OLD MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION

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01455 284191

@OldMillPS

@old_mill_primary_school

www.facebook.com/OldMillPrimarySchool

Our school website hosts a wealth of information about our school, including our curriculum, polices and procedures: https://www.oldmillprimary.co.uk/our-school

SchoolPing

Our communication with parents continues to be via Ping - please ensure you have the app downloaded, notifications switched on and check messages regularly.

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH-STEWART

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to the September newsletter. We are certainly flying through this half term! How is it only 2 weeks until half term?

Last week, we held our annual house captain elections - this is an opportunity for our eldest pupils to take on a leadership role in school and contribute meaningfully to school life. I am excited to know who has been elected!

Our Eco-Team are busy making their presence known on site by litter picking - an important role in ensuring the cleanliness of our school grounds.

Across the school, growing numbers of pupils are being awarded for being a 'Handwriting Hero' or a 'Polished Presenter' - it is fabulous to see so many taking such pride in their work.

I do hope to see you all in school for our October parent meetings taking place before half term.

Warm regards,
Alison Smith-Stewart
Head Teacher



GROWING SUCCESS!

A huge well done to Rex, who was crowned the winner of our Forest School Sunflower Competition after growing the tallest sunflower! Rex was delighted with his LEGO sunflower set. We were thrilled by the amazing number of sunflower photographs that were sent in. It has been wonderful to see the children getting involved and watching their sunflowers grow over the summer.
The competition has also helped us raise money to buy some exciting new resources for our Forest School area, which the children have already loved using — including litter pickers, to name just one!
Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make our sunflower competition such a success. 🌻





ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is crucial for primary children, as research shows that missing just 10% of school can significantly hinder academic progress. Pupils with high attendance rates are more likely to achieve better outcomes, with 91% of children attending regularly attaining expected standards in key subjects. Please see below this month's top attendance figures:



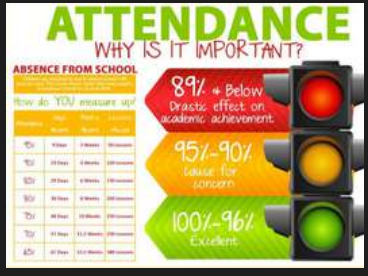
<u>Week commencing 31.08.26</u>
KS1 - 100% 2ED
KS2 - 99.6% 6SV



<u>Week commencing 07.09.26</u>
KS1 - 99.3% 1HS/RB
KS2 - 100% 3JL/KS

<u>Week commencing 14.09.26</u>
KS1 - 97.9% 1EJo
KS2 - 98.1% 3KB

<u>Week commencing 21.09.26</u>
KS1 - 99.3% 1HS/RB
KS2 - 98.3% 5EJ



EXCITING EYFS...



We all got to make a print of our hands as a future reminder to our families of our first day at school.



Having fun with the construction straws!



Mark making with sticks and straws.



Rolling and cutting to make cakes in the playdough area.



In the construction area, we built a bridge and had fun crossing it!



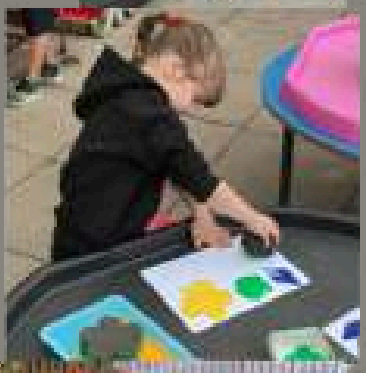
Imaginative play with dinosaurs!

BACK TO SCHOOL THE FIRST WEEKS IN EYFS!







We have been so busy exploring and engaging with our learning!





