

TULIP ACADEMY

MAKING EVERY MOMENT MATTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Festive Highlights & Exciting Updates

Hello everyone! What a busy and exciting term it's been at Tulip! I've really enjoyed getting to know so many more of our wonderful students and families across both campuses. It was absolutely lovely to see so many parents, carers, and friends at our Christmas events at Springview and Waterside - thank you for joining us and making them so special.

This week, I also had the joy of visiting Ashwood Care Home with our school choir. Watching the residents' faces light up as the children sang was truly heart-warming—I'm definitely feeling the festive spirit now. Take a look at some of the photographs below for a glimpse of our celebrations.

As you know, there have been lots of staffing changes this term and our team continues to grow. We've welcomed a new Forest School Lead, an Intervention Lead, and an HLTA who will lead phonics and reading within the inclusion team. After Christmas, Mrs. George will be moving into an ELSA-focused mentor role—her new ELSA room is coming together beautifully, and she's so excited to get started. I'd also like to give a warm welcome to Mrs. Reeves, who has joined our safeguarding team. Look out in the New Year for a letter introducing all our new staff in more detail, complete with photographs so you can put a face to the name.

In exciting news – we're getting a MUGA at Waterside! (MUGA stands for Multi-Use Games Area.) Mr. Jones, our Site Manager, will be meeting with Premier Play to get the ball rolling (couldn't resist a dad joke!) and installation should begin in February.

A huge thank you to Jacki Bartram, our Head of Communications and Fundraising at CIT, who has championed fundraising for this project since before the new build. We can't wait to see this fantastic addition to our school!

There's more exciting news...We're trialling a newly refurbished small, bespoke post-16 provision at our Springview campus for a small number of students who we feel would benefit from this tailored approach, rather than making the move to the Waterside campus. We'll post some photographs in the New Year and let you know how it's going.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our staff and volunteers for their incredible hard work and dedication this term. Your efforts make such a difference to our students and their families, and I'm so grateful for everything you do.

Christmas means so many different things to different people. For me, it's a time of hope and joy—spending time with family and remembering to look for the quiet sparkle of Christmas in amongst the busyness and noise. For many though, I know Christmas is not so festive, and we've included some recommended support and help below for anyone feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of the holidays. Students or advocates can also email safe@mycit.co.uk for urgent support or guidance.

I hope Christmas is everything that you and your family are hoping for. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. Wishing you a very happy New Year!



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is always a priority for Tulip Academy Spalding as we know that pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school. Tulip Academy Spalding has an aspirational target of 95% overall whole school attendance. We know how important it is to work with parents and carers as well as other professionals to support pupils to attend school every day.



We have a dedicated attendance leader - Kat Garland who oversees all aspects of tracking, monitoring and supporting pupil attendance. Should you wish to contact the attendance lead please do so by email Kat.Garland@tulip-cit.co.uk or phoning school on 01775 725566.

In line with our [attendance policy](#), we work with parents/carers at the earliest point of concern, to help address any underlying reasons for irregular, low or persistent absence.

WELLBEING

As the Christmas season approaches, it can be a time of excitement but also increased pressure.

Remember that it's okay to adapt traditions, set gentle boundaries and create a pace that feels comfortable for your family - whether that means planning quiet moments, keeping familiar routines, or choosing sensory-friendly activities. If you need support over the holidays, organisations such as the National Autistic Society, YoungMinds, Mind and your local SEND services offer guidance, helplines, and community resources.

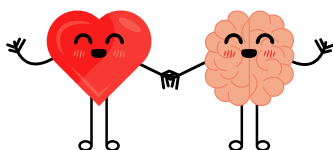


Wishing you and your family a calm, joyful and restorative Christmas period filled with moments of connection and comfort.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS

There are many types of support available. Your mental health first aiders can help you access it.

Mental health first aiders are a point of contact if you, or someone you are concerned about, are experiencing poor mental health or emotional distress. They are not therapists, or psychiatrists, but can give you initial support and signpost to appropriate help if required.



