



# Newsletter

## Issue 4 Autumn 2018

### Welcome from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

What a fantastic term this has been. We opened our new nursery at the start and this has been a great success. The children and the staff are all really enjoying their new space and we are looking forward to welcoming lots more children in January. All the children have worked hard over this very long term and have made lots of progress with their learning.



Our reception children have done their first term at school and have enjoyed their continuous provision. They have learnt about 'Once upon a time', their senses, Harvest and lots of celebrations including Diwali, Bonfire Night, weddings, Hannukah, Birthdays and Christmas as well as their reading, phonics and maths!

Our key stage 1 children have enjoyed their creative curriculum and have learnt about Rachel Trevor Morgan the Queen's hat designer, Katie Morag and Mairi Hedderwick the author, Kate Simpson an artist, mini beasts, classification of animals, food and farms, electricity, compass directions to name but a few and that's all as well as lots of Maths and English.

I would like to thank you for all the support that you give the school and for coming along to support your children at family learning days, Christmas plays and FoJoG events. I wish you all a very Merry and restful

Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back in January 2019.

*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

- 15.1.19 - 9.05am Year 1 Maths Café
- 22.1.19 - Phonics workshop
- 23.1.19 - 9.05am Year 2 Writing Café
- 24.1.19 - 9.05am LL sharing assembly
- 29.1.19 - Reception Reading Café
- 31.1.19 - 9.05am FF sharing assembly
- 5.2.19 and 6.2.19 - Parents Evenings
- 7.2.19 - 9.05am BB sharing assembly

### School closes for half term on Friday 15th February at 3.10pm

- 7.3.19 - World Book Day
- 14.3.19 - 9.05am CC sharing assembly
- 21.3.19 - 9.05am TT sharing assembly
- 28.3.19 - 9.05am SS sharing assembly
- 4.3.19 - Spring Assembly and Easter Hat Parade

### School closes for Easter Holidays on Friday 5th April at 3.10pm and reopens on Tuesday 23rd April

### Wellies

The field is now in it's winter mud stage so the children will only be allowed on the field at playtimes and lunchtimes after the Christmas holidays if they have a pair of boots or wellies. Please could you make sure that they have a pair of wellies or boots at school or wear them to school each day as they often get really upset if they don't have them. Perhaps they could be put on Santa's list and be filled with chocolate coins!



### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is 96.4%  
The best Class this week was Busy Bees on 99.2%

## Cafés

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our Cafés in January. The idea of Cafés is that you have an opportunity to come in to school to work with your child, learn a little bit yourself and create something together all in the relaxed atmosphere of a Café! We have themed the Cafés by year group so that as you move through the school you have a different subject to focus on. Cafés are not intended to test you, but to support you and your child with their learning. A reminder of the dates are below.

### Spring Term Cafés - 9.05am—10.05 am

Reception - Tuesday 29th January

Year 1 - Tuesday 15th January

Year 2 - Wednesday 23rd January

### Summer Term Cafés- 2pm - 3pm

Reception - Monday 13th May

Year 1 - Friday 10th May

Year 2 - Tuesday 30th April



Obviously as it is a Café refreshments will be provided as part of your Café experience!

## Tesco Tokens

We have been selected in January and into February to be one of the token charities at Tesco. The money that we receive from Tesco will be used this time to update some of our old furniture in the nursery, buy a new wooden garage and hopefully buy some lovely large blocks for the children to play with outside. We can only buy all of this if we win the maximum amount of money from the scheme. So, I am asking for your help. Please ask all your family and friends who shop in Tesco to pop their blue tokens in the John Bears Nursery slot so that we can win the biggest prize!



**TESCO**

## Children's Corner

This is the section of the newsletter for the children's voice. It may be about something that they have been doing in school or a special event. This newsletter it is the turn of:



### The Busy Bees

The best thing about the Christmas play was...

Lily-Mae - I loved being an angel.

Zachary - I liked singing the camel song.

Gracie-Mae - I was a cow and I love cows.

Liyu - It was great and I couldn't take my eyes off Mary because she was so beautiful.

Caitlin - I liked it when the angels helped Mary.

Lilly - I liked the squeaky mice.

Toby - I loved trying to wake up the shepherds because I was a sheep.

Reuben - I liked singing, my favourite song was; don't worry Mary.

## Charitable donations

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we raised £297.73 from your generous donations after our Christmas performances. Thank you to each and every one of you for donating and we will be whisking that money off to (East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH) to support finishing the Nook.



## Christmas Performances

I was an extremely proud headteacher at the end of the week of our Christmas performances. Each and every child performed brilliantly and I hope that you were proud of them too. They had all worked so hard to learn their lines and the songs and this showed in their performances. We know that performances like these really help to build their confidence and confident children will go far! A big thank you goes to all my wonderful staff for the time and dedication that they put in to getting the performances ready. There should be pictures on the website but here are just a few to share.



