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Newsletter
Wednesday 21st March 2018

KS2 Residential Trip to Horstead Activity Centre

A big well done to all the children who went to Horstead Activity Centre. It was a hugely positive and rewarding experience for everybody who went. The children learned so much: from being more independent, conquering fears, thoroughly enjoying the activities and taking away valuable lessons in life. One example was how important working together as a team is in order to complete a challenge that you cannot do by yourself.



Step on It Training

Well done to all the children in Heron's Class for completing their 'Step On It' Pedestrian training. The children took on board the importance of Stopping, Looking and Listening. They were also trained to keep an eye out for lights on cars that show they are reversing and to try to find safe places to cross. Let's hope the cars around school are driving at a sensible speed so that the children walking to and from school can feel safe.

Caring For Our Community - Dropping Off and Picking Up From School

I have recently had a very upsetting email from a parent of the school. She has had some very near misses with her child on both the walk to school and at collection time in the afternoon.

The parent's main issue is that some people are still speeding near to the school, despite the large number of parked cars in the surrounding roads. With an offset crossroads close to the school gates, both cars and pedestrians will be arriving from every direction. It is no place to be speeding to or from school. If you had to drag your child into the bank to avoid a speeding car then my thoughts would be that you wouldn't be liking the situation either.

We are a small community who should be caring for each other. This includes giving both drivers and pedestrians' equal respect. In such a small community, I will get to hear who the main perpetrators are and will speak to you directly if needs be. In the meantime, I will be contacting the local police to see if we can get some spot checks in place.

Use some common sense and SLOW DOWN!



School Facebook Page



My initial response to the school Facebook page is that it has been an instant success. For those with access to it, it certainly helped to keep parents fully informed of the school's position during our recent cold spell and heating oil theft. It also helped to reassure anxious parents of residential trip children that all was well and they were very pleased to see photos up on the same day. If you have any other ideas how we can make it even better, please share your thoughts.

If you haven't already signed up to the school Facebook page, Mrs Saunders has a form in the office which you can fill in. You will not be able to search for the page as it is a closed group and only accessible to the members we have added. It is important to sign up with the school form as this contains information about consent to publish pictures. We would never wish to publish pictures of a child on the Facebook pages whose parental consent was not given.

Term Dates

Thursday 22nd March 2018 - Mr Edwards to take one week of paternity leave

Monday 26th March - Cluster KS1 Football Skills event at Fairhaven School

Monday 26th March - Y6 SATs Meeting

Tuesday 27th March Y6 Easter Egg Hunt/Party at Acle Academy 5:00 - 7:00

Wednesday 28th March - Cluster Film Festival at Cinema City

Wednesday 28th March - Peter Rabbit's Easter Lunch

Wednesday March 28th - Last day of Spring Term

Monday 16th April - Summer term starts for children

Monday 16th April - Y3/4 Seatbelt Safety Talk

Tuesday 17th April - Class and School Photos

Thursday 26th April - KS1 Sports Hall Challenge

Monday 7th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd May - KS2 Football tournament

Friday 25th May - Y6 Crucial Crew Trip

Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June - Summer Half-term Week

Thursday 7th June - Y6 Tea Party at Acle Academy

Thursday 14th June - Cluster Song and Dance Event at the Open 6:30 Start

Tuesday 26th June - School Sports Day

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th June - On Road Cycling Proficiency

Thursday 5th July - Cluster Sports Day at UEA

Monday 9th July - Transition Day

Tuesday 10th July - Y6 Parent Information Evening at Acle Academy

Wednesday 11th July - School Summer Fete

Tuesday 24th July - Leavers Assembly and Last Day of Term

Sport Relief 2018

To mark Sport Relief, this Friday the children can come into school in their sportswear for a £1 donation. Through the day, the children will be taking part in a carousel of sporting events. The emphasis will be on getting active, with the older children fully supporting the younger members of the school community.



Fundraising



Some pupils have already begun fundraising for Sport Relief. Grace Powell, Aimee Burgess and Joyce Powell have raised a fantastic £82.50 so far from selling bookmarks, sweet bags and cakes. They will be fundraising through the week so keep some change handy in order to snap up some goodies for a great cause. Great job, girls.

