NEWSLETTER

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

October 2026

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MESSAGE FROM MR SNOWDON

It's been all systems go since the schools reopened on Monday! The pupils have all hit the ground running and are cracking back on with their learning which has been great to see at all of the schools.

The Federation fireworks event at Hindringham last week was another huge success. Everyone had a great time, it was very well attended and raised lots of money that will go towards all of your children going, for free, to the pantomime at King's Lynn next month. A huge thank you to all of the staff for their organising of this brilliant event, especially Mrs Brooks and Mrs Besant.

This week, all of the Year 6 pupils in the Federation are off on a three-day residential trip to Norfolk Lakes Activity Centre in Lyng where they will take part in a wide range of exciting activities including kayaking and rock climbing. Next week, we'll be sending a Federation team to the North Norfolk Cross Country event... and then it'll be full steam ahead with Christmas activities at the schools!

I must stress, again, how important regular school attendance is for every child in the Federation. As you can tell, there's always so many fun and exciting things happening at our schools and we never want anyone to miss out on this, or to miss any of their learning. Even missing just one day of school can negatively impact on your child's progress. As we say to the pupils - get up, get in, get working. Please work with us to ensure your children are in school, on time, every day.

As ever, thank you for your continued support of our wonderful schools.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

16/17 November	Parents Consultations
19th December	Late Night Shopping Glandford Barns
21st November	Angel Voices at Glaven Caring Christmas Fair
27th November	Walsingham School Christmas Fair
2nd December	Visit to Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival
4th December	Family Bingo at Blakeney Village Hall
15th December	Whole School Trip to Holkham Hall
16th December	Whole School – Pantomime at Kings Lynn

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back and we hope you all enjoyed a relaxing half term? You will have noticed some changes in the playground as you dropped the children off this week. Staff and members of the PTFA came in to school over the break to complete some painting so that everything matches in a beautiful colour called Stiffkey Blue. The gazebo outside Hedgehogs class still requires painting, so if anyone would like to volunteer their time, please do let us know - any help will be hugely appreciated. Hedgehogs also had new flooring laid in the EYFS class. It really lifts the spirits of us all to have the school looking so cared for.

Parent Consultations are coming up in a few weeks. If you are yet to make an appointment, please do so via Arbor. Mrs McInally and I are happy to be flexible and meet parents who cannot make the given dates at other times. Please just get in touch with us and we will schedule an appointment.

Worship

Empathy is our first worship value this term and we begin by looking at the words of **Romans 12:15**

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep."

Our discussions will lead us onto our study of the charities supported by Fakenham Christmas Tree festival and why these charities are needed. We will think about what changes we can make in our lives and what changes are needed in the world so that we consider the needs of others.

Angel Voices Choir is singing at the Harbour Rooms on Saturday 21st November for the Glaven Caring Christmas Fair. If your child is in the choir and you are struggling with transport, please contact Mrs Thoday or Ms Owers. Even if your child is not in the choir, please pop along if you are able to. There will be craft stalls and coffee and cake!

Walsingham School Christmas Fair is on Friday 27th November from 3.00-5.30. This fair is held with children in mind and there will be games, craft activities and Father Christmas himself will be attending! Everyone is welcome. Staff will be taking the minibus over and returning to Blakeney school by 5.15pm. If you would like your child to attend via school minibus, please contact the office to book a place. We recommend that children are given some spending money and to book early as we only have 13 spaces available.

The whole school will be visiting Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival on Wednesday 2nd December so throughout November, we will be rewarding the children with pennies which they will save and then donate to the given tree charities. When children usually think about money, they often start with the things they can buy, save for or spend. As a part of learning about financial responsibility, we aim to teach them that money is about more than personal choices. It also helps to support families, communities and causes we care about. We will be studying the tree charities in lessons and hope that this will open up conversations about generosity, fairness, responsibility and community.

Kelling School are hosting a carol concert at Weybourne Church on 11th December, once again everyone is welcome and Angel Voices will be performing. We all had a wonderful time at this event last year and left feeling very festive.

