



# Newsletter

## Issue 6 Autumn 2022

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School



And that's a wrap! The Autumn Term is complete. Well done to all our reception children for completing your first term at school. We have some very tired Leopards and Turtles!

It was wonderful this week to perform all of our Christmas plays live and in person rather than via video. The children get such pleasure out of learning and performing their plays and we hope that you enjoyed making those memories too. Thank you for all the money that was donated for The East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH). We will total the money and let you know how much we collected for this vital provision.

Thank you for all your continued support for our school this term. We have lots more events and occasions planned for the Spring term and dates are noted next to this message.

As we approach the time of the year when we may experience snow please check the Norfolk schools website where any closure notifications will be posted.

[http://www.disruptions.norfolk.gov.uk/ncclosures\\_schools.html](http://www.disruptions.norfolk.gov.uk/ncclosures_schools.html)

May I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and see you all in 2023.

*CE Toplis*

Mrs C Toplis



### School reopens on Wednesday 4th January at 8.50am.

- 18.1.22 Year 1 phonics check meeting after school
- 19.1.22 9.15am Zebra class sharing assembly
- 26.1.22 9.15am Giraffe Class sharing assembly
- 1.2.22 Year 2 Writing Café
- 7.2.22 Year 1 Maths Café
- 8.2.22 Reception Reading Café
- 9.2.22 9.15am Elephant Class Sharing Assembly

### Half Term 13.2.22 - 17.2.22

- 2.3.22 World Book Day
- 7.3.22 Family Learning Day
- 9.3.22 9.15am - Turtle Class Sharing assembly
- 16.3.22 9.15am Leopard Class Sharing assembly
- 20.3.22 Parent Evenings
- 
- 22.3.22
- 31.3.22 Whole School Spring Assembly

### School closes for Easter Holidays 31.3.22 and reopens 18.4.22



Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%. Our current figure is 93.2 %

The best Class this week was Giraffes on 94.9%



We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Scott in Leopards class at the end of the Autumn term. She has been brilliant with the children and I am sure the children will miss her, however we will be welcoming Ms Bliss as Reception teacher and Assistant Headteacher. Ms Bliss will be making a few visits to John of Gaunt to see the children in reception before she officially starts in January.

### The School Office

We would also like to welcome Mrs Blois and Mrs Turner to the school office to join Mrs Hickling. Mrs Blois and Mrs Turner already work within the admin teams across the federation. Please find below that days who will be in the office:

Monday	Mrs Hickling
Tuesday	Mrs Turner
Wednesday	Mrs Hickling
Thursday	Mrs Blois
Friday	Mrs Hickling

In the unlikely event of the office being unmanned , there will be a notice at reception to go to Bure Valley as they will be able to assist you.

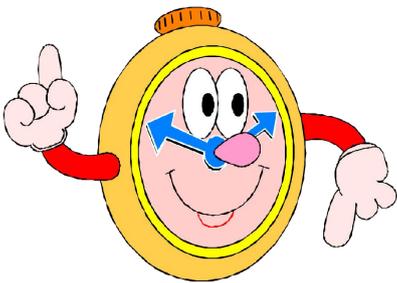
Please say hello and give them all a warm John of Gaunt welcome.

### TACT Collection tins

There is a collection tin in our reception for anyone that would like to donate to The Aylsham Community Trust Families.



### Late Arrivals



We have noticed recently that there has been an increase of children are arriving late in the mornings, please could we ask that children get to school on time as this then helps them too be in the right frame of mind for learning.

### Poppy Appeal

Thank you for all your support, this has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community. Without your efforts The Royal British Legion could not do the work they do.

**We raised £93.95—Well done everyone!**



## NEWSLETTER GOVERNOR REPORT CHRISTMAS 2022

As the year of 2022 draws to a close, it seems a good time to reflect on all that has been achieved in The Aylsham Learning Federation.

The students and staff have got back into the post covid learning environment with great intent and purpose, and during a recent governors' learning walk, which took place in all of our schools, it was a real pleasure to see our young people actively engaged in learning in a respectful and disciplined fashion.



At the High School, we have celebrated success across the year groups with three presentation evenings, where both academic attainment as well as effort are celebrated, as well as the many extra-curricular activities which the students get the opportunity to take part in. On one evening we were treated to a preview solo from the upcoming Elf musical which will be performed just before Christmas, so I hope you have all managed to get tickets.

It is very pleasing that the class of 2022 at the High School achieved the third best results in Ebacc subjects across the county.

At Bure Valley, the staff continue to work hard to uphold standards and bring about further improvements to the teaching and curricular offer. The school enjoys a bright and inviting learning environment that supports a calm and purposeful atmosphere in school and I know that the pupils are very pleased to be back to a normal school day, and have enjoyed having visitors back into school.

