

26th June 2026



Our Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Thank you so much for your understanding, support and kind messages of encouragement this week. The children have coped admirably with the hot weather, and have been sensible and mature in their conduct around school. There have been lots of changes to routine and procedures to ensure that both children and staff were comfortable and safe during the week, and children have taken these in their stride. We appreciate everyone's quick response to today's optional early closure too. We are looking forward to returning to more comfortable conditions next week, at which point normal rules and routines will also continue in school. Children should return to full uniform and personal fans should no longer be used in class.

Amongst all the talk of the heatwave, lots of learning has been taking place too! On Monday, the school had a Trust-led teaching and learning review, which involved spending the day in classes. The reviewer was very impressed with the 'exceptional calm and focus throughout the school...strong behaviours for learning throughout the day and...notable consistency in

teaching and learning.' It was great for staff to get this feedback and also consider what else we can develop further.

In other news, you may have noticed a new face on the gate with Mrs Peaks earlier this week. Mrs Peaks will be reducing her working hours from September, and focusing solely on finance. Mrs Peaks is such a committed and hard-working member of our team and thoroughly deserves a couple of days each week for herself! From September, Mrs Nicola Shields will be in the office for two days a week and Mrs Peaks for three. Mrs Shields has already started so that she gets to know all the routines and processes. We are also pleased to have been able to appoint a new Site Officer. Mr Dan Gardner will start on Monday. Please do say hello on the gate and help to make him feel part of the Somersham community.

Next week is a particularly busy week, with the Year 1 and 2 trip to Hunstanton, the Meridian Arts Showcase and the Life Bus visit. Lots for our children to look forward to!

With best wishes for a lovely weekend,
Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Meridian
Trust



Key Dates – updates in blue



Week beginning Monday 29 th June	PSHE Life Bus visiting Somersham
Wednesday 1 st July	KS1 trip to Hunstanton
Thursday 2 nd July	Meridian Trust Arts Showcase (Choir, French Choir and Irish Dance Club)
Wednesday 1 st , Tuesday 7 th and Thursday 9 th July	Cromwell Community College transition
Monday 6 th July	Water Safety Assembly
Thursday 9 th and Friday 10 th July	St Ivo School transition
Friday 10 th July	PFA Colour Run
Monday 13 th July AM	Young Carers trip to the Raptor Foundation (details to follow)
Tuesday 14 th and Wednesday 15 th July (14:00)	Year 5/6 production to parents/carers
Wednesday 15 th July	Robin class trip to Ramsey Heights Nature Reserve
Thursday 16 th July	Wren class trip to Ramsey Heights Nature Reserve
Friday 17 th July	End of term
Thursday 3 rd September	Term starts for children

Year 5/6 trip to Nene Park



This week, Barn Owl, Red Kite and Osprey classes enjoyed a visit to Ferry Meadows to carry out a river study.

The children walked along part of the river, measuring its width and depth, while identifying the wildlife and different land uses in the surrounding area. It was a fantastic opportunity to apply their geographical fieldwork skills in a real-life setting.

Despite the hot weather, the children were brilliantly behaved and were excellent ambassadors for our school. We are incredibly proud of them!

Book Fayre – Thank you!

A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended the Book Fayre at the beginning of this week and the end of last week. Your purchases helped to raise £180 for the school to buy books!





Reception	Invertebrate	This week, we began learning about minibeasts. We learned that minibeasts are small creatures that do not have a backbone. The scientific word for animals without a backbone is invertebrate. We looked at different examples of minibeasts and practised saying our new word. What creatures can you think of? Do they have a backbone, or are they invertebrates? Maybe look around your garden and see what you can spot together!
Year 1/2	Conjunction	This week we have revisited conjunctions. Can your child tell you what a conjunction is and which we've used this year?
Year 3/4	Risk	In PSHE, we have started a unit about managing risks. What is a risk? Have you ever taken a risk? Was it successful and sensible?
Year 5/6	River	On our Year 5/6 trip this week, we completed some field work on the River Nene. We talked about what a river is - a body of water which flows from the source (Arbury Hills) to the mouth (The Wash). We also measured the depth, width and speed of the river, as well as investigating the invertebrates which live there.
	French	Years 3&4: Watch this video about a sports event in France: BBC Teach Years 5&6: Play this game to learn some Haitian creole: WordWall game

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team

Countywide Drop-in Support

Would you like to talk with an EIFA on a 1:1 basis about parenting issues such as challenging behaviour, sibling rivalry, routines, sleep, etc? Then book onto one of these July drop-in dates below. Sessions are 30 minutes each.

