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Newsletter – Autumn 2 - 2019

Staffing updates

Goodbyes....

We would like to wish Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. James all the best as they start their maternity leave this term. We will let you know as soon as we hear from them regarding their new arrivals. Talking of babies, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Palmer on the birth of her daughter Brooke Evelyn Jude who was born on 30th November weighing 8lb 9oz. We wish her and her new family all the best for the future. We would also like to wish Miss Gilbert good luck as she starts her new job at another school in January. She has worked at Horsford, Holt Road site for a number of years so will be sadly missed by all.



Mrs. Linford

Hellos....

Mrs. Law and Mrs. Linford have joined our Y5/6 teaching team. Mrs Law will be teaching 56J (which will now be called 56L!) for the rest of the academic year. Mrs Linford will be teaching Mrs James' Y5 maths and English sets.



Mrs. Law

Parent Communication

Parent App Connect

Thank you for persevering with us during these first few weeks of using the Parent App. We know there have been some teething problems and we hope to have these ironed out in time. Most of you are now “active” users of the app which means we can keep you up to date with events, notices and letters. You can also inform us of your child’s absence. We are hoping to move completely away from paper letters and consent forms by the end of the year. As you know, the PTA have decided to fund this app as a way of helping parents stay up to date with school news, so we really would like to try and get every parent using it. We have had some excellent feedback from those that have been using the app to say that it is really helping them stay in touch with school life. Please do make sure that you have allowed notifications on the app under your settings tab on your phone for Parent App Connect otherwise you will miss out on news as it is uploaded. If you are not able to download the app or are experiencing other problems, please let Mrs. Kirton or Mrs. Richardson know. If you don’t have access to a mobile phone, all letters etc will be uploaded to our website.



Parent planner for Spring Term

The parent planner has been completed for the Spring Term. The dates will be added to the app over the holidays, but notifications will not be sent to avoid annoying you! You will be able to see a list of the events by clicking on this tab on the app.

Sporting events:

KS2 Football Matches

Congratulations to the football teams for their participation in their league and cup games this term. Thank you to Mrs Cooke and Mr Jappy for running the teams again. Here are the results:

League games: Y6 boys vs Firside: 3-5; Sprowston vs Y6 boys: 2-2; Kinsale vs Y6 boys: 1-1; Y6 boys vs Hillside: 2-3; Falcon vs Y6 boys: 2-1; West Earlham vs Y5/6 girls: 0-1; Y5/6 girls vs St Williams: 0-7; Y5/6 girls vs Poringland : 4-0

CUP games: Y5 boys vs St Williams: 1-1. Extra time: 1-1 Penalties: 1-2

Cross country

A huge well done to everyone involved in both cross country races that took place on Thursday 21st November. The children took part with great spirit and enthusiasm and we saw some really competitive running too. Thank you to the parents who came to support the children too – it really makes the event special. Congratulations to Blickling who came first across both sites and to the following children:



<p>Y3/4 girls' race</p> <p>1st – Brooke 2nd – Sophie 3rd – Macey</p> 	<p>Y5/6 girls' race</p> <p>1st – Chloe 2nd – Talia 3rd – Grace</p> 
<p>Y3/4 boys' race</p> <p>1st – James 2nd – William 3rd – Kieran</p> 	<p>Y5/6 boys' race</p> <p>1st – Hayden 2nd – Douglas 3rd – Harry</p> 



Nebula events

Earlier in the term our Mill Lane site hosted two Nebula events: tag rugby for KS2 and multi-skills for KS1. Both events ran brilliantly under the expert eye of the coaches from the Community Sports Foundation. The children had a lovely time competing against the other schools in the Nebula Federation and were a credit to us, showing excellent sportsmanship and determination. Well done to all involved.

Hellesdon High School – Y2 multiskills event

The year two children enjoyed taking part in the Multi-skills event at Hellesdon High school. They took part in balancing activities, relay races, basketball and dribbling between cones. One of our teams came first across all events! A great time was had by all.

Extra-curricular experiences

Y5 Shakespeare In Schools Festival



Some of our Year 5 pupils took part in the Shakespeare In Schools festival back at the start of November. As director, Mrs. James chose Hamlet as the play for this year and the children started off their rehearsals by getting to know the plot. The children all worked really hard learning the Shakespearian language so they knew how to accentuate the words and provide appropriate actions. The children were really nervous on the day of the live performance at Norwich Playhouse but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A huge thank you to Mrs. James for all of her hard work in preparing the children for their big day.

Horsford Y5/6 residential visit to Thorpe Woodlands

59 pupils from our Year 5 and 6 visited Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre, in Thetford Forest, last month. The weather was cold and wet but that didn't stop them having an amazing time! The children took part in a range of adventures including: zip wire, climbing, canoeing, biking, tree trekking, caving and archery. They were encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zones and they rose to the challenges superbly! They also enjoyed the night walk in the forest, scavenger hunt and campfires each evening. The children were a credit to the school and a pleasure to spend time with.



