

NewsLetter

February 2026



Attendance Matters

Attendance has dipped slightly over the past few weeks. It seems that the illnesses the children are picking up are lingering slightly longer.

Current Attendance is: 96.7%

Year Six are now the front runners, just edging past Year Two.



100 READS

I still continue to have lots of children coming to see me having completed their 100 Reads, well done to those children! It is impressive to see the challenging texts they are choosing for themselves.

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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Holy Cross CofE Primary School



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Class News

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Wright

We are loving our dinosaur topic and next term is going to have go big or go home to top this one! We have learnt about various dinosaurs, pterosaurs and plesiosaurs and what some of their names mean! We are amazing our teachers with our retention of knowledge – they think we are all little sponges soaking in the information around us.

We have welcomed some new members to our class and we are looking forward to welcoming some new friends after Easter. Well done to Bailey, Isabella and George who have been joining in the daily mile, they would love for more friends to join them. We have now learnt all of our single sounds in Reception and some of our two letter one sound graphemes. We love to do our phonics every day and are becoming better at saying the sounds as we write them down. We are planning to do the Sounds Write Nursery training so we can ensure the work we do with our Pre-schoolers feeds directly into our phonics teaching in Reception. Remember children in Reception get a sticker on their 100 reads chart when they read to you at home. Please practise as much as possible. Please can you send back the phonics packs sent home so we can update them with our new sounds thank you 😊

The children in Wright Class have said, 'Making the dinosaur nests out of chocolate and maltie squares', 'I liked when we went on the computers and coloured our dinosaurs in', 'We know that dinosaurs lived a long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long time ago,' 'We love looking at the dinosaur books,' 'We have been enjoying listening to stories from our special book – The Bible,' 'I liked learning about Joseph from the Bible,' 'I like dancing our dance,' 'We have learnt what dinosaur means – terrible lizard and what pterosaur means – winged lizard.'

Peake

Children in Peake have thoroughly enjoyed their topics this half term, especially their art lessons. We looked at architecture and the children have produced lots of amazing artwork, particularly their drawings of St Paul's Cathedral and their clay gargoyle sculptures. We have had a focus on number in maths at the moment, specifically ensuring Yr1 pupils have the foundational knowledge in place to support them with their adding and subtracting. They are doing very well and progress has been made all around. We have really started to get stuck in with our reading and are trying to ensure we stop 10 minutes earlier at the end of the day to allow time to listen to a story, enabling children to listen to an adult read each day. We are currently reading 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shepherd and are excited to see what happens next. After the half term holiday, we will be making sock puppets as part of our DT lessons. If you have any old/ unused clean socks that you would be happy to part with, please do bring these in so we can make use of them.

Armstrong

The children are busy editing the narratives they have written across the past four weeks, and we are looking forward to reading them across the half term, but from what I have seen so far the children have done incredibly well at incorporating a number of the grammatical features that they have been taught.

We are just coming to the end of the first of our units on Multiplication and Division, when we return after the holiday the children will be using their knowledge of Times Tables when using formal methods of calculation in these areas.

The children have enjoyed making a sphinx out of clay as part of their learning about Art in Ancient Egypt and will be making their own versions of Queen Nefertiti's necklace.

I have been impressed with the increased effort in some of the children's homework - going above and beyond in the work they are producing - keep it up 😊

Vancouver

This half term's learning has all been outdone by the residential trip to Norfolk Lakes. In all honesty, the children were extremely well behaved and gave everything a good go. There were lots of examples of team work and encouragement between them. Their best activities varied greatly across the three days, however, the caving and fencing seemed to come out on top. The best water activity was definitely the kayaking, although chasing the ducks in the canoeing was a close second. They have returned to school this morning, and are definitely missing their cooked breakfast!

The children have written some very good newspaper reports based upon the text - The Boy in the Tower. I am particularly impressed with their ability to apply a number of the grammatical feature we have been learning about.

The children have tried incredibly hard with their assessments over the past few weeks, and we are seeing plenty of progress being made!

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Sports Update

The children in Reception and Key Stage One really enjoyed their time at Active Kids. The theme for this one was Literacy and Numeracy. The children took part in a number of activities led by the pupils from Springwood High. These included: matching rhyming words, adding scores when throwing vortexes, and doing a number of given actions in circuits.



Upcoming events

25th February - intraschool Sports Event - all children need to wear their PE Kits

10th March - Dance Festival

R/1/2 - Navy PE shorts with plain yellow or orange t-shirts please

3/4 - Navy PE shorts with plain green or yellow t-shirts please

We are going to be running the Mini Gear on Sunday 3rd May, starting at 11.45am!

The minimum age to take part is 6 years old. It is a 1.9km course.

We will be needing some volunteers to accompany children under 8 years old.

Please keep an eye out for a forthcoming letter with more details.

After half term: KS2 Cricket Sessions and Dance Festival

PE Days

Monday - N/R, Yr1/2 and Yr 3/4
(first two weeks only)

Wednesday - Yr3/4, Yr5/6

Thursday - N/R, Yr1/2

Friday - Yr 3/4/5/6 (from 13th May)

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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 in advance 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 - Our clubs are getting busier! 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



Thank you to those who came or sent apologies to our Friends meeting. We have selected a contractor to go ahead with the wildlife area so watch this space!

Remember to check out EasyFundraiser if you haven't already downloaded the app. It donates money to us each time you use the app to buy through various retailers – an easy way to give whilst buying household staples.

If you have received any unwanted gifts over Christmas, please bring them our way – they will make excellent tombola/raffle prizes for us. Nothing is unwanted here 😊 Thank you to those who have already popped some prizes into Mrs Angel-Truman in the office.

Next week staff members will be representing our Swimathon team at a presentation evening where we will be collecting our cheque from all the sponsorship money raised with an additional donation from rotary supporters. We will be looking at using this donation to provide a sporting opportunity for the children in the school.

Look out for Friends' club next half term on a Friday night, this will include a film night, Mothering Sunday pop up craft activity and a comic relief themed club.

As the new year is here – why not make it a resolution to join or sign up other family members to our School Lottery. 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.

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

Film Night – 27th February
Easter/spring dress up non-uniform day – 3rd March (bring Easter themed prizes for Easter Bingo)
Mothering Sunday Pop up craft club – 13th March
Comic Relief activity – 20th March
Easter Bingo – 20th March



Giant Easter Egg Raffle from the Rotary Club! Further information to follow.



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February

13th - Last Day of term

16th - 20th - Half Term

23rd - Back to school

25th - Intraschool sports event (in school - all pupils - PE kits please)

27th - Friends Film Night

March

10th - Dance Festival

13th - Friends Pop up Mothering Sunday Craft event

20th - Friends Comic Relief Activity Club

20th - Friends bingo

16th - Yr3/4 Netball Festival

27th - Yr5/6 Football Festival

27th - Celebration Assembly 2pm

27th - Last day of term

April

13th - Back to school


Diocese of Ely
multi-academy trust

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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

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

