



COLBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Colby School News Issue 7 - Friday 17th October 2025

The Week Ahead

Monday 20 th October 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Ruby Class and Amethyst Class trip to the North Norfolk coast. Please bring packed lunches. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Tuesday 21 th October 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. After School Club until 5pm. £5. Ben's KS2 Football Club has been moved to Tuesday and will NOT be on Thursday 23 rd October (this week only). 3 – 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm).
Wednesday 22 th October 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Thursday 23 th October 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Diwali Celebration in Sapphire Class. After School Club until 5pm. £5. No Girls' Football Club.
Friday 24 th October 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. FREE DRESS DAY FOR AMBER SHELTER TOYS ORGANISED BY THE HEAD OF LITTLE PEOPLE. £1. Children are invited to wear any warm and comfortable free dress. £1 donation for The Head of Little People fundraiser. School closes for the half term holiday at 3pm. No After School Club today.



Help with Football Goals

As you know, thanks to the wonderful hard work of children cycling last term and the generous sponsorship of their families, we have been able to purchase some great new football goals. Now we need to put them up! Mr B and Ben are planning to put them up next Friday morning from 9am (Friday 24th October) and they would appreciate any help that you could offer. If you are able to lend a hand, please catch Mr B or simply turn up that morning. Thank you very much.





Autumn Term Dates

Monday 3rd November 2025: School reopens for the second half of Autumn term.
No Breakfast Club today.

Monday 3rd November 2025: After School Club Special – Pumpkin and Bonfire Night themed.
3 – 4.45pm. £5 per child. Includes refreshments and craft activities.

Friday 14th November 2025: Remembrance Service led by KS2 pupils at 9.15am. KS2 families welcome to attend.

Friday 5th December 2025: The Friends of Colby School Christmas Fayre from 3pm – 4.30pm.

Wednesday 10th December 2025:

Nativity Performance for Amber Class parents at 9.30am and Nativity Performance for Sapphire Class parents at 1.30pm.

Thursday 11th December 2025:

Nativity Performance for Sapphire Class parents at 9.30am and Nativity Performance for Amber Class parents at 1.30pm.

Please note, Amber and Sapphire children perform together in all four Nativity Performances. We allocate tickets for the performances by class for administration reasons. There is some flexibility for Amber parents to come during sessions for Sapphire parents and vice versa. You will be able to request this when more details follow nearer to the time.

Key Stage 2 Christmas performance arrangements to be confirmed later in the Autumn term.

Friday 12th December 2025: No After School Club today.

Friday 19th December 2025: School breaks up for the Christmas Holiday today at 3pm.
No After School Club today.



Headteacher Awards

Clara, Alannah, Brooke and Anya (Sapphire) for thoughtful ideas on friendship
Anya, Sophie, Ayla, Iris, Ellie, Hollie and Clara (Sapphire) for a great football lesson

Arthur C (Sapphire) for amazing farming landscape drawing

Evie (Sapphire) for a fantastic Malcolm book

Louis, Felix, Florence, Evie, Etta and Orin (Sapphire) beautiful reading in Harvest Festival

All Sapphire Class for wonderful Harvest singing

Freya (Emerald) for fantastic maths homework

Noah (Ruby) for fantastic litter picking at lunch

Ronnie and Jenson (Amber) for fantastic litter picking at lunch

Barnaby (Sapphire) for fantastic litter picking at lunch

Hudson (Amethyst) for making a car for Sapphire Class



DIWALI CELEBRATION



Dear Sapphire Class Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating diversity and helping the children learn about different cultures and traditions, we will be holding a Diwali Celebration in class on Thursday 23rd October.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world. It's a time for joy, family, reflection and kindness — and a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore how people celebrate special occasions in different ways.

