



Executive Head: Ashley Best-White
Executive Deputy Head: Kirsty Anatola
Mill Lane Site, Horsford, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 3ES
Tel: 01603 897938
Head of School: Tanya Kirton
Holt Road Site, Horsford, Norwich NR10 3DN
Tel: 01603 898348
Head of School: Kirsty Anatola
Email: office@horsford.norfolk.sch.uk (Holt Road)
finance@horsford.norfolk.sch.uk (Mill Lane)

Newsletter – Autumn Term: Friday 18th October 2019

Welcome back



We have had a very busy start to the term and the new school year and have enjoyed welcoming all our children back to Horsford CE VA Primary School. This year we have also welcomed Miss Smith (pictured left) to our teaching team. She has joined us in Year 3/4 at Mill Lane and will be covering Mrs Fuller's maternity leave full time from Monday 11th November. We are thrilled she has chosen to embark on her teaching career with us. Mrs Smith (no relation and pictured right) has joined our support staff at Mill Lane too, and although she has only been with us for a couple of weeks, she has already become an invaluable part of our team. Again, we are very lucky that she has chosen to give her wealth of experience to help support the children of Horsford Primary. As

well as new staff, we have enjoyed welcoming in our new Reception children this term. They have joined the school full of enthusiasm and have settled into the school routines and expectations very well. They have been especially proud to share their classroom and learning with their parents during our Stay and Play sessions.



Parent App

Hopefully most of you will have received an invite via your email to download and log in to our new Parent App Connect. Thanks to the PTA, we have been able to introduce this new method of communicating to parents. We hope that all our parents will choose to use this App, but we will continue to upload letters and newsletters onto our website for those that do not wish to. We will continue to send texts through our Pupil Asset system if and when needed but will no longer be sending the weekly updates via the Pupil Asset email. If we do not have an up to date email address for you, please let us know. Thank you to those parents that have already downloaded and activated the app. They will see that we have added events and letters to the tabs and that there is a range of other useful tabs for parents to use. Please let us know if you think we could add anything else to make home/school communication easier.



Nuts and nits

Please can we remind parents that our school is a nut free zone. This is because we have several children and staff members who have nut allergies. Therefore, please make sure that your children do not have Nutella, peanut butter or nut based chocolate/fruit bars in their packed lunches. Thank you.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of cases of nits in the school since starting back after the summer. Please follow the advice from the NHS website to ensure your child remains lice/nit free. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/skin-hair-and-nails/head-lice-and-nits#about-head-lice-and-nits>

Our Love of Reading

This year we are celebrating our love of reading. We have developed our school curriculum focusing on a variety of high-quality children's books, based around The Power of Reading, a programme which staff have had training on over the past year or so. We started this academic year with a two week reading project. This was run across all Nebula schools, and the children really enjoyed it. It concluded with the grand opening of our refreshed school library at Mill Lane. A huge thank you again to everyone involved with the PTA, whose money allowed us to invest in a revamp of the libraries on each site. At Mill Lane we have used this to overhaul the book selection we offer. This has been very popular with the children and we are excited to be able to offer a greater range of high-quality books to ignite their passion for reading. At Holt Road we invested in some furniture last year to make the library a cosy environment for the children to curl up with a book.



KS1 Nebula Multi-Skills event

Earlier in the term our younger children took part in an inter-school Multi-Skills event; fun was had by all exploring the different games and getting to know other children across the Nebula Federation. Well done to everyone involved, who all represented our school brilliantly. We are looking forward to some of our Year 3 and 4 children taking part in the Nebula Tag Rugby event next half term.



Year 5 Charley Charley 1, Challenger Bronze Programme

Further up the school Charley, Charley 1, a skills based extra-curricular opportunity for our Year 5 children, has been introduced. The children are enjoying the opportunity to develop life skills such as first aid and team building opportunities, again with other children from across the Nebula Federation. The programme will run throughout the year, with approximately 15 children from our school taking part each term.

Shakespeare In Schools Festival

Some of our Year 5 children are practising hard for their Shakespeare In School production, Hamlet, later this term. It is amazing to see them all learning the original language of Shakespeare and working together to bring the play to life with a once in a lifetime opportunity to perform on a proper stage in front of a paying audience! We are all looking forward to an evening at the Playhouse in November, watching children across the Nebula perform their versions of some of Shakespeare's plays. Break a leg everyone!



Hellesdon High school Y6 Science Fair

Students from Hellesdon High school visited our Year 6 children at the start of this term to host their annual science fair. Our children were given the opportunity to take part in science experiments and investigations whilst also learning about some of the activities they will have access to if they choose to go to Hellesdon High next year. We would like to remind parents of our Year 6 pupils, that the deadline for choosing their High School place is Thursday 31st October.

Horsford Church links

Reverend Margaret continues to support the school this year and works with us to develop the link between our school and Horsford Church. Recently we celebrated Harvest Festival with a whole school assembly and a collection of donated food for the local Food Bank. Thank you to all the parents that helped to walk the younger children up from Holt Road. Next half term Reverend Margaret will be visiting both sites to run a values day which will focus on developing the children's understanding of our three core values: responsibility, compassion and courage.



Attendance Update

Well done to those children who achieved 100% attendance for this first half term, they will be receiving their certificate in Celebration Assembly on Monday 28th October when we return from the holidays. We will also be celebrating class attendance awards, with the winning classes from Holt Road and Mill Lane receiving reward time, to be arranged with their class teacher. As an overall school we have an attendance of 95.72% this half term. Thank you for continuing to help us strive towards a higher attendance rate.

Golden Books

We have started this year with a new system for celebrating our pupils' amazing achievements. Each teacher has a "golden book" and uses it to showcase outstanding pieces of work for pupils in their class. During our Monday celebration assemblies, the teachers share any pieces of work that they have collected in their golden book over the past week. It has been lovely to see so many examples of children achieving their targets and showing pride in their work. We can already see that we will be needing more golden books before the end of the year! We will be displaying our golden books during our assertive mentoring parents' evenings (during the first week back after the holiday), so do come and have a look at them if you know your child had their work chosen this half term.



PTA events

A huge thank you to the PTA for arranging the different fundraising events for us this year. It was lovely to see some many children dressed in the array of colours today when they arrived at school. It certainly brightened up the rainy start. Thank you to those parents and children who donated items for their class hampers. Here is just one example from a class at Mill Lane. They are going to be great for our Christmas Fayre on Friday 29th November! Your child should have brought home their Christmas Card design this week for you to place an order if you wish. Please make sure these are back to us by Friday 1st November.

Have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 28th October.

Best wishes

JJ Kirton Anatola

Mrs Kirton & Miss Anatola