



Newsletter

Issue 9 Spring 2021

Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Welcome Back Everyone. It has been such a joy this week to see everyone's happy faces. The children have shown us how happy they are to be back at school and I am sure you are happy to leave home learning behind! The school is once again alive with a wonderful learning buzz.



The children have settled brilliantly back into their learning. Their stamina needs building back up again and I am sure that you have some very tired children this evening. We will be using these three weeks to assess where the children are with their learning. Next week they will complete a Read Write Inc assessment and in the following weeks some maths, spelling and reading assessments. All of these will enable us to direct the learning in the right place for the start of the Summer Term.

This week, we have been focusing lots on settling back in and ensuring well-being and good mental Health. I am pleased to say that our young children are as resilient as ever and they never cease to amaze me with how well they bounce back and adapt to everything.

Next Friday ,19th March, is Red Nose Day. The theme this year is superheroes. So raid the dressing up box and decide your super power and create a costume. Superhero costumes can be made very simply with things you find around your house. Tie a small blanket round your shoulders and you have a cape. Reception children will be brilliant at this as they did it for one of their home learning activities. You might be Air Guitar Girl or Bakes Brilliant Cakes boy or Dr Flying as modelled by Buzz in the photo.

Whatever you decide to be, come dressed as your superhero on Friday 19th March and donate what you can to the charity. Let's help everyone to smile.



CE Toplis

Dates for your Diary

18.3.21 - Year 1 Tudor Day

19.3.21 - Red Nose Day

26.3.21 - Easter Hat Day

School closes for Easter on Friday 26th March and reopens on Monday 12th April

Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is

94.8%

The best Class this week was

Elephants on 97.3 %

Covid Update

We were as pleased as I am sure you were when schools were the first thing to open as part of the Prime Ministers Road Map for moving out of lockdown. We do however, still remain in lockdown and just because schools are open the rest of society is clearly still not.

One of the main reasons why schools were able to reopen, and primary schools in particular were able to reopen without the need for children to wear masks, is because the risk to the children is very low and young children are not big spreaders of the virus. The biggest issue is between us as adults, as we are much more likely to spread it between ourselves. This is why we have continued to ask you to wear face coverings on site and why the staff are also wearing face coverings. The wearing of a face covering on site does not however mean that you can ignore social distancing rules and you must not gather in groups on the playground while waiting to drop off or pick up.

It is very clear that if we do not want to continue in lockdown for a prolonged period then we must make sure that we are following the rules both in and out of school. If we do not want schools to close again and be back to the same position with home learning then we **MUST** all follow social distancing rules and not mix households until we are told it is safe to do so. The safer you remain outside of school the safer school will also remain.

The light at the end of this tunnel is growing ever brighter but we must hang on in there for a few more weeks to ensure that we can get to the end.

Easter Hats

Last year we had to have a virtual Easter Hat event so I am really pleased that this year we are back in school. Unfortunately, we cannot have our usual Spring Assembly and we won't be able to do a whole school parade with parents invited to watch but we can still enjoy this in a different way.

For those of you new to John of Gaunt this year, the Easter Hat Parade is something that has been going for years and years and is a tradition that we are keen to continue. We would love it if every child could make an Easter Hat to wear to school on the last day of Term (Friday 26th March). The hats can be as creative or as simple as you like. Have fun creating the hats together, we do love to see that the children have had an input in their hat!

Normally the Easter Bunny would come to judge the hats but this year it will be Easter Bunny Mrs T beamed in to class from her office.

Our lovely Friends of John of Gaunt (FoJoG) are kindly providing us with prizes for winning hats. There will be two winners from each class. So, get creative, we can't wait to see them.





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

cfatters@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.



THE
AYLSHAM
COMMUNITY
TRUST
(FAMILIES)

It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child



*Are you feeling fed up, bored, overwhelmed or lonely?
Why not take a break? Make a coffee and join Monica and Eleanor
and a small group of parents/carers for a coffee and chat via Zoom?*

Take a Break

Drop in coffee morning via Zoom

Every Wednesday at 10am

until the Easter break.



We are looking forward to seeing you!

To book a place contact Monica Harding our Family Learning Co-ordinator:
mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or telephone/text 07780 887348.

When you sign up you will receive all the information you need to join via Zoom.



THE
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It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child

We are delighted to offer parents/carers the opportunity of joining a free online session delivered via Zoom. The session will be led by our Social, Emotional and Mental Health Officer, Sara Dale.

Zoom can be accessed on a computer, smart phone or tablet.

Managing Anxiety

Thursday 22nd April 9.15am - 10.15am

This FREE online session is specifically designed to offer support to those who struggle with a variety of anxiety related concerns and symptoms. During the session you will learn a variety of coping strategies.



Please book your place by contacting Monica Harding our Family Learning Co-ordinator: mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or telephone/text 07780 887348.