



# Newsletter

## Issue 1 Autumn 2019

### Welcome from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Hello to all our new parents/carers and welcome back to all our existing parents/carers. We have had such a fantastic start to the new school year and I am so proud of how well all the children have settled in to their new classes and I can see some great learning going on already. For those of you that are new, I aim to send out a newsletter a couple of times each half term to keep you updated with things that are going on in school, but if there is ever anything that you are unsure of or would like more clarification on, please speak to either your child's class teacher or pop into the school office and see either Mrs Lord or Mrs Hickling, who can usually help. At John of Gaunt we hope that everyone feels part of our community and we want you to feel that you can come in and talk to us at any time about anything. Dates are for you to pop into diaries. If there is anything you are unsure of don't worry as there will be more information to follow.

We are all really excited about the new year ahead and look forward to sharing the year with you.



*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

16.9.19 - Reception meet the teacher meeting at 3.15 pm  
16.9.19 - Y2 Trip to Thrigby  
17.9.19 - Y1 trip to Thrigby  
17.9.19 - SIMs parent information session at BVS 1.30pm  
19.9.19 - SIMs parent information session at BVS 9.00am  
26.9.19 - Lovely Leopards Sharing Assembly 9.05am  
3.10.19 - Harvest Assembly 9.15am  
8.10.19 - Year 2 Writing Café 9.15am  
10.10.19 - Clever Crocodiles Sharing Assembly 9.05am  
15.10.19 and 16.10.19 - Parents Evenings

**School finishes for Half Term at 3.10pm Friday 18th October and reopens Monday 28th October**

29.10.19 - Year 1 Maths Café 9.15am  
30.10.19 - Reception Reading Café 9.15am  
7.11.19 - Fantastic Foxes Sharing Assembly  
8.11.19 - School Photographer in  
14.11.19 - Busy Bees Sharing Assembly  
10.12.19 - Christmas dinner  
11.12.19 - Family Learning Morning  
12.12.19 - Rotary Carol Concert at Aylsham Parish Church 7pm  
13.12.19 - Y2 Journey to Bethlehem  
16.12.19 - Panto  
16.12.19 - Y1 and Y2 Parties  
17.12.,19 - Reception parties

**18.12.18 - School closes for Christmas at 3.10 pm and reopens Monday 6th January**

### Christmas Plays

I know it feels too early to be talking about this, but I wanted you all to have the dates early on. Plays are yet to be finalised but here is the schedule:

#### Tuesday 3rd December

Reception Performance at 9.30 am

#### Wednesday 4th December

Year 1 Performance at 9.30am  
Reception Performance at 1.45pm

#### Thursday 5th December

Year 2 Performance at 9.30 am  
Year 1 Performance at 1.45 pm

#### Friday 7th December

Year 2 Performance at 9.30 pm



## Reading, Writing and Phonics



Reading, Writing and Phonics are essential to every day life and are certainly at the forefront of children's learning.

Without the ability to use these three skills effectively, learning will always be a challenge. It is obviously our job to continue to teach these three important skills, but we can't do it alone. We can and do, do all the teaching in relation to these areas, but what we need is your support at home with the practise.

### Phonics

Phonics is all about how individual letters sound and then how groups of letters sound. Phonics is the foundations for reading and writing. Phonics is taught at John of Gaunt every morning, starting in reception from the single letter sounds moving on to groups of letters and the sounds that they make. We understand that this can be very confusing for parents as this may not be the way that you were taught at school! We therefore have our own You Tube channel to support and help you. Mrs Simpson has created a series of videos, which we are constantly updating. We would encourage you to have a watch of these yourselves and also watch them with your child. Reception parents - as your child begins to learn their first initial sounds, we will launch videos at the end of the week of learning so that you can support them at home with practise.

Our You Tube channel can be found by typing **John of Gaunt phonics** into the You Tube search bar.

