



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 over, please send either an email to your child's class teacher or myself or the office. You can also always call Mrs Lord or Mrs Hickling in the office and they can usually help. All our email addresses are at the bottom of this page.



At John of Gaunt we hope that everyone feels part of our community and although things are different at the moment we still hold community at the heart of our school.

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

There are very few dates to share as extra activities are limited at the moment and all are subject to change depending on guidance.

w.b. 12.10.2020 - Parents Evenings
These are likely to be virtual or via telephone

School finishes for Half Term on Wednesday 21st October and reopens Monday 2nd November

8.12.2020 - Family Learning Day (if we can!)

11.12.20 - Christmas Jumper Day

14.12.20 - Y1 and Y2 Christmas Parties

W.b. 15.12.20 - Christmas dinner (hopefully)

16.12.20 - Reception Christmas Parties

School closes for Christmas on Friday 18th December and reopens Monday 4th January

Staff emails

Mrs Toplis
head@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk
Mrs Lord or Mrs Hickling
office@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk
Mrs Gillet (Leopards)
lgillett3crq@nsix.org.uk
Mrs Gotterson (Turtles)
egotterson5wr9@nsix.org.uk
Mrs Simpson (Elephants)
hsimpson69r5@nsix.org.uk
Miss Bullock (Otters)
mbullock7trg@nsix.org.uk
Mrs Farmer (Zebras)
rfarmer2urp@nsix.org.uk
Mr Scrivens (Giraffes)
jscrivens9qre@nsix.org.uk
Mrs Clarke (pastoral)
pastoral@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk

Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is...

94.2

The best Class this week was

Leopards on 100 %

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. Our behaviour system has been running for 2 years now but I wanted to remind existing parents and inform new parents of how it works. 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 12 tickets will be chosen from the golden post box and those children can enjoy an 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!).



Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at John of Gaunt. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. Some of our children will just be at the start of this journey whilst others will be further along. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

This year we have introduced a new scheme for teaching phonics, reading and writing to our children. The scheme is known as Read, Write Inc. or RWI for short.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children will practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they can read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing.

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?

Your child will bring different sorts of books home from school. One will be the book that they have been sharing in class, one will be a book that accompanies this and one will be a book of their choosing for you to share with them. Please trust your child's teacher to choose the book(s) that will help your child the most. You will have the same book for a number of days until the next book is completed in school and then that will come home.

Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link:

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/#lg=1&slide=2>

Sometimes your child might bring home a book that they know well. Please don't say, 'This is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story. We want them to feel successful.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family.

The teachers will be spending the next few weeks assessing the children and putting them into their broad sound groups for RWI. After that, they will follow a daily programme of phonics which includes both reading and writing. As the children make progress they will move to different groups which are all colour coded.

Please be patient as this is new to the school and we need to ensure that we have the children in the right group at the right level before we start sending the RWI books home.

In the meantime, whilst we are grouping them we are going to send home 3 books each week from our old reading scheme. The children will pick their books on a Monday, keep them until the following Monday (we will then quarantine them for 72 hours) and they will pick 3 more books for the next week.

Mathematics Mastery

This year we have also taken on Mathematics Mastery as our Maths teaching programme.

Mathematics Masteries vision and mission and beliefs are:

Vision - For every child to enjoy and succeed in mathematics, regardless of background.

Mission - To transform mathematics education in the UK. We work in partnership to empower and equip schools to deliver world-class mathematics teaching.

Core Belief - Mathematics Mastery schools want every child to succeed in maths, no matter what their backgrounds and starting points.

- Success in mathematics for every child is possible.
- Mathematical ability is not innate, and is increased through effort.

What does this mean in practice?

- Fewer topics in greater depth
- Mastery for all pupils
- Number sense and place value come first
- Problem solving is central



Lesson Structure:

- Mathematics Mastery lessons follow a 6-part structure. This keeps the lesson pacy, gives flow and allows more opportunities to teach creatively, give feedback and assess learning.
- Pupils have access to plenty of concrete materials such as bead strings and cubes/counters so that they have time to fully explore mathematics.

