



NEWSLETTER

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Autumn Term - Newsletter 2

Monday 18th December 2017

Christmas is upon us again and, certainly for me, it hardly seems five minutes since we came back to school on 6th September. We have achieved a huge amount in this time and I know that all pupils have developed in self-confidence, knowledge and skills. They have also had a huge amount of fun! - Christmas nativity plays, Christingle, KS2 carol service, visits to West Stow, Hollowford, Gressenhall, sporting competitions, church services, going swimming, high school visits, fundraising events, come and play sessions, reading cafes and open classrooms.

So from all staff and Governors, we wish you a very special Christmas time and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Thursday 4th January 2018.

L. Blowfield

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our theme for Collective Worship for next half term is Justice.

HOME SCHOOL CONTACT BOOKS

As a school we value the dialogue that we are able to establish between home and school by using these books. In order to ensure consistency across the school when it comes to the use of these books and encourage independence in the children we will be making a few slight changes from January. We will continue the practice that starts in the Nursery and Early Years all the way through the school.

In each classroom there will be two distinct places where your child's book should be placed each morning, one for books that have a message from home in them and one for books that have no message in them. We would be grateful if you could help us by making your child aware when there is a note that you would like the staff to see, so that your child can put the book in the correct place. Many thanks for your help with establishing this system across the whole school.

HEALTH & SAFETY

May we remind you that dogs should not be brought into the school grounds or school - the only exception to this would be for a registered guide dog.



PUNCTUALITY

Since the beginning of September up until 8th December children at this school have missed 2,152 minutes of their learning due to lateness. It is essential that all children are regularly in school on time. Learning begins as soon as your child steps into their classroom. If a child is five minutes late every day, over the course of a year they miss over sixteen hours of learning. Pupils who arrive late in school often miss the initial part of an explanation and this impacts on their ability to pick up new concepts. It also means that teachers are having to repeat explanations, thus losing time on something the rest of the class have already learnt. Please help us to ensure your child gets the education they deserve by ensuring they are in school on time. Children are expected to be on the playground in plenty of time for the whistle which is blown at 8.55am for children to enter the classroom for registration.



GUIDELINES FOR ABSENCE DUE TO SICKNESS

Please be aware that should your child suffer from sickness they should not return to school until **48 hours** after the last bout of sickness.

FIRST ADMISSION TO SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2018

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014, they are due to start school in a Reception class in September 2018 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15th January 2018. You can apply online at www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk (website open between 28th September 2017 and 15th January 2018) or an application form can be obtained by contacting the Customer Services Centre on 0344 800 8020. Further information is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions. Please ensure that you return a preference form directly to Norfolk County Council regardless of whether you have already registered with the school, have siblings attending the school or your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. *Applications received after 15th January 2018 will be treated as late and will have a lower priority than all on-time applications.*

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Well done to Scarlett Chenery (3H) and Abigail Holledge (6G) who won the Christmas card competition organised by Susan Whymark Funeral Service Limited.

TREE OF LIFE - DICKLEBURGH CHURCH

Nelson's Journey Charity is pertinent to some of our families within our school and has provided them with support and strategies to deal with their emotions and have helped their smile to return. The tree we created for the Tree of Life celebration reflected the journey the children had taken, from the deepest, darkest despair, to having the biggest, brightest smiles which were displayed at the top of the tree. All the Reception children in both Mrs Beaumont's and Mrs Botwright's classes took part in making either the tear drops, clay hearts or clay smiles. Personal messages and feelings were written on some of the tear drops by children at our school who have unfortunately experienced a loss of a close member of their family.

Thank you for anyone who took the time to visit and vote for our tree and raise money for Nelson's Journey. The school tree won our category and raised £42.50.

This will be passed on to Nelson's Journey together with £89.15 raised from the Reception Nativity play, 'It's a Party'.



STAFFING UPDATE

This term, we welcome Mr David Cunliffe who has joined the school as Caretaker.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to the following Teaching Assistants, Mrs Reeve, Mrs Staff, Mrs Martin and Mrs List. We would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the school during their time here and wish them all the best for the future.

We are delighted to report that we have made some new appointments, Miss Mills, Mrs Phillips, Miss Snowling and Mrs Wilson, who will be joining the teaching assistant team at the start of the Spring Term.

EXCITING ECO-SCHOOLS NEWS

This term, we invited an inspector from Eco Schools to come into our school to see how well our school deals with environmental issues. All of the Eco Rangers talked to the inspector about the projects we have done including our regular initiatives like Walking Wednesdays and the Eco Owl. Afterwards, our Year 6s showed her around the school, drawing her attention to places like the forest area, gardening area and Hudson's Hut. We are very pleased to announce that we have been re-awarded the Green Flag! The Inspector was very impressed with the Eco Rangers and their hard work and enthusiasm, as well as the effort that the rest of the school has made. Well done, everybody!

