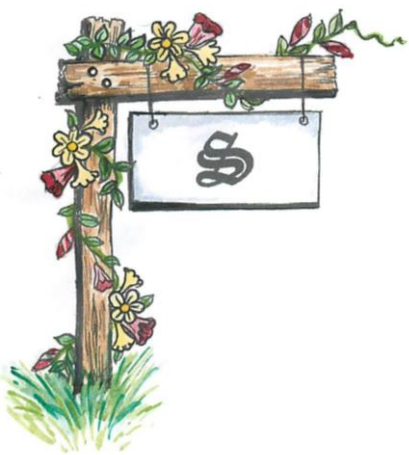




Signpost

12th September 2025

Welcome back!

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

It has been a delight to welcome back all of our wonderful children. The positive and enthusiastic way they have come back to school has been lovely to see. They have looked very smart in their new uniforms and have been busy practising our school value of being kind to one another.

As well as welcoming back our Year One and Year Two children, I would also like to welcome all the new families that have joined our community. We are delighted to have you here and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Building relationships with all members of the school community is really important to us at Signhills Infant Academy. You will see myself on the gate each morning (unless I am out of school) ready to welcome our children and their families to school. It is my mission to get to know every child on an individual basis as quickly as possible so please encourage your child to remind me of their name in these first few weeks. Please use this opportunity to share any thoughts or concerns with us. This is also part of an aim to make parents feel fully part of our school community. As part of this aim, we will also be sending out a parent questionnaire for you to voice your views on the school. If anybody would like a one-to-one meeting with Mrs. Gray to discuss anything further, please get in touch with the school office.

We have had a successful start to the new term!

Our Reception children have made a wonderful start to school and are settling in really well. They have been busy exploring the new learning areas with excitement and curiosity, discovering all of the learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors. It has been lovely to see them making new friends, playing together and beginning to build positive relationships. The children are also starting to learn and follow the daily routines with growing independence, helping them to feel happy, confident and secure in their new school environment. We have been very proud of them all!

Squirrels Class have had a busy first two weeks in school settling into Year 1 and all children have settled back into the class really well. Over the past two weeks they have been greeted by a squirrel who left some nuts, acorns and leaves in our classroom. We then wrote some fabulous letters to the squirrel, finishing off by asking it a question to find out why it came into our class. We linked this into our story of 'Squirrels Busy Day', a story that focuses on a squirrel's adventure collecting acorns. We also had Kickstarters in, teaching us some fabulous football skills. Alongside this we have been doing some great counting and sorting in Maths! We are so proud of Squirrels, what a super start to the year!

Woodpeckers Class have been busy settling into Year 1 and have had a great start to the school year. We had a little visitor in the class which we found out was a squirrel so we have been writing letters to the squirrel to tell the squirrel what has been left behind. We have also been reading 'Squirrel's Busy Day', a story about a very busy squirrel! In Maths we have been sorting and counting objects. We have also been representing amounts on a tens frame. We have enjoyed working in our Maths books for the first time. Well done Woodpeckers, what a great start!

Owls Class have had a fantastic and successful start to the school year. In just two weeks, the children have written some amazing self-descriptions and created wonderful self-portraits to go alongside them, really showcasing their individuality and creativity. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value by working with ten frames, ten sticks and ones, confidently representing numbers in different ways. It has been a brilliant start - Ms White and I are so proud of all their efforts so far!

Foxes Class has had a very exciting couple of weeks! The children discovered some mysterious animal footprints in the classroom, which led to lots of curiosity and fantastic thinking. We have been busy writing questions to help us find out all about them - why they were here and where they came from! To help us with our investigations, the children created brilliant wanted posters to put up around school, carefully describing the animals we were looking for. Alongside this, the children have been busy creating wonderful self-portraits, showing great creativity and attention to detail. In Maths, we have been working on place value, using tens and ones to represent numbers to 100 and build a strong understanding. Mrs Johnson has been so impressed with all the children's wonderful ideas and the enthusiasm they have shown in their learning!

