

NewsLetter

December 2025

School Round Up

The month of December is now upon us and we are more than half way into the term. The next few weeks are extremely busy with different events and trips - please ensure you have looked at the Diary Dates, and are checking the updates that are sent out. The school has been decorated and we are all looking forward to Christingle on Friday; this has to be my favourite service. The children will be making their Christingles in school on Friday morning, and it is always a magical experience when those who have never been to a Christingle are holding their lit one later in the day. We are still planning to walk to the church and will arrive in time for a 2pm start, please do come and join us, all are welcome! If you aren't able to attend, please remember to pick up your child from the church at 3pm. Any children that are at club or in wraparound will be walked back to school by staff.

The classrooms have been very busy, and we are starting to see the impact of some recent Professional Development being utilised. The staff have had some extra training on using Purple Mash, and incorporating this into both the Computing curriculum and across the other subjects. The children all have log ins to Purple Mash and can access this from home, so do please explore with your children.

Mrs Moore has also been in classes over the pass week, checking on the High Quality teaching of English. The Class Ambassadors have been tasked with seeking pupil voice about the subject and will be feeding that back to Mrs Moore, so that she can use this alongside book looks and observations to inform future developments in the subject.

Jesus said:

**"I have come that you might have life,
life in all its fullness."**

John 10:10

Respect. Aspire. Challenge. Succeed

We have now moved into Advent, and through Collective Worship the children are learning about the importance of this time to Christians, through a Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree is a Christmas tradition used for Advent, where a "family tree" of Jesus is built through stories and ornaments representing figures and events from the Bible. Each day of Advent, a new ornament is hung on a tree (or a branch), accompanied by a reading from the Old Testament that connects to Jesus's lineage, and the tradition builds anticipation for his birth.

The children will add to the Jesse Tree each day, alongside the opening of the Advent calendar, and hopefully appreciate more the meaning behind it, and know that Advent is not just about the chocolate!

The Class Ambassadors met last week, and reflected upon Children in Need. They were really pleased with the £79 that was donated, and the toast was well received. They were also challenged to make suggestions of what could be done better next time, so watch this space! The Sports Leaders have been very busy putting their list together of new equipment - hopefully Miss Thorne and I will say yes to their requests!

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School Round Up



Attendance Matters



Attendance is slowly beginning to rise again, hopefully the period of illness is starting to come to an end, we are certainly seeing more children with 100% attendance across the weeks.

Through sharing our attendance data with the Department for Education, we have been recognised as being second out of the 20 most similar schools to ours across the country!

Current Attendance is: 97.1%

Year Six currently have the highest attendance across the school!

100 READS

I have had a number of children visiting me across the term so far to look for books in the box! Well done to Henry in Vancouver, and all the other children who have achieved their 100 Reads over November.

Reading is such an important skill for the children to learn, and practise can only make them more proficient at it - so thank you for listening to your children reading at home.

We all want our children to have more opportunities to life chances and lead successful futures, and learning to read is such a key part of this.



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@HolyCrossCofE



Holy Cross CofE Primary School



office@holycross.norfolk.sch.uk

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Class News

Wright

We are enjoying our learning about journeys – the children are busily creating rafts and testing if they float and can carry our compare bears across the water tray. We are plodding on with our phonics sessions and beginning to write words with increasing independence in our writing books.

We love mastery of number and our maths sessions – learning about how numbers to 5 are made and being able to count securely will help us as we grow. We are learning about shapes – if you are out and about and spot shapes in the environment please share with your children – it will help them to cement their learning by anchoring it in their own environments.

The children in Wright Class have said, 'I like building letters and numerals with the lego,' 'I like looking at the frost outside,' 'I enjoyed exploring transport from the past – thinking about how we could carry our shopping home on a horse with a bag either side,' and 'I like making rafts and testing them to see if they float.'

Armstrong

We have started our writing about Peter Pan, after a small set back. Not many of our pupils are familiar with the story, and so we did watch the film alongside our reading of the text. We are hoping by the end of next week to have re-written the story for ourselves, I wonder what little snippets or added details they might include! Hopefully, they will be showing their new knowledge of grammar through the word choices they make.

The children have achieved really well in Maths so far, and have shown they are really starting to master Column Addition including regrouping from one column to the next! We wait to see if they will have the same success with Column Subtraction!

In Design Technology, we are starting to see their key ring designs coming to life; they have worked hard on their sewing skills, and use a few different stitches. The final appliques just need to be added over the coming weeks. We will finish the term with some Festive Cooking!

Peake

We are busy bees in Peake class, ensuring we get all of our learning done so that we can enjoy the Christmas festivities towards the end of the term.