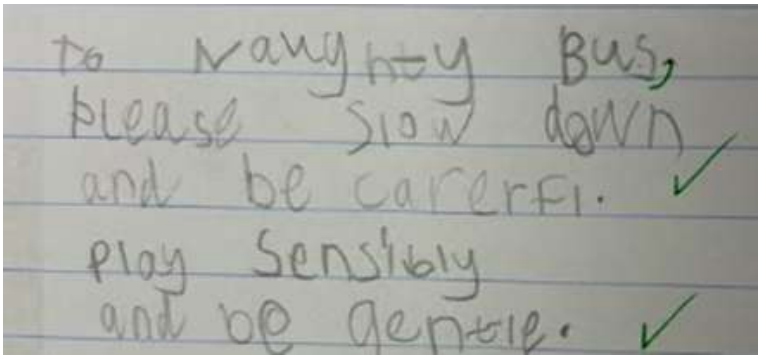


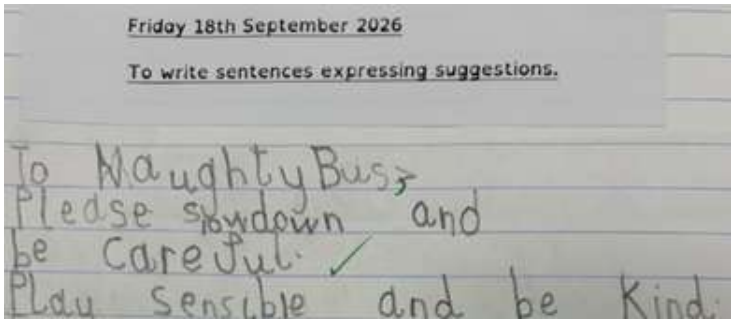


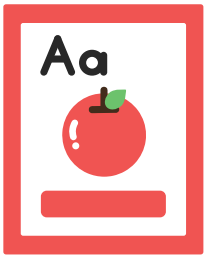
‘ONE’DERFUL YEAR ONE...

All the children in Year 1 have got off to a flying start, learning new routines and settling into their new classroom brilliantly.

In English, our current text is Naughty Bus. The Naughty Bus has, in fact, ventured into Year 1 and made quite a mess of our classroom! The children wrote letters to Naughty Bus, explaining how he should behave and reminding him of the importance of making good choices.

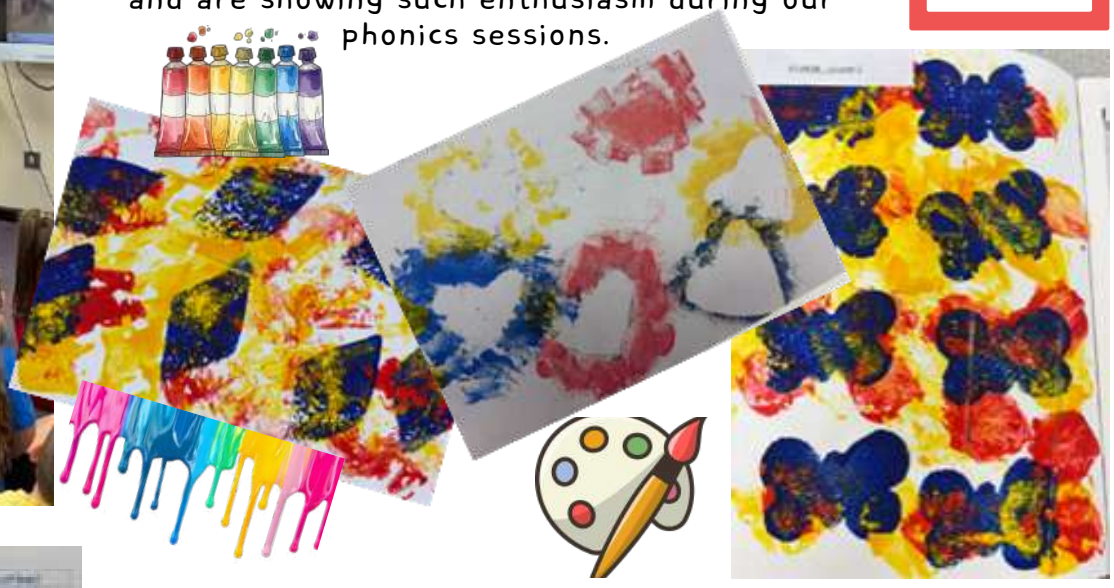








Phonics is an important part of our day, as the children are working so hard to develop their reading skills. They have been joining in brilliantly and are showing such enthusiasm during our phonics sessions.