Throughout the day, the children will:

- Learn about what Diwali means to different people
- Listen to the story of Rama and Sita and explore the theme of good overcoming bad
- Create colourful rangoli patterns to welcome light and happiness
- Make their own diya lamps or lanterns to decorate our classroom
- Enjoy traditional Indian music during calm creative time
- Explore a Diwali senses station, smelling spices and having the chance to taste a small selection of Indian food
- Learn a simple Bollywood-style dance routine to celebrate joy and movement
- Take part in a "Spread the Light" kindness activity, thinking of ways they can bring light to others
- End the day with a calm reflection and Diwali song

We're really looking forward to celebrating together and helping the children learn more about this beautiful festival of light and togetherness.

Warm regards,
The Sapphire Class Team





Colby School Homework Policy

At Colby School, we encourage children to develop a love of learning and to follow our ethos of “Everyone Learns, Everyone Leads and Everyone Matters.” We do this by providing children with stimulating and fun learning experiences at school, which we hope will inspire them to continue learning at home. We believe family life plays a vital part in a child’s education and that having fun with your family should be valued, appreciated and cherished.

We have **no formal homework** – we encourage children to want to learn outside school and provide them with lots of ideas for how they can do this. We have an expectation that children will read at home and provide children and families with guidance about this, as detailed below:

Why you should read with your child every day

We want to encourage and foster a love of reading in the children at our school. As parents, we know that you want the very best for your children and already appreciate that learning to read is key to accessing the curriculum at school and the wider world. However, with increasingly busy lives it may seem that hearing a child read at the end of a tiring day can feel like just another job to do. We hope we can remind everyone of the importance of reading with children, not just as a mechanical process but as an enjoyable activity for you to share. You reading to your child is equally as important as them listening to you.

Here are some reasons why you should read with your child every day:

1. Reading is fun! Sharing a story, or a non-fiction book, whether it is read by an adult or by a child can give you the opportunity to share funny moments, or wonder at the world and beyond.
2. The value of a bedtime story cannot be over-estimated. It can be a quiet, settling time and gives your child the opportunity to listen to story language and allow their imagination to paint pictures.
3. Children absorb language structure and extend their vocabulary.
4. Children are able to think more logically and express their own thoughts and ideas more clearly.
5. Attention and concentration span is improved which has an impact on all learning.

It is really useful to spend a few moments discussing a book with your child. You can find out how much they have enjoyed it, how well they understood it and whether they have any questions about it.

Some useful questions to ask your child about the book they have shared - choose just one or two to discuss.

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. How do you think that character feels? Why? How would you feel in that situation?
4. Can you predict how the book will end?
5. Who is your favourite character? Why?
6. Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
7. Can you tell the story in your own words?
8. Do you like how it ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?

Remember that reading doesn't just have to be 'done' through books. Comics and magazines are equally good at encouraging children's interest. Point out signposts and information as you are out and about. Children like to be like you, so let them see you reading newspapers and magazines, as well as books.

We hold regular reading competitions and events to encourage children to find an author to suit them or to try something new. Children play a major role in choosing books for the school library.

Every class teacher provides children with ideas for optional homework:

Amber Class

In Amber Class, all children are encouraged to read at home on a daily basis. Please record in your child's reading record when you have read at home with them, whether that is a school book or if they have had a go at reading a book from home or the library. We have a reading incentive in Amber Class too, if they read their books from school on 3 separate occasions over the week, they are able to put their names on the Proud Cloud every Monday and get extra lunch time break as a treat.

Year 1 children have weekly spellings that they are expected to learn at home. The spellings are posted on Google Classroom every Friday and the children will have their spelling check the following Friday, giving them a week to learn and practise their spellings.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Sapphire Class

Children are encouraged to read their school reading book every day at home.

Weekly spellings for a test are posted on Google Classroom. Please play games on Spelling Shed online to support with your child's learning.

Occasionally homework will be set to support our learning. This will always be something fun like finding out what toys your grandparents used to play with, keeping a weather chart for a week or bringing in a favourite book to share.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Emerald Class

Children are expected to read lots. Families are expected to read at home with their children and sign their child's reading diary a minimum of three times each week. It is really important to listen to your child all the way through to High School to help fluency and comprehension.

The children have weekly spellings and a test on Monday mornings. They should be practising their spellings twice each week. The spellings can be found in their spelling book or on Spelling Shed.

