



Newsletter

Issue 8 Spring 2019

Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Well here we are at the end of the Spring term already and just one more term to go before the end of the academic year. I was made a very proud headteacher again last week when we had a visitor from the local authority who commented how confident and well spoken all our children were and how keen they were to explain their learning. A recent supply teacher also commented that it was the nicest teaching day he had had in a long time. These comments make my heart soar, that all the hard work the children and staff put in to making John of Gaunt such a fabulous place to work and learn pays off. Thank you parents and carers for working with our school community to support the children with their learning and ensuring that our whole community is educating the children.



Everyone at John of Gaunt wishes you a very Happy Easter and we hope that you have a good holiday, recharging the batteries ready to come back with lots of energy for our continued learning in the summer term.



CE Toplis

Dates for your Diary

School reopens on Tuesday 23rd April at 8.50am

- 27.4.19 - SPA event at Woodgate Nursery
- 30.4.19 - 2pm Year 2 writing café
- 7.5.19 - year 1 Norwich castle visit
- 10.5.19 - 2pm Year 1 maths café
- 13.5.19 - 2pm Reception reading café
- 5.6.19 - Year 2 Norwich castle visit
- 8.6.19 - Cluster family learning day at AHS
- 12.6.19 - New reception parents evening
- 19.6.19 - Family learning day at JoG
- 25.6.19 - 1pm - 3pm Sports day
- 3rd - 5th July - Transition days
- 15.7.19 - 3pm - 6pm Open evening
- 23.7.19 - 9.15am Year 2 Leavers Assembly

School finishes for the Summer holidays on 24.7.19 at 3.10pm

Equipment

Just another little reminder that due to health and safety and insurance restrictions the equipment on the playground must NOT be used before and after school. Please help us by reminding your child about this and asking them to come off if they do forget.



Can I also stress that our lovely new staging area is not a climbing frame and climbing on it will cause it to break. I have talked to the children about this too, so they are aware of expectations.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is...

95.8%

The best class this week was.....

Fantastic Foxes on 98.1%

Phonics

Thank you and well done to those of you who have accessed our new YouTube channel and viewed our phonics videos. We hope that they have been helpful and certainly helped lots of you in completing the Year 1 homework. Don't forget that you can watch them as many times as you like to ensure that your knowledge and the children's is strong. Mrs Simpson has released some more videos this week going through how the phonemes are said, so either check back or if you are accessing for the first time it is 'John of Gaunt Phonics'. If you like and subscribe to us it will be easier to find second time around!



Twitter

We now have a Twitter account for those of you who prefer Twitter to Facebook or just like both. Follow us at John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School - Parent Info. Just a note of warning the & sign is important not the word 'and'! Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are linked so information will appear



Spring Fair

Well done FoJoG for organising a great Spring Fair and thank you to all of you who came and spent some pennies. The chocolate tombola seemed to be gone within minutes! We have a total of £148 raised so as always we are very grateful.

Reading

Please continue to read with your child during the Easter holidays as they need lots of practise with this skill. Take a trip to the library to access some new books and also remember to share some stories together too. Last year we launched the extreme reading challenge and would be happy to see any photos of that this year too! Just take a photo of your child reading in a really extreme way or in an extreme place. Email them to head@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk and I will print them out and put them on display or pop them on the Facebook page if you are happy for that.



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 Fantastic Foxes

What have you enjoyed learning about castles so far?...



When we went to Baconsthorpe castle and we did all the activities - Oliver

When William the Conqueror died, Norwich castle became a prison - Christmas

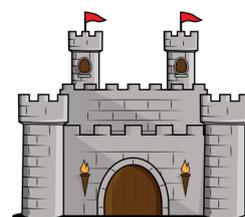
I like writing facts about Norwich castle because I like learning facts about history - Evie

I love the look of Norwich castle because not a lot of it is damaged - Hudson

I liked talking about different castles in class - Jake

William the Conqueror dies when he fell off his horse - Oscar

I like Norwich castle because it has turrets - Maddie



Report from Chair of Governors, Jenny Youngs

Where has the term gone? it seems like only yesterday I was writing for the Christmas newsletter and already Easter is just around the corner. The daffodils are out, and Spring has sprung.