In Art, we have been experimenting with different ways of printing using primary colours. It has been a little messy but lots of fun! The children have created colourful and unique prints, and we have loved seeing how differently each piece has turned out.







In Geography, we are learning the different countries the UK and their corresponding capital city.

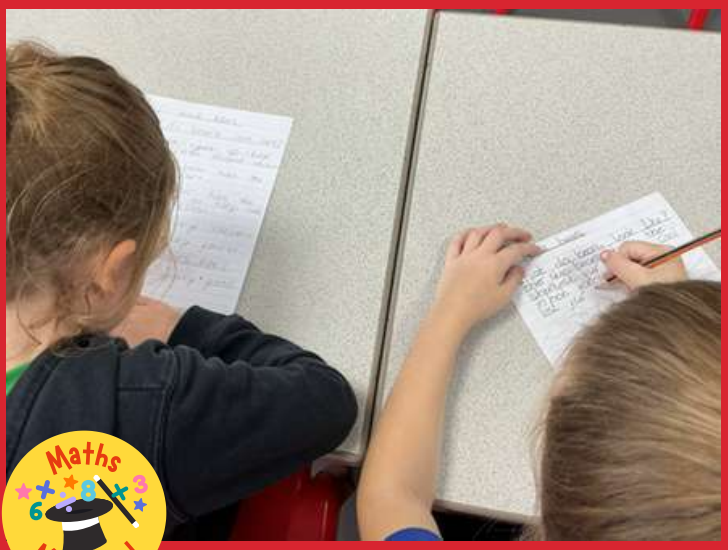




Y2 TERRIFIC YEAR TWO...

The children in Year 2 have had a great start to the year. They have settled into their new classrooms and new routines well.

Year 2 have been busy creating information reports in English. Our work has been inspired by The Bear Under the Stairs by Helen Cooper. We have also written our own stories inspired by this and written letters from the characters. We have taken pride in our work and presented our reports neatly for display.





In Maths we have been learning about place value and have recently moved on to addition and subtraction. We have been working with counters and tens frames to support our understanding.

We have been lucky with the weather for our PE lessons, learning how to skip and gallop as well as dodge.

Year 2 children have been learning about pulse in Music. We have been creating our own pieces and have been recording them using stick notation.



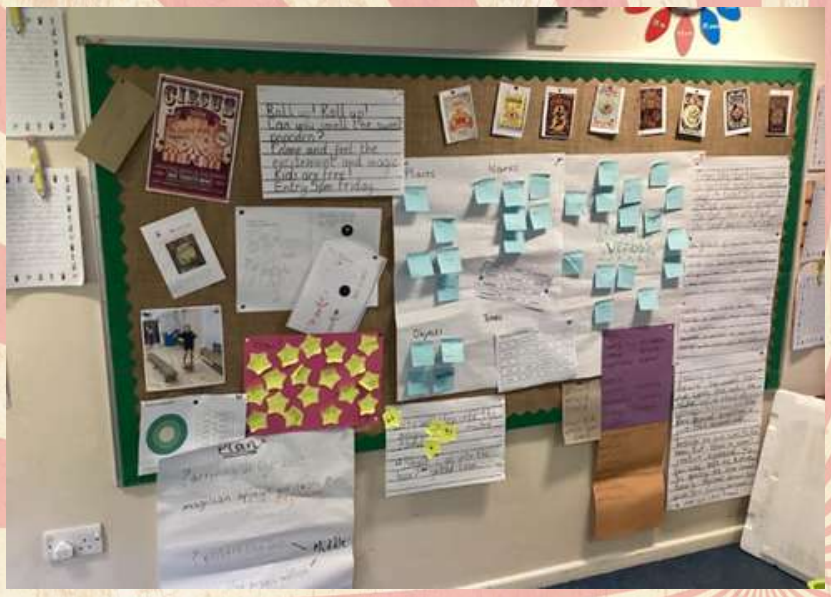
What a great start to the year! We look forward to more amazing progress.