Mathematical Language

Mathematics Mastery lessons provide opportunities for pupils to communicate and develop mathematical language through:

- Sharing essential vocabulary at the beginning of every lesson and insisting on its use throughout
- Modelling clear sentence structures using mathematical language
- Paired language development activities, known as Talk Tasks.
- Plenaries which give a further opportunity to assess understanding through pupil explanations.

How can parents become involved?

- Talk to your child about their learning, what they learned in their maths lessons each day.
- Discuss numbers all around you: door numbers, bus numbers etc.
- Encourage your child to predict what number will come next in a sequence of door numbers – are they odd or even?
- Cooking and shopping with your child, getting them to weigh ingredients, using language such as “more” and “less/fewer”.

As well as their daily maths lessons, all children will have Maths meetings at least 3 times a week to continue to practise those essential mathematical skills and concepts which cannot be taught in stand alone lessons but need to be constantly taught and reiterated.

Mathematics Mastery will enable us to plug any gaps that the children may have in their learning and also enable us to help them to become fluent mathematicians who love Maths.

Google classroom

In the event of children needing to be at home for a period of time due to the coronavirus leaning will once again switch to home. To make it easier for staff to send work to you and to enable meetings between the children and their teachers we have set up Google classrooms for everyone at John of Gaunt. You have already been sent an invite to google classroom but you need the children's unique email address to access. Once you have been given your child's email address, please log in to their email and you will find an invite from me. Once you have accepted this invitation you will be able to access everything on google classroom.

There will be more training to follow on what to do and how. Please keep a look out in your child's book bag for a ticket with their email address on.



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 Zebras



Now I am in Year 2...

We can learn numbers, phonics, we can learn about animals – Ila-Rose

We now have cases for our whiteboards – Millen

We can learn about English – Ayla

We can learn Maths, it's my favourite subject – Seb

We can learn to be neat and tidy with our handwriting – Georgia

We can do artwork neatly – Buzz

We do more work – Phoebe

We can learn about Science – Oliver

We get to be School Council Secretary or Chairperson – Peter

We can be House Captains – Ruby

We get to listen to teachers and we always need our magnet eyes on them – Riley E

We always follow the rules – Riley F

We write in our books – Willow

We always listen – Millie

Notices

There is a vacancy in our school kitchen. Please follow this link for details and an application form.

<https://app.kallidusrecruit.com/NPSGroup/VacancyInformation.aspx?VId=71941>

Parent workshops:



Slow Cooker & Healthy Eating Course

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

Thursday 8th and 15th October
9.15 am - 11.45 am

Venue - Emmanuel Church, Cawston Road, Aylsham, NR11 6BX
Free parking available at Buttland carpark, Mill Road, NR11 6DU



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.

To allow for social distancing guidelines places will be limited and must be booked with our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding by e-mail to 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.



CIEH Foundation Certificate in Food Safety
Thursday 5th November
9am - 3pm

Venue - Emmanuel Church, Cawston Road, Aylsham, NR11 6BX
Free parking available at Buttland carpark, Mill Road, NR11 6DU



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

This course is suitable for anyone working or volunteering in an environment where they are actually preparing fresh food for consumption. This is also a valuable qualification for those wishing to work in the hospitality industry, food retail, care settings, hospitals, nurseries and schools.

This course will be delivered by Lisa Whatnall from Clarion Futures.
Please bring a packed lunch.

To allow for social distancing guidelines places are limited and must be booked with our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding by e-mail mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or telephone/text 07780 887348.



From Trash to Treasure

A **FREE** fun hands-on workshop trying out imaginative and creative ways to re-purpose and upcycle household items giving them a whole new life and saving them from landfill!

Thursday 19th November
9.15am - 11.45am

Venue - Emmanuel Church, Cawston Road, Aylsham, NR11 6BX
Free parking available at Buttland carpark, Mill Road, NR11 6DU



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

To allow for social distancing guidelines places are limited and must be booked with our Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding by e-mail 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.

Carol Flatters is our TACT (Families) Parent Support Advisor.
If you would like to speak to Carol she can be contacted by e-mail at cflatters@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or by text/telephone on 07780 922545.
(term time only)

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

Carol can be contacted by text and email during the current Covid -19 pandemic

