

NewsLetter

March 2026

School Round Up

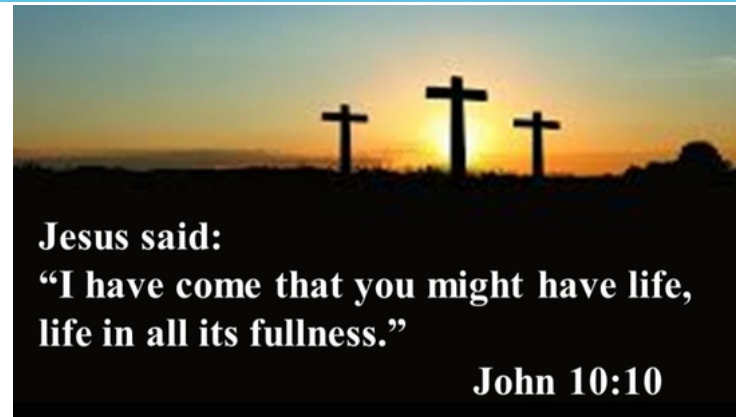
Where has the term gone - we are now into the final few days before the Easter break. The children are getting very excited for the annual Easter Egg hunt on Friday. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Easter bingo last week, we were so grateful for the donations of prizes, even I won a few eggs this time! We raised £370 on the night, some of which has paid for the children's Easter eggs that they will bring home on Friday - as long as they can find all the pieces and build their egg. Thank you to everyone who has also bought tickets for the giant Easter Egg raffle - this will be drawn at Celebration Assembly.

Celebration Assembly is at the earlier time of 2pm this Friday - we are going to share some of the poems the classes learnt for World Book day, share the videos from the Dance Festival, and give out all the awards for this term.

The Dance Festival was brilliant - the children performed fantastically, as did Mrs Waterson and Miss Thorne! It was quite an achievement for some of our Pre-Schoolers at 3 years old to go on the stage and join in with the dance - I was incredibly proud of all the children. I know for some of you getting tickets was problematic, and we have spoken with the Sports Partnership about this. The Dance Festival has become so popular with schools, and become the must go to event of the year. Next year, please do book tickets with the Corn Exchange, when the first letters go out, in order to avoid any disappointment.

This week, we hosted a visit from some colleagues at Norfolk County Council, to Wraparound. They have taken some photos of the children to support a case study on developing independence. These photos will be published on Social Media, and we will share these on our sites. Wraparound is growing, which is great to see, meaning that we will be able to sustain it moving into the next term, and academic year.

Next term is incredibly busy, with lots of different events going on - we have endeavoured to include as much as possible in the diary dates section, but please check the noticeboards, website and email notifications regularly.



Respect. Aspire. Challenge. Succeed

Earlier this month we had one of our regular visits from Miss Coulson, our Diocesan link, who is helping us in preparing for the SIAMs Inspection. This we now know will be in the Summer Term - no phone calls as yet!

She was really impressed with the work being done to support the children in living out the school vision - they are well on their way to being able to explain what the vision means to them and how they live their lives in all its fullness, sharing how school supports them with this. We are working on developing Spirituality across the curriculum. The children may have shared with you the 4 hearts approach we use to this. It is commonly used within Collective Worship to encourage the children to think about the connections they have made, with themselves, God, others or nature.

Divine

The relationship you have with the divine being, your connection with a greater being

Nature

The relationship you have with the world, your connection with the world we live in

Me, Myself, I

The relationship you have with yourself, your thoughts and feelings. Good mental health, mindset, self-reflection.

Others

The relationships you have with other people and how you relate to and with them, school, home, community, church



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Attendance Matters

Attendance has remained steady across the last month; well done to all the children who have maintained their 100% attendance for the year, and those who have managed to be here every day this term.

Current Attendance is: 96.6%

Year Two have edged ahead again, with Year Five and Six following closely behind.