THRIVING YEAR THREE...













What an exciting time we have had in English this term! We have been completely immersed in the wonderful book, Leon and the Place Between, by Angela McAllister and Graham Baker-Smith. We brought the story to life by transforming our school hall into a spectacular circus! The children absolutely loved stepping into the magical world of the circus and used this experience to inspire their own writing and ideas.

We explored persuasive writing, creating colourful circus posters designed to tempt people to come and see the show. The children thought carefully about persuasive language, exciting vocabulary and how to make their posters stand out.

We then became authors ourselves! Using Leon and the Place Between as inspiration, the children planned and wrote their own magical stories, filled with imagination, adventure and wonderful descriptive language. They worked hard to edit and improve their writing, checking their vocabulary, punctuation and sentence choices to make their stories the very best they could be.

It has been fantastic to see the children's confidence, creativity and enthusiasm for writing grow. We are incredibly proud of the magical stories they have created!







Year 3 were transported back 2.5 million years with the arrival of 'Jonesy' who talked us through how ancient humans lived and managed to survive.

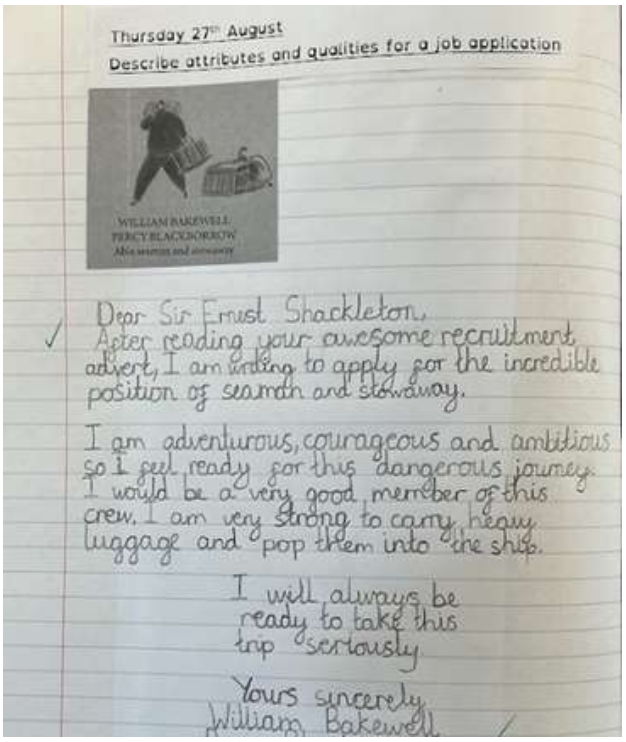
We were shown ancient artefacts and encouraged to have a go at designing our own stone circles in teams without the aid of any language, as there wasn't one at the time!

We found out about Stone Age food, weapons and how their way of life changed over time.

A fun day was had by all!

FANTASTIC YEAR 4...

Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the new school year! We have settled into our new routines and expectations brilliantly, showing that we are ready to take on the challenges of Year 4. We have been working hard to refresh our classroom routines, as well as focusing on our presentation and pride in our work. Miss Birt and Miss H have been blown away by the effort and care that everyone has put into their books already!


Thursday 27th August

Describe attributes and qualities for a job application

Dear Sir Ernest Shackleton,

After reading your awesome recruitment advert, I am writing to apply for the incredible position of seaman and stowaway.

I am adventurous, courageous and ambitious so I feel ready for this dangerous journey. I would be a very good member of this crew. I am very strong to carry heavy luggage and pop them into the ship.

