



# Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

Contact us: [office@freethorpe.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@freethorpe.norfolk.sch.uk) 01493 700215

Wednesday 16th January 2019

## Contents of this newsletter

- School Garden Update
- Cake Sale
- Gold post box
- Class updates
- PE Kit
- RSE Parents Forum
- Class of the Week and House Points
- Golden Work and Presentation Certificates
- School dates

Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to have a lovely Christmas break with your children, we are very pleased that everyone has returned refreshed and ready for learning in what is often the most productive time of the year for children at school. We are at a very important time of opportunity for our school at the moment, having completed the transition to a full federation with Cantley and Horning schools and you will be receiving an update about this very soon from our governing body.

I have recently received confirmation of funding for the upgrade of the craft block and we are now negotiating start dates for the works to Orange and Blue classes. Following this I will shift my focus to upgrading our computing resources, in particular the interactive white boards and lap tops.

We are entering a busy time of year for sports, both in school and across our cluster and I would like to add a further focus on our children (and ourselves!) being active, so we are working on a programme to encourage any form of healthy, active lifestyles outside of school. It has been lovely to see some of our children at the Norwich Junior Park Run on a Sunday morning - 9am start, Eaton Park, age 4 - 14, 2km, all for fun and completely free! This is also available at Gorleston every Sunday morning. I know a lot of our children also take part in other activities during their weekends and evenings and we will look at how we can reward and further encourage this. There has also been some firm interest in hosting another Race for Life event at school. This offers our children a really powerful combination of being active, working together and supporting an incredibly valuable charity and we are currently looking at possible dates for this later in the year.

As our children get older we want to encourage them to become as independent as possible and build their confidence in taking responsibility for themselves. We would like them to be able to come into class on their own in the mornings, but in Yellow class if you need to come in to help them with their belongings you can. We would like to have all of our children in class and ready for learning by 9am though, so please ensure if you happen to be later than this that you don't go into the classes. If you have any messages or anything that needs to be passed onto the class staff you can pass this via the office. We would also like to encourage you to use the communication books daily—these are the main sources of up to date information that class teachers receive about your child and help us to keep them safe, particularly at the end of the school day.

As ever, please feel free to see myself, Mrs Houghton or Mrs Branch if you need to about anything, happy Spring Term!  
Mr A...

### **News from the gardens:**

January is going to be a fairly busy month in the school gardens with planting flower bulbs, sowing seeds, pruning trees and keeping the school grounds neat and tidy. Purple class, with the help from the Year 1 pupils in Yellow class will be helping with these tasks this half term, so please remind the children to bring in their wellies and gloves if they have them.

Over the next month or so, the school will have yet another new addition to the vegetable garden. Now that all 12 raised beds have been made and matting has been laid, John Fleetwood will be designing and building a potting shed ready for Spring. Here, the children will learn skills of sowing different seeds, including flowers, how to look after them and how to transplant them when ready for the outside.

Donations:

A huge thank you to Tracey at B&Q Community re-use scheme for donating various packs of spring bulbs. Many of these will hopefully flower this year.



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### Jobs for January:

- Clean planting pots ready for seeds
- Prune apple and pear trees
- Start to force rhubarb
- Feed birds
- Continue to plant raspberry canes
- Harvest parsnips, leeks and Brussels

### Sow in trays or pots:

- Early cauliflower, carrot, leek, broad bean, chillies, onion and aubergine seeds, herbs
- Start chitting early potatoes



on-

### Sow in pots (flowers):

- Pelargoniums, sweet peas, dahlias, delphiniums, begonias, petunias and poppies

### Did you know?

- There are more micro-organisms in one teaspoon of soil that there are people on earth
- There are 34,000 different types of worm
- If worms are accidentally cut in half while gardening, only half will die. The piece with the "saddle" (fatter, pink part) will survive.



### Cake Sale:

Thank you very much for all the contributions to the cake sale held in school before Christmas. We made a fantastic total of £99.43.

### PGCE Students:

This term we have welcomed 2 PGCE trainee teachers from the UEA in to school. Miss Hornagold will be working in Orange Class and Miss Robertson will be working with Green

### Gold post box:

You may have seen that in the main entrance hall there is now a gold post box on the wall. This is where compliments can now be placed about the school and school staff. These compliments may be about things you have seen in and around school which you have been particularly impressed with e.g displays / learning activities or it may be a compliment about something your child has taken part in or a particular member of staff. We will regularly check the compliments box and will write the compliments in the school newsletter for you to enjoy and read. The aim of this initiative is to develop the giving of compliments in the whole school community which compliments our PATHS programme and models to the children the enjoyment of giving and receiving compliments.



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### Class updates:

This half term **Nursery** children are looking at the differences between fruit and vegetables. They will be investigating through sorting, painting and weighing. We will also be learning about 'healthy' and 'sometimes' foods. Nursery would like to thank everyone who supported our stall at the Christmas fayre, we have been able to purchase a new slide, which the children are thoroughly enjoying.

**Yellow class** have enjoyed practising our class poem to perform to the rest of the school later in the week. We have discussed using expression in our voices and we have been very impressed by the confidence shown by the children choosing to perform to the rest of the class.

As the term progresses, we will be discussing what contributes to our health and what our bodies need to be healthy. We will also be looking at the roles and occupations of people connected to helping us to stay healthy. If anyone has, or knows of anyone, who has a particular occupation they would like (or be willing!) to speak to our class about, please do let me know as we welcome opportunities for visitors to share their expertise and experiences with the children. We do encourage the children to drink water only in class so please support this with your children too.

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year, learning about the similarities and differences between communities and traditions including learning some Chinese Morning exercises. This links well to our Healthy Living topic and we will also be experiencing other fun ways to keep fit throughout the term.

