



# Harleston CE Primary Academy

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Diocese of Norwich  
St Benet's  
Multi Academy Trust

11th February 2022

Dear families,

It wasn't my intention to write another newsletter before the end of this half term but I felt compelled to do so as a result of the fabulous work that has gone on in school this week to recognise Children's Mental Health Week.

The children have engaged in the activities in a really positive and open-minded way, whether that be through collective worship, yoga sessions, messages to one another, Dress to Express day or simply in the way they have spoken so articulately. Huge thanks needs to go to Mr Stagg and all of the staff for their efforts and endeavours; hopefully it has helped the children to realise that health is as much mental as it is physical.

I was also thrilled to welcome some four-legged friends into school yesterday. Previously our younger children had heard a talk about guide dogs for the blind and as a result our reception staff decided collectively to organise a fundraising event to go towards funding the training for a guide dog. The fundraising event took place which started with a visit from one of our pupil's grandmas, Winnie her guide dog and two other members of the local guide dog association along with Stamp, who is training to be a guide dog and Vinnie, an ambassador guide dog. The year 1 and nursery children joined us in the hall to learn about what it's like to be blind and the children then completed their task of their sponsored bike/scooter ride. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for your generosity - we are busy counting the final total.

A question has been raised with regards to when children go to the toilet in school. We encourage the children to go at break and lunch time, though we do of course allow children to go during lesson time too. Obviously we don't want too much learning to be disrupted by this and there are times we ask them to wait until a key piece of instruction in a lesson has been given. We certainly would not intend for children to miss the majority of their playtime as a consequence of going to the toilet. If you do have any questions about this then please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

Many of you are already signed up to Class Dojo and the feedback we have received is positive. After half term the class newsletters will be delivered via this platform, so if you have not already done so then we would encourage you to access Dojo.

You will receive log-in details to sign up for the online parents consultation evening at the end of the day today. If you experience any difficulties in signing up then please make contact with the school office when we return after the half term break.

Many thanks

Best wishes

Mark Carlyle