

NewsLetter

May 2026

School Round Up

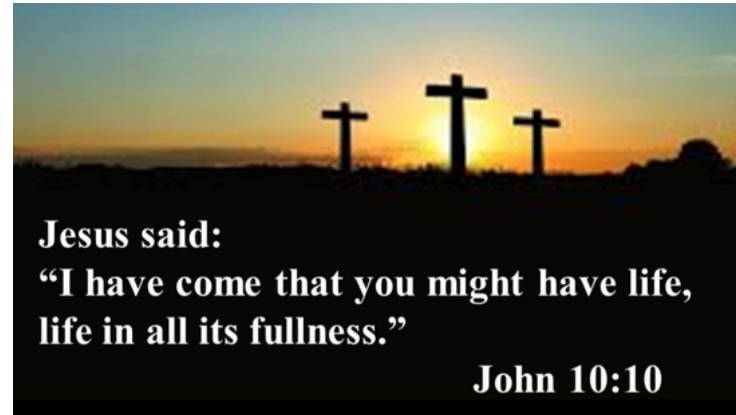
It has been wonderful to watch the children playing outside in the sunshine over these past few weeks. It is very clear that our new Pre-School children have settled into life at Holy Cross and are making new friends, not only in Wright class but further up the school too, and we are not finished with new starters for the term; as we have another little intake after the half term. In fact, it has been a busy few weeks with show-rounds for prospective Pre-School places, and reception places for September 2026.

On that note, I am excited to announce that we have 13 children taking up a reception place this September! Many are from our Pre-School year, and a few extras. This is the largest amount of receptions we have admitted to the school in over 10 years! We will over the coming months be starting our period of transitions for these children, and also for those children who are leaving us in Year Six. They are busy preparing themselves for their SATs in a few weeks time. We know that they will all do their very best!

We had the pleasure of hosting the Tri-Golf festival last week, where we hosted teams of Year Ones and Twos, and Threes and Fours from not only our school but from others within the area. Our Sports Leaders did a brilliant job, along with the remainder of their class, in demonstrating and leading the different stations. All involved had a great morning! We still have a few sporting events left to participate in, including one of my favourites the Area Sports.

Miss Thorne and I also took the Year Six children to Kings Lynn Fire Station, where they took part in a number of different sessions, aimed at raising awareness and teaching skills that will help them keep safe in a variety of situations. We were impressed by how they really took notice of what was being taught, and actively participated. We hope that they will act upon some of the preventative measures that they could put in place.

With the weather starting to get better, and the sun making more of an appearance - please can you ensure your child has a hat in school, particularly on those very hot days, along with their drinks bottle, and sunscreen where necessary - this should be applied before coming to school, as this is something that staff cannot apply.



Respect. Aspire. Challenge. Succeed

During Collective Worship, the children have been thinking about how they can be Green Change Makers, and have been learning about how they can have impact on, and look after the Earth, and exploring their spiritual connection with nature. The children have been very good at sharing examples of proactive strategies they have been involved in or could do in order to look after the world around them.

On that note, the Diocese have expanded their Courageous Advocacy award into different categories, these include:

- Courageous Advocacy for Charity – this could be raising money or awareness for a cause that means something to the pupil.
- Courageous Advocacy for Creation – caring for God's creation, actively encouraging others to do the same.
- Courageous Advocacy in our Community – making a difference in your school community, or wider.

If your child is participating in activities that are making a difference to others, our community or the environment, please do let us know and we can nominate them for an award, to be given out at the end of term Celebration Assembly.

NewsLetter

May 2026



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%

It is very much a close race between Year Two and Year Six, with only 0.2% between them.

One particular positive is that our Unauthorised attendance and Lateness is incredible low - less than 0.5% - this is brilliant! Thank you for ensuring your child is at school on time!



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 have had lots of children visiting my office over the past few weeks, and lots of people have been reading across the holidays! Well done for maintaining reading across Easter.



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NewsLetter

Class News

May 2026

Wright

What a start to the Summer Term we have had! Our caterpillars were very naughty, turning into chrysalides and butterflies whilst they spent time at Mrs Waterson's over Easter. We were able to feel the crunchy 'shells' of the chrysalis and watch our butterflies grow stronger for a week, before releasing them as a whole school on the field into some breezy but bright weather. We hope they are loving life out in the village in the sunshine now. Thank you so much for all the bean photos - we love sharing them as a class - we are impressed with how many of our little beans have grown into tall, strong plants. Keep sending in updates, we hope that some produce their own beans to munch as harvest time comes around.

We have enjoyed our new friends joining us and they are well and truly settled in now. We are looking forward to meeting more new friends that will come and join us in September over the next few weeks.

We are learning about animals that live in different places, from the farmyard and our woodlands to the polar regions. We have enjoyed crunching in the tuff tray farmyard, squirting cotton pad sheep with drippy paint and reading 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. We are enjoying our pattern and shape unit in Maths and often our Preschoolers like to join in with Reception to learn fun facts.