PTFA News

Thursday 19th November is late night Christmas shopping at Glandford Barns where the PTFA will be hosting a tombola stall.

The PTFA funded the supplies so that the playground fence could be painted at a cost of £120 this month. Two new bookcases and a wooden arch (£189) were also purchased for Samphire Class' quiet reading area. Thank you to everyone who has donated or supported our events. The children benefit hugely from your generosity.

The PTFA family Bingo is on Friday 4th December (eyes down at 6pm) at the Village Hall. If any parents know of any local businesses who would be happy to donate prizes for our raffle, please let us know or hand any prizes into the school office. Neil Thompson Boat yard have already been incredibly generous in supporting us. Raffle tickets are on sale on the night or in advance from the school office for those unable to attend the Bingo.

CLASS NEWS – Samphire

Our first extra-curricular activity of this half term took place last Wednesday with what is our now annual visit to the Harbour Rooms with activities organised by the Royal British Legion. I would like to say a big thank you to them for hosting us again-it is always a special afternoon.

Our learning theme this month is Shakespeare and this follows on chronologically from last term's Tudors into Elizabethan times. We will be looking at various works from Shakespeare and focussing our other learning around this theme too. In Art, we will be creating collages inspired by The Tempest and in Music, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

In English, we begin with a poetry unit based around poems describing the weather. We will read and perform poems by Christinia Rosetti and John Mole. Once, Year 6 return from their residential trip, the children in Years 5 and 6 begin their study of The Tempest and Year 3 and 4 will be writing magic potion instructions based on A Midsummer Nights Dream.

In Maths, Years 5 and 6 move onto Fractions after a quick look at square and cube numbers while Years 3 and 4 begin with inverse operations before moving onto multiplication and division. There will be a focus on getting those children who are not yet secure with their times tables up to speed.

PE continues to be on Mondays with swimming and Wednesdays with hockey. Mr Greenaway will be cross country running with the children when he is in and looking out for potential members of the Federation cross-country team. There is a multi-school race coming up in the next few weeks at Beeston Hall.

Good luck to the Year 6 children who head off to Lyng Lakes this week. We will miss their presence in the classroom but know that they will have an amazing time. Thank you Miss Owers for accompanying them!

CLASS NEWS – HEDGEHOGS/HOGLETS

Welcome Back to Hedgehogs Class!

It was a busy first week back in Hedgehogs Class, and it was been lovely to welcome everyone back! Our new learning theme for this half term is 'People Who Help Us'. We are looking forward to finding out more about the important jobs people do in our community and, hopefully, meeting some of our very own local superheroes later in the term!

English
Reception children are making great progress with their phonics and are now beginning the exciting transition from wordless books to their first reading books. Please continue to read with your child as often as possible to support their blending and reading confidence. Remember to record their reading in their reading records too!

Year 1 and 2 have started exploring their new English text, 'Billy and the Beast'. The children have engaged brilliantly with the story and have worked hard creating wanted posters and writing some fantastic character descriptions. Well done, everyone!

Maths
Year 1 and 2 have now started their new Maths unit on Place Value. The children will be developing their understanding of numbers and exploring what each digit represents.

Reception have successfully completed their learning unit, Shapes with Four Sides, and will now be moving on to their new unit, Alive in 5, which focuses on numbers 0-5.

Design and Technology
Our budding designers have been busy exploring different toy vehicle mechanisms. The children investigated how these work before designing their very own emergency vehicles. We can't wait to see how these designs develop... watch this space!

Understanding the World
As part of our new theme, we have been thinking about the different people who help us in our everyday lives. The children shared their ideas about the important roles people play in our community and drew wonderful pictures of what they would like to be when they grow up. We had some fantastic ideas!

A little reminder that:
- Homework is due every Tuesday.
- Spelling tests will continue to take place every Wednesday.
- Reading should be practised regularly at home and recorded in reading records.

It is really important that children complete these activities as they help to reinforce and build upon the learning taking place in the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting half term full of learning, fun and new experiences in Hedgehogs Class!