Reception Teddy Bears' Hospital visit

The children enjoyed our visit from the Teddy Bears' Hospital. They learnt about the different parts of the body, gave first aid to their teddy by exploring with different equipment (bandages, plasters), made stethoscopes and learnt about how to keep their bodies healthy.



KS1 Fire Engine visit

Our KS1 children were also visited this term by the fire service. They learnt about some of the things the fire fighters are called out for and got to experience first hand how swift their responses are, because they actually had to leave us earlier than planned to go and help someone in trouble!



Christmas celebrations

Y3/4 Church Advent

On Monday 2nd December Year 3/4 attended an Advent celebration at Horsford Church. They brought their handmade white decorations, which they placed on the tree and Reverend Margaret told them all about Advent and why this time of year is so special to Christians. The staff were given figures of Mary & Joseph to return to the school with. Mary & Joseph have travelled around the school, visiting each classroom on their Posada journey throughout the school. Mary & Joseph will return to Horsford Church when we have our school carol service there on Monday 16th of December, at 4pm. We hope you can join us.



Christmas Performances

On Monday 9th December Year 3/4 performed their Christmas show. This was a traditional retelling of the story of the first Christmas, complete with readings from The Bible and songs, many of which included solo or duet singing. Thank you to the staff and children for a wonderful performance and to the parents and family members who came to watch.



On Friday 13th December our Reception children also did an amazing job telling the story of the first Christmas in their nativity play. Thank you again to all our staff who helped the children rehearse to present us with such a wonderful performance.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped create gifts and volunteered to run a stall on the day. We raised an amazing £1058! We apologise for the congestion in the hall but unfortunately we didn't find out until 10 minutes before the fayre started that the snow dome could not go outside. As you can see from the photo the children really enjoyed having the dome this year, so we will have to see if we can make some alterations to accommodate it more successfully if we have it again next year. Some parents have fed back to us to say that it was too crowded in the hall, so looking forward, we may have to think about only running the fayre for Mill Lane children to attend and perhaps having something different for the Holt Road children. It would be lovely to run a fayre at both sites, but we feel this would be too much of a strain for the PTA to do. If you have any suggestions, please come along to our next PTA meeting on Monday 20th January at 6pm at Mill Lane.



Musical events

Rocksteady Concert

The Rock Steady Bands at Holt Road performed at their very own Christmas Concert on Thursday 12th December. The children all enjoyed showcasing their musical skills and playing their favourite Christmas songs. We listened to three bands perform, The Rocky Rockers, Girl Power and The Mini Rockers. They were all fantastic and parents were thrilled to see the progress the children have made. Our bands from Mill Lane will also be performing on the last day of term and we are sure they will do an amazing job too!



Singing club

Mr. Patient took the singing club to Horsford Village Hall earlier this term to sing to some of our local residents in collaboration with Extra Hands, a company that specialises in social care to enable people to stay independent in their own homes for as long as possible. The children were a credit to our school and really helped to get the residents into a Christmassy mood by singing a range of traditional Christmas Carols. On Monday 16th December they will be visiting Grenville Court Care Home in Horsford to continue to spread the Christmas cheer, accompanied by Reverend Margaret.

Mill Lane Music Concert

This term's music concert took place on Wednesday 11th December. Some of the children who have piano lessons at school took part along with some children who are in singing club. At the end, all children were invited to stand at the front and lead a performance (which included the audience) of The Twelve Days of Christmas. The concert was a great success and thanks must go to Mrs. Sadler for preparing the children for the concert.

Charity events

Children In Need



Thank you to everyone who donated for Children In Need. We raised an amazing £207 through our cover Pudsey campaign. Our Y6 ambassadors had great fun laying out the coins.

Foodbank donations

At Mill Lane our classes have been running a competition to see who can bring in the most donations for Norwich Foodbank. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity and as you can see we have collected an amazing amount of items to add to their stock in the run up to Christmas. Well done to 34P who won the class competition. Thank you!



Attendance

Here are the class attendance figures for this half term:

Miss Thurston	96.66%
Mr. Neave	93.31%
Miss Allan	93.97%
Miss McIntyre	94.16%
Mr. Allen	92.43%
Miss Smith	90.28%
Mr. Sidy	95.74%
Mrs. Pratt	96.83%
Miss Blyth	96.45%
Mrs. Law	94.6%
Ms. McMurray	93.17%
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.32%



Well done to Mrs. Pratt's class who have the highest attendance for this half term. Children will be receiving their individual 100% attendance awards on the last day of term.

Non uniform day

Don't forget we will also be having our end of term non uniform day on Wednesday 18th December. The school council have agreed that the children can also fundraise for Save the Children by wearing a Christmas jumper on this day if they wish. We are asking for a donation of £1, with proceeds being split between Save the Children and our PTA.

Thank you all for your support throughout this term. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 6th January.

Best wishes

J Kirton *Anatola*

Mrs. Kirton & Miss Anatola