Badgers Class have had a very settled transition into Year 2 and Mrs Pennell is thrilled to have her class for the second year. The children have enjoyed exploring their new classroom and have risen to all the new challenges in Year 2 so far. They have enjoyed exploring the weather in Geography and investigating life processes in Science. Our highlight so far has been the arrival of the bear in the classroom, what a surprise to have a visitor after school!

Dates for your diary

We are holding some parent sessions about the teaching of phonics and Read Write Inc reading scheme. These sessions will be a chance to look at how you can support your child with phonics at home. Following the meeting, you will also have a chance to share a story with your child in their classroom. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th September at 2:45pm for Year One and Year Two parents. The second meeting will be held on Thursday 25th September at 2:45pm for Reception parents.

On Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th October we will hold our Parent Consultation meetings from 3.40pm – 6pm. These meetings will be held in the School Hall. Parents will be invited to sign up for a 10 minute appointment from Monday 30th September at the classroom drop-off and pick up points. A member of staff will have sign-up sheets available at the beginning and end of the day. Telephone appointments will also be available.

During the week commencing 6th October and 13th October, we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at school. Parents are invited to join us for our Harvest Assemblies or Parent sharing sessions. Reception will have a Harvest themed parent share in the classroom on 13th October at 2:30, Year One on Friday 10th October at 9:15 in the Hall and Year Two on 15th (Foxes) , 16th (Badgers) and 17th (Owls).

Following the success of last year's Bingo night, we are planning to host our own Bingo night straight after school on Wednesday 13th November. As we are a cashless school, tickets for this will be available via parent pay and more details will follow.

On Friday mornings, the children and staff come together for a Celebration Assembly in the hall. Parents of the children who are receiving the Signhills Star awards are invited to come along and watch the assembly. Keep a close eye on the text messages on the Arbor app, to see if you get an invite. We would appreciate it if you could keep it to yourself, so we don't spoil the surprise on the day for the children. Contacting Class Teachers – Please feel free to pass on any messages to your child's class teacher or teaching assistant at the beginning or end of the school day. Alternatively, you can email your child's class teacher by typing the class name followed by @signhillsinfants.co.uk e.g. squirrels@signhillsinfants.co.uk. The email address for the 3 Reception key groups is reception@signhillsinfants.co.uk

Mystery reader returns!

This term we are reintroducing our much-loved 'Mystery Reader' sessions. This was a huge success last year and a highlight of the week for the children. Each week a surprise guest will join us to share a favourite story with the class. Parents, carers, grandparents, siblings and community members are warmly invited to sign up. It is a wonderful way to foster a love of reading and for children to see adults enjoying books too.

If you would like to take part, please speak to your child's class teacher or email the class email to arrange a mutually convenient time. Last year the guest reader would give three clues to see if the children could guess who the reader was which they loved. Shhh... don't tell the children, it is a surprise!

Pupil job roles

We are excited to announce that this year we are looking to recruit for some different job roles and that applications for these roles are now open! Children are encouraged to apply for these roles with the support of parents at home. If your child would like one of these roles, please help them fill in the application form attached with this newsletter and return to school by 26th September. These are the roles that we are seeking to appoint for.

Prefects

Children in Year 2 have the opportunity to become a Prefect. Prefects are chosen by their class teacher and are changed once a term. Prefects are responsible for identifying and encouraging positive behaviour throughout our school. They also help to show visitors around! It is a much sought-after role and the chosen children wear their badges with great pride.

School Council

At Signhills Infant Academy, we value the importance of our children having a say in helping to make our school the best it can be. To help manage the valuable thoughts and ideas of every child from Reception to Year 2, we are wanting to elect two school council members to represent each class. In their role, they gather the thoughts and ideas of peers in their class, about all aspects of school life, before reporting back at school council meetings.

Eco Warriors

We are looking to appoint a team of Eco Warriors who are passionate about protecting and saving our planet. They understand how important our planet is and that we must do our best to care for it. Our Eco Warriors will help to care for our school environment and work together as a team to make positive changes to our school to make it a more environmentally friendly place. Our Eco Warriors will take part in discussions and feedback any relevant information to their class. This role is open for all children from Reception to Year Two and will be appointed by

Reader leaders

One of our curriculum drivers is 'the use of high quality literature'. Our aim is for all children to develop a love of reading and be confident readers ready for the Junior school. We would like to appoint some reader leaders to listen to some of our youngest children read and share stories with our youngest children. This is a job for Year Two children and the children will be appointed by Mrs. Lambert, our early reading lead.