### Reading

At school we teach them phonics, which leads to their ability to read. We read several times every single week at school, be that guided reading, individual reading or as part of our whole class work. However, that is not enough and the children who make the most progress are those who practise these skills that we have taught in school at home. Your child needs to be practising their reading with you, ideally every night for a few minutes, but if this is impossible then at least 3 -4 times a week. This continual daily practise ensures that they can develop their skills and will then become confident and fluent readers. I hope that you will have all seen (unless you are a reception parent) that the children have a new sheet that has appeared in their reading record book. This sheet helps you to see what colour band your child is currently on and also suggests some questions to ask after you have read, either the whole book or a few pages. This element is known as comprehension and is as important a skill as reading the words themselves. Being able to talk about what they have read and the book as a whole all leads to their reading fluency. We want children to have a love of books so sharing a story with them, modelling language beyond their reading capability is also a vital part of their learning. We hope that you will support us with this and help us to help your child be the best reader that they can be.

Remember, always make it positive. Sharing the reading of their book (if your child is reluctant) usually helps. The reason they are reluctant is because at first it is hard. With daily practise it soon won't be!

### Writing

Writing usually develops more once children become fluent with their phonics and their reading. We always say that 'good writers are also good readers'. Again, our job is to teach the skills of writing, but the skill of practise can be performed at home too. We would love it if you could support us with writing at home by writing their name, writing birthday cards, thank you letters, in shaving foam on the side of the bath, writing about a day out, writing a story, creating a diary etc. All of this, no matter how small, will support your child with their writing. The teachers love to see writing that the children have done at home so encourage your child to bring it in to share.

## Behaviour

At John of Gaunt we know that all children learn best when they are behaving well. It is important that all children follow our behaviour policy so that everyone has the chance to learn well in school. Our number one aim is to praise children for their great behaviour and also to reward them. Last year we launched a new behaviour system and I wanted to remind existing parents and inform new parents of it. I am sure that your children have already told you that they have been earning house points for their respective houses. All the children are in house teams which are named after the Norfolk broads.

Ranworth is the red house  
Wroxham is the yellow house  
Hickling is the blue house  
Salhouse is the green house

Children can earn house points for all sorts of different things; like helping to tidy up, walking in the corridors, sitting nicely on the carpet, using their listening ears, being kind to a friend etc. They are also able to earn marbles or team stones (year 2) for their whole class and when their jar is full they will all earn some 'golden time' of the classes choosing.

In every classroom they have a coloured spot system which starts at green, moves up to silver and then gold. Everyone starts the day on the green spot, and for demonstrating good behaviour they can move up to silver or even gold. On silver they earn 2 house points and on gold 3. If they get to gold they also get a golden ticket!!! which can be posted in the golden post box outside Mrs Toplis' office. At the end of each half term 9 tickets will be chosen from the golden post box and those children can enjoy a hot chocolate and biscuit afternoon tea with Mrs T. Everyone who remains on the green spot (or higher) each day will earn a house point for their team.

All children just want to please and be recognised for it so as you can imagine the children really enjoy this system and respond positively to it.

As you can see, the majority of the system is all about the good, but we do also need to have consequences for those rare times when behaviour is not as we would expect it to be. Each class has a poster to highlight what we class as poor behaviour so that there is consistency across the whole school. Children are always given a verbal warning to remind them of the behaviour that is expected of them, but if that behaviour continues they will move down to the yellow spot. If their poor behaviour continues they will be moved down to the orange spot and will need to spend some 'time out' in their classroom. Should their behaviour continue to be less than we would expect, then they will move down to the red spot and you will receive a phone call from your child's teacher. Your child will be expected to move to the next door classroom and to draw a picture to explain what it was about their behaviour that was unacceptable. Children on yellow, orange or red have the chance to reset and move themselves back up to green and then beyond. We know that poor behaviour will be an occasional event, but it is important that the children understand what the boundaries are so that they can always stay on the right side.

In the school and the playground we have developed some 'Golden Rules' for us to try to follow and all the children slowly learn these. We hope that you will support us and your child with our behaviour policy. Don't forget to ask them how many house points they earned that day or whether they have earned a golden ticket (although I am sure you will hear about that immediately!).



## Reminders

Please **DO NOT** allow your child to use the equipment on the playground before or after school. This is down to health and safety and our insurance.

