



Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

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Wednesday 14th March 2018

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- Talking to your children
- Meet the staff
- Friends of Freethorpe
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- Bewilderwood Trip
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- Mother's Day poetry

It has been fantastic to spend time looking at all the exciting teaching and learning that has been taking place in school over the last couple of weeks. This half term always disappears very quickly but it is amazing how much work the children manage to complete. However, at home you don't always get to hear about it because we often hear the response "Fine" when we ask how school the day has been!

It is sometimes challenging to find the way into a conversation about what has happened during the school day in a way that that allows the children to share all the positive experiences they have been part of. However, here are a few alternative questions that you could use to try out and discover more about what has been going on since you left the school gate first thing in the morning.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. Where is the best place in the school?
4. If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
5. How did you help somebody today?
6. How did somebody help you today?
7. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
8. When were you the happiest today?
9. Tell me something good that happened today.
10. What word did your teacher say most today?
11. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?



Meet the staff:

Rosie Maunder – Orange Class Teacher

I have worked as a teacher in Norfolk schools for nearly twenty years. I graduated from the UEA with a Sociology degree and stayed on to complete a PGCE. I started my career as a class teacher at Thurton Primary. I have also worked at Douglas Bader in Coltishall when it was a primary serving the RAF community there. This was very interesting due to the swift changes in families and children. We could have several new children per week and were frequently saying goodbye. When RAF Coltishall closed I moved to Brundall Primary and spent ten happy years there. I was part of the leadership team at Brundall and took on a variety of roles over time including Assessment lead, ICT Co-ordinator and SENCO. During my career I have taught every year group from Year 1 to Year 6. After having my daughter I reduced my hours to two days a week and enjoyed time at home with her. During this time I developed a program called Sensory Safari for babies and toddlers which I delivered at Acle Sure Start centre and led Baby Bounce and Rhyme time in the library. This was great fun and I particularly enjoyed working closely with parents during these sessions.



When the time came for Ellie, my daughter, to start school we particularly liked the warm welcome and vibrant, creative atmosphere that we experienced when visiting Freethorpe. I was delighted to be offered a part time post which meant that I started at Freethorpe as she joined Yellow class. I now teach four days a week currently based in Orange and Purple classes. This school year I have also taken on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). This means that I oversee the school's provision for our children with special educational needs. I work closely with the teaching staff to ensure that each child's particular needs are met and that we tailor our provision so that every child makes good progress with their learning. I run a Bricks club on Tuesday lunchtimes which is open to all KS2 children. A focus of this club is social communication, particularly turn taking and giving and following instructions. I have recently visited our local special school-John Grant- at Caister and am eager to implement some of the outstanding practice I observed there in our school. Look out for Sensory Circuits.

Currently our whole school attendance is

96%

Well done everyone, we have reached our target of 96%. Now let's see if we can do even better!



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Friends of Freethorpe:

WIN an Amazon **ECHO TOUCH** - yesterday we put out the board to win one of these fab Alexa products. at just £1 a square, why not try your luck next time your in school. Just see the office! the draw will take place at the Easter Fayre, next Friday.

Raffle tickets will be coming home with an assortment of prizes to be won, if you and your family/friends are unable to sell the tickets we would appreciate them being returned to the office if possible. The draw will take place around 3pm at the Easter Fayre next Friday. Please accept our apologies for the lateness in getting these home to you.

We are holding an egg decorating competition for any child to take part in next Thursday 22nd March. Empty eggs can be decorated in any style you would like, or why not try making a family egg scene. The internet and Pinterest have a good selection of ideas if you are stuck. Please bring your eggs into school next Thursday with your £1 entrance fee. Winners will receive a certificate and a chocolate prize (freefrom will be available if your child wins and has a dietary requirement). Sam Buckley is kindly organising this competition, so if you have any queries, why not have a chat with her in the playground.

The Easter Fayre is next Friday at 2pm and we are looking forward to seeing you and your families there. We will be visited this year by Ed from Mini Monsters. Ed will be bringing some tarantulas, giant stick insects, giant land snails, Giant Millipedes, Hissing Cockroaches, a snake and a bearded Dragon. All animals except the Tarantulas are able to be handled by the children and if you're brave enough the adults as well!!! Other events include a treasure hunt to claim your free egg and lots of games and refreshments too. There is a donations box outside the office and if you're able to pop in a donation for the chocolate tumble or hamper, it is really appreciated by us.

Lastly, these events run to give our children fun things to experience and also to provide our children with items at school that they may not otherwise have. We can only run these events with your support not only with your donations and on the day attending the fair but in bringing everything together, so if you can spare some time on the day to bring a cake or biscuits for the refreshments table or to help set up or run a stall, even for half an hour, it would be really really really appreciated. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you that are able next Friday!