Peake

We have been extremely busy in Peake class these past few weeks since returning from our Easter holidays, starting our new topics and having plenty of fun learning lots of new things. In English, we are working towards writing our own 'mixed up' fairy tale. We have spent lots of time reviewing sentence structure and laughed at some of the funny stories we have made. In art, the children have been studying the Graham Children, painted by William Hogarth. They have worked really hard to draw and paint one section of the painting each which has created a beautiful display of the whole painting in our classroom. We are enjoying the warmer, sunnier spring weather and it really adds to our outdoor PE lessons. This half term, the children are working on improving their aim when throwing and are playing lots of target games to help them with their accuracy.

Armstrong

The children have returned to learning after Easter very well, they have responded to the new classroom layout with positivity, and are working hard across all aspects of the curriculum. They are getting to grips quickly with the new log in methods for the laptops following the school switch over to Google.

Last week, we started a new method of practising our tables! The children are challenged to 100 questions within either Blue, Green or Red level of Tackling Tables, these are against a 5 minute timer, and Mrs Zeil! This week we have seen lots of the children building on their previous week's score, or achieving 100 and moving to the next level. It is imperative that the children in Year Four are practising their Times Tables, as the national Multiplication Check is getting closer.

We are moving into many new units of learning, and particularly enjoyed sampling a cream tea as part of our Geography learning.

Vancouver

It has been an incredibly busy and productive few weeks in Vancouver as we dive into new topics and sharpen our skills for the term ahead. In History, we have begun our study of World War One, where we will explore the lives of soldiers and the impact of the Great War. In Science, where we are currently orbiting the solar system to learn about the unique characteristics of each planet and the vastness of space. Our English lessons have been a highlight, centered around the classic myth of Theseus and the Minotaur; the children have produced fantastic writing, starting with atmospheric diary entries from the perspective of Daedalus, the mastermind behind the Labyrinth. Finally, we wish Year Six the best of luck in the upcoming SATS-you have worked so hard and we are very proud of you.

NewsLetter

May 2026

Sports Update

Cricket

Prior to the Easter holiday, children in Key Stage Two received Cricket Coaching. This was provided by Norfolk Cricket, who had funded hours from the Chance to Shine organisation. Each class had six hours of coaching covering all aspects of cricket skills, and games. Each child completed a survey prior to the start, and at the end. It was great to see that the children felt they had improved in many areas, and had enjoyed the coaching. If anyone is interested in further cricket coaching, then please contact either North Runcton or Downham Market Cricket Clubs.

Rugby

This term, the children are participating in Tag Rugby Sessions across 3 weeks, and an afternoon club, all led and funded West Norfolk Rugby Club. They are certainly being put through their paces and this is preparing our children for the upcoming Tag Rugby Tournament in June.

Bikeability

We have 6 spots for participating in this scheme, we will be prioritising anyone who has submitted permission in Year 6 first, and then top up with Year 5. Anyone who submitted permission but does not get the chance this year will be first on the list for next year.

Upcoming Events:

- Tag Rugby Tournament (Key Stage Two) - 12th June
- Quad Kids (Key Stage Two) - 23rd June
- Active Kids (Reception, Key Stage One) - 29th June
- Area Sports (Key Stage Two) - 30th June

Swimming

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

Monday and Wednesday - Wright and Peake

Thursday and Friday - Armstrong and Vancouver

NewsLetter

May 2026

PARKING



There are no plans to paint any additional lines on the opposite side of the road outside of school, either side of the pinch point. However, I would encourage you not to park right next to it. This is for the safety of the children - when cars park there the pinch point is not easily seen, and therefore children are not easily seen. We would appreciate your co-operation with this.



DINNERS - Please remember to book in advance.

Please note that the order cut off is Tuesday week 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

May 2026

Friends News

The Wildlife area is very close to completion, thank you so much to Andy who has worked with us to get the job done. Watch out for our official opening ceremony coming soon.....

Thank you to all who attended our disco evening - we had so much fun 'throwing shapes' and waving our glow sticks. Thank you to DJ Stephen for manning the decks and being so amenable to our weird and wonderful requests. We are hoping you might like to entertain us again next year 😊

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 don't yet have a lottery ticket through our School Lottery please buy a ticket if you can as we receive money each month from your tickets and every ticket adds up.

Remember our preloved uniform 'shop' in the foyer - whether to drop off clothes your child has outgrown or to purchase items, please help us to keep it going as part of our Green Guardians Summer challenge - talk to your child about what they have been learning in Collective Worship to find out more about this. Items cost £2 for items with a logo and 50p for non-logo items.

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 – 7th May (booking already closed)

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



NewsLetter

May 2026

Diary Dates

May

- 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 - Back to School
- 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
- 23rd - 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

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.

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

Help for Households

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.