I will always be ready to take this trip seriously

Yours sincerely,
William Bakewell

We have certainly had an exciting start to our learning. In writing, we have stepped back in time and taken on the role of ambitious and courageous explorers, applying and interviewing for a place aboard Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition! We have developed our speaking and listening skills, thought carefully about the qualities needed for such a challenging adventure and even faced some difficult decisions along the way.



Our creativity has continued in music, where we have been experimenting with different beats and rhythms, working together to create and perform our own musical ideas. We have also been putting our teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test by designing and creating effective parachutes to protect an egg during a daring egg drop challenge!





It has been a busy and brilliant few weeks, and we are incredibly proud of the way Year 4 have thrown themselves into school life. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Y5 FABULOUS YEAR 5...

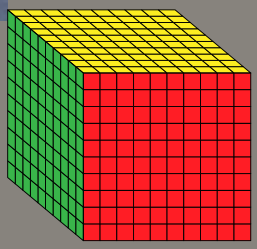
We have been absolutely delighted with the wonderful start Year 5 have made to the new school year. Across the whole cohort, we have worked hard to create a positive learning climate, and we have been blown away by the effort, enthusiasm and dedication the children have shown.





In English, we have been learning about the incredible Hidden Figures of NASA and have worked hard to write our own non-chronological reports. The children have shown a real passion for the topic, and this has truly shone through in their writing. We have brought our learning to life through drama and we have been particularly impressed by the quality of the children's polished presentation and handwriting.

In Maths, we have been working hard to master place value, developing our understanding of the value of each digit in a number to compare, order and represent numbers.





In DT, pupils have been working collaboratively to design and develop a mechanical system to transport tomatoes! They have demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills as they developed their designs.



It has been fantastic to see the children settling into Year 5 so positively. Their hard work, resilience, creativity and enthusiasm for learning have made us incredibly proud, and we are excited to see what they achieve as the year progresses.

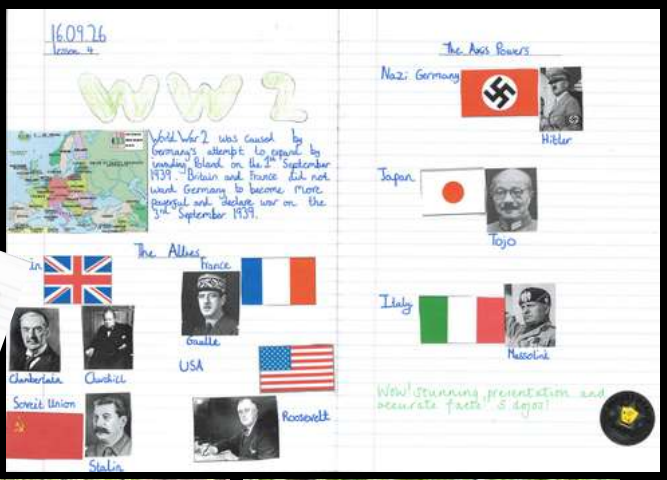
Old Mill Primary School

Striving for excellence
Going for GOLD

Y6 SENSATIONAL YEAR 6...

Superb presentation and handwriting from our Year 6s for their history posters on World War 2.







Thoroughly enjoying their first forest school session of the year! Pupils were challenged to get through the web, transport water in inventive ways and complete a nature scavenger hunt.

















Acting out a news report in Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. Year 6 reported on whether the new baby really was the Messiah, God's Son, God incarnate. They explained how the Incarnation supports Christian belief that Jesus was the Messiah.







Year 6 worked in partners to collect a variety of items to represent living and non-living things. They presented their best items, applying their knowledge, such as: a living organism must move, reproduce, grow and excrete.