Country Dance Event

On Thursday 22nd March, a group of KS2 children will be going to the cluster Country Dance event. This is a lovely part of the cluster program, celebrating traditional dancing and is accompanied by a full on spread of food (a lot of the children last year said how great the food was!) I know Miss Spaul is looking forwards to this and cannot wait to see the children in action.

Tag Rugby

Two teams competed at the cluster Tag Rugby competition. It was a tough day for both teams, the size of our school putting us at a huge disadvantage compared to the other schools taking part. Both teams played with enthusiasm and gave it everything with the Y5/6 team managing to gain a win from their games. The children still enjoyed playing and scored many tries during the games.

Cluster Poetry Festival

We had some amazing performances at this year's Poetry Festival. The children worked extremely hard to achieve some excellent results. Heron's Class came away with two bronzes and a silver award for their performances. Owl's class secured a silver and two gold standard awards; Lana King excelled with her performance of 'I'd rather not tell' by David Orm and the class gave a brilliantly funny recital of the poem 'Parent's Evening' by Roger Stevens. Otter's class received a bronze, two silvers and a gold - the class had perfected their performance of 'Magic of the Mind,' and thoroughly deserved their gold award. Well done to everybody who took part. It was a great way to build confidence, performing in front of such a large audience.

PFA Fundraising Events

Our PFA are always supporting the school in lots of ways. They have plans in place to provide a small Easter treat for each child and are hoping to stage a few events during the Summer Term. One fundraiser being proposed is a sponsored walk combined with a tea party to celebrate the Royal Wedding. The date for this has not been confirmed yet as it is a very busy time of the year and we wish to keep disruption to children's learning to a minimum.

I am sure there will be other events in the pipeline like a quiz night and the end of term will see the leavers' assembly and leavers' BBQ - a lovely way to finish the year. It will also signal the end of two very important PFA members time, as their children move up to Acle Academy.

Mrs Jo Belton and Mrs Suzanne Burgess will be greatly missed when that time comes and now would be a great time to get on board with the PFA to see what they do and how they support the school. In times of great austerity that schools have found in recent years, the PFA can help to provide funding to enable a range of events to take place.

Watch this space for more information on upcoming events.

In the meantime, if you are interested in joining the PFA, please speak to Mrs Wall (Grace and Joyce's mum), Mrs Belton (Talya's mum), Mrs Burgess (Aimee's mum) or Mr Bass (Isobel's dad).

SATs Meeting for Parents of Y6 Children

The children in Y6 will be taking their Y6 SATs during the week beginning 14th May. At 3:30 on Monday 26th March, Miss Spaul and Mrs Bethell will be holding a meeting for parents of children in Y6 to go over what this means for the children. They will also share some handouts with parents during the meeting. These are designed to help parents to support learning in the run up to the tests. Results are obviously important, but I cannot emphasise enough the fantastic attitude this Year 6 cohort of children have taken to pushing themselves in school to do well. I hope their hard work pays off when the results come back in July.

Paternity Leave

This will be my last message for the term as I am taking a week's paternity leave to be with my wife and our new arrival. The school is in very safe hands with Mrs Bethell and all of the rest of our wonderful staff. If there are any issues that you feel need to be resolved or discussed, please see Mrs Bethell (or Miss Spaul if it is a class based issue) after school and they will be more than happy to listen to your concerns. Cover has been arranged for my morning lessons when the children are not taking part in cycling proficiency or attending the cluster film festival at Cinema City.

STEPS Training

This week all our staff completed the second part of a STEPs refresher training course. This is a philosophy we have been following in school for a long time to deal with children's behaviour in a positive and pro-active way. Having topped up our skills we feel able to manage children safely and calmly, helping them to reflect on their behaviour choices. If you are interested, there are opportunities to take part in STEPs training as a parent. Please look online for details.

Job Vacancy - Clerk to the Governors

Our Clerk to the Governors, Jan Farrar, is leaving her position which means we are looking for a replacement. This position has been advertised on the Norfolk Schools Job Vacancies website. If you are interested, please visit the website or ask Mrs Saunders in the office for an application form. If you would like to know more details about the role, speak to Mr Joe Kilner, our Chair of Governors.

Holiday Club

Jane Cooper is running a holiday club during the Easter holiday between Monday 9th April and Thursday 12th April. If you would like child care for these times, speak to Jane in the Little Ducklinas Pre-School.

Familiar Face Returning

Miss Angel will be returning to Heron's Class on April 30th to complete her teacher training over the Summer Term.