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We would like to say a big thank you to the East of England Co-op branch in Harleston for kindly donating 60 oranges for our Christingle Service held on Friday 8th December. A total of £51.54 was raised for The Children's Society. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

RIGHT CHOICE TICKETS

At Harleston Primary School, rather than telling everyone off all the time the school likes rewarding the outstanding children who have a brilliant attitude towards their behaviour for learning and life with right choice tickets.

What is a right choice ticket?

A right choice ticket is the reward scheme for positive behaviour, for example, holding a door open for a member of staff or producing a fantastic piece of work. Simply, a right choice ticket is a piece of paper with a line for your name and a line for your class. See the illustration for a better understanding.

Why do we give out right choice tickets?

Right choice tickets are given out to encourage children to be a star in lessons, at break and lunch. "You can receive a right choice ticket for being settled in class", commented Mr Richardson.

Who awards them?

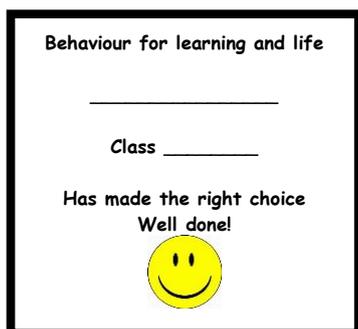
Any adult who works in the school can award them: teachers, TA's, midday supervisors, office staff and even visitors.

Who earns them?

Any child at Harleston Primary School who demonstrates wonderful behaviour can earn a right choice ticket.

What happens to right choice tickets?

The children post their tickets in the right choice ticket box in their classroom and every Friday, they hand them in to Mr Richardson during the celebration assembly. All of the right choice tickets collected are placed into a larger box and three are drawn out. The children who earned these tickets are able to choose a prize from the prize box. The class who collected the most tickets for that week also get a class reward and certificate.



At the end of term all the right choice tickets for the term are gathered together and four prizes are awarded.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Despite the cold weather, the children were delighted to receive free ice cream on Monday 13th November from 'Whippy Nick', who generously provided ice cream in return for charitable donations for Children in Need. Following this, on Friday 17th November, Harleston Primary School transformed into a rainbow of colour! Once again, the children did not disappoint in their fundraising efforts for Children in Need, based on our theme of 'Colour Catwalk'. This year, a whopping total of £757.59 was raised, which alongside the £288.56 raised from our ice cream donations, came to a fantastic total of £1,046.15 - our biggest fundraising total to date! Thank you to everybody who was involved in this fundraising effort, particularly to those who contributed delicious cakes towards our break time bake sale. Well done to our hardworking team of School Councillors, who created posters, promoted the event and organised the bake sale for this fantastic cause.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

Just a reminder to keep an eye on your payment schedules for the residential visits to ensure you meet the final payment deadlines. We advise you to keep to the suggested payment dates or you are welcome to pay the full cost at any time, but no later than the dates as detailed below.

Y4 Hilltop visit (£127.60)
to be paid in full by Friday 9th March

Y5 Holt Hall visit (£142)
to be paid in full by Friday 23rd February

YEAR 5 TRIP TO WEST STOW

On Wednesday 18th October, the children of Year 5 walked in the footsteps of the Anglo Saxons as they visited the ancient Anglo Saxon village of West Stow! Even the drizzly weather couldn't dampen their spirits as they explored the different Anglo Saxon buildings and had the opportunity to practise their weaving and perform the play of Beowulf in the Great Hall. Before lunch, the children were given a tour around the museum, where they explored a variety of authentic artefacts. The children were given the opportunity to handle some of these Anglo Saxon artefacts and some even wore an Anglo Saxon helmet. It was a fantastic day out to consolidate what the children have learnt over the half term!

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

Congratulations to all the children and adults who helped to produce the Christmas productions. The children were the stars of the shows, as all performances were outstanding. A big thank you goes to those who contributed to the collections.

Reception - It's a Party.



A total of £89.15 was raised for Nelson's Journey.

KS1 - A Midwife's Crisis



A total of £172.15 was raised for Nelson's Journey from their performance.

Nursery - Whoops A Daisy Angel



And a total of £28.15 was raised for the Children's Society.

KS2 SNACK MENU

Please note the cost of all drinks will increase to 40p from January 2018. The rest of the snack menu will remain the same: -

Monday - Toasted Crumpet - 20p

Tuesday - Oaty Biscuit - 30p

Wednesday - Cheese on Toast - 40p

Thursday - Buttered Toast - 20p

Friday - Pizza - 40p

Available to buy daily:-

Milk Carton, Bottled Water, Fruit Juice,

Milkshakes - 40p

Fruit - 30p

Bacon Roll (End of Term only) - 50p

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY/POPPY APPEAL

It was good to see so many of our pupils taking part with various organisations on this special day to lay wreaths at the war memorial.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal. We are pleased to say that £510.52 was raised from the Poppy collection in school.