ACTIVE TRAVEL Newsletter

October 2026

Physical Activity



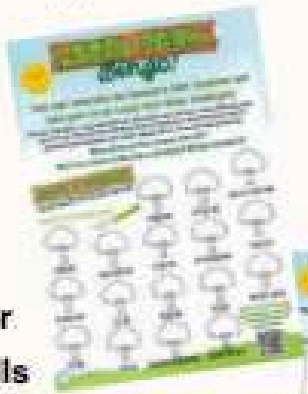
To maintain a basic level of health, the Chief Medical Officer recommends that children and young people aged 5 to 18 take part in an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Taking part in physical activity has many benefits for children and young people, including improving fitness, increasing concentration, building a stronger heart, strengthening bones and developing healthier muscles. Being regularly physically active can also improve self-esteem, reduce stress and encourage a better night's sleep. The NHS has further information here.

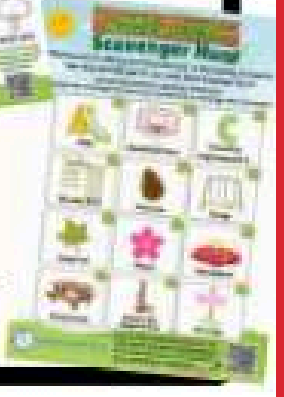
Active Travel Month



Active Travel Month takes place throughout October and we want as many pupils as possible to get involved! Actively travelling to school can increase mental alertness, energy, positive mood and self-esteem, as well as reducing stress and anxiety. It helps children & young people feel more alert and ready for the day! Cycling, walking or scooting to school also increases awareness of road safey as well as supporting the environment.

Half Term Challenge





Looking for some fun, fresh-air activities to keep the whole family entertained this half term? We've got two fantastic challenges for you to enjoy! Become a Park Explorer and see how many local parks you can discover in our Local Park Bingo challenge! Put your exploring skills to the test with our Park Scavenger Hunt! For more information about where to find local parks across Harborough, Lutterworth, Blaby and Oadby & Wigson and to download your scavenger hunt resource, click here!

ACTIVE TRAVEL Newsletter

October 2026



Stay Active For Less!

There are lots of fun, free ways for the whole family to stay active! Click on the logos to find out more.

GEOCACHING

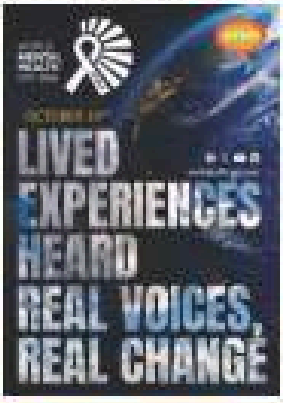
parkrun

GoNoodle

change 4 life

ACTIVE TOGETHER

Active Together and our local partners are here to help you find a range of physical activity, sport and wellbeing opportunities across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The Get Active Search Engine enables you to find local parks/open spaces, clubs, community groups and their activity sessions near you. Click here to find out more!



World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day takes place every year on the 10th October.

The theme for 2026 set by the World Federation for Mental Health is *"Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change" Find out more about World Mental Health Day and resources here*

Mental Health Support

There are lots of support services available if you or a loved one is experiencing poor mental health. Click on the logo to head straight to the website.

NHS

MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

NHS University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

YOUNGMINDS

mind

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership
Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity

Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity

Supporting South Leicestershire Schools to provide opportunities for all young people

South Leicestershire Community Board

Baby & Toddler Roadshow

Wednesday 14 October | 10:30am–1:00pm Parkland Leisure Centre

Do you have questions about having a baby or becoming a new parent? Having a baby can be an exciting but sometimes daunting time, and our Baby and Toddler Roadshow brings together local experts and support services to help you feel informed, supported and confident. This free event is open to expectant parents, new families and families with children aged 0–4 years.