Each week we will have a times tables test. Children are expected to practise their times tables twice per week for 10 minutes. They can use dice, write them out or use computer websites such as Times Tables Rock-stars or Hit the Button. We have regular class competitions they can opt in to as well.

The children will hopefully be interested in some of the subjects we are studying at school. I hope you can encourage them to continue that interest at home. Children can bring in projects or extra work they have done back to school. We have a homework chart in class and if they fill up a section they can earn prizes! Sometimes I might give them some optional homework like covering a parent in sticky notes to learn the bones of the body, making a Roman Shield or sketching a bird in the garden but these are only for fun.

Ruby Class

Children are expected to:

Read daily.

Practise spellings for a test each week.

Practise time tables and telling the time.

Children also have access to Spelling Shed, Times Tables Rock-stars, IXL and Google Classroom for optional homework.

Amethyst Class

It is recommended that Year 6 children use Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation books and Mathematics' books for revision throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to read as much as possible.

Practise spellings on Spelling Shed using the weekly word lists and games. Learn spellings for a test at the end of the half term.

Children may have IXL mathematics tasks set as required.



More Headteacher Awards

Remy (Ruby) for knowing the word

hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia - the fear of long words

Jack, Izzy and Jacob C (Amethyst) for being wonderful adverts for Colby School

Harry (Amethyst) for great English

Tiggy (Amber) for fantastic independent art



Colby Kitchen

Monday 20 th October 2025	Pork meatballs in tomato sauce served with pasta, sweetcorn and peas. Yoghurt / fruit.
Tuesday 21 st October 2025	Beef and vegetable pie served with boiled potatoes, broccoli and carrots. Yoghurt / fruit.
Wednesday 22 nd October 2025	Breaded chicken and tomato salsa wraps served with vegetable couscous.
Thursday 23 rd October 2025	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese, sausage and spaghetti hoops served with salad. Fruit.
Friday 24 th October 2025	Fish fingers in a bread roll served with potato wedges and salad sticks (cucumber, carrot and pepper). Yoghurt / fruit.
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Macaroni cheese served with sweetcorn and peas. Fruit.
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Chicken and vegetable pie served with boiled potatoes, broccoli and carrots. Yoghurt / fruit.
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	Beef and vegetable burritos served with rice. Yoghurt / fruit.
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese, ham, baked beans and tuna and sweetcorn mayonnaise served with salad.
Friday 7 th November 2025	Cheese and tomato pizza, chicken pizza or pepperoni pizza. Fruit.

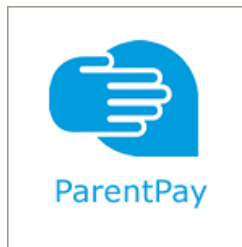
Our new Winter Menu will follow for the week beginning 10th November 2025



Parent Interviews

Thank you for all your lovely feedback about Parent Interviews this week. Teachers enjoyed chatting to you about how well your children have settled into class this term. As I've previously mentioned, I have had the pleasure of watching lessons in all classes over the last few weeks, so I've seen first hand how well children are doing. It has been particularly lovely to watch our new Reception children – they have settled into school life with enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of fun.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Teachers are usually available on the playground from 8.40am or at pick up. If it is easier for you to email, please email office@colby.norfolk.sch.uk or head@colby.norfolk.sch.uk



Parent Pay

Please could we politely request that you check your Parent Pay account and pay off any outstanding amount. We have a significant number of payments owed for After School Club, in particular, and we would appreciate your help with getting payments up to date. We will be sending individual reminder emails out after half term, so it would be very helpful if you could pay off any debts before then. We have a Finance Budget Revision meeting coming up next week and it is very important that we have funds up to date by then. Your help with this would be appreciated. If you are having difficulty making payments, please do not hesitate to contact me privately on head@colby.norfolk.sch.uk. Thank you.

Xmas4schools™

Christmas is coming Eeek!

It's that time of year again and your child will either already have created their own special Christmas design or will be about to do so soon. This is a great opportunity to turn their creation into a range of professionally printed products, which you are able to purchase for family and friends this Christmas.

