

NewsLetter

January 2026

School Round Up

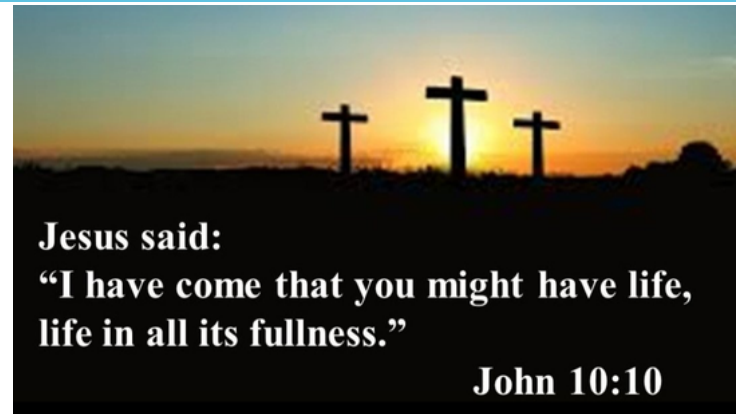
What a wonderful period of celebration we had before breaking up for the Christmas holiday! I think all the children had a lovely time participating in the varying activities. There was certainly a buzz when they returned from the Panto, and were busy chatting whilst munching their chips! The children were mostly asleep by 11pm, however, there were a few early risers from 5am! I particularly enjoyed Celebration Assembly, and celebrating all the different achievements of the children.

Following a slightly delayed start to the school term, the children, and staff, are all back into the swing of things and learning has started in earnest across all classes. We had a recent visit from our Trust CEO, Mr Ball, who was very pleased to see this in all classes, and spent some time visiting Pre-School, taken aback a little by the increase in numbers, but delighted to see the school continuing to grow and the children thriving.

Our apologies for the closure on the first day, we are having some issues with the heating systems within school. We have three different systems, all working in a different way, and we have had issues with all three across the week! We do seem to be getting somewhere despite the problems and are ensuring that all areas are warmer, particularly during these colder times. As always, if we do need to close we will send updates through BromCom and put a post on our Social Media pages, please keep an eye on these in the mornings particularly where the weather is so unsettled at the moment.

We have had a number of new pupils start school this week in many different year groups, and we extend a warm welcome to you all. We look forward to getting to know your children, and yourselves as your children moves through the school. When I walked into Wright class on Tuesday morning it was significantly busier! and all though it can be a daunting start for a 3 year old to be leaving their parent, for many for the first time, the children are doing very well, and settling into the new routines, and making new friends. Tuesday sessions in Pre-School are now full! The number of pupils on roll is now into the 50s and still growing!

Please remember the deadline for applications for Reception is Friday 15th January - if you haven't already done yours, or know anyone who would like a tour of the school, please get in touch.



Respect. Aspire. Challenge. Succeed

What a wonderful Celebration of Christmas happened at the end of last term. It was wonderful to see all of the children, and their families at both the Christingle and the Christmas Carol Service. The children shared the stories, and led prayers fabulously at both events. Within school, they were able to confidently share their learning during RE sessions.

Through Collective Worship, we are revisiting our school value of Respect; focusing particularly on what we can learn from how Jesus showed respect to others, and apply this within our day to day lives. We are seeing many more children contributing their thoughts about this with us throughout the school day, and exploring their own Spirituality through the heart of others.

I had the opportunity to observe some of the RE learning in Peake class last week, and was very impressed by how they were able to demonstrate their learning about the Islamic Faith from the lesson, but also about the diversity of faiths that exist within the world. They have been able to relate this to the value of Respect.

NewsLetter

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Attendance Matters

Attendance has held well over the last few weeks of term and into the beginning of this term. So many children achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn Term, I look forward to seeing how many of these are able to maintain this through the Spring Term.

Current Attendance is: 97.1%

Year Two are currently edging out in front of Year Five and Six and have the highest attendance across the school!



100 READS

I have had a number of children visiting me during the first week back, who all went that extra mile to read across the Christmas holiday! Well done to all children who have achieved their 100 Reads.

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



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NewsLetter

January 2026

Class News

Wright

We have started our topic on dinosaurs – what a lot of fun we are having! Many members of our class – including Mrs W LOVE dinosaurs and we are enjoying trading the dinosaur names we know and sharing our knowledge with the rest of the class. We have already made dinosaur footprints, dinosaur imprints in playdough, made dinosaurs from corn-starch puffs, hunted for fossils in our dino dig role play and measured our resident dinosaurs. We know that dinosaurs lived a long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long time ago!