1:1 Drop-ins 30 minute individual sessions	Thursday, 9 July 2026, 10:00 – 14:45	Book onto a drop-in session on this date at: Thu 9 July EIFA Drop-ins or	
1:1 Drop-ins 30 minute individual sessions	Friday, 17 July 2026, 10:00-14:45	Book onto a drop-in session on this date at: Fri 17 July EIFA Drop-ins or	
1:1 Drop-ins 30 minute individual sessions	Monday, 20 July 2026, 10:00 – 14:45	Book onto a drop-in session on this date at: Mon 20 EIFA Drop-ins or	
1:1 Drop-ins 30 minute individual sessions	Wednesday, 29 July 2026, 10:00-14:45	Book onto a drop-in session on this date at: Wed 29 July EIFA Drop-ins or	

If you have any questions about our support, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for July.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Wednesday, 8 July 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Managing Challenging Behaviours	Wednesday, 15 July 2026, 12:30-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Sleep	Thursday, 23 July 2026, 10:00-11:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Event Powered by Teams or	
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Tuesday, 28 July 2026, 10:00-11:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Event Powered by Teams or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PFA COLOUR RUN

FRIDAY 10TH JULY -
WATCH THIS SPACE



What Educators Need to Know about INVOICE FRAUD



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Invoice fraud, including payment diversion fraud, occurs when criminals deceive you into paying a fake invoice or redirect a genuine payment into their own bank account. Fraudsters may impersonate suppliers, intercept emails, or send convincing invoices to prompt urgent payment into fraudulent accounts. It is one of the most common and costly forms of financial crime affecting individuals, businesses, and schools.

COMMUNICATIONS CLAIMING URGENCY

Communications that claim to be urgent or highlight late payments may be a key sign. Fraudsters often apply pressure to rush decisions and stop checks. Take a moment to verify the request using trusted contacts before making any payment.

CHANGES TO BANK DETAILS

Receiving messages saying a regular supplier has changed their bank account details can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may impersonate contacts to redirect payments. Always verify changes first using known supplier contact details.

DISCREPANCIES AGAINST PREVIOUS INVOICES

Be wary of invoice details that don't match authentic, previously issued invoices, such as amounts, reference numbers or contact names. Fraudsters often alter small details to avoid detection. Always query any differences using your supplier's contact details.

MINOR EMAIL CHANGES

Look out for slight changes to a supplier's email address, such as extra characters or spelling differences. Fraudsters often use similar looking addresses to appear genuine. Always check the sender carefully and verify any concerns using known contact details before responding or making a payment.

UNEXPECTED PAYMENT REQUESTS

Invoices or payment requests for goods or services you do not recognise can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may send false invoices hoping they will be paid without question. Check records and confirm with the supplier before processing any unfamiliar request.

UNUSUAL LANGUAGE OR TONE

Messages with unusual wording, grammar or spelling compared to your usual supplier communications may indicate fraud. Criminals often copy legitimate messages but may not match the usual tone or style. The rise in artificial intelligence (AI) means errors are no longer as common or obvious. Be cautious and verify the request if anything seems out of place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

VERIFY BANK DETAILS

Always confirm any change to a supplier's bank details before making a payment. Use a trusted phone number or a long-standing contact you have used before, not the details provided in the request. This helps ensure you are dealing with a genuine supplier and prevents payments being redirected to fraudsters.

CROSS-CHECK INVOICES

Compare new invoices with those previously issued by the supplier in question. Check key details such as amounts, bank details, reference numbers and contact information. Differences may indicate fraud, so always investigate and verify anything that does not match before making a payment.

DUAL PAYMENT APPROVAL

Ask a trusted person to review and approve high-value payments. A second set of eyes can help spot unusual details or warning signs that might otherwise be missed. This adds an extra layer of control and reduces the risk of errors or fraudulent payments being processed.

REPORT FRAUD QUICKLY

If you suspect fraud, act immediately. Contact your bank using 159 or their official number and report it to Report Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040. Keep all emails and documents. For more guidance, or to register for counter fraud alerts, see DfE counter fraud guidance. You can find the invoice fraud leaflet on the National Crime Agency website.

Meet Our Expert

Evan Williams is a counter fraud manager at the Department for Education. Having led the function there for many years, he now focuses on continual improvement, communication, and innovation. He proudly oversaw the growth of the counter fraud team during the pandemic, having worked in counter fraud for 16 years since starting his civil service career with the National Crime Agency back in 2010.



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