Will Munton
Will.Munton@tulip-cit.co.uk



Olivia Lloyd-Casey
Olivia.Casey@tulip-cit.co.uk

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following:

NOVEMBER

Christopher (Pineapple)
Riley (Maple)
Isla (Hazel)
Caelan (Beech)
Anthony (Beech)
Jacob (Ash)
Oliver (Pineapple)
Logan (Cedar)
Jack (Ash)

Kirjans (Birch)
Jenson (Cherry)
George (Cedar)

DECEMBER

Louis (Chestnut)
Robin (Chestnut)
Holly (Spruce)
Freddie (Sycamore)
Tahlia (Sycamore)
Ahmed (Hazel)
Olly (Hazel)
Alice (Plums)
Charles (Lime)

Faye (Willow)
Louis (Pears)
Harley (Willow)
Mary (Beech)
Eli (Lime)
Leyton (Cherry)
Daanish (Rowan)
Dominik (Birch)
Aidan (Rowan)

Noah (Pineapples)
Teddy (Apricots)
Olivia (Apples)



TESCO BLUE TOKEN SCHEME

We've Been Nominated! Tulip Academy School is proud to be part of the Tesco Blue Token Scheme.

You can show your support by voting for us with your blue tokens at the following Tesco stores:

- Bourne Express – PE10 9AQ,
- Spalding Matmore Express – PE11 2PN,
- Bourne Superstore – PE10 9LS

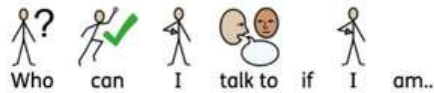
Voting runs from October to mid-January – every token counts towards helping us secure vital funding for our school and students.

Thank you for supporting Tulip Academy



SAFEGUARDING

If your child is worried about anything, there are lots of people at Tulip Academy that they can speak to. [Click here to read our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.](#)



Luke Allen
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Dominic Mason
Inclusion Lead
& Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Olivia Lloyd-Casey
Inclusion Lead
& Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Toni Wand
Assistant Headteacher
& Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

TEL: 01775 725566

EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@TULIP-CIT.CO.UK

EARLY YEARS LEARNING ALLIANCE

Targeted Positive Activities

Targeted Positive Activities offer a range of sessions including community groups, youth groups and holiday clubs held at a variety of local venues across Lincolnshire. The sessions provide a range of activities in a safe and welcoming environment, giving parents and carers a short break.

- Community groups for children with disabilities aged 5-18yrs
- Youth groups for children with disabilities aged 11-18yrs
- Holiday clubs for children with disabilities aged 5-18yrs

At the sessions, children with disabilities and their families are supported to maintain their quality of life, access high-quality care and learning opportunities, and receive encouragement to help children and young people remain living at home with their families. They are also supported to access as many services as possible within their local communities, enabling them to go on to live as independently as possible.

Each group is different, with the children and young people able to have a say in what they would like to do. The groups are led by caring, experienced and skilled educators who enable those attending to socialise and try new activities at a pace that feels comfortable for them.

Community groups and youth groups both run for 1.5 hours and holiday clubs run for 5 hours.

The service is subsidised by Lincolnshire County Council. The fees are as follows:

£9.60 for youth and community groups

£32 for holiday clubs

To request access to this support, please complete the online form here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=t9BNla4jfkqBhzUmiO9ciFZ88-uj4_tOol4oZ-ZZfh5UNkpMR0E1NEIIQUtJVDJXM0tZR0oxTEpNVy4u

For more information please contact CWDLincolnshire@eyalliance.org.uk or visit www.eyalliance.org.uk

The Children with Disabilities Support Services now has a QR code if you feel you can donate to support this service.

Thank you!

Early Years Alliance Children With Disabilities Service Request Support Form 2025



MRS FLATTERS

Unfortunately, Mrs Flatters will be leaving us at the end of December. Natalie joined us in September 2013 as a Teaching Assistant and has shown unwavering dedication in helping pupils achieve their very best. Her commitment and skill saw her appointed as an Intervention Mentor and Cover Supervisor in 2017, before taking on the role of Inclusion Mentor for Academic Interventions in 2019, where she also worked closely with our Designated Teacher to support young people in care. Since September 2022, Natalie has been an Instructor with aspirations of working towards QTLS. We are extremely grateful for all she has given to the school and wish her every success in her future endeavours.



TULIP CHRISTMAS NEWS

WATERSIDE CHRISTMAS DOOR WINNER

Festive cheer filled Waterside Campus this week as every class took part in decorating their classroom doors to celebrate the Christmas season.

The creativity and effort on display were truly impressive, making it a difficult task for our School Council, who judged the designs today. After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce that Willow Class were chosen as the winners.

Well done to Willow Class and a big thank you to all pupils and staff who took part and helped spread such wonderful festive spirit around our school!



HERE ARE SOME MORE PHOTOS SHOWING FESTIVE FUN AT TULIP!



AUTUMN TERM UPDATE



Pre-formal

Space:

Our pre-formal learners have embarked on an exciting space-themed journey this term! They have been using their senses to explore the unique features of different planets, immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and textures of outer space. Along the way, they even encountered a few friendly aliens, making this cosmic adventure truly unforgettable.

