



# Newsletter

## Issue 5 Spring 2019

### Welcome from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Happy New Year and for those that I haven't seen Welcome Back to the Spring Term at John of Gaunt. I trust that you all had a restful break and the children have certainly come back raring to go. Key stage 1 thoroughly enjoyed the start to their space topic with a space themed day. Having found the abandoned space suit on the playground in the morning they designed and built rockets to enable the astronaut to return to space. The children worked fantastically in their house teams and loved watching their rockets launched with a little bit of science!



We have welcomed Mrs Prescott to the team in Super Snakes and she teaches on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with Mrs Shaw continuing on a Monday and Tuesday. The Snakes have settled back in brilliantly and are enjoying their new classroom layout.

We are looking forward to launching our new learning cafés this term, the first of which will have already happened this week. We hope that you will feel able to come in and support your child and enjoy learning alongside them.

Lastly, I just wanted to report that the house winners for last term were Ranworth house (the reds) who earned the most house points across the course of the whole term. Well done Ranworth and keep up the good work.

*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

- 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
- 11.2.19 - Street dance day for Years 1 and 2

**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
- 15.3.19 - Red Nose Day
- 21.3.19 - 9.05am TT sharing assembly
- 28.3.19 - 9.05am SS sharing assembly
- 2.4.19 - Class Photos
- 5.4.19 - Spring Assembly and Easter Hat Parade** (note change of date)

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

### Wellies

The field is now in its winter mud stage, so the children will only be allowed on the field at playtimes and lunchtimes 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.



### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is 96.3%  
The best Class this week was Clever Crocodiles on 99.3%

## Parking

Thank you for reacting to our text earlier in the half term about the parking at the Nursery. We are very grateful to you for listening and finding alternative parking places. Can I just reiterate that the Nursery parking is for Nursery parents only and all parents must park in marked bays and not alongside the pavement closest to the Nursery please.

Parking is a constant issue at every school across the country and there is only one thing that can improve it. If you are able to walk to school and not use your car then this will obviously create more space for those that have no choice but to drive. We are asked to ensure that children have 60 minutes of activity each day to improve their health and fitness and walking to and from school can really support this.

I am sorry to also report that we can no longer use the Bure Valley Railway car park in the mornings. Bure Valley Railway were advised by the Police to put barriers across their entrance due to anti social behaviour and vandalism during the evenings in their car park. Sadly, the irresponsible behaviour of a few has meant that the barriers are only removed when the railway station is open. We can therefore still use the car park after school, but the barriers will be up in the mornings. The same rules apply at the railway as at school. Please park in marked bays only and consider other road users. Thank you for your support.

## 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 Super Snakes

This year I am going to try hard to...

Work hard when writing so I can write letters to all my friends - Phoebe

Follow all the school Golden Rules - Reuben and Ava H

Learn lots of new games - Oliver

Work hard at being respectful and responsible - Peter

Play nicely with all my friends - Amelia

Learn all my phonics and be a good reader - Millen

## Christmas Jumper Day

A big thank you for all your donations on this day. We were able to send £104.00 to Save the Children to support the wonderful work that they do to help children not so fortunate as our own.



## Spelling

For those of you with children in Year 1 and 2, we have decided to trial a change to the way we do spellings. Spellings will no longer be sent home on a weekly basis in the way that they were before. Instead the children will have 10 spellings each week and will practise them first thing in the morning on a Thursday, Friday and then the following Monday and Tuesday using the look, cover, write, check method. We will then continue with the spelling challenge on a Wednesday morning to check their learning of those spellings.

At the moment, the children are all working through the hundred key words that they have to know how to spell and those which really help with their writing. The practising of the spellings in the morning also supports their handwriting skills. Once the hundred words have been completed, some children will then need to go back over those which they are unsure of, but others will move on to words known as the common exception words for which there is a list for year 1 and 2.

The previous spelling rules that were addressed in some children's spellings will continue to be worked on during their English lessons as they were before.

Evidence from Year 2 suggests that this has been a positive change and that children so far are getting more spellings right each week and then being able to use these in their writing which is obviously what we are striving for.

We still appreciate the time that you are able to spend at home continuing to embed these spellings so we will send home the whole 100 spellings for you to keep working on and then you can highlight them when you are really sure that they are stuck in the long term memory bank! You could spell the words out with letters in the bath, write them in bubbles, put them into sentences, make them with letter fridge magnets or use our method of look, cover, write and check. There really is no magic wand to wave for spellings, or a secret way to learn it, it comes from just continual practise. Practising them each week will put them into the short term memory. Continual practise will ensure that they remain in the long term memory.



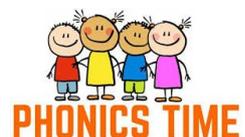
## Phonics

Year 1 parents should all have received a letter and the first of your phonic sheets to practise at home. As you are now aware the children have to take a phonics test in year 1 in June and we want to make sure that they are as well prepared for that test as they can be. We do phonics every day in school and many children are having phonics more than once a day to ensure that they have all their tools ready for the test.

However, phonics is not just for the test, as we know that being strong in their phonics will also support their reading and writing and set them on the right path for when they move in to Year 2.

Please support us and your child by taking the time to complete the phonics pack each week. As with the spelling conversation above, practising each week will put it into short term memory, continual practise will put it into the long term memory bank.

Don't forget if you need to upskill yourself there is a phonics workshop being run by Anna Catlin (the lady you met at the last family learning day) on Tuesday 22nd January here at school.





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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.



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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

## 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)



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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)