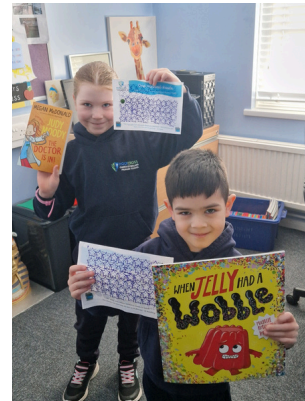
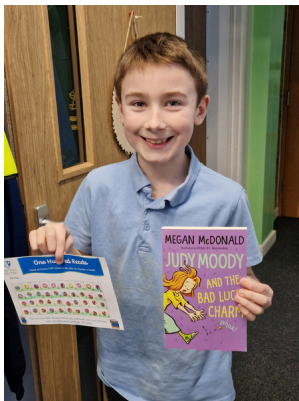


100 READS

I still continue to have 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.

I wonder how many will be coming to choose new books after Easter - a great opportunity to rack up those reading sessions!



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Class News

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Wright

Our dinosaur topic was always going to be hard to top, but we have had an amazing half term learning about cycles in life. Our caterpillars are still crawling around, munching and preparing to go through their amazing changes. Mrs Waterson will 'caterpillar sit' over Easter and will post pics of their developments on Tapestry so please keep an eye out and share with your children. We hope that they will stay in their chrysalis until we return from our break and we can release them with the whole school

Your child has brought home their bean seed, please encourage your budding gardener to care for it and if it decides to grow into a big strong plant we would love to see their bean growing, send us pics to show its journey.

We have a couple of new friends joining us after Easter, we have enjoyed our taster sessions and look forward to welcoming them on a permanent basis on our return.

Well done to our Reception children for practising their reading at home, we are enjoying listening to your developing skills as you grow in confidence and ability. Our Pre-schoolers are working on recognising and writing their names in preparation for Reception and so that we can ensure their amazing artwork is always delivered to the correct cubby!

Peake

We have been extremely busy trying to fit all of our learning in before the Easter break as it has been such a short half term. It's amazing to see the progress the children have made over these last five weeks- particularly with their writing. We have had a big push on handwriting and presenting our work neatly, ensuring we have the foundation for sentence writing secured.

The children have really taken interest in our history topic this half term: kings and queens. They certainly liked being able to act out what happened to the different kings we have learnt about, meaning they are often very excited for our history lesson each week!

In science, we learnt about how to take care of the Earth. The children are really passionate about this topic and we have had some good conversations about different environmental issues. We are trying to do our bit to look after our world- turning off the interactive board and lights when not in use and ensuring all of our rubbish is put into the correct colour bin.

As we are approaching the final term of the year, pupils in year 2 have begun to practise leading some parts of our collective worship. They have been really proud of themselves for getting up in front of the school and reading prayers/ bible verses and helping to open and close our worships.

Armstrong

The children have been working hard on a number of complex grammatical features and structures this half term to use in their non-chronological report. We are hoping to have these presented as they would find in the book 'fly' when we return after the half term.

We are just entering the realms of written methods for multiplication and division - it is a challenging concept but will prepare them well for the arithmetic expectations of Upper Key Stage Two. Please keep practising those Times Tables - it is certainly evident where they can use these fluently and where they can't.

The children have spent the last few weeks, learning about Anglo-Saxon Art - and have produced some watercolour illuminated letters, some of which will be making their way into the Art Gallery - we were very impressed with the time and precision that many took over them.

Vancouver

Vancouver Class have had a busy few weeks, fitting lots of learning into such a short half-term. Our History learning about the Victorians has been fascinating and has provided a valuable insight into life in the workhouse. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages which has been a great success.

In English, our learning has focused on writing about Theseus and the Minotaur. We have started by writing a diary entry as Daedalus on the day he is commanded to build the labyrinth that will imprison the Minotaur-we look forward to continuing this after Easter.

Next half-term, we will be in the final run-up to SATs for Year 6, so please do not hesitate to email with any questions.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable break

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Sports Update

Dance Festival

All the children that attended participated with such enthusiasm, it is always a fantastic event, and all the staff were incredibly proud of how well they had learnt the routine and how well they performed it.