Once your child brings home their design, please complete the form on the reverse of their artwork and return it to school by Monday 10th November 2025. You will not need to order at this stage. Once we have sent your returned design to Xmas4Schools they will send you a text and an email containing your order link which you can follow to your child's ordering portal. From there, you can place your order and make payment.



CGP Study Books

We recommend that Year 6 children purchase Study Books for Mathematics and Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (SPAG). The books are ideal for learning vocabulary and revising work covered in Key Stage 2 ahead of the National Tests in May 2026. We can offer you both books for a reduced rate of £10 (£5 each). If you would like to purchase the books for your child, please send £10 in to school in an envelope marked with your child's name. Thank you.



More Headteacher Awards

Anya (Sapphire) for a wonderful Reading Diary – lots and lots of reading at home

Eden (Amber) for brilliant writing

Delilah (Amber) for being really confident in lessons and sharing great ideas



The Colby Staff team

Now that children are well and truly settled into their new classes, I thought I would share the names of the whole staff team that enjoy supporting your children every week.

If you have any questions about school life, or comments that you want to share, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can usually catch class teachers on the playground at drop off or pick up or you can telephone or email the school office to pass on a message. You are also very welcome to email me about anything.

Mrs Frost doesn't work on Fridays and Mrs Towers finishes work at Friday lunchtime. If you ever need to speak about Sapphire and Ruby pupils during those times, please feel free to catch me on the playground or email on head@colby.norfolk.sch.uk

Amber Class is taught by Miss Covell.

Maddy, Sophia and **Elli B** are teaching assistants in Amber. **Liz** and **Hannah B** (teaching assistants) join Amber Class for Computing and Friday afternoons.

A lovely big team of staff to look after our little people.

Sapphire Class is taught by **Mrs Frost** (teacher) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr Brown (teacher) teaches Sapphire Class mathematics on Friday mornings and **Miss**

Covell (teacher) teaches them on Friday afternoons, supported by **Sophia** (teaching assistant).

Sapphire Class is supported by **Alice D** and **Elli B** (teaching assistants). **Josie** and **Hannah B**

also join the teaching assistant team occasionally throughout the week for even more support.

Ben (Apprentice Teacher) teaches Sapphire PE on Tuesday afternoons.

Emerald Class is taught by **Mr Brown** (teacher).

Emerald Class is supported by **Alice H, Elli B** and **Alice D** (teaching assistants).

Liz (teaching assistant) teaches Computing.

Mrs Towers (teacher) teaches Emerald music on Monday afternoons.

Ruby Class is taught by **Mrs Towers** (teacher).

Ruby Class is supported by **Liz, Josie** and **Hannah B** (teaching assistants).

Simon (teaching assistant) also joins the Ruby team to teach French and RE.

Mr Brown (teacher) teaches Ruby PE on Monday afternoons.

Ben (Apprentice Teacher) teaches Ruby PE on Thursday afternoons.

Amethyst Class is taught by **Mr Frost** (Deputy Headteacher), **Ben** (Apprentice Teacher) and

Simon (teaching assistant). **Liz** (teaching assistant) teaches Computing. **Josie** (teaching assistant) joins the team for additional support throughout the week.



The Colby Staff team continued

Ben, Maddy, Elli, Alice D, Bill and Hannah B are our **After School Club** staff.

Megan is our **Caretaker / Cleaner**.

Barbara joins our team of teaching assistants to supervise the children at **lunchtimes**.

Megan and Vikki run our **Colby Kitchen** and cook delicious food for the whole school.

Simon runs **Breakfast Club**.

Holly, Tara and Bill are our **school secretaries**.

Hannah Everett is a teacher and our **Special Needs Co-ordinator**. She works throughout the school supporting children with their learning.

Ashley Burgoyne teaches **guitar**.

And finally there's me, **Christine Mead**. I'm very proud to be the **Headteacher of Colby School** and very privileged to work with the lovely team of people above, who work so hard to provide the best opportunities for our children. As you know, I will be leaving at Christmas for new adventures – starting with a long road trip in America. Mr Simon Smith will be replacing me as Headteacher in January 2026 and he is looking forward to joining Colby School soon.