ICT champion

Our ICT champions, will support the children and the class teachers with the use of IT and help support the school with ensuring we use the internet safely. This role will involve helping to plan out internet safety day and helping make sure our IT is already for use in school. This is a role for Year Two children.

Wellbeing ambassadors

Following the success of last year's caring crew. We are looking to appoint six wellbeing ambassadors. This role involves ensuring everybody is happy during playtimes and teaching each other ways to help look after our own wellbeing. This will involve attending a workshop with Compass Go. This role is for Year One and Year Two children.

Trips and Visits 2025-2026

We have a busy year ahead with enriching trips and visits planned including:

Reception - Trip to the farm and to the seaside

Year One - Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Ferens Art Gallery

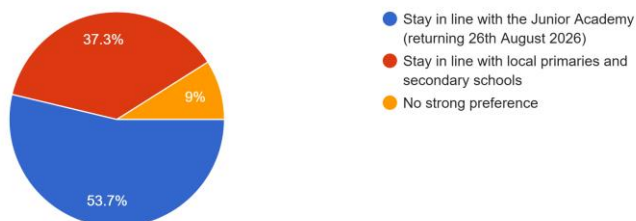
Year Two - Visit to Back to Bear and Usher Art Gallery

We are also hoping to take the whole school to watch a pantomime in December.

Term dates

Last week, we sent a Google form requesting parents to select their preference for term dates as we believe that decisions and changes to term dates must be consulted with parents as we know how difficult it can be juggling work and child care. Following this consultation, the results were as follows. This means that our term dates for the next academic year (2026-2027) are as follows...

Which option would you prefer for our 2026-27 term dates?
67 responses



We appreciate this is a significant change but the majority of parents would prefer to stay in line with the Junior Academy for those parents who have children in both schools. We also hope it allows families to take advantage of cheaper holidays during the two week October and May break.

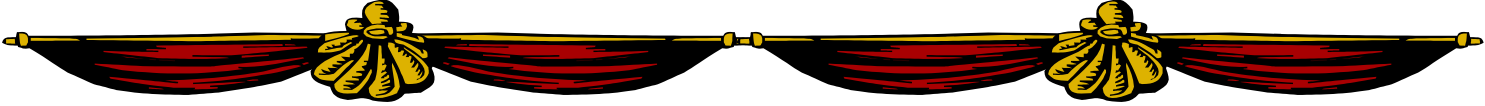
Finally, we would like to share our gratitude to Garry Abel, who is stepping down as our Chair of Governors, after many years of dedicated service to our school community. Garry's commitment and support has been invaluable and he will be greatly missed. A small farewell celebration for Garry will be held on Friday 19th September. We will be seeking to appoint a new Chair of Governors during our next governors meeting.

We break up for half term on Friday 17th October and return to school on Monday 3rd November. In the meantime, we are looking forward to continuing with lots of exciting learning this term!

Hannah Gray
Head Teacher

12th September 2025





DIARY DATES

September	Wed 24 th	Phonics/Read, Write Inc meeting – Year 1 & Year 2 parents 2.45pm
	Thur 25 th	Phonics/Read, Write Inc meeting – Reception parents 2.45pm
	Fri 19 th	Jeans for genes day – please give your £1 donation to your class teacher
October	Thur 2 nd	Year 2 trip to Back to Bear
	Tues 7 th	Parent Consultations – 3.40pm – 6.00pm
	Wed 8 th	Parent Consultations – 3.40pm – 6.00pm
	Fri 10 th	Year 1 Harvest Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
	Mon 13 th	Reception Harvest Parent sharing session 2.30pm in the classroom
	Tue 14 th	Individual pupil photos
	Wed 15 th	Foxes Harvest Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
	Thurs 16 th	Badgers Harvest Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
	Fri 17 th	Owls Harvest Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
	Mon 20 th Oct to Friday 31 st Oct – half term	
November	Wed 13 th	Bingo after school – more details to follow
	Fri 14 th	Children in Need – more details to follow