## Governors Newsletter

In my last article for the termly newsletter, we were waiting for the results of GCSEs and SATs, and they were well worth waiting for. The GCSE results achieved at the High School this year, were just excellent, and put Aylsham High School in the top 5 in the county; huge congratulations to our year 11s of 2018, and many thanks to the staff for helping them achieve their full potential. The SATs results at Bure Valley were also hugely impressive and showed the big effort put in by staff and pupils alike to achieve them. The Federation is working really well and it is great to see staff across all three schools working together for the good of our young people.

So on to this term, and what we have been up to. The term started with the opening of John Bear's Nursery school which enjoys direct access and separate parking on the Norwich Road. The purpose-built nursery was officially opened by the former headteacher of John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School, Mrs Fiona Chant, and it was clear to see the look of pride on her face as she cut the ribbon. This was our first Aylsham Learning Federation project, which came to fruition from the original idea of Mrs Chant and the governors of John of Gaunt, and was then driven forward by the hard work of John of Gaunt Head of School Mrs Toplis and The Aylsham Learning Federation Director of Business and Community Strategy, Mrs Tuttle and Finance Director Mrs Colman. I called in to see how the building was getting on at the end of August, and it was wonderful to see the new nursery staff, John of Gaunt staff, and the ALF site team, all working so hard to prepare the nursery for the first day of term. I think it is safe to say that the children are thoroughly enjoying their new environment and numbers are growing.

Those with exceptionally good eye sight will have spotted 5 new trees which have been planted along the fence of the new nursery; these trees (looking, it must be said, more like twigs in a cardboard surround!) were planted on 3<sup>rd</sup> November by the Rt Hon Keith Simpson MP, and form part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. Our thanks to Hal Turkmen for getting ALF involved in this project. It was lovely to see so many parents packed into the school hall at John of Gaunt to see the children in the harvest service, and I am quite sure it will be standing room only for the Christmas productions. John of Gaunt children have been busy making Christmas cards which have been printed by the High School and they have also been busy making hats fit for the Queen, with a bug theme.

At Bure Valley, Mr Olney reports an action packed term, with varied opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of learning activities both in and out of school, and across the curriculum. Christmas preparations are well under way and staff and pupils are busy making sure that everything is ready for the run up to the festive season.

At the High School preparations and rehearsals are also well underway for the much-anticipated musical, Sister Act, which will be performed in March, and students have been busy in and out of the classrooms. We have had three presentation evenings this term which have been well supported by students and their parents and carers, and it is with a sense of pride that governors sit on the stage and celebrate the wide range of activities on offer at the school and also to see how many of our students are representing the school at area, county and national sports activities.

Open evenings/days have been held across the Federation with a pleasing number of new families showing an interest in our schools. The new pupil leaders in all the schools spoke proudly about their schools and were involved in showing new families around, and we received very positive feedback from those attending.

In times of financial challenge in education, the governors of Aylsham Learning Federation are continuously striving to ensure that the young people of Aylsham get the very best education, whilst at the same time making sure that the extra-curricular activities remain. Our site team work hard to maintain all the buildings, and the business team across the Federation do an excellent job ensuring the sums add up, and my thanks to them for all the support they give the governing board.

It remains for me to wish all our students, pupils, staff, parents and carers, a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year, and let's hope that next term is as productive across all of our schools, as the last one has been.

Jenny Youngs  
Chair of Governors Aylsham Learning Federation



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## Catching Confidence

Thursday 28th February 2019

9 am - 11.45 am

John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School

*'Confidence is...believing in your abilities, qualities and judgement.'*

Self-confidence is extremely important in almost every aspect of our lives, yet so many people struggle to find it.

This fun, activity based workshop will help you to 'catch' the self-confidence you need to move towards new exciting opportunities and make positive changes to improve your wellbeing.



Confidence is not something that can be learned like your times tables.

Confidence is a state of mind.

Positive thinking, being assertive and clear body language are all useful ways to improve or boost your confidence level.

Real confidence comes from feelings of well being, self esteem and belief in your own ability, skills and experience.

This workshop will help your ability to identify your route to a more confident you.

This workshop will be delivered by Lisa Whatnall from Clarion Futures

For further information or to book your FREE place please contact Monica Harding on 07780 887348 or email [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk)



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## "Let's say NO and stick to it!"

We are delighted to offer parents/carers the opportunity of joining a free two week course, led by Julie Adcock from our family learning team that is designed to support parents as their child progresses through their development.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

12.45 pm – 2.45 pm

Venue - St Michael's C of E Primary and Nursery School, Aylsham

During the two weeks, you will be looking at a number of coping strategies and plans that can be implemented to support with those challenging moments of a child's day-to-day life.