Easter Lunch Reminder:

We have already received some replies, but if you would like to order an Easter Dinner for you child please return the form to the office by Wednesday 21st March.

Bewilderwood Trip Reminder – Yellow, Red and Green classes:

The reply slips and voluntary contributions for the Bewilderwood trip are due in. Please complete and return the form and any payments to the office as soon as possible.



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Hilltop – 16th-18th March 2018:

We will be heading off to Hilltop at the end of the week for our rearranged residential trip. At present the forecast is looking favourable. However, please can you ensure that the children pack lots of layers so they can adapt their clothing for the activities and weather conditions. It is always advisable to have waterproof coats, trousers and shoes/boots, as the site is often wet at this time of year, even if we have no rainfall on the days we are there.

As we have mentioned previously, if the children bring spending money it is advisable to bring change rather than notes, and no more than £10. As some of the activities can be quite muddy it is a good idea to put some spare plastic bags or bin liners in so they can wrap up their dirty items easily.

A parentmail has already been sent home this week about medication. Please ensure that any form of medication that your child needs whilst away is handed in to the office with the completed form (available from the office). Children should not be keeping any medication in their suitcases: if they need to have inhalers, for instance, staff will ensure that they are kept with the children at all times, but not unsupervised in bags.

As the dates of the trip have changed some of the staff accompanying the trip have also changed. The following staff will be going to Hilltop with the children:

Mrs Houghton (trip leader), Mrs Kohler, Mrs Burns (Friday night), Mrs Maunder, Miss Webb, Mrs Ball, Mr Woodhouse, Miss Errington, Mrs Cunningham and Mr Read (governor).



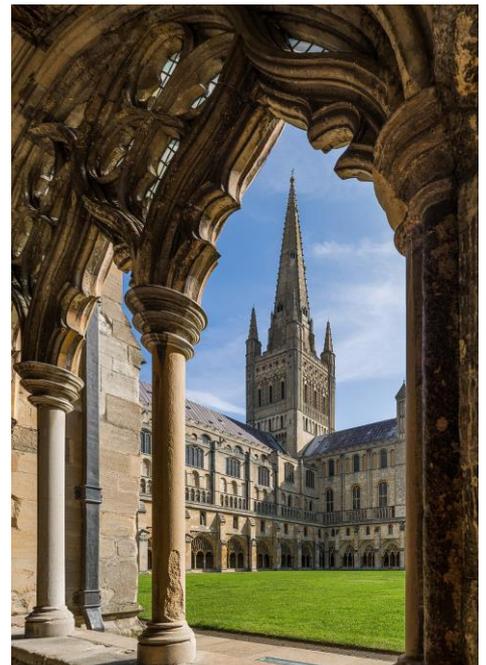
Reminder: as per newsletter of 28th Feb 2018

If you have any further questions or wish to speak to us about the visit please pop in to school or give us a ring. The children do not need to wear school uniform on Friday and bags can be brought in to school first thing. We will put them in the hall.

We will be leaving school at 3:15pm on Friday and returning on Sunday 18th at 2:15pm.

Cathedral workshop – Red and Green Class:

The children in Red and Green Class will be taking part in a workshop run by Norwich Cathedral on Wednesday 21st March. They will be learning about Easter and Lent. In school we have already talked briefly about Lent and how Mother's Day fits in with it – it is always the fourth Sunday of Lent. The children recognised that certain events and festivals always fall on the same date e.g. Christmas, whereas others change each year, like Easter. The Cathedral workshop will build on what the children already know and fits with their RE curriculum for the term.





