



Nebula
where stars are born

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Newsletter – Spring 1 - 2020



Time flies....

Where has that half term gone? The last six weeks seem to have flown by, but we have certainly utilised the time well, engaging the children in their new topics and consolidating key skills before moving on to new ones. A lot of interventions tend to take place during the Spring term as the children have had a chance to settle into their new year group and can now focus on their next steps. You can read about some of these interventions below.

Staffing updates

Congratulations....

We would like to say congratulations to Mrs James and Mrs Fuller who both gave birth to baby boys earlier this term. Mrs Fuller's son eventually arrived on 15th January, weighing a whopping 10lb 2oz. He has been named Lucas Alexander. Mrs James' son was born on 20th January, weighing 8lb 6oz and has been named Alfred William John. We wish them all the best with their new additions and look forward to them visiting us soon!

Parent Communication

Parents' evening online booking system

Hopefully you have been able to access our new online system for booking a parents' evening appointment for the first week back after the holiday. This meeting is probably the most important one of the academic year, as it gives you the opportunity to find out how well your child has been accessing the curriculum and what they need to do next to move on in their learning. If you haven't had a chance to make your appointment yet, there is still time. Follow the links below which will take you to the website.



Monday 24th February – for whole school - <https://parentevenings.parentapps.co.uk/horsford/24th-february-2020/>

Tuesday 25th February – for Mill Lane only - <https://parentevenings.parentapps.co.uk/horsford/25th-february-2020/>

Wednesday 26th February – for Holt Road only - <https://parentevenings.parentapps.co.uk/horsford/26th-february-2020/>



PTA

PTA

A big thank you to those parents who attended the PTA meeting earlier this term. Plans are well under way for events coming up this year. If you think you can offer help at any of these events please let our chair, Laura Broadbent, know. Mrs Parker has asked us to say a big thank you to those parents who have donated items to the Mill Lane haven lunchtime club. She has been overwhelmed with your generosity and knows that the children will be appreciative of the extra items to play with. The PTA have produced their own newsletter this term so please have a read of that to see what is happening next term.

Thank you for the wonderful chocolate egg donations that have come into today. We are very thankful for your generosity. They will certainly be great additions to our Easter fayres that are coming up later next half term.

PE kits

Please can we ask parents to ensure that their child has the correct PE kit in school for their PE lessons. After half term at Mill Lane, the children will be going outside so will need a different jumper and, if needed, tracksuit bottoms. A change of footwear will also be needed as the field may be muddy and so footwear worn inside school cannot be used for PE. Mrs Cooke is having to lend a lot of kit out to children in Y3/4 at the moment so we would appreciate parents support in helping them to have their own kit in school each week.

Interventions

Y3/4 Reading

We are very privileged to have several adults who volunteer to come and read with the children each week. Some simply spend time hearing the children read and giving them guidance on how they can improve their speed, intonation and comprehension. Others follow specific intervention programmes such as Reading Pathways, which focuses on key reading skills such as helping children to decode and blend letters. We are always looking for more volunteers to help support the children's reading, so if you think you may be able to give us just an hour of your time a week, please let your child's class teacher know and we will contact you.



Y5/6 GOAL

One of our Year 5/6 classes has started a programme called Game Of Actual Life (GOAL) as run by Premier Education. This is an intervention which provides the children with the opportunity to gain confidence with money in everyday situations while giving them invaluable life skills which will stay with them into their adult life. During the sessions the children have the opportunity to talk about what job they might want to have when they are older, what house they might like to live in and where they might like to go on holiday. The children then work together in groups to "earn" money based on how well they approach tasks set. It is a really focused way to see how their collaborated efforts in work-related tasks directly impact on what they can achieve in the own life.

Y5/6 Premier League Primary Stars Programme

Some of our year 5 and 6 children have been accessing maths and English interventions this term through the Norwich Community Sports Foundation Premier League Primary Stars Programme. Each week we are visited by Jake from NCFC who focuses on using the power of both the Premier League and Norwich City FC brands to inspire and engage pupils through high-quality delivery of lessons.