For further information or to book your place please contact our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding on 07780 887348 or e-mail [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk)

# No!!!

"Why do we find it so hard to say "No" to our children?"

Being able to set limits and boundaries with your children are all a critical part of having a healthy love for your children. Dr. Robin Smith



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## Help Your Child

Thursday 24th, 31st January and

7th February 2019

9.15 am - 11.45 am

John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School



This FREE three week course is for parents/carers/grandparents who are interested in what their children are learning at school, how they are learning and how you can learn together.

During the three weeks you will be looking at some of the different ways your children learn to read and write at school and how you can support them at home.

This course will be delivered by Heather Taylor from Clarion Futures.



Places are limited and must be booked with our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding by e-mail to [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or telephone/text 07780 887348



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## Phonics Workshops

Please come and join us at the school which is most convenient.

John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School

Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Hevingham Primary School

Tuesday 29th January 2019

Aldbrough Primary School

Thursday 31st January 2019

9.15 am - 11.15 am

These workshops led by Anna Catlin from our family learning team will offer support and an understanding of phonics to help you feel more confident in supporting your child with their reading and writing at home.



The aim of the workshop is to make your daily reading experience at home with your child more positive and enjoyable.

Book your place on any of the above sessions by emailing Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or telephone/text 07780 887348.



## Parent Support Advisor



Parenting isn't easy and sometimes things can get tough.  
As a parent/carer you want what is best for your child.

Our Parent Support Advisor is available to listen and support your family with any issues or concerns from home or school you may be facing.

She may not have all of the answers, but she can offer:

- A confidential listening ear
- Help to enable you to express your concerns about your child to the school and act as a link between school and home
- Support and advice if you have concerns about your child's social, emotional or behavioural development, helping you to nip things in the bud before they get serious
- Support with transition – as they start or move between schools
- Give hints and tips about general parenting issues
- Help to find services and other agencies who are available to help you and your family
- Help with issues around school attendance

Carol Flatters is our Cluster Parent Support Advisor, she can be contacted by e-mail [cflatters@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:cflatters@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or text/telephone 07780 922545.

If you would like to meet Carol this she will be at Aylsham High School on the following dates: -

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

9.30 am – 10.30 am

Please feel free to pop in and see her – no appointment required.

Alternatively contact Carol by e-mail or phone at any time throughout the school year.  
(term time only)



## Working Memory

Wednesday 6th February 2019

9.30 am – 11.45 am

Aylsham High School



*'With him, it's in one ear and out the other.'*

*'She just doesn't listen to a word I say.'*

Sounds familiar? You may be describing a young person with a limited working memory capacity that has become overloaded. Working memory is important because it is closely linked to the ability to learn and also with academic attainment. Working memory problems are common in specific learning differences such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and ADHD.

During this workshop we will explore what working memory is, as well as ways for you to support your child with their working memory skills to help increase their confidence and ability when reading, writing, doing arithmetic or studying for exams.

There will be useful resources and handouts for you to take home.

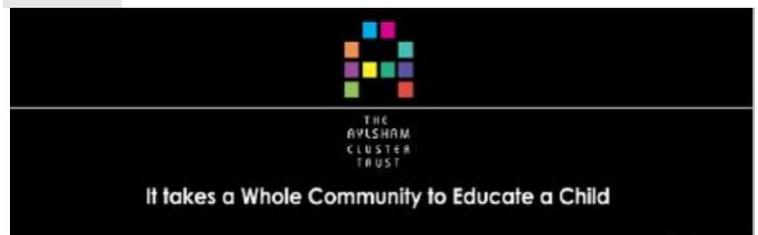
This free workshop has been designed for anyone who has contact with a child of school age who has difficulties with working memory e.g. parents/carers, grandparents or other family members and will be delivered by our Dyslexia Outreach Service.

You do not need to have had an official diagnosis of any learning difficulty to attend.

Please book your place by e-mailing our cluster family learning co-ordinator

Monica Harding [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk)

or text/telephone 07780 887348



Enhancing Life Chances

## Slow Cooker Workshop

Thursday 10th January 2019

9 am - 11.45 am

John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School



CLARION HOUSING GROUP



Come and join us for a **FREE** slow cooker workshop where you will learn how to make healthy, affordable meals.  
Afterwards take home your **FREE SLOW COOKER** (1 per household) and put your new skills into practice.



This workshop will be delivered by  
Lisa Whatnall from Clarion Housing Group.

Places are limited and must be booked with our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding by e-mail to [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or text/message 07780 887348