The children have been enjoying their English lessons so far, which link well to our science topic of animals and their needs. They are working towards creating a care guide for a pet dog using both their knowledge of animals from science, and their grammatical and sentence skills from English.

In art, we are enjoying using different types of line to make pictures inspired from artists like Miro, Klee and Pwerle. We are eager to update our art gallery in our classroom to showcase our skills of line we have learnt.

The children have really taken interest in our history lessons, as for our Year 1 pupils, this is the first time they have encountered History before at school. There has been some really detailed pieces of writing about Mary Seacole, whom is one of the significant figures we have spent time learning about. We are excited to learn more about the past over the next few weeks.

Vancouver

Vancouver Class are enjoying a busy half-term, we will soon be finishing the writing of our George and the Dragon stories and are feeling proud of all our creative ideas.

We're now excited to start producing our cam toys in DT, and we'll also be making clay tiles decorated with Islamic patterns as part of our art topic.

Even more exciting, we're looking forward to taking part in the Future Stars programme with the University of East Anglia — including a special trip to the campus!

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Sports Update

Thank you to all who are attending the Daily Mile, we are now starting to encourage the children to jog and run their 8 laps. Since returning from the half term break the children are now expected to jog from the trim trail to the tyres near the gate, we will increase this as the year goes on.

Just a reminder that for the children to receive their stamp for the mile they must arrive at 8:20am, all children are welcome to join after 8:20am but they will not get a stamp on their Daily Mile chart. Some children are approaching 50 miles and will be rewarded with their certificate once they achieve it. The weather has now changed so a change of shoes and socks will be needed even if the children are in PE kits.

Can we please remind you that the equipment on the field should not be used during the Daily Mile. If you are early and your children are not participating in the Daily Mile, they need to be supervised by yourselves - we are seeing more and more children playing on the front playground with nobody watching them - there are lots of hazards, and the ground is much icier. We don't want anyone to have an accident. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Recent events

Year 5-6 attended the Tag Rugby event at the West Norfolk Rugby Club, they put their skills learnt in club into action on this day.

Well done to those member of Year 3-6 who attended the Cross Country event at Lynnsport – you ran well, keep up the training for next year.

The Sports leaders have started to produce a shopping list for equipment from the money they raised with Great Athletes.

Thank you to all who participated in the Big Bean Boost and shared their pictures and booklets with us in school. Hopefully you have already seen their pictures on our Facebook page. Keep munching those beans!!

Upcoming events

All children need to wear PE kit on Monday 8th December for a Sports event in school please

PE Days

Monday - Yr1/2

Tuesday - Yr3/4

Wednesday - Yr1/2, Yr5/6

Friday - Yr3/4/5/6 - Swimming

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PARKING



As always, please can we ask you are respectful of our neighbours driveways, this also includes the area in front of the gates to the school car park. This is not a suitable, or safe area, for turning, please continue to use the social club car park for both turning and parking. **Thank you for your cooperation in not parking immediately next to the pinch point.**



DINNERS - Please remember to book in advance.

Please note that the order cut off is Tuesday before the meals are to be served. Lunches must be ordered by then as numbers have to be sent to the caterer so they can order supplies for the coming week.



Bromcom - MCAS

Please ensure you have notifications enabled or check the app daily.



BREAKFAST CLUB and WRAP AROUND CARE - Please remember to book in advance.

If you would like your child to attend either Breakfast Club or Wrap Around Care, can you please ensure that this is booked via the MCAS App in advance. Booking shuts 3 days prior. We need these to be booked in advance to ensure we have the correct staffing levels.

Stay & Play
Mondays 9.45am - 11.15am
at Holy Cross CofE Primary School

- * Birth to pre-schoolers with an adult
- * Range of activities on offer
- * Come and meet new people
- * Run by school staff
- * Just turn up, £1 per child
- * Refreshments provided

For more information:
Telephone 01553 810394 or email
office@holycross.norfolk.sch.uk

Diocese of Ely
Learning Together For Life

Stay and Play is held on Mondays, 9.45am - 11.15am - please tell all your friends!

If you are dropping other children at school, you are more than welcome to stay at school.

Please do come and join Mrs Waterson, Miss Fowler and Mrs Carter, and others for a chat and play!

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Friends News

What a busy time we have approaching us!
Keep an eye out for text messages, emails and updates on our Friends Facebook page. If you would like a poster to advertise the Christmas Fayre in the wider community please ask. 😊



If you haven't given EasyFundraising a go download the app and sign up to support Holy Cross – see Kate if you need any tips and tricks as she is a pro! 😊

Thank you to all who brought in bags for our Bag2School collection, we made a record £203.10. This will go towards supporting Christmas activities for your children.