Extra-curricular experiences

Young Voices Concert at The O2

On Friday 24th January the Mill Lane Singing Club travelled to the O2 in London for the annual Young Voices concert. All children learnt the same songs before the concert and then spent the afternoon of the concert practising the songs as part of a massed choir in preparation for the evening's performance. Our school first took part in these concerts in 2012 and this year was the seventh time we had been. It was just as enjoyable and memorable as previous years have been. The children started preparing for the



concert last October. Some of the songs were well known, such as the Pop Medley and selections from musicals. One of the children's favourite pieces included 'Ghostbusters'! Other songs were new to everyone. On the day of the concert, after stopping at Birchanger Services for lunch, we arrived at O2 in good time for the afternoon rehearsal, along with almost 9000 other children. We spent time singing with the band and with the special guest stars - including Urban Strides Street Dance, who perform each year, and Tony Hadley, who was in Spandau Ballet and who took part last year as well. During the break between the rehearsal and the performance, the audience started arriving and, in the distance, we could just make out parents and friends from Horsford. At 7p.m. the concert started, and we had two hours of

music, amazing lighting effects and even audience participation. It did not seem very long before the concert was finished. After waiting for the signal to leave our seats, we eventually arrived back at the coach for the journey back to school, arriving just before 1a.m. Everyone was very tired, but all agreed that it had been a day which will be remembered for many years. Well done to all the children for their commitment to learning the songs and thank you to parents for their encouragement. A huge thank you must also go to Mr Patient who has worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the children were ready to take part and that the arrangements for the day went as smoothly as they did!



Year 1/2 Book Shop Visit

Our KS1 children have been taking trips into Norwich this half term as part of our reading for pleasure initiative. Each group have started their journey at The Forum, exploring the library and focusing on what they like about it and what its purpose is.

The children have then had the opportunity to visit 'Book Bugs and Dragons' Book shop where they got to share stories and then pick a book to take back to our Holt Road library. Thank you to the PTA who have helped fund these books as part of last year's fundraising.



Year 1/2 First aid training

On Friday 14th February, our Year 1 and 2 children attended a first aid course led by The Royal Life Saving Society. The children learnt basic first aid skills, such as how to apply and use bandages for cuts, as well how to perform CPR. They also watched videos to help explore when it is and isn't appropriate to call 999 for an emergency. The children were all awarded with a certificate at the end of their training.



Y6 Visit to Hellesdon High for Sister Act

Last week, Year 6 were treated to the annual dress rehearsal viewing of Hellesdon High School's drama production. This year the students performed a version of the well-known film, Sister Act. As always, the acting and singing was outstanding! Our children were amazed by the set and smooth set changes, and it was lovely to see some of our former pupils taking on big roles. Hopefully our year 6 children were inspired and have taken on lots of acting tips and ideas ready for our own production in July.

Sporting events:

Nebula Cross Country Race

On Wednesday 5th February our Mill Lane site hosted the annual Nebula cross country race, where we saw children from Hainford, Frettenham, St Faiths', Old Catton and White Woman Lane Schools in Years 1-6 compete against children from our school. The weather was good to us thankfully and the leaders from the Community Sports Foundation were very complimentary about all of the children who took part. Congratulations and well done to all of our children that took part, in particular to Brooke (Y4), Macey (Y3), James (Y4) and William (Y4) who came in the top three for their races.

KS2 Football Matches

The Y5/6 girls' football team have continued their participation in the league and cup games this term.

League games: Y5/6 girls vs Woodland View: 2-4 (Moulton, Barrett) Y5/6 girls vs Taverham: 0-0

Cup games: Firside vs Y5/6 girls: 6-0

Attendance

Here are the class attendance figures for this half term:

Miss Thurston	96.46%
Mr. Neave	96.29%
Miss Allan	94.92%
Miss McIntyre	96.01%
Mr. Allen	95.95%
Miss Smith	92.4%
Mr. Sidy	95.73%
Mrs. Pratt	96.46%
Miss Blyth	94.97%
Mrs. Law	94.74%
Ms. McMurray	96.16%
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.44%



Well done to Miss Thurston's class who have the highest attendance for this half term. Children will be receiving their 100% attendance certificates on the first day back after half term.

Have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes

J Kirton Anatola

Mrs Kirton & Miss Anatola