



# Newsletter

## Issue 2 Autumn 2020

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

The first half term is truly whizzing by. We have had a lovely settled and calm start to term and all the children are enjoying getting stuck in to their learning.

Our new Leopards and Turtles have settled in so well and have learnt so many letter sounds already and they are so keen with their writing too.



Our Elephants and Otters have had a fabulous start to Year 1 and I can already see how much progress they have made with their reading, writing, phonics and maths.

Our Giraffes and Zebras have really stepped up to their responsibilities as year 2's and many are enjoying their new student leadership roles.

Year 1 are enjoying their topic 'Faces and Places' and Year 2 their topic 'Out of the Ashes' where they are learning about the Great Fire of London.

The children's behaviour since we returned has been exemplary and I have lots of golden tickets in my golden post box, I just have to work out how to do a socially distanced afternoon tea without mixing bubbles!

I continue to be so proud of how well the children are just getting on with all the differences at the moment and sanitising and washing their hands has now just become part of their day which they do without us even needing to remind them. Their resilient attitudes are commendable for children so young.

Thank you to all of you too as you continue to follow our guidance to ensure that our site, the staff and the children are as safe as we can make it. Please remember to keep your distance from other families on the playground whilst waiting with your child in the mornings and also on collection. Please where possible, try to arrive at the right time to avoid waiting.

*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

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

19.10.20 - School Photos

12.11.2020 - Family Learning Activity Launch

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 at 3.10 pm on Friday 18th December and reopens Monday 4th January**

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is

The best Class this week was

## School Photos

Individual school photos will be taken on Monday 19th October by Tempest. As with everything else we are having to do things differently this year.

Tempest have devised a COVID safe way of taking photos which does not require any close contact. The children will stand to have their photo taken rather than sit and the photographer will maintain a 2 metre distance from the children at all times. Photo proofs will be emailed to you rather than via paper to ensure a contactless process. Unfortunately this year because of 'bubbles' we are unable to offer sibling photos and there will be no after school session either.

Photos will be taken in the hall with a 'walk through' set up. Individual classes will be taken one at a time through the hall to have their photo taken. Fingers crossed for lots of happy smiles.



## Parents Evenings

We would normally have our Autumn Parents evenings before half term but this year things need to be a bit different.

It is very clear from guidance from the Department for Education and also the Local Authority that we should not hold face to face meetings with parents at this time except in exceptional circumstances.

This obviously poses a challenge for us as this is how we and every other school would ordinarily conduct a parents evening.

Please bear with us as we plan the best way to manage parents evenings in a COVID secure way. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's learning please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



## Family Learning Day

For obvious reasons we are unable to carry out our wonderful Family Learning Day as we normally would. We would normally use our Autumn Family Learning Day for something festive and are keen that we don't lose this. Christmas may be different for all of this year so the small things that we can do for ourselves and for our community will make such a difference.

So, we are planning to launch 'remote' Family Learning day on 12th November. On this day you will receive a pack of activities for 4 different Christmas decorations using resources that we hope you will already have at home or can find in the outside world. Our hope is that you will complete 1 or even all 4 and then bring them back in to school to place in a box in the classrooms where they will be quarantined for the right amount of time before we place them all on a Christmas tree either at the main entrance or the nursery entrance. We hope this will then bring cheer to all our school community and also the wider community too.

We are also planning on making gift tags in school which will then be hung on the fences at the main entrance and nursery to further add a bit of festive cheer.

Fliers will either come home in book bags or via email soon for further information.



## Remote Learning

Hopefully by now you will have received a home learning book, a letter, a line guide and some tickets with log in details for our online learning platforms.

Please read the letter carefully as it contains some important information.

The action that you need to take straight away so that we can get things rolling is to join your child's Google Classroom. This will be the main way that teachers are able to communicate with you should you find yourselves needing to educate at home.

There are 'how to' guides for logging in to Google Classroom on our website under the home learning tab. Please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Toplis if you are having problems with this.



## 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:

### **Giraffes**



This half term I have enjoyed learning...

I have liked The Great Fire of London and creating the timeline - Tioni

I enjoyed the walk down Hungate Street, looking at all the different houses - Amelia

I have enjoyed making our Christmas cards - Ruby

I love place value in Maths because it is fun - Joe

I have enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London - Delilah

I love lunchtime because there is food involved! - Spencer

I have enjoyed making our Christmas cards - Logan

I have enjoyed digging up Samuel Pepys treasure - Michael

I love using watercolours - Marlie

## Shoe Box Appeal

Christmas will be different for all of us this year but one thing we can almost certainly guarantee is that there will be presents for our children. Some children are not so lucky and there is no guarantee of this. Despite everything we are going through right now it is still important to remember those less fortunate than ourselves

We have therefore decided to continue with the shoe box appeal but of course in a different way!

A leaflet will come home in book bags detailing the items to fill the shoeboxes. It would be great if you could fill a whole box but if you are only able to provide a few items then we would be grateful for these too and they can be put together with others to complete a box. Maybe you could join forces with another family to do a shoebox together?

There will soon be a trailer at the front of school for you to put your completed shoeboxes in and any donations too. We are asked to ensure that all items are new and not damaged and that no war related items are included.

The trailer will also have some empty shoeboxes in if you are in need and you can of course drop empty shoeboxes in for others too.



Let's see if we can exceed our normal total of shoe boxes this year.

## Open Event

We are delighted to be able to run an open event for prospective parents even in these challenging times. I will run informal tours of the school for a limited number of families in each session after school has closed for the day. We are then able to offer a zoom information evening instead of the normal face to face meeting. If you know of anyone who has a reception aged child for September 2021 then please spread the word for us. Details are on the poster.



**John of Gaunt**  
Infant & Nursery School  
Part of Aylsham Learning Federation

### Open Event

**Informal tours of the school**  
Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th November  
Time slots available  
4pm - 4.30pm, 4.30pm - 5.00pm and 5.00 - 5.30pm

Please phone or email the school office to book an appointment for a tour

**Wednesday 11th**  
November at 6pm  
Zoom Open Evening with  
Head of School  
Mrs Toplis



## 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 text or e-mail

[cflatters@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:cflatters@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk)

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 including financial signposting.