Thank you to all who have continued to bring prizes in for our Christmas events, if you find any small gifts lying around when having a clear out for Christmas we welcome these for lucky dip and tombola prizes 😊

We know that we are often asking for gifts/prizes or donations, we are very grateful for everything we receive and want to pass on our thanks to you. You are an amazing community and your support bringing in gifts and supporting our events means that we can give more opportunities to the children in our school – A BIG THANK YOU!!

Thank you to those who support the school lottery, every ticket counts, we receive money each month from this and every ticket adds up.

Don't forget the Food Waste 'shop' in the foyer – sift through your cupboards for any short date or unwanted products that you are not going to use and remember to check the shelves to see if you can make dinner and pop some pennies in the pot.

We are awaiting our Tesco grant and will update when we have more information. We plan to have the wildlife area up and running for the Summer term but this will depend on our contractor's availability.

Remember to keep an eye on the Friends' Facebook page for any upcoming activities, thank you to Kate for keeping this current and us all organised 😊

Upcoming events

Christmas Jumper day – 2nd December – if you can spare a Christmas activity or some pennies as a donation we would be very grateful.

Christmas Bingo on 4th December – thank you to those that have volunteered
Christmas Fayre - 12th December – we are planning for the fayre to go ahead. If you can spare an hour or two and can help out please let us know as we still have a couple of unmanned games.



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Diary Dates

December

- 1st - DEMAT Carol Service - selected KS2 children
- 2nd - Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation or donation of 'lucky dip' prize
- 4th - Friends Christmas Bingo - doors open 6pm
- 5th - Daily Mile Santa Dash - please bring your Christmas hat!
- 5th - Christingle 2pm - All are welcome. Children will walk from the school for a start time of 2pm at Runcton Holme Church. All children to be collected after the service from the church at 3pm unless they are booked in to After School Clubs or Wrap Around Care. Please ensure you return your Christingle Donation Candle as well,
- 8th - Inter-School Sports event - all children in PE kit please
- 10th - Christmas Carol Service at Watlington Church - children to arrive from 5.30pm for a 6pm start
- 10th - UEA Future Stats Trip - Years 5 & 6
- 11th - Christmas Dinner
- 12th - Christmas Fayre - all welcome 2pm - 4pm
- 15th - Stay and Play Christmas Party - Prebook only
- 16th - Festival of Light Day
- 17th - Panto Trip
- 17th - Sleepover
- 18th - Celebration Assembly 1pm
- 18th - Last Day of Term - enjoy your Christmas break

January

- 5th - Back to school
- 12th - Young Voices
- 19th - Active Kids Festival - KS1

February

- 13th - Last Day
- 16th - 20th - Half Term
- 23rd - Back to school

Every Day
Counts 

Missed minutes 

missed learning 

missed opportunities

Guidance for Parents / Carers

Good attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

 **Norfolk**
County Council

 flourish

 **Norfolk**
County Council

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19th August 2024**.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Let's Talk West Norfolk

What services
matter to you?



Your opinion makes a difference.
Take our survey for a chance to win!

Scan the code or go to letstalkwestnorfolk.co.uk to take the survey and find out about the prizes. Call 01553 616200 for other ways to take part.

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk 

 UK Government

Help for
Households

Looking for support with childcare costs?

Get help that fits you
family so you can
juggle work and life



Search **Childcare Choices** or
scan the QR code to find out more.

Childcare
Choices



Family Hub Drop In

Advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people from conception to 19 (25 for young adults with SEND).

Your local family hubs team are ready to help, and this month your Community Worker, Lex will be at the following venues ready to listen and support you to find the right help.

Family hubs can help with advice and support with:

- health and wellbeing
- mental health
- parenting
- relationships
- finding activities and groups
- infant feeding
- money and work
- housing
- SEND
- support for dads
- substance misuse
- transition to adulthood
- and so much more...



Date	Time	Venue
02 December	9:00 - 11:00	Swan Parents' Group
02 December	15:00 - 16:30	Downham Market library
16 December	15:00 - 16:30	Downham Market library
17 December	11:00 - 12:30	Downham Market library



What's on at the King's Lynn family hub in December...

We're closed 22 Dec-4 Jan for Christmas. You can still reach us via our public line or online referral QR code, except on 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan when we're fully closed.

Mondays

Stephanie from Housing Options will be attending the Family Hub in Kings Lynn on Monday the 8th of December between 10am and 12pm. Stephanie can support parent/carers with Advice on getting on the housing register. Support with applications Guidance around housing banding and the process from applying to getting offered your own property.

