



Harling Herald

'Endeavour, Enjoy and Achieve Together' 08.09.17

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back to school—we hope that you have all had a good summer holiday and are looking forward to the new school year. The children have all had a super start in their new classes and our new Reception children are settling in really well. There are lots of smiley faces around school, all excited to be learning, which is great to see.

School Building Project

The builders have been very busy over the holidays; work is progressing at a good pace, however they have also discovered additional works that need to be completed which have caused delays to the programme of works and the final completion date.

Over the holidays the builders have remodelled the front entrance area to the school to create a new corridor and erected the walls to create the layout for all of the new classrooms. They have also been busy remodelling the small hall; these works have not yet been completed (it's still missing a ceiling and flooring!) so we have had to put in place alternative arrangements for lunchtimes. Fortunately we do have three halls, so we are currently eating packed lunches in the big hall and cooked meals in the dining room. This also means that we do not have any access from the front office to the rest of the school, without walking around the outside of the building. This may mean that the office is unmanned at times (as we are doing lots of walking to get around school); so it would be really helpful if parents could avoid dropping off items to give to children unless absolutely necessary! We expect the works to the works in small hall to be completed this month.

All of this work means that we can now see the final layout of the building and can visualise what it will look like when it's finished. We are going to have a fabulous learning environment for our children but we will have to wait a little longer than expected for it to be finished. As I keep telling the staff—'the best things come to those that wait'! At the moment it seems likely that we will be able to move back into the building around Christmas time.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school during the morning of Tuesday 26th September to take individual and sibling photographs (children in school only).



School dinners

The cost of a school dinner remains the same at £2.20. Please send any monies in a named envelope to the school office (we can only accept cash or cheques). Parents are welcome to pay daily, weekly or even half termly! Children in Reception, year one and two will continue to be eligible for a free school meal—year three parents don't forget you now need to pay!

Copies of the new menu from Norse were sent home earlier this week.



Open School

This year we will continue to hold 'Open School' sessions after school (about once a month) when parents are welcome to come in at the end of the day, chat informally to their child's teacher and look at their work. The first open school event will be on Tuesday 12th September, this runs until 3.45pm (when it is then a staff meeting). If you have a more specific or confidential matter you would like to discuss with your child's teacher, please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time to chat privately.



School homework policy

Homework can be a contentious issue and our report response slips last term have shown that views about it differ from family to family. At East Harling Primary, we aim to set homework that is meaningful and appropriate to our children, whilst taking into account your views. We are therefore adopting a whole school approach to homework that draws on extensive research, which shows that:

1. Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.
2. Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support.
Short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.

Research also recommends that schools consider the following questions:

- * Have you made the purpose of homework clear to children?
- * How will you design homework to encourage parental engagement?

This year we are going to alter our whole school approach to homework so that the children have greater choice over the tasks that they complete and that parents can become more involved with their child's homework (without worrying that they may not be doing it right!). We want our children to be able to follow their own interests and utilise their strengths whilst at the same time develop the independence to complete tasks on their own.

From Sycamore Class (year one), each class will have a half-termly menu of homework tasks that they will be able to select from, linked to their class topic. These will be talked through with your child in class. Many of you will be familiar with this approach as they have been used successfully in some classes already. There will be a hand-in date towards the end of the half term, which will cumulate in a whole class celebration. Children in year five and six may also be given an additional more formal piece of homework to complete each week (to support the development of their study skills ready for high school).

Your child will use a great many skills when completing these projects and we will celebrate the research, planning and thinking time, not just the end project. We are very aware that some children choose to work independently, therefore their homework may not look as polished as others. We are very careful to praise effort rather than outcome and do not expect the tasks to be led (or completed) by parents, but know that the children would really benefit from talking through their choices at home and that some of the younger children will need more help to complete the tasks.

Reading Homework

In addition to this, every child is expected to read each night for at least ten minutes, from Reception (once they have been given a book in a few weeks time) to year six. Infant children (years R to 2) should read their Read Write Inc book daily; this is important to develop their reading fluency and so we would expect each book to be read at least three times at home. These books will include the phonemes (letter sounds) that the children are learning as well as the high frequency words that they need to become confident reading (without sounding out). Repeated practice reading the same book will build up their reading fluency and support them in becoming more confident readers. They should be able to read this book without needing to sound out more than a handful of words.

Older, more confident readers should still read aloud to an adult (as well as reading to themselves) as this helps to support their reading fluency and gives them the opportunity to talk about any unfamiliar vocabulary.

Please record in your child's home school book any kind of reading that they do; whether it's reading their reading book, the Beano, a book from home or the library. Any reading is important. We want every child to become a confident reader. Hearing your child read is one of the most important things that you can do as a parent to support your child's learning at any age.



Personal learning profile homework task

Your child will be bringing home their first homework activity this week, which you may notice is the same for every child in school. This type of personal learning profile is commonly used for children with special educational needs, but we believe that all children should be given the opportunity to tell us important things about themselves at the beginning of the year, that we might not otherwise find out so quickly.

To make sure that we really understand your child's thoughts and opinions, it is essential that they spend time talking this through with you. This will help them to understand what each section means. We all want what is best for our children, but please try not to put words in their mouths. Their views may be different from yours! For some children it will be necessary for you to write their words in each section for them.

Your child's opinions are important and we will respond to what they are telling us. You will notice on the back that there is a space for you, your child and their teacher to write how we will collectively support their learning. These learning profiles have provided valuable information in the past and are a great way of promoting pupil voice. As such, we appreciate your support in helping your child complete this homework. Your child's class teacher will be sending home a completed example of their own learning profile so that you have an example to look at.

Attendance

Attached with this newsletter is an important letter regarding school attendance and the authorisation of absence during term time. Norfolk County Council, following the recent Supreme Court Judgement in the Isle of Wright case, have clarified their position with regards to absence during term time and the issuing of fixed penalty notices in the event of a child being absent from school due to an unauthorised holiday absence or extended absence from school.

As has been the case since 2013, headteachers are only able to authorize absence from school during term time if they are satisfied that; a child is too ill to attend school, that there are exceptional circumstances for their absence or that they have to attend a medical appointment (this does not include routine dentist, optician or doctor appointments). Therefore it is important that when parents ring or leave a message to say that their child will be absent that a clear explanation is given for their absence (and their expected return to school). Reasons such as 'they are unwell/under the weather/a bit iffy' do not provide us with enough detail to be able to make a decision about whether the child's absence should be authorized or not. It is parent's responsibility to inform school by 9.20am if their child is absent and the reasons why. There is the facility on the school answer phone for parents to leave a message regarding pupil absence, alternatively you can send us a message via Parentmail.

Please read the attached letter carefully so that you understand your responsibilities. Thank you.

Late attendance

Any child arriving after the start of the day at 8.50am will be recorded as late in the school registers (even if it is just five minutes). Late arrival after 9.20am is automatically an unauthorized absence. Children who arrive late at the start of the day find it harder to settled and can feel embarrassed/uncomfortable being different to everyone else. It can also disrupt the rest of the class. Therefore it is important that every child arrives on time to start the day promptly, with everyone else in their class. Last term there were over 150 occasions when a child arrived late to school which would have had a negative impact on every class. Please make sure that your child arrives on time to start the day at 8.50am.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 7th Sep	Year 6 meeting re Lakeside residential, 6pm
Mon 11th—Fri 15th Sep	Reception children to stay until 12pm each day
Tuesday 12th Sep	Open school, come and say hello to your child's new teacher! 3.15pm
Monday 18th Sep - Friday 22nd Sep	Year 6 residential trip to the YMCA Lakeside with Miss Yates, Mrs Wills and Mrs Verrell
Monday 18th Sep	Mobile library visit, from 3.10pm
Monday 18th—Wed 20th Sep	Reception children to stay to lunch until 1.20pm
Thurs 21st Sep	Reception full time from today
Tuesday 26th Sep	School photographer in to take individual and sibling photos
Monday 2nd Oct	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Thursday 12th Oct	Full governing body meeting, 6.00pm
Monday 16th Oct	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Tuesday 17th Oct	Parents' meetings with teachers, from 2.30pm (more details to follow)
Thursday 19th Oct	Parents' meetings with teachers from 3.30pm
Friday 20th Oct—Friday 27th Oct	Half term week, school closed. (Fri 20th Oct—Staff development day)
Monday 30th Oct	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Friday 10th Nov	Flu immunizations for years R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 (more details to follow)
Monday 13th Nov	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Monday 27th Nov	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Monday 11th Dec	Mobile library visit from 3.10pm
Tuesday 12th Dec	Infant Christmas play, pm
Wed 13th Dec	Infant Christmas play, am
Friday 15th Dec	Junior Carol Service, 10am East Harling church. Junior parents welcome to join us.
Tuesday 19th Dec	Last day of term