RELIEF STAFF

We are looking for people who would like to go on our casual Midday Supervisory Assistant register to cover for staff absence. This would involve working between 12.00 and 1.00pm, as and when required, and you would need to be DBS checked. If you are interested, please collect an application form from the school office.

FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

24th December Carols by Candlelight
at St Mary's Church, Redenhall

4th January Back to School

9th January Y4 Swimming start

23rd January Y4-6 Sportshall Athletics at
UEA

24th January Y3-4 Sportshall Athletics

25th January YR Come and Play

29th January Y1 Step-on-it

31st January Nursery Come and Play
Y1 Step-on-it

6th February Y1/2 Gymnastic Competition at
TNAG

8th February Open Classrooms

12th February Half Term

19th February Back to School

19th February Parent Consultations

21st February Parent Consultations

22nd February Swimming Competition at UEA

26th February Y4 Off Road Cycling

28th February Cross Country Event at
Holkham Hall

KITCHEN ASSISTANT VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for a Kitchen Assistant to work in the school kitchen. The post is for 10.45am - 1.45pm Monday to Friday term time only.

For further information please call Rachel Parker on 07776 185838, or
Email: rparker@edwardsandblake.co.uk

Y6 HOLLOWFORD VISIT

The Year 6 children had a fantastic time on their residential trip to the Hollowford Centre, Castleton, Derbyshire. The visit provided the opportunity for the children to test their nerve and resilience through exciting activities: canoeing, zip wire, weaselling, high ropes and raft building. During the week, the children also walked up Mam Tor and enjoyed the panoramic view before walking down the 'broken road' of this 'shivering' mountain.

The Hollowford Centre staff could not have been more efficient or helpful and the food was delicious! The instructors provided excellent support, guidance and encouragement to all children and staff. The evenings were spent in a variety of ways including 'Quiz Night' and the incredible "Hollowford's Got Talent!" The top spot was taken by comedian Amelia Cook with her amazing, and hilarious, impressions of the teachers and teaching assistants.

The children's behaviour was impeccable; they were polite and thoughtful throughout the trip.

SWIMMING GALA

On Monday 30th October 2017 the Harleston Cluster Swimming Gala took place at Archbishop Sancroft High School Swimming Pool. Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 participated in the competition with children from 3 other local schools. Teams took to the water to compete in 4 events over the 25m distance; the events included Individual Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly with swimmers displaying amazing ability and technique throughout. These events were then followed by Freestyle Relays, Medley Relays and a spectacular Cannon Relay to finish the competition.

A girl and a boy from each school were presented with a special certificate to recognise the high level of determination/ encouragement they had shown throughout the morning's competition.

Thanks must go to Tim Millet who helped run the competition along with four sports leaders from Archbishop Sancroft High School who recorded times and had a tough job on the finish line with some very close races.

Congratulations to all competitors, 18 children have now qualified to represent the Harleston Cluster at the South Norfolk School Sport Competition at the UEA on Thursday 22nd February.

GO KART

Last year, we had great success in starting up a new STEM project from Greenpower. A team of selected pupils, named Harleston Hot-rods needed to build, design and race an electric go kart kit. Once our go kart was up and running we headed to the Ford Dunton Technical Centre in Basildon to race against other schools. Since the success of our first go kart team, we have been fortunate to secure funding from Harleston and District Angling Club, Harleston Co-Op and Harleston Grapevine which has enabled us to purchase another go kart. This new team, named HP Sauce, need to build their go kart whilst Harleston Hot-rods are working on body work design and aerodynamics. Thank you to those organisations that have been able to help us with the purchase and to Anthony Cain who donated his shed giving us more space to store parts and to work in. Look out for more news when we have built both of them!

SWIMMING REMINDER

Next half term, all Year 4 children will be swimming at Archbishop Sancroft High School.



Please make sure your child has their swimwear in school each Tuesday. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £3 towards the cost of the coach for the whole half term. This may be paid for using sQuid (our preferred method of payment).

COMMUNITY NEWS

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL TASTER SWIMMING LESSONS

For babies and children aged 3 months to 5 years - Free 30 minute taster session, Thursdays 12.00 - 13.30 pm at Diss Leisure Centre, from 7th December to 25th January (excluding 21st and 28th December).

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF

The Great British Bake Off is looking for the UK's best home bakers to enter the tent. Applications are now open for the 9th series. Visit: applyforbakeoff.co.uk

END OF TERM

Please note that TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2017 IS THE LAST DAY OF TERM.

The Spring term starts for pupils on THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2018 (Wednesday, 3rd January is a Staff Training Day).

The Governors and Staff wish you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