Please make sure that orange dinner slips are in book bags on a Monday morning and please try not to make changes during the week if you can help it. Remember if your child just wants the normal hot dinner then there is no need to complete a dinner slip.

Please phone the school office to let us know if your child is absent and why by 9am.

If you need to access the school site during the school day, then the only access is via the Hungate street entrance. Please do not climb over the nursery gate. Gates are secured for the safety of our children and all visitors must come to the main office.

## School Library

Our school library is run by our brilliant volunteers and we are now very short of volunteers to enable the library to be used every week.

Library time is on a Friday afternoon and our lovely library helpers will be around to support our children to change their books. As we now have lots of classes the children will change their books on a rotation, but always on a Friday. Please can you make sure that if your child wants to change their library book that it is in their book bags ready for a Friday.



## 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

Now I am in Year 2 I can...

'do my best writing' - Olivia

'colour neater' - Ruby

'do better maths' - Henley

'read longer books' - Caitlin

'do my jobs in the morning easier' - Lilly

'get more leadership jobs like chairperson and secretary' - Meg

'get a chance to be house captain' - Guy

'write faster' - Campbell

'be more resilient' - Yvonne

'learn more interesting things' - Phoenix-Rose

'do my capital letters better' - Vivienne

'do even more Maths and English' - Honey

## Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.  
Our current figure is:

95.7%

The best Class this week was:

Fantastic Foxes on 99.4%



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**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**Blickling Estate**  
**2pm - 4pm**

The National Trust and Aylsham Trust Schools Friends and PTA groups will be offering families the opportunity of enjoying a large range of FREE activities in conjunction with '50 things to do before you're 11 3/4'.

**Please join us for a variety of outdoor activities.**

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

**All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Please wear suitable outdoor footwear.**

For FREE parking please ensure you follow the directions to the FREE car park which is close to the event.

There will be Aylsham Trust staff and volunteers on site to assist you.

**Please note: If you park in the main estate car park there is a fee for all non National Trust members.**



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**CIEH Foundation Certificate in  
Food Safety**  
**Thursday 14th November 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](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or telephone/text 07780 887348.**



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**Slow Cooker &  
Healthy Eating Course**



**Thursday 10th & 17th October**  
**9.15 am - 11.45 am**

**Venue - John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School**

A practical free 2 week course offering basic cooking skills and low cost, low waste healthy eating ideas.



At the end of the 2 week course you will take home a free slow cooker (1 per household).

*This course will be delivered by Lisa Whatnall 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 text/message 07780 887348.**

**If you have previously attended a Clarion Futures slow cooker or healthy eating workshop you will not be eligible to attend this course.**



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**Dyslexia Awareness**

**Tuesday 8th October 2019**  
**9.30am - 11.45am**  
**Aylsham High School**

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



- Workshop Content:
- \* How to help with homework.
  - \* How to support further reading and spelling development.
  - \* How to support difficulty with organisation and memory.
  - \* How to communicate with school if there is a conflict.

You will receive some dyslexia friendly resources and handouts.

**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**



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
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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# Make Up Confidence

Wednesday 20th November

9.15am - 2.45pm

Venue - John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School

Would feeling more confident with your make up skills  
help to increase your self confidence?



During the day you will develop your make up skills, while exploring  
the beauty industry and possible career routes within it.

Please bring a packed lunch with you, free tea and coffee will be available.

All professional make up and hygiene products will be supplied for you to use.

This workshop will be delivered by the Clarion Futures Team.

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)



# SEND local offer

## Family Roadshow

“Listening to children, young people, and their families... supporting inclusion, meeting needs and changing lives together”

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 10:30-13:00 ([Holt Hall](#))

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30-13:00 ([Knight's Hill Hotel, King's Lynn](#))

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 10:30-13:00 ([Kings Centre, Great Yarmouth](#))

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30-13:00 ([Charles Burrell Centre, Thetford](#))

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30-13:00 ([The Willow Centre, Cringleford, Norwich](#))

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30-13:00 ([Pensthorpe, Fakenham](#))

To book your place  
[send@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:send@norfolk.gov.uk)

