NEWSLETTER

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM MR SNOWDON

It's brilliant to be back up and running with school life now we are well into the autumn term. Late September / early October is one of my favourite times of the year as we see the pupils settle into the daily routine of working hard and being with their friends. There really is so much for them all to look forward to this year, especially next month when we have the Federation Fireworks event at Hindringham on 5th November and then, the week after, the Year 6 residential trip to Norfolk Lakes activity centre in Lyng.

I'm sure some of you will have read about Walsingham's successful Ofsted inspection in the local press and I wanted to use this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of the staff team there for their hard work and dedication. The pupils there and, of course, at all of our wonderful schools, really are very lucky to get all of the care and support that they do from everyone who works for the Federation and to benefit from the outstanding curriculum that Ms Frier puts in place for the teachers and Teaching Assistants to deliver.

The Key Stage 2 aspirations morning at Walsingham last Friday was a huge success and the contributors really seemed to capture the imaginations of the pupils and helped demonstrate to them what you can go on to achieve in life if you apply yourself, work hard and never give up.

I hope you enjoy reading your school's newsletter. Thank you all for your continued support.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

6 October	Samphire Class to visit the Mosque in Norwich
7 October	Greshams – Author visit
8 October	Hedgehogs – Norwich Cathedral Visit
16 October	Samphire – Oxburgh Hall Visit#
22 October	Harvest Festival
5 November	Federation Fireworks at Hindringham

SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Autumn!

Tuesday craft club was our first autumn themed activity and made us all realise that the term is flying by. The children's books are filling up and events are happening in a flurry. Already, we have had to make room on the learning journey board in the corridor for photographs from London, and Hillside. We have shared a selection from the High Ropes course on Class Dojo but those will be going on the wall soon as well. Please do take a look, the children here are given a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and the photographs document them beautifully.

I would also like to ask anyone who happens to bump into Mr and Mrs Cowan to thank them again for providing the children with the opportunity to complete the high ropes course. We had a wonderful morning and were so impressed by the resilience and bravery of even our smallest pupils on what is a very challenging course.

After school clubs have proven to be very popular and it is lovely to have the children in school keeping busy. If you would like your children to attend any of the clubs on offer but haven't yet signed up, please speak to the office or a member of staff and we can add them to our lists.

It is the Federation Fireworks event at Hindringham on November 5th. This is a really fun family friendly evening and very well attended. Tickets will be available in advance (and at a discount) from the office in the coming weeks.

There are a number of Blakeney PTFA events coming up too. We have kindly been invited to run a tombola stall at Glandford Barns Christmas shopping evening on November 19th from 5-8pm. Please pop along to the Glaven Bistro where there will be a number of stalls open for late night shopping.

Our annual Christmas Bingo event is also planned for Friday 4th December. This family bingo will be at the Village Hall and everyone is welcome. We understand that not everyone is able to attend events in person but if you are unable to make it, raffle tickets will be on sale in school, from the office. Also, if anyone knows of any local businesses who might be able to donate raffle prizes, they would be very much appreciated and can also be handed into the school office. So far this term, the PTFA has already purchased furniture for new quiet reading areas in both classrooms and guided reading books. Our school is very well resourced to instil a love of reading in the children and we feel incredibly lucky to have the PTFA. Thank you so much to every one of you who supports them in any way.

CLASS NEWS – Samphire

The children are doing well in class in what seem to be even busier and faster paced days. We try to begin our day on the dot of 8.50 so that we can fit everything in.

We have almost completed our topic of place value in Maths lessons. Years 3 and 4 have a couple of lessons left, including Roman numerals and Years 5 and 6 will also soon move on to the 4 calculations.

In English, the younger children have been writing lots of diary entries to practise writing in the past tense and upper Key stage 2 are currently writing an extended narrative of being invisible for the day.

Ms Frier continues to teach Science on Tuesdays and the children are enjoying looking at the life cycle of plants and naming their parts. They have studied some wonderfully aromatic herbs. We will be planting these in the raised beds in the coming days.

In music lessons, the children are playing the recorder and learning about Tudor music. Their Greensleeves accompaniment is coming along nicely and they have all learned 3 notes on the

recorder already. Ms Furnell decided that although the recorder was not a Tudor instrument, it was easier to teach and more readily available than the lute!

Please can I remind everyone to encourage their child to complete their homework. As I have explained to the children, there is a clear link between homework completion and achievement. We consider it so important that we will be running a break time homework club for those children who do not manage to complete this at home.

Parent consultations are next month but should you require any information on your child's learning or indeed have any questions at all, please do get in touch. I am always very happy to chat or meet with you.

CLASS NEWS – HEDGEHOGS/HOGLETS

Hedgehogs and Hoglets have really enjoyed exploring our learning theme, 'Superheroes'! The children have come up with some fantastic superhero gadget designs in D&T and have created some brilliant crafts, including Supertato and Evil Pea.

Next week, we will be exploring the colourful world of Roy Lichtenstein's famous pop art. The children will be challenged to create their own versions, using bold colours and comic-inspired designs. We can't wait to see their creativity!

In English, KS1 are coming towards the end of their learning unit based on *I Want My Hat Back*. The children have been busy planning their own sequels, called *I Want My Friend Back*. It has been lovely to see their imaginations flourish as they develop their own characters, ideas and stories.

In Music, we have been enjoying experimenting with a variety of instruments, including glockenspiels, tambourines, drums, triangles and cymbals. We have explored high and low pitches, created music to accompany a comic strip and listened to different orchestral superhero pieces. The children have enjoyed identifying the sounds they can hear and discussing how the music makes them feel.

In History, KS1 have created their own timelines, which are now proudly displayed in the classroom. They have turned out brilliantly and make a fantastic feature on our classroom walls!

In Understanding the World, Hedgehogs have been learning about four real-life superheroes and their achievements. This led to some fantastic class discussions as the children shared their thoughts, ideas and questions.

As always, we encourage all children to read regularly at home. Please could reading records be brought into school every day so that we can continue to support and celebrate the children's reading progress.

Thank you for your continued support!