable safety assembly for pupils, and our Remembrance Day assembly was respectfully led by pupils, alongside ongoing support for the Royal British Legion.
- **Children in Need:** The school community supported Children in Need through a Pudsey Bear raffle, generously donated via our Rotary International community link.

These events demonstrate the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff, governors, PTFA, and wider community. As shown in our newsletters (*The Keys - to Heaven*), we remain a busy, thriving school dedicated to providing exceptional opportunities for our children—and it is only November. Thank you to all staff and governors for their continued dedication and support.



## Gunthorpe CofE Primary School

November 2025

At Gunthorpe we pride ourselves on nurturing the whole child and as part of this we take wellbeing very seriously. In the last week before half term we had a 'wellbeing week', talking to the children about ways of positively affecting our mental health, from sport and exercise to music and art.

The week included different activities for the children to take part in. During the week, the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) delivered a session with our Junior children and also provided a pop-up session for parents after school. In addition we had meditation sessions, singing workshops, art activities and paired reading. We ended the week with a book and cake sale, because who doesn't love cake!

Currently, we are training up 12 wonderful Year 5/6 Peer Mentors who can support their peers in school. The training with the MHST has been excellent, the children engaged brilliantly, asking questions and getting fully involved.



## Kirkby Woodhouse School

We've had an incredibly exciting start to the new school year at KWS! Our OPAL journey is officially underway and the buzz around school is such a joy - children and staff alike are throwing themselves into mud kitchens, sand, wheels, construction, theatre, arts, crafts, den building and water play, with the benefits already shining through in their creativity, teamwork, curiosity and laughter.

The amazing KWS Team are going above and beyond in providing a range of enrichment opportunities for our children both in and out of the classroom with trips, visits, clubs, workshops, parent events and inviting specialists into school to enhance learning. NSPCC, DART, the Mental Health Team, Nottingham Forest, Bikeability, faith workshops, The Byron Society are just a few examples.

Our new House Captain and School Council representatives have got off to a successful start and have already made an impact through leading assemblies and supporting our local Food Bank. To top it off, our sporting achievements are off to a fantastic start: our girls' football team have been crowned District Champions and are now waiting to compete in the County tournament; the boys secured a brilliant second place in the District round; our children have also participated well at local athletics, boccia and fustall events.

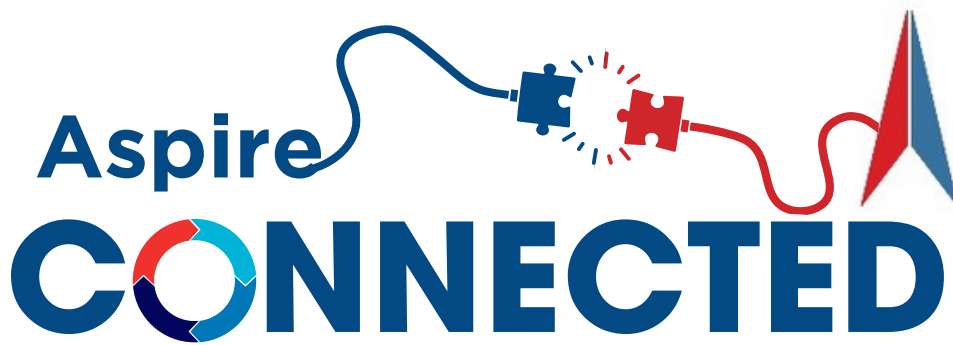
What a start to the year! None of this would be possible without a dedicated, passionate and caring staff team.



## Winthorpe Primary School

Winthorpe had a fun day raising money for Children in Need! Everybody came to school in their pyjamas and the School Council organised a very successful Cookie Sale. We took all the money donated and made a gigantic Pudsey out of the all the pennies - as you can see from the picture, we raised lots of money!





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## Oak Tree Primary School

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What a fantastic start to this academic year our children have made. Children continue to amaze staff with their attitude to learning and acts of kindness around school.