Yr3/4 Netball Festival

Armstrong Class started a little apprehensive at this festival, having not played a massive amount of netball, but by the end were getting to grips with the footwork rules, defending positions and scoring some goals. Miss Thorne, Mrs Adams and I were really pleased to see the progress they made across the course of the morning.

Intraschool Sports Event

Members of the West Norfolk Sports team visited school for the 2nd in a series of 3 events. All the children participated in speedstacking and sports hall athletics. The results from these were entered into the schools competition, and published on West Norfolk SSP website.

In school results:

Speedstacking: KS1 - Rory, KS2 - Colby

Mini Gear

Unfortunately we are unable to sign up as a school for this, but you can still sign your children up to run. Please let us know if you do. We will look to do this as an organised school event next year.

Uncoming Events:

Tri-golf 28th April

Reception and Key Stage One pupils start swimming after the May half term - they will need swimming short/trunks/ costume (no bikinis), swimming hat, towel, goggles if they wish.

PE Days - After Easter

Monday and Wednesday - Wright and Peake

Thursday and Friday - Armstrong and Vancouver

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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

We are very excited to see the Wildlife area taking shape, hopefully it will be completed over the Easter break so that we can start to use it for learning outdoors.

Thank you to all who attended Easter Bingo and to all who donated Easter gifts as prizes. We raised £370.30

Well done to all who attended and donated towards the Rotary Swimathon. The team completed over 100 lengths. Rotary topped up our sponsorship money and we received £600.

We very much enjoyed the Friends clubs this term, we hope the children who attended them did too.

We hope the puff pastry hearts tasted delicious (for those of you that managed to get them home without a little nibble being missing) and the candles in your light jars are still shining strongly. We raised £42 for Comic Relief at our after school club, this will go straight to Comic Relief with the money raised from the non-uniform and Red Nose colouring competition.

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.

We are looking forward to throwing some shapes at our upcoming DISCO... Friday 17th April 5-5:45pm for Preschool and Reception and 6-7:30pm for KS1 and KS2. Please sign up on MCAS and pay pennies into our Friends account. Don't forget to send a little pocket money for your children to purchase snacks, drinks and glow sticks on the evening.

If you don't yet have a lottery ticket through our School Lottery please buy a ticket if you can as you receive money each month from your tickets 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-

Disco – 17th April

Film Night – 7th May

Meeting to discuss Summer Fayre – watch out for date and time TBC in the coming term



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Diary Dates

April

13th - Back to school

17th - Friends School Disco - Pre-School/ Reception - 5 - 5.45pm, Yr-6 - 6 - 7.30pm

28th - Trigolf Festival - hosted at school

30th - Yr6 - Crucial Crew

May

4th School Closed - Bank Holiday

7th - Friends Film Club

11-15th - Yr6 SATS week

19th - Parents Evening - 3.30 - 5pm

20th - Parents Evening 5 - 7pm

22nd - Last Day before half term

June

1st - Yr4 Multiplication Check week

3rd - new PS/R parents evening 5.30pm

5th - R/1/2 Swimming starts - every Friday

8th - Yr1 Phonics Check week

9th - New Reception transition afternoon, whole school move up

12th - Tag Rugby tournament (Yr5/6)

w/c 15th - Assessment week (Yr1 - 5)

17th - New Reception transition morning and lunch, whole school move up

22nd - KS2 QuadKids event

22nd or 23rd (tbc) - New Reception transition day, whole school move up

29th - R/KS1 Active Kids Festival

30th - Area Sports (KS2)

July

1st/ 2nd - Yr5/6 Bikeability training (selected children)

2nd - Pre-School transition session (10am-12pm)

7th - Pre-School transition session (1-3pm)

9th - Picnic Lunch/ Sports Afternoon (12pm onwards)

15th - Pre-School transition session (1-3pm)

17th - Celebration Assembly 1.30pm

17th - Last day of term

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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



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.



Help for Households

Looking for support with childcare costs?

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



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



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