What to expect

Come along to meet and chat with:

- Local midwives and health professionals
- Baby and toddler groups
- Family support organisations
- Doctors providing infant first aid demonstrations

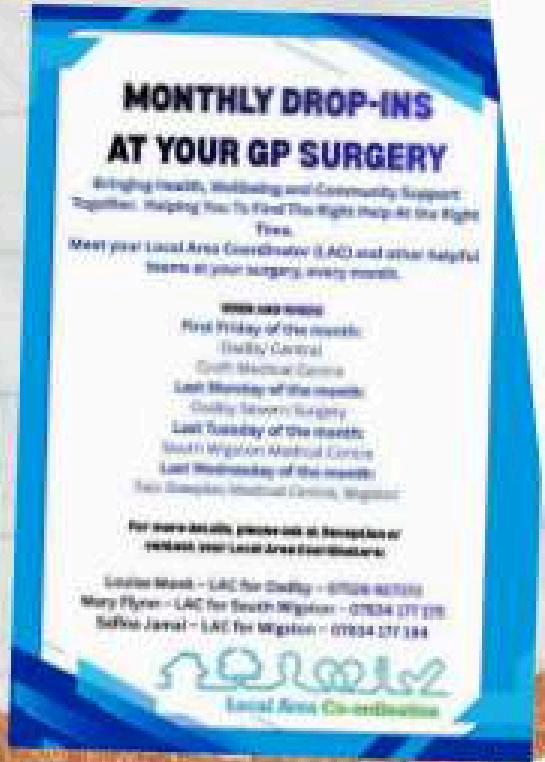
You'll also have the opportunity to share your experiences of maternity and neonatal services and find out how you can help shape and improve local services for families.

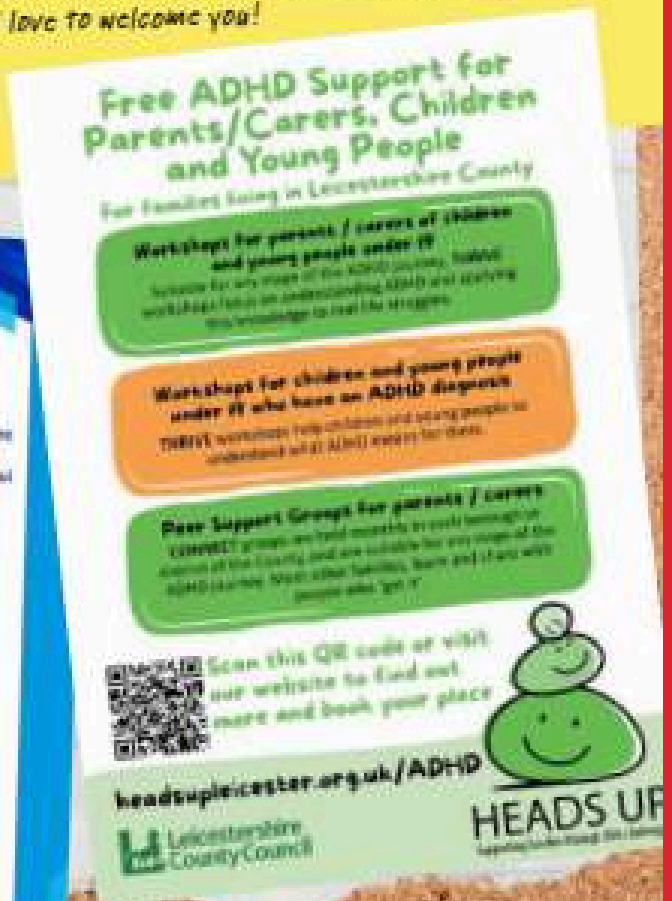
Fun for little ones too! Children attending the event can enjoy free access to Parkland Leisure Centre's Soft Play, giving them plenty of space to explore, play and burn off some energy while you chat with local services and professionals. There will also be free activities for children throughout the event, making it a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a fun and informative morning. Whether you're expecting your first baby, finding your way through life with a newborn, or keeping up with a busy toddler, we'd love to welcome you!

Booking is required.

Contact Jane Hunt – 07473 575602 or MNVP@valonline.org.uk

Please remember to include the number of children attending when you reserve your place.





teen health

The **Moving On Up!** guide from Teen Health is packed with tips, activities and advice from young people to help you feel confident about the transition to Secondary. Download the booklet **here!**

Oadby & Wigston ACTIVE Blaby Active Blaby ACTIVE TOGETHER LEICESTERSHIRE