This term has been filled with enriching opportunities across all pathways. Learners have enjoyed a variety of experiences, including a visit from a specialist team delivering engaging table-top cricket sessions, a disco, our festive Christmas play - Bethlehem Bake Off, a lively pantomime performance, and joyful songs around the Christmas tree. These activities have provided wonderful moments of learning, celebration, and community spirit.



Informal (EYFS & KS1)

Weather:

This term, our EYFS and KS1 classes have been exploring the fascinating topic of Weather. Pupils have enjoyed engaging with stories such as Elmer's Weather and The Boy and the Rainbow, using these texts as a springboard to express how different weather conditions make them feel. In Early Cooking sessions, children have created vibrant rainbow toast and cheerful sun-shaped sandwiches, combining creativity with practical skills to enhance their learning experience.

Informal (KS2 and above)

Amazing Authors:

Our informal classes have been fully immersed in the exciting theme of Amazing Authors. Students explored the imaginative worlds of Beatrix Potter, Roald Dahl, and David Walliams through engaging, hands-on experiences. These activities provided rich sensory opportunities and plenty of creative, messy fun, sparking curiosity and joy in every session.



AUTUMN TERM UPDATE



Semi-formal

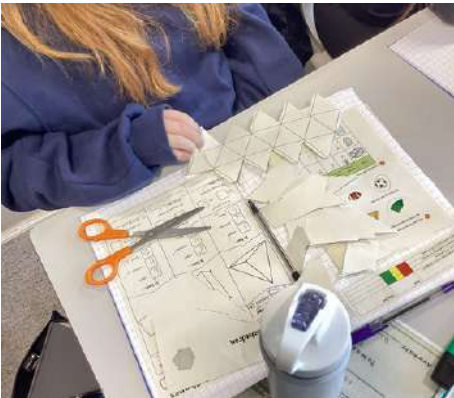
Semi-Formal pupils at Tulip Academy have had a busy and enjoyable few weeks, filled with learning, creativity, and celebration.

Pupils took part in Table Top Cricket with Max from Belvoir Cricket & County Trust. This was a great opportunity to develop teamwork, coordination, turn-taking, and confidence, while making sure everyone could join in and have fun.

In English, pupils have been focusing on non-fiction, exploring a range of stories and texts. These activities have helped pupils build their understanding of real-world information, develop vocabulary, and practise communication skills in a meaningful way.

As we prepare for the Christmas period, pupils enjoyed a pantomime visiting the school and loved the excitement it brought. They also worked together to create their own music video to a well-known Christmas song, showing fantastic creativity and teamwork. We were also pleased to welcome parents and carers into school for a festive celebration, where pupils proudly showed their classrooms and took part in activities with their families.

Well done to all our Semi-Formal pupils for their continued enthusiasm and hard work.



Formal

In English formal pathway have been working on poetry.

We have looked at rhyming as well as acrostic poems. We have included themes based on the time of year including bonfire night and Halloween.

In maths we have been looking at shapes and handling data in key stage 4.

Some students have also been involved in a boccia tournament. Key stage 4 students were helpers.

Sycamore class have enjoyed learning to play tabletop cricket.

We have raised money for children in need which included a bake sale and fun activities.

The term has ended with a get-together which included crafts, bingo and puzzles.



TIMETABLE UPDATES FOR JANUARY:

Waterside Timetable updates:

Supporting Students, Staff, and Resources

We've recently amended our timetable to help reduce pressure on students, staff, and facilities. Previously, many spaces were booked back-to-back, which created challenges for both learning and logistics. To address this, we've introduced a two-week timetable using a Week A / Week B model.

Under this new structure:

- Forest School and Cookery will alternate each week.
- Life Skills including Animal Care and Creative Arts, STEM and Humanities will also alternate, ensuring a balanced experience.
- These subjects will now run as double sessions once a fortnight, giving students more time to immerse themselves in each area.
- PE, RSE, and PSHE will continue to take place weekly.

This approach allows us to make better use of our facilities, provide more focused learning time, and create a smoother experience for everyone.