It has been another busy and productive term across all our schools. Our new nursery facility is proving very popular and numbers are increasing on a weekly basis; when I visit the nursery it is a real pleasure to see so many happy smiling faces of both staff and children alike.

On a recent governor's visit to Bure Valley, we were treated to a very mature performance of extracts of Romeo and Juliet by year 6 Brazil class during their school assembly, and at break time it was good to see the youngsters enjoying the large outdoor space which we are so fortunate to have at Bure Valley.

I was delighted by the performance of Sister Act which the High School students recently completed. It really was difficult to remember that the performers were all under the age of 16, and my thanks to parents and carers for the support they give to the school during rehearsals, as I am quite sure it can be quite an undertaking ensuring that your children are in school on time at weekends. My thanks too of course, to the staff who year after year come up with yet another amazing show for the community of Aylsham to enjoy.

Across all our schools the students and pupils have been working hard and gearing up for the traditional summer term exams and I would like to wish them all the very best of luck as they sit GCSEs, SATs etc. I know that it can be a stressful time for everyone, but again, I would like to thank parents and carers for all the support that they give the school and their children during exam time.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter and an enjoyable school holiday.

Jenny Youngs
Chair of governors Aylsham Learning Federation

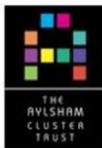
Mrs Farmer

Mrs Farmer (the Fantastic Foxes' teacher) will not be at school for the foreseeable future as she is needing to take time off to care for her husband who is very unwell. We recognise that Mrs Farmer needs this time to care for her husband and that they need to spend time together. This means that we need to ensure that we have appropriate cover for the time while Mrs Farmer is away and have decided to use our already very experienced staff to facilitate this in the best way. Therefore, from when we return after Easter Mrs Shaw will move from teaching in the Super Snakes to teach the Fantastic Foxes from Monday to Thursday and then Mrs Toplis will teach the Foxes on a Friday. Mrs Prescott will increase her teaching days and therefore teach the Super Snakes full time.

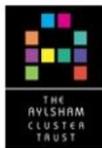
Mrs Shaw is a very experienced teacher and I know that the Fantastic Foxes will be in very safe hands under her guidance and direction. For the Super Snakes the continuity continues as Mrs Prescott is currently their teacher for half of the week anyway.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter as we give Mrs Farmer the time that she needs to care for her husband.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to come and speak to a member of the team.



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 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 13th February 2019
Wednesday 1st 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)



It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 27th April 2019

Woodgate Nursery & Tea Rooms, Aylsham

2 pm - 4 pm

GROWING DAY

Woodgate Nursery & Tea Rooms and The Aylsham Cluster Schools Friends and PTA groups will be offering families the opportunity of enjoying a variety of FREE activities such as grass animals and seedling planting.

No booking required - just turn up on the day and enjoy this FREE event!

Come along for half an hour or stay for the whole two hours.



All children must be accompanied by an adult.



THE
AYLSHAM
CLUSTER
TRUST

It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child

CIEH Foundation Certificate in Food Safety

Thursday 9th May 2019

9am - 3pm

Venue - John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School



A FREE one day accredited training course leading to the CIEH Foundation Certificate in Food Safety.

This is a key qualification for anyone wishing to work or volunteer in catering, manufacturing or a retail setting where food is prepared, cooked and handled.

It would be an asset to anyone looking for employment in pubs/hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, food retail environments, care homes and schools.

This course will be delivered by Lisa Whatnall from Clarion Futures.

Please bring a packed lunch.

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



THE
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It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child



Introduction to Supporting, Teaching and Learning in Schools



A free course to help you identify the skills and knowledge required to work in a teaching support role in either a Nursery, Infant, Primary or High School.

Taster Session on

Thursday 6th June 2019

9.30am - 12.30pm

Followed by a FREE 5 week course starting on

Thursday 13th June 2019

9.30am - 12.30pm

Venue - John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School

Subjects covered will include:

How children's learning develops * Supporting positive behaviour * Understanding equality, diversity and inclusion when working with children * Safeguarding and welfare.

Attending this course will offer you the opportunity to progress onto a funded Level 2 certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools course due to start in September.

This course will be delivered by Clarion Futures in conjunction with WEA.

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