On Monday 15 December, Katie from Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS) will be at the family hub for bookable appointments offering free, confidential legal advice for those unable to afford access to justice. Services include:

- Family law & court support
- Welfare benefits
- Debt & money advice
- Immigration advice
- Discrimination & employment

Wednesdays

Chris from BOOST will be attending the Family Hub every Wednesday in November between 09:30 - 11:30. Chris can offer support to young people parent/carers between the age of 16-30 around:

- Career advice and guidance
- Access to local support services
- Free employment support
- Training

Thursdays

Emma from the Department of Work and Pensions will be attending the Family Hub Thursday 18th December between 10am and 2pm. Emma can support parent/carers with:

- Benefit related queries
- Financial difficulties and debts
- Childcare funding
- Opportunities around training, qualifications, or new skills

Fridays

Anna from the Relocations, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion team will be attending the Family Hub every Friday between 12:30 and 16:30. Anna is able to support parent/carers who have relocated to England from another country and who are struggling with barriers to accessing support for their children SEN or Social emotional and mental health needs.

What is coming up in the next few months:

Join Danii from SEN Socials and Early Help Community Worker Georgie on the 12th of January 2026 10:30 to 12:30 for a cuppa and an informal chat about all things SEND parenting. No diagnosis needed! Children are welcome and there will be an activity each session provided by Voices Through Art! Please contact sensocialsdownham@gmail.co.uk for further information or to request a social story and venue walk through.



Finding us from the station

Address: Saint Augustine's Healthy Living Centre, Columbia Way, King's Lynn. PE30 2LB

What3words: //sport.bits.bunny

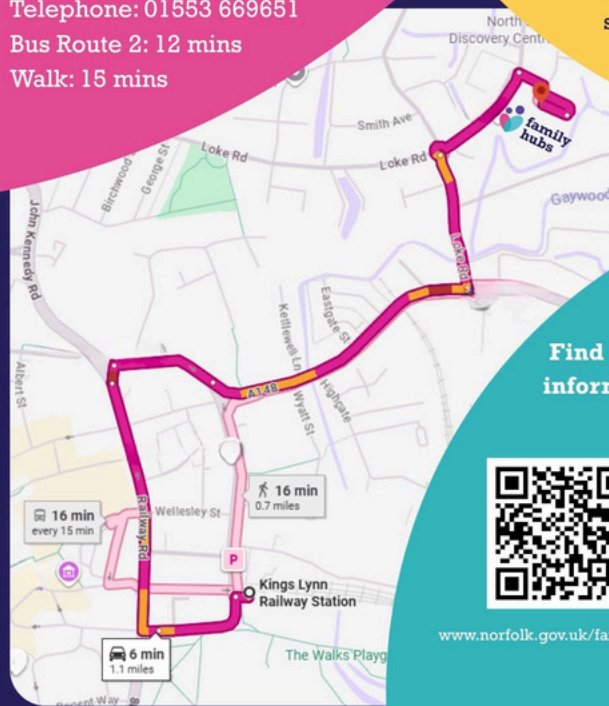
Telephone: 01553 669651

Bus Route 2: 12 mins

Walk: 15 mins

How to get an appointment:

Call our public line on 01553 669651 and let one of our advisors know the date and time you would like to book in to see us.



Find more information



www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs



ALIVE

College of West Anglia

Swimming Lessons

SPACES AVAILABLE

- ✓ All ages
- ✓ All abilities
- ✓ Mother & baby
- ✓ 1-2-1 Lessons

alivewestnorfolk.co.uk/swimming



YOUR SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU

Wanted Adult Section Assistants

We do not have enough Section Assistants or Section Leader Assistants to keep the group open...

BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS

Are you able to help us?

Are you available on Monday or a Tuesday or a Wednesday Evening for a few hours – it does not have to be every week we can work out a rota.

You do not need any particular skills. There is a DBS check and some online training to complete - we can support you with this.

Please contact
 Andy Nicol (Group Scout Leader) 07460870285
 or Laura Leadbitter (Secretary) 07557196214




HM Government

Did you know you can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare to help pay for before and after school childcare?

For more, talk to your child's school or your local authority's Family Information Service.

Help for Households




Norfolk Healthy Child Service

Are you the parent or carer of a child or a young person aged 5 to 19 (19-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan)?

Our school nurses work across education and health. They provide a link between school, home and community. This includes children and young people educated at home and in alternative settings.

Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in these six areas:

- Relationships and sexual health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Smoking and vaping
- Oral health
- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Emotional wellbeing, resilience and self-care

Our school nursing team also provide:

- Hearing and vision screening - reception
- Measurement for height and weight - reception and Year 6




Speak to the school nursing team:

Call Just One Number on 0300 300 0123
 Text Parentline on 07520 631590

To find out more visit www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk or for young people aged 11-19 visit www.fylnorfolk.nhs.uk

Supporting every child, young person and family in Norfolk to flourish

Commissioned by Public Health, Norfolk County Council and provided by Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust