NEWSLETTER

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

June 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

The summer term is now in full swing and we're all set for a fantastic last half term of the school year, full of trips and exciting events. A real highlight for the Federation each year is the art exhibition at Salthouse Church which showcases all of the artistic skills and the hard work of our pupils. This will be open to the public this weekend so please do come and visit if you are able to.

I'd like to say a huge well done to all of our wonderful Year 6 pupils who worked so hard during the SATS week last month. Whatever the outcomes they go on to achieve, they all applied themselves fantastically well to the tests and we are very proud of them.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter for your school this month.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Mr Snowdon

KEY UPCOMING DATES

5th – 9th June – Salthouse Art Exhibition

9th June – Blakeney to visit Art Exhibition

30th June – Year 6 Leavers Trip

1st – 3rd July – Alderman Peel Transition Days for Year 6

6th July – Sports Day

10th July – Federation Music Event at Blakeney Church

13th July – End of Year Beach Day

17th July – Leavers Service (2pm)

SCHOOL NEWS

It is the last half term of this academic year and it is full steam with Summer events. Please note in the diary section that the whole school beach trip, sports day and leavers service dates are all given. The days ahead are full and although we do have some contingency dates (in case of inclement weather) I am hoping that these will not be needed. Teachers will be using Dojo for reminders so please keep an eye on the diary and news sections.

The plantation area is having a bit of an overhaul as we aim to make the most of this space. There will be a construction area for building dens and fixing things, a numeracy and art area and of course the new firepit! We will hold an opening ceremony with story time and marshmallows as soon as the weather allows. We are leaving much of the Plantation to grow naturally and sticking to the pathways in areas we have not developed so that wildlife can also share the space. The nesting pheasants have been a real highlight for the children and there is room enough for us all.

Our learning themes continue unchanged in both classrooms and please see the news from your child's class to keep up to date with what is happening in each key stage.

The art exhibition is installed at Salthouse Church and is open to the public this weekend. We plan to take the children on Tuesday morning but if you do have an hour or so free this weekend, please do visit. I am sure that the children will happily show you their art work. The have produced some incredible pieces and I know you will be impressed.

For the first few weeks this half term, Collective Worship will focus on our school value of Humility. We will look at the story of the Prideful Ant and how we can be humble in our lives. Our Bible reference is **Matthew 23:12:** "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Our school is incredibly lucky to benefit from an active PTFA. This is very obvious in the Summer term when the children benefit from so many subsidised visits. The PTFA team have had a super busy few months raising money and we have more fundraising events planned, even over the Summer holidays. Just this year, their tireless efforts have bought new desks and a carpet in my classroom and new flooring, a playhouse, an easel and a dolls house for Hedgehogs class. They have subsidised trips to Warner Brothers Studios, Holkham Hall and the whole school beach trip. In other schools, I know that parents would be asked to pay full price for these visits or the children would go without these extras.

I fully understand the demands of modern life mean that many cannot spare the time or money to attend meetings or events but if you are able to spare a few hours or support the PTFA in anyway, please do get in touch with me. With a new library building on the horizon, fundraising events over the Summer months are crucial and fully supported by the wider Blakeney Community. On July 4th, we are providing cream teas at the National Garden Scheme Open Day at Kettle Hill and on July 25th, we are running the BBQ on the playing fields for the rural sports event. Any help and support that you are able to give directly benefits the children of our school. If you are able to, please get involved. I speak from experience when I say that we have almost as much fun as the children!

CLASS NEWS – SAMPHIRE

Oh my goodness, half term was hot! I can't imagine that there was anywhere better to be during the half term than by the sea. I hope that you all managed to keep cool?

This half term is full of fun with lots happening. We are wishing the Year 4 children good luck as they have a busy start with their Multiplication times tables check next week.

Our learning theme of Robots and Machines continues.

In English, we all begin with a quick poetry module as the children write entries for the North Norfolk Schools Poetry Competition. Last year, we had several commended entries so I have high hopes for continued success. This year, the theme of all of the poems will be Pathways. Poems are already up on display opposite the office should you wish to read them.

In Maths, Years 3 and 4 begin by looking at angles and shapes for the first few weeks. This is a great practical topic and something the children generally enjoy. Years 5 and 6 begin by reading and interpreting graphs and tables.

For History, where we have previously looked at the inventions of different significant machines, we begin to explore how different inventors contributed to the creation and development of different modes of transport. We study The Wright brothers, George Stephenson and Rudolf Diesel.

We will try and get outside for PE as much as possible for Sports Day practice and for our general health and well-being. The children have already been reviewing their hurdling skills and all children are now able to clear the highest hurdles! This is an amazing achievement.

I am also pleased to say that Ms Frier will continue to take Science on a Tuesday afternoon and Mr Greenaway will join us on Wednesdays for our runs to Morston. The ice-cream run is fast approaching!

CLASS NEWS – HEDGEHOGS/HOGLETS

Despite the sudden change in the weather, we have had a great start to this final half-term and it will be a busy one!

Our final learning theme is 'The British Isles' and in History KS1 are now focussing on this by exploring important figures that have shaped Britain, starting with Emily Davison who fought for women to have the right to vote in Britain.

In Maths they are almost finished with fractions and will be moving onto time.

In Science, the children are currently exploring how plants produce seeds, which then grow into new plants. As part of this topic, the children will be conducting their own experiment and growing cress. They will be keeping a daily diary to observe the changes.

In Design and Technology, we will be focussing on food and making traditional British foods, starting with scones, what a treat!

Reception are currently focussing on sharing and grouping in Maths, including even and odd numbers up to 20. In Understanding the World we have been exploring the learning theme by comparing the characterises of the seaside, countryside and a town. In Art, the children printed a picture of the British Isles using vegetables which was really fun!

On the topic of Art, all the children produced some incredible art work over the year which will be on display at Salthouse Church. We are very proud and they should be too, it all looks fantastic!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

From September 2026, there are changes to FSM. There will be two types of entitlement:

- Targeted: you receive Universal Credit and earn under £7,400 a year or another qualifying benefit: your children are entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- Expanded: you receive Universal Credit and earn above £7,400: your children are entitled to FSM only

The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) may also be eligible.

To link to apply online is https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or you can request a paper application from the school office.

Parents already in receipt of benefit related FSM do not need to reapply, checks will be made and confirmation of entitlement will be sent to you before the end of the summer holiday.

All children attending reception, Year 1 and year 2 automatically receive universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). If you think you might be eligible for FSM, you should still apply as you may be able to help your child's school get extra funding.