Below is a table showing which day each class has PE or Forest School. Please check carefully to ensure your child comes to school with the appropriate resources, such as PE kit or coat and wellies.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PE	Oak Hazel	Beech	Ash Willow Cedar	Birch Chestnut Spruce	Lime KS4 Options (weekly)
Forest Schools (Alternative weeks alongside Cookery)	Birch Beech Lime Rowan	Ash Cedar	Spruce	Oak Chestnut Roots Willow Hazel	KS4 Options (weekly)

Springview Timetable updates:

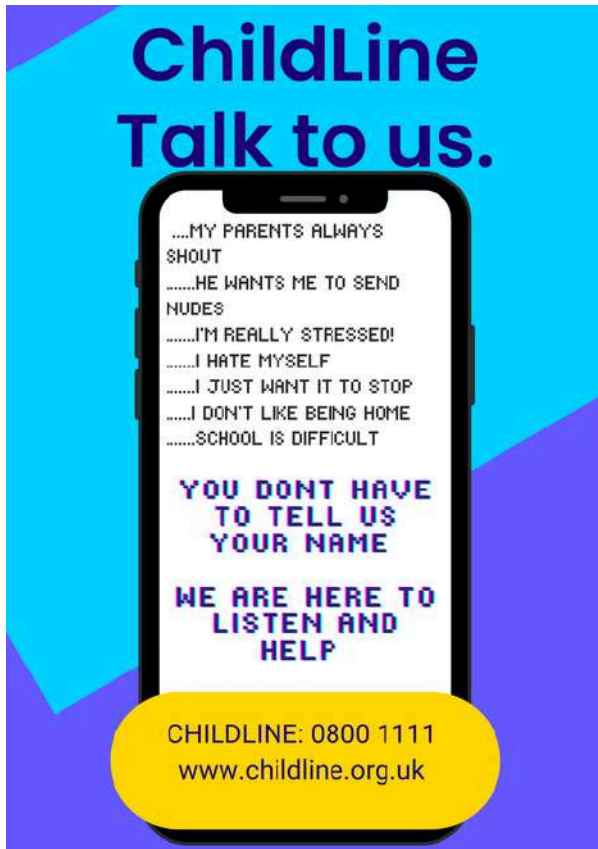
There are only a few changes at Springview as we move into the new year:

- Jo Jingles will continue working with different classes and with different pupil groups throughout the new term.
- The hydrotherapy pool is open, and swimming sessions have resumed. There is a slight change to the hydrotherapy timetable, this will be communicated by class teachers to those that are affected (Grapes & Apricots). Please remember to send swimming kits, towels, and any additional items your child may need on their swim day.
- Our Forest School Lead and Cookery Teacher will be leading sessions at Springview on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings as part of the Semiformal provision.
- We are preparing to introduce Rebound Therapy for Preformal and Informal learners. This will take place at our Waterside site due to the low ceiling height at Springview. We are currently finalising travel arrangements and will update Mango Class parents once details are confirmed.

Thank you for your continued support as we enhance opportunities for all learners.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

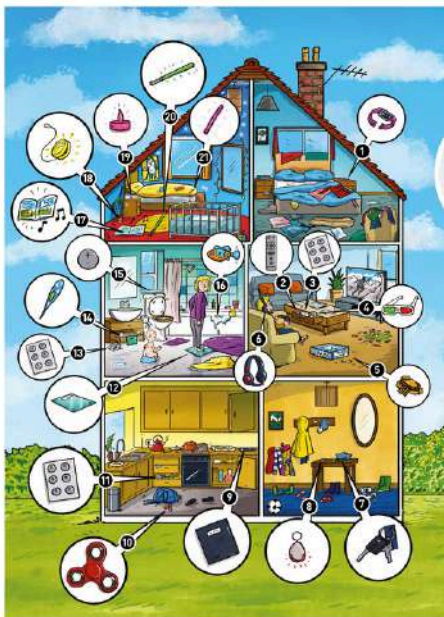
To help ensure families know where support is available, we have included a list of links to local food banks and community support services within this bulletin. Please share these resources with anyone who may benefit and remind families that seeking support is a positive and proactive step. No one should face this time of year alone, and these services are here to provide practical help when it's needed most.



- [Food help - Connect to Support Lincolnshire](#)
- [Get emergency food | Trussell](#)
- [Food & living - North West Leicestershire District Council](#)
- [Home - Citizens Advice LeicesterShire](#)
- [Food Banks | Ask Lion - Nottingham City Directory](#)
- [The most dangerous time of year | NSPCC](#)
- [Support & advice for families | NSPCC](#)
- [Family Action: Supporting families at every age and stage of life](#)
- [StepChange Debt Charity. Free Expert Debt Help & Advice](#)
- [Emergency grants, loans and money help - Shelter England](#)
- [Find urgent support](#)

For some families, this time of year can feel particularly unsafe or isolating. We remain alert to signs of abuse and continue to offer a safe, non-judgemental space for anyone who may need support.

