



Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn 2022

Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

We are almost half way through the half term already and the weather has definitely turned reminding us why this term is called the Autumn Term! Please make sure you check the weather forecast before setting out in the mornings. Whilst it may be a short hop from the car to school without a coat the children play outside for a good amount of time at break times and lunchtimes and do get cold.



Next week sees the start of our Maths workshops with Mrs Simpson so please note the date for your child and come along to learn but also join in with your child. They will be straight after drop off in the hall.

Thank you to everyone that came along to the Year 1 and 2 meet the teacher meetings this week. If you weren't able to come you should now have received

a letter with lots of details on so please take time to read this.

Our curriculum letters have also been sent home so that you can see what your child will be learning about this half term. They are already working hard within their new topics and enjoying some new learning.

Please read through this newsletter carefully and add the relevant dates to your diaries to avoid missing those special events.

CE Toplis

Attendance Watch

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

94.9%

The best Class this week was

Elephants on 98.6%

Dates for your Diary

28.9.22: 9am - 10.30am - Y2 Maths Parent workshop with Mrs Simpson (hall)

5.10.22: 9am - 10.30am - Y1 Maths Parent workshop with Mrs Simpson (hall)

6.10.22: 9am - Zebra class sharing assembly

13.10.22: 9am - Giraffe class sharing assembly

18.10.22 - Individual photos

20.10.22: 9.15am - Harvest Assembly

24th - 28th October is HALF TERM

9.11.22: 9am - 10.30am - Reception Maths Parent workshop with Mrs Simpson (hall)

14th - 16th October - Parents Evenings

18.11.22 - Children in Need

29.11.22 - Main School family Learning Day

1.12.22 - Nursery Family Learning Session

Christmas dates in a separate box later in the newsletter

School finishes for Christmas at 3.10pm on 16th December

Staffing News

Mrs Gillett, who was our lovely teacher in reception, has for her own personal reasons, left John of Gaunt over the summer holidays. We wish Mrs Gillett well in her new endeavours. Mrs Scott is currently teaching in Reception for the Autumn Term and we have advertised for a new teacher in Reception to start in January.

Mrs Farmer has also made the decision to step down as Assistant Head from January. Don't worry she isn't leaving the school but would like to focus more on her class teaching rather than the leadership side of things.

Both of the above combined means that we are seeking to recruit an Assistant Head and Early Years lead who will also be the teacher in the Leopard class.

We have welcomed Mrs Seal to John of Gaunt as our pastoral lead. I'm sure many of you will have already seen Mrs Seal around school but she is able to be contacted on her email pastoral@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk. If you have any concerns or worries about your child's well being or struggling with things at home she is a great first port of call.



Foodbank

As we all battle through this cost of living crisis, where we see the price of everything rising, we are acutely aware that for some people this may have a significant impact.

I just wanted everyone to be aware that we as a school are a food bank partner and as such I am able to issue foodbank vouchers. St Michael's church is our closest food bank centre and we are very fortunate that they are able to make a delivery of food parcels if this is necessary.

Please tell someone if you are currently struggling and feel that maybe a food parcel will get you to the end of the month or just support a temporary blip. There is no judgement made ever and we are more than happy to help as are the foodbank centres.

You can either come directly to Mrs Toplis or speak to Mrs Seal, Mrs Lord or your child's class teacher and the information will be passed on in confidence.

We are going to use our Harvest Assembly this year to make a collection to support the foodbank so that they can continue to offer their amazing service. More details about this to follow.



Parents Evening

This year, we will once again be using school cloud parents evening. Although times have changed slightly with regards to the pandemic, we actually felt that school cloud was a successful way to run parents evenings and meant that we could update you on your child's progress without the added complication of attending school. It also means that we run exactly to time!

For those new to this we will send out details nearer the time but in short you are invited via email to book a time with your child's class teacher, you then receive an email confirming your time and at the bottom of that email there is a link to click on at your allotted time where you will then link virtually to your child's class teacher. Appointments are set at 10 minutes and the system ends them after this time, hence why teachers always run to time!

Our Autumn Term Parents evenings will be on **Monday 14th November, Tuesday 15th November** and **Wednesday 16th November** for your diaries but an email inviting you to book an appointment will be sent out in due course.

The logo for Schoolcloud Parents Evening, featuring the text "schoolcloud" in white and "Parents Evening" in teal on a dark blue background.

Maths Workshops

Mrs Simpson will be running a series of Maths workshops for all year groups to let you know how Maths is taught at John of Gaunt and to help you to support your child at home.

We are very aware that Maths is now taught very differently from when many of you were at school yourselves and we would like to share how we teach it now so that when your child tells you how it's done you are not surprised.

We promise that it is a supportive session and not one where you will be asked really hard Maths questions or put on the spot!

The sessions will start with information and then the children will come into the hall so that you can work with your child on some maths games and activities.

Sessions will run from 9am until approximately 10.30am.

Wednesday 28th September - Year 2 Maths Workshop

Wednesday 5th October - Year 1 Maths Workshop

Wednesday 9th November - Reception Maths Workshop

The logo for Mathematics Mastery, featuring a stylized red 'M' with three dots below it and the text "Mathematics Mastery" in black.

Help needed

Mrs Stevens is looking for volunteers to support her and the children during their computing lessons each week. Year 1 have their lesson a Wednesday and Year 2 on a Thursday.



You do not need to be an ICT genius but we would love it if you were able to help. Please let either Mrs Lord or Mrs Toplis know if this is something that you think you can offer our school.

Christmas play dates

It seems very early to mention the C word but I know that it helps if you have dates for your diaries. Our Christmas Performances will be as follows:

Monday 12th December

2pm - Reception Performance

Tuesday 13th December

9.15am - Reception Performance

2pm - Year 1 Performance

Wednesday 14th December

9.15am - Year 1 Performance

2pm - Year 2 Performance

Thursday 15th December

9.15am - Year 2 Performance



You are welcome to attend either of your child's year group performances but ask that due to space you do not attend both. Other family members are also welcome to attend but please be mindful of numbers!

Panto

School Pantomime Time... oh yes it is. It's one of my very favourite days of the year. My name is Lisa Turner and I have done the pantomime for nine years now and I can honestly say the joy on the children's faces, the 'he's behind you', the excitement when they realise you can boo the baddy, the hysteria when somebody has a water pistol and their enjoyment watching grown-ups prancing around on the stage is just wonderful.

The head teachers often do a cameo role in full costume which every year seems to surprise the children, and sometimes the staff!

For the past 29 years parents of current students, parents of students that have left (we don't want to give it up) and staff have put on a pantomime for the children. So on Monday 12 December 3 performances will be given to the children of John Of Gaunt, St Michaels and Bure Valley. We also walk in full costume to the Black Boys pub for lunch in between which is a fantastic fun time with us all on a high.

This year it will be the 30th anniversary and we're after your help please. We would love to have some more backstage help and some more actors. You can have a non-speaking role, one line or nearly half the script!

Rehearsals start around half term, one evening a week for about 1.5 hrs (probably Wednesday) and the only requirement is enthusiasm and commitment. The dress rehearsal is Sunday 11th December afternoon.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please don't be shy, we are very friendly and welcoming and you will fit in straight away. The script is currently being written soon so go on, contact Adam, (director and dame) at adampaynedev@gmail.com so we can include you and we'll be in touch soon.