We have been learning about money in **Green Class** so far this term. We have been very pleased with the amount of items we have received for our shop and the children will enjoy using these as part of role play linked to money.

This term, we will be learning about Norfolk's beaches and thinking about the environment and habitats. We will also be learning about performance poetry and continuing to develop our understanding of place value in maths. Children will be taking part in multi-skills sessions during this half term.

This half term, in **Red Class**, we will continue to be working on our calculations in maths. We will look at the best method to work out any calculation. In English, we have been learning poems off by heart and we will be writing our own poems. Then we will move on completing work about "The Green Ship" by Quentin Blake. In Religious Education we are learning all about Islam. We have learnt the 5 pillars of Islam and are currently designing our own prayer mats. In Topic we will start by looking at changes in Great Yarmouth in the last 100 years. If any one has any interesting stories they would like to share around this topic please let us know!





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**Orange class** have started the term with a mini topic about Islam. We are thinking about key beliefs and exploring how Muslims worship. We will be comparing how Muslims mark special events such as births and marriages to the ways these are celebrated by Christians. We will then start a geography topic and learn more about the continents of the world by learning more about a country in each continent.

**Blue Class** have had a very busy start to the spring term; the children have been learning poetry off by heart in preparation for the in house poetry festival on Friday. They are experts on cat names! They have also enjoyed reading the Highwayman by Alfred Noyes which is a narrative poem with a very tragic ending. Our topic for this half term is Islam and the children will be learning different ways Muslims put their religion into practice. After half term they will be starting their exciting topic on Popular Culture - more details to follow!

**Purple Class** are starting an exciting topic looking at the Vikings and discovering why they gained such a bad reputation. Viking sagas and storytelling will figure highly in our English writing with a focus on the nine worlds of Norse mythology. In Art we will be practising our sketching and shading skills with a focus on Viking themes- look out for our upcoming display! Our RE topic will explore some of the ways Muslims show commitment to their God and we will make comparisons to commitments we have in our own lives. In Design Technology we will undertake a series of challenges to build different structures out of paper.

### **Science Key Stage 2 for the Spring Term 2019**

This term we are working on a unit called "Plants and Photosynthesis". We will be using small microscopes to look more closely at parts of a plant, finding out why each part of the plant is important and how they interact. At home children could try planting seeds and recording how they grow, learn the names of some common wild and garden plants or look for signs of new growth as the Spring approaches



*Coming up... we will be exploring Venus Fly Traps!*

### PE Kit:

This term we will be continuing with both indoor and outdoor PE lessons. Therefore please can the children have a selection of suitable clothing and footwear in school all week. They can wear tracksuit trousers and a jumper when outdoors but inside should have shorts and t-shirt. Many thanks.



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### RSE Parent Forum:

From 2020, there will be changes to the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum within Primary Education with many elements of this becoming statutory within the Primary Curriculum (however please note parents will still have the right to withdraw their child from any element of the Sex Education curriculum if they wish). We already run a very successful SRE programme in school and have done so for several years however following recent training, we will be making adjustments to this scheme in relation to new published guidance and the launch of new resources. We will also be moving these lessons to suit the needs of our classes from the Summer term. We would like to share the ideas about these changes with parents/carers and will therefore be holding a **parents forum on Tuesday 29th January at 2.30pm** in the school library. This session will include information about the new scheme of work and the changes to the RSE curriculum. After this parents forum session class teachers will then start to timetable in RSE sessions from February half term until the end of the academic year, fitting with individual class timetables. If you are unable to make the parents forum session please do see Mrs Branch for further information about the proposed changes.



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Bure House were our overall team point winners for last half term. They reached a fantastic total of 1061 points. We are hoping to award even more points this half term though with 242 points already having been awarded to Thurne.

A big thank you to Mrs Cunningham who has made us cross stitch banners for our team point trophy to show which team are the current holders.



### Class of the Week:

Green Class – for superb art work

### House Points:

Week ending 13th December:

<b>Bure</b> 163	<b>Yare</b> 149	<b>Wensum</b> 199	<b>Thurne</b> 198
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Week ending 11th January 2019

<b>Bure</b> 193	<b>Yare</b> 238	<b>Wensum</b> 225	<b>Thurne</b> 242
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### Golden work Certificates:

Jamie	Daisy	Benjamin	Marjorie	Thomas B	Logan
Joshua	Ollie	Noah	Hannah	Oliver	Alfie
Freddie	Evelyn	Dylan	Spencer	Eddie	

### Presentation Certificates:

Poppy      Kiara

**Well done everyone for your fantastic work!**



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### **Useful Dates: (Updates will be highlighted)**

Tuesday 29th Jan 19	RSE Parent Forum 2:30pm
Tuesday 26th Feb 19	Parents Evening 2:30-7:30pm
Wednesday 27th Feb 19	Parents Evening 4 – 5:30pm
Weds 3rd Apr—5th Apr	Year 5/6 residential to Manor Adventure
Thurs May 2nd 19	10-2pm Yr 5 Science day at Acle Academy
Mon 13th–Thurs 16th May 19	Year 6 SATS week
Fri 28th Jun 19	Multiskills sportsday and family picnic, KS1 am KS2 pm
Fri 6th Jul 19	Parents Open Morning – Book Look
Mon 8th and Tues 9th Jul 19	Yr 6 transition days to Acle and Flegg
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports sent home
Tuesday 16th Jul 19	KS2 Summer production 7pm
Wednesday 17th Jul 19	KS2 Summer production 2pm and 7pm
Weds 24th Jul 19	Leaver's Assembly 10:30am

### **2018/19 Term dates:**

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	First day of half term break
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils return to school
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Easter holiday
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	First day of half term break
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	3:30 School closes for summer holiday