We are working hard in Reception with our segmenting words to write and blending sounds to read. 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 j, z, w thank you 😊

The children in Wright Class have said, "My favourite thing has been making our dinosaur hats," "I like being at school with my friends," "We love rolling the dinosaur cube and following the actions outside," "I love playing with the dinos."

Armstrong

The children have settled back into learning well following the additional day at home in the snow. It was lovely to hear about all the things they got up to over Christmas and the gifts they received. Thank you from Mrs Zeil and Miss Thorne for the lovely gifts and treats sent in to school.

We have started our new text in English and are using 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' as our stimulus for a diary entry. The children are learning about the different grammar conventions and key features they would need to include in their writing.

In Maths, we are having a quick recap on the written methods for addition and subtraction before starting a unit on Multiplication and Division. On that note, all children have access to Tackling Tables - for Year 4 we are edging closer to the government check, so plenty of practise is crucial.

Art has started this week, exploring the world of Still Life - we are looking forward to seeing the finished art pieces, and the attention to detail the children are giving to this. As always please come and see us if you have any concerns or questions.

Peake

We have wasted no time with getting back into our learning after the festive break, kickstarting 2026 off with plenty of new exciting topics. We have begun a short unit of shape this half term in maths, where children have been identifying and describing a range of 2D and 3D shapes, before we move to addition and subtraction, extending and recapping skills taught before the holidays. Our focus in English is narrative writing, using one of Aesop's fables: The Lion and The Mouse, as a stimulus. We have been practising identifying the word class of some key words in the story, such as nouns and verbs, which the children are doing really well with. In RE, our topic is Islam. Children will begin to understand some key beliefs and ideas from this religion and are keen to find out lots more about Muslim traditions. I have really enjoyed looking at the children's sketches of St Paul's Cathedral they have started this week, they are looking fabulous! We are excited to finish them off and hopefully display them in our classroom 'art gallery'.

Vancouver

Happy New Year from all in Vancouver Class! This half-term we are excited to be starting our new class text The Boy in the Tower, which we will be using as inspiration to write our own newspaper reports based on events from the story. I

n History, we have begun our new topic on The Industrial Revolution, exploring how it changed people's lives. We have also started our Maths learning on fractions, building confidence in understanding and using them in different ways.

In Art, we are beginning a new unit learning about African art, where we will be creating our own cardboard relief insects inspired by traditional designs.

NewsLetter

January 2026

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. After returning from the Christmas break we been pleased to see so many children joining us on the mile. Very soon our mile expectation will increase to jogging from the wildlife area to the tyres near the gate. We have been setting aspirations in Collective worship and hope our children are aspiring to jog the whole mile by the end of the school year. 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. We know the weather is a little chilly and damp but we don't recommend wearing wellies for the mile as they don't support the ankle when running. Please make sure your child has a spare pair of shoes and socks for the mile so they can change when they get into school. Can we please remind you that the equipment on the field should not be used during the Daily Mile.

A little reminder that children will need to have shorts and t-shirt under their joggers and jumper for PE sessions. Please remember that we have a no jewellery policy in school to keep all children safe during their active days. Children are permitted to wear small, round stud earring, which need to be removed for PE.

Upcoming events

Coming up we have an Active Kids trip – we are planning to take our Reception, Year 1 and 2 children to this event – they will need to wear additional layers under their kit as it will be chilly in the barn.

PE Days

Monday - R, Yr 1/2

Monday - Yr 3/4

Wednesday - PS, R, Yr 1/2, Yr5/6

Friday - Yr 3/4/5/6

NewsLetter

January 2026

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!

NewsLetter

January 2026

Friends News



What a busy Christmas we had with our Christmas bingo and our Christmas Fayre raising nearly £1000. Thank you to all who volunteered to run stalls and games and also to those that came along and spent pennies to support our Friends. The buzz in the hall and around school was fabulous for both events and we love seeing our school filled with smiles.

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 gifts and essentials.

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 😊

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!!

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.

We have received our Tesco grant. We are awaiting a final quote before we sign up a contractor to complete the work on the Wildlife area.

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

Disco – meeting on to discuss organisation of this, please come along if you can.

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NewsLetter

January 2026

Diary Dates

January

19th - Active Kids Festival - KS1

February

9th - 11th - Norfolk Lakes Trip - Yr5/6

13th - Last Day

16th - 20th - Half Term

23rd - Back to school

March

10th - Dance Festival

16th - Yr3/4 Netball Festival

27th - Yr5/6 Football Festival

27th - Celebration Assembly 2pm

27th - Last day of term

April

13th - 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

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

Scouts 
 2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington

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

Childcare Choices

NHS

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
- Oral health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Smoking and vaping
- 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