More Headteacher Awards

George (Amber) for great focus in English
Harley (Amber) for great pattern work in maths
Jenson (Amber) for super science work on the 5 senses
Norah (Amber) for brilliant independent writing
Atlas (Amber) for great teamwork in PE
Atticus M (Amber) for great communication skills
Billy (Amber) for being a kind and helpful friend
Eva (Amber) for being a super helpful member of Amber Class
Hugo (Amber) for great sounds in phonics
Reggie (Amber) for trying really hard when writing in phonics



More Headteacher Awards

Rhys (Amber) for being super sensible

Ronnie (Amber) for beautiful writing in phonics

Alannah and Arthur C (Sapphire) for beautiful handwriting

Harper (Sapphire) for telling us about sunsets during shorter winter days

Anya, Ava, Clara and Ayla (Sapphire) for super maths

Sharks and Ellie's phonics groups (Sapphire) for amazing ou sound work

Charlie and Bo (Sapphire) for fantastic question sentences

Iris, Arthur F, Barnaby, Hollie, Jude, Arthur T, Esme, Felix and Stanley (Sapphire)
for superb Emily spider work

Arthur C and Kit (Sapphire) for cleaning out our stick insects brilliantly

Orin (Sapphire) for a great explanation of his special map

Florence (Sapphire) for sharing her foraging book

Max (Sapphire) for amazing reading every day

Anya (Sapphire) for great home reading

Brooke and Harper (Sapphire) for taking responsibility for our class library

Remy, Hugo, Milo, Herbie, Seb, Quinn (Ruby) for great teamwork in PE

Oliver (Emerald) for great reading

Ben, Phoebe, Isobel, Stanley, Albie, George, Harry H, Ralph, Stella, Oliver, Freya, Oscar,

Daisy (Emerald) for fantastic work on Times Tables Rock Stars

Milo (Ruby) for great running before school



Sapphire Homework!

As part of our Science work on the seasons, Sapphire Class have been looking at weather changes. Please help your child to keep a weather diary, starting on Monday 20th October, for a week. Please bring it back to school so that we can share them. Children have been given their weather sheet to fill in. Thank you. Mrs. Frost



After School Club Special

Just a reminder that we are holding an After School Club Special on the first day back after the half term holiday, Monday 3rd November 2025 3pm – 4.45pm.

It is a Pumpkin and Bonfire Night themed event costing £5 per child, including refreshments and craft activities. It will be lots of fun!

Please book a place on Parent Pay (Pumpkin After School Club). There will be no other After School Club on this day, so please book a place at this event if you would like your child to stay after school. It would be much appreciated if you could book your child's place before half term – this will help with our planning and shopping over the holiday. Thank you.

Friends of Colby School (FOCS)

Wow. As if it's nearly half term already!! For those of you who don't know, FOCS (Friends of Colby School) are the School PTA - a group of volunteers committed to raising funds for the School. We are registered with the Charity Commission.

Our current Chair is Carly Thorp, Treasurer is Alice Robinson and our Secretary is Georgina Chapple.

We will be holding our AGM on Friday 7th November after drop off in the school hall. We welcome all, especially anyone who would like to get involved with our fundraising this year. No contribution is too small to join the committee and we are always looking for volunteers to help with our Fayres.

On the subject of Fayres, the date has been set for this year's much anticipated Christmas Fayre. It will take place on Friday 5th December after school in the hall and we will have all of usual stalls including Lucky bags, Raffle and Tombola. Look out for more information after the half term. We feel it's going to come around very quickly.

We will also be recruiting a new secretary as the wonderful Georgina will be leaving us next July. If this is a position you would be interested in filling, please send us an email to focscolbyschool@gmail.com or contact Carly on 07990 333094.



Fantastic Walk

Otto and Arwen successfully completed their sponsored walk last weekend and have so far raised £690 for Gaza! Thank you so much to everyone who has supported them.

Have a lovely weekend!

Christine Mead