- [Getting help for domestic violence and abuse - NHS](#)
- [Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service](#)
- [I need help - information and support on domestic abuse](#)
- [Homepage - National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)
- [Contact Us | Samaritans K](#)
- [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>



Button batteries - where are yours?



Button batteries, particularly big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly hurt or kill a small child within two hours, if they get stuck in the food pipe. Know where yours are, so you can keep your children safe.

Five top tips

- Hunt around your home for button batteries – in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Store spare button batteries in sealed containers in a high cupboard.
- Remember that 'flat' or 'dead' batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- If you think your child has swallowed one, don't delay. Trust your instincts and take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.

1. Fitness tracker
2. Remote control
3. Spare batteries
4. 3D glasses
5. Robot bug toy
6. Gaming headset
7. Car key
8. Key finder
9. Kitchen scales
10. Light up fridge spinner
11. Spare batteries
12. Bathroom scales
13. Spare batteries
14. Thermometer
15. Flat battery
16. Robot fish
17. Musical greeting card
18. Light-up yo-yo
19. Tea light
20. Light saber
21. Flushing wand

For more help



• capt.org.uk/button-batteries
 • [BIPBA](https://www.bipba.org.uk) (British In-Product Battery Association)



E-SAFETY

Play and talk with your child about the games they enjoy so you can agree on which are age-appropriate. Keep the conversation open about who they play with, what they share, and why some games are better saved for when they're older. Agree on limits together and discuss in-game purchases to avoid surprises.

E-Safety Tips for Staying Safe Online

Here are some simple ways to stay safe when using the internet:

- Keep your personal information private
- Don't share your full name, address, school name, or phone number online.
- Use strong passwords
- Choose passwords that are hard to guess and never share them with anyone except a trusted adult.
- Be kind online
- Treat others how you'd like to be treated. If someone is mean or upsetting, tell an adult.
- Only talk to people you know
- Don't chat with strangers online, even if they seem friendly.
- Ask before downloading or clicking
- Some links or downloads can be unsafe. Always check with an adult first.
- Tell someone if something feels wrong
- If you see or hear something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to a trusted adult straight away.

What you need to know about... AGE RATINGS

18+

16 & UP ONLY

12-15

What are they? 'Age Ratings'

Age ratings are given to help you decide if a game is suitable for your child. They are based on the content of the game and the age of the player. The ratings are: 12-15, 16 & up only, and 18+.

Know the Risks

- Inappropriate content:** Games with inappropriate content can be harmful to children. This includes violence, sexual content, and drug use.
- Peer pressure:** Games can encourage children to interact with strangers online, which can be dangerous.
- Level of 'Kludg':** Some games are designed to be challenging and may be difficult for younger children to play.
- Free Platforms:** Many games are available on free platforms, but these can be risky as they often lack parental controls.

Spot the Signs

- Being vague:** If your child is being vague about their online activities, this could be a sign of something wrong.
- Unfamiliar terminology:** If your child is using language that you don't understand, this could be a sign of inappropriate content.
- Wanting to be included:** If your child is constantly asking to be included in online activities, this could be a sign of peer pressure.
- Be aware of spending:** Many games have in-game purchases, so it's important to be aware of how much your child is spending.

Safety Tips

- Do your research:** Check the age rating and reviews before buying a game.
- Review parental controls:** Make sure your device and game settings are set up correctly.
- Encourage open dialogue:** Talk to your child about their online activities and any concerns.
- Discuss ratings:** Explain the meaning of age ratings and why they are important.

Our Expert Heather Cardwell

Heather Cardwell is a leading online safety expert and author of the book 'The Online Safety Handbook'. She has over 10 years of experience in the field and has successfully developed and implemented a whole-school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to staff, pupils, and parents. She is also a frequent speaker at national and international events on online safety.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety | Facebook: NationalOnlineSafety | Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

FOR PARENTS - SHARENTING WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

For a multitude of different reasons the advice we give to children and young people is to be careful with what they're sharing online, including images. This can be anything from protecting your privacy to very serious harms such as blackmail including sextortion. For example, an article in the Guardian refers to a report from the NSPCC where nearly 1 in 10 parents say their child has been blackmailed online and the National Crime Agency are receiving around 110 reports of sextortion each month.

That education we give to children and young people extends to parents, caregivers, schools and anyone else that may share data, such as images, of children. We must be mindful of the potential uses of that data.

The Irish Data Commission has recently released a short (40 seconds) light-hearted but serious video about the risks of sharenting along with some useful advice.

You can see the video and advice [here](#) and you can read the Guardian article [here](#).