School has joined forces with Mansfield Town Football Club this year. Children have enjoyed PE lessons led by their coaches and everyone has taken part in the sponsored penalty shoot-out too. Children raised an exceptional £3780 during this event.

Across school, we marked Remembrance with creativity and reflection. Some year groups produced thoughtful pieces of work, and these were shared during our whole school Remembrance Assembly, where we held a two-minute silence to honour those who served.

Our Year 6 pupils have had a meaningful visit to the Holocaust Museum and our Year 3 and 4 children attended the cinema to watch, 'The Wild Robot' which is linked to their English learning.

## Sir John Sherbrook Junior School

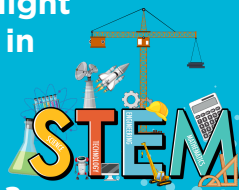
The SJS staff and children have enjoyed some really exciting events during the first half of the Autumn term. The UKS2 staff and children particularly enjoyed a full day of drone coding provided by EKO Nuclear Defence Enterprises, during which the children received an insightful introduction to drones through coding and algorithms applied to flight technology and real-world applications. This workshop studied basic principals in engineering and physics.

Another amazing STEM event was offered to the children by RIAT and the RAF, where we studied, conceived, built and tested three different plane designs for a hypothetical RAF scenario. The children learned about air resistance, ergonomics and streamlining while having fun with team designs.

We are extremely excited and to have introduced a weekly outdoor learning group who have taken part in a range of activities including going on nature walks and scavenger hunts, picking fruit and vegetables from the school garden, making bird feeders, bug hotels, and leaf art, taking part in orienteering challenges and looking after our environment by litter picking and planting.

Through these activities, the children have been able to focus on and develop a wide range of skills, including:

- Becoming thoughtful and supportive team players.
- Strengthening their problem-solving abilities.
- Learning to listen actively, take turns and support their peers.
- Following instructions accurately and with increasing independence.
- Noticing and appreciating changes in the nature.
- Using tools and materials safely, responsibly and with care.
- Building self-esteem and growing in confidence.





November 2025

## Langar CofE Primary School

It has been business as usual for Langar School and we're determined to remain at the heart of the local community. We've just concluded our first whole school topic where we've been learning all about Flourishing Farms. I lost count of the amount of trips that we have taken to various farms around our local community and the children have not stopped talking about everything that they learned.

We were very pleased to welcome members of the church congregation into school to run our first harvest retreat, where the children got to learn about the parable of the sower, write prayers to hang on our prayer tree, sing a Harvest Samba, taste local produce (stilton cheese went down well!) and develop a sense of gratitude for the wonderful world of plenty in which we live.

It was great to conclude our topic by welcoming parents, grandparents, aunts, neighbours and anyone who was interested into the school to experience our Flourishing Farms Exhibition on the final Friday of the half term.

## Muskham Primary School

It has been a busy and positive term in school. Our wellbeing work has continued with MHST support, staff training, and a range of pupil workshops, including Little Pom Pom, Understanding Emotions and Body Image sessions. We also marked World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow and raising £100 for Young Minds.

Our pupils have enjoyed sporting success, with the girls' football team finishing runners-up in the Newark and District Tournament and the Year 5/6 boys' tag rugby team winning all five of their matches.

Curriculum enrichment has been a highlight, with Year 1 visiting a Hindu temple and a farm, and Year 6 taking part in a Mexican Immersion Day and preparing for their Galleries of Justice visit. Pupils were inspired by a visit from Paralympian Richard Whitehead, and Year 3 and above completed First Aid training.

We also took part in NSPCC Week, Anti-Bullying Week, a Severn Trent water-safety workshop, and Enablers' Day. It has been a great term with lots to celebrate.



## Thank you to governors and trustees

On behalf of all the staff across our schools, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to our governors and trustees for everything you do. You give your time, energy and expertise so generously, not only through your governance and oversight, but also in the many additional ways you support our schools. Your dedication, encouragement and care make a real difference to our pupils, our staff and our communities. We are genuinely grateful for your continued commitment and for the invaluable role you play in helping our schools thrive.