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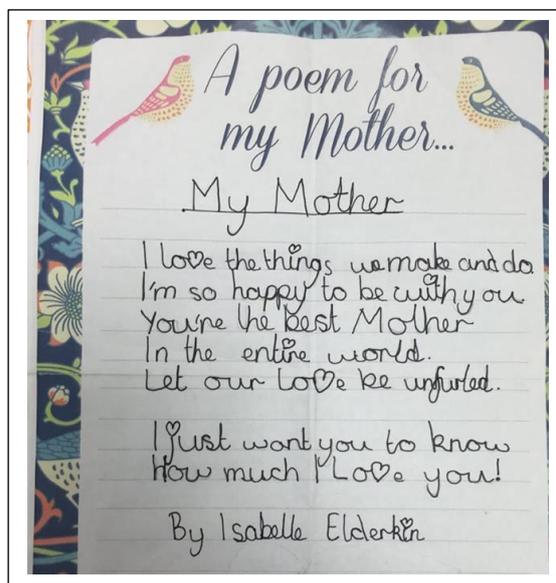
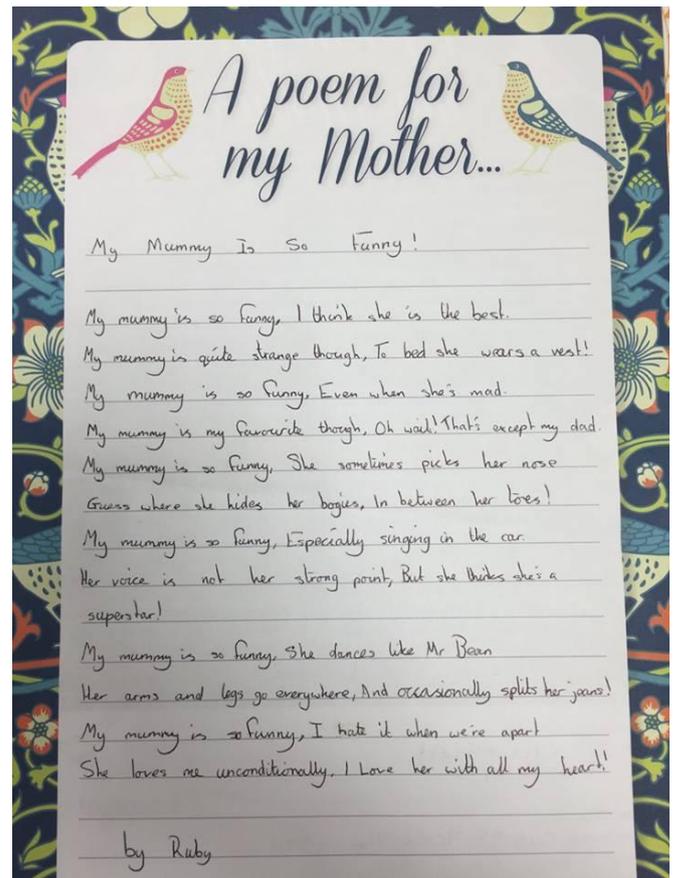
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Mother's Day poetry competition:

Market Gates shopping centre in Great Yarmouth ran a poetry competition earlier this month where children were encouraged to write poems about their mums, in time for Mother's Day. Children in both Orange and Purple Class sent in their poems and we were so impressed with their work. Ruby's poem was selected as the overall winner in the 8-11 category, no mean feat as there were over 420 entries! Full coverage of the event can be seen at:

<http://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/market-gates-shopping-cnetre-holds-mothers-day-poem-competition-1-5428374>

Enjoy reading this sample of poems from Freethorpe Primary!





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Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Friday 16 th -Sunday 18 th March	Rearranged Hilltop visit
Wednesday 21 st March	Red and Green Class Cathedral workshop in school
Thursday 22 nd March	Cluster Country Dance Party after school
Friday 23 rd March	Friends of Freethorpe Easter Fair
Friday 23 rd March	Orange Class Castle Museum trip
Monday 26 th March	Key Stage 1 Cluster Football
Tuesday 27 th March	Year 6 Easter Egg Hunt – Acle Academy, details to follow
Wednesday 28 th March	Cluster Film Festival
Wednesday 28 th March	Easter lunch
Tuesday 17 th April	Dogs Trust workshop in school
Wednesday 25 th April	Yellow Class farm visit – meet at Oaks Farm, Southwood at 9am.
Wednesday 25 th April	Wind in the Willows – visiting theatre group
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 21 st May	Year 6 level 2 cycling course taking place this week, details to follow
Thursday 7 th June	Year 6 Tea Party at Acle Academy, times tbc
Thursday 14 th June	Cluster Open Concert
Friday 29 th June	Sports Day and family picnic
Tuesday 10 th July	Year 6 Parents Information evening at Acle Academy
Thursday 12 th July	Yellow, Red and Green class Bewilderwood trip
Friday 13 th July	Choir performance at Freethorpe Methodist Chapel - evening
Tuesday 17 th and Wednesday 18 th July	Key Stage 2 Summer Production, including 2 evening performances at 7pm
Monday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers trip
Tuesday 24 th July	Leavers Assembly 10:30am

2017/18 Term dates:

Wednesday 28th March	3:30pm School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 16th April	8:45am School opens for Summer 1
Monday 7th	May Bank Holiday
Friday 25th May	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 4th June	8:45am School opens for Summer 2
Tuesday 24th July	3:30pm School closes for summer holidays