At John of Gaunt it has been a busy but successful Autumn Term and staff and pupils alike are looking forward to the culmination of the term in the various nativity plays in the last week. The children have all worked extremely hard and are making steady progress with all of their learning. Our reception children have completed the first term at school and are thoroughly enjoying all their new learning opportunities and it is fair to say that John of Gaunt continues to be a happy school where children want to come and learn.

John Bear's Nursery is proving a popular place to start the educational journey in the Aylsham Learning Federation, and it is pleasing to see that the light and airy building is providing just the right environment for happy children.

As governors we have confidence in all our schools providing a good level of education and we are looking forward to 2023 and what we can offer the children of Aylsham.



It just leaves me to say a massive thank you to all our staff across the federation for all their hard work during 2022, and for helping bring so much success to our young people.

Thank you too, to our parents and carers for all the support which you have given to our students/pupils over the past year, and I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to everyone connected to the Aylsham Learning Federation.

Jenny Youngs  
Chair of Governors, Aylsham Learning Federation

# Help with living costs

You may be struggling with living costs for a range of reasons. This leaflet tells you what support is available and how to get advice. You can also find this information on our website [www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving)

If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can go online at any of our Norfolk libraries.

---

## Help and support with living costs

**Norfolk Assistance Scheme** can help you get support and financial assistance for food, energy, water, and other household essentials including white goods. You can apply yourself or a support organisation, such as Age UK Norfolk or Citizens Advice can apply on your behalf. The fastest way is to apply online [www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas). If you do not have internet access call **0344 800 8020**.

---

**Citizens Advice** provide information about benefits, how to deal with debt, what you are entitled to and who to speak to if you are at risk of losing your home. Visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call **0800 144 8848** and select option 1.

---

**Fuel** - do you use oil to heat your home? Community Action Norfolk's community oil buying scheme can help get the best price and offer payment options to spread the cost. Visit [www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk), call **01362 698216** or email [office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk)

---

**Ofcom** provides advice on what to do if you are struggling to pay bills or need debt advice. There is also information on their website under Phones and Internet detailing social tariffs for cheaper broadband and phone packages for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits. For more information Call **0300 123 3333** or visit [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

---

**Age UK** offers free, confidential advice if you are over state pension age. Call **0800 678 1602** or visit [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

---

**Ask Bill** offers free and impartial advice about money and bills. Visit [www.askbill.org.uk](http://www.askbill.org.uk)

---

**Your local council** will be able to check that you are claiming all of the benefits that you are entitled to. They can also help with emergency funding if you are in crisis and general signposting to other services that you may be able to benefit from. Contact your local council or visit their web site for more information:

**Breckland District Council** - Call **01362 656870** or visit [www.breckland.gov.uk/community/cost-of-living](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/community/cost-of-living)

**Broadland and South Norfolk District Council** - Call **01603 430431** for Broadland or **01508 533933** for South Norfolk or visit [www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1)

**Great Yarmouth Borough Council** - Call **0808 196 2236** or visit [www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk](http://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk) and select 'Support for residents'

**King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council**

- Call **01553 616200** or visit [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving)

**North Norfolk District Council** - Call **01263 516221** or visit [www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

**Norwich City Council** - Call **0344 980 3333** or visit [www.norwich.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/costofliving)

---

## Struggling to afford food

Norfolk Community Foundation's Nourishing Norfolk food hubs provide a range of food support. This includes:

- Community fridges and larders - these are usually open to anyone in the community and food can be taken for free.
- Food pantries- these tend to be members only and often charge small amounts for their food. They offer a greater choice of products than a community fridge.
- Community supermarkets- these have a membership system that allows customers to buy food at heavily discounted prices

For more details on the food hubs visit

[www.norfolkfoundation.com/nourishing-norfolk-network](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/nourishing-norfolk-network)

Foodbanks can provide short-term help if you are struggling to afford and buy food. To find a foodbank near to you search for food banks or supermarkets at

<https://communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk> or call Trussell Trust Tel: **01722 580180**

---

**Food apps** - there are low-cost food packages available in your local area through an app - Too Good To Go or Olio. These apps enable you to reserve bags of food at much reduced prices at local stores close to you. These will typically be a mix of products that are close to sell by dates.

---

## Support with money management and budgeting

**Money Advice Service** offers free and impartial advice. The website has various tools and calculators you can use to keep track of your finances. Visit [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

**Money Saving Expert (MSE)** offers help and advice on a whole range of subjects, including signposts to advice agencies. Visit [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

---

**Stepchange** provides free debt advice online and support for as long as you need it. Call **0800 1381111** or visit [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)

---

**Breathing Space** is a government scheme to give someone in problem debt the right to legal protection from their creditors. Call **0330 0163 563** or visit [www.breathing-space.uk](http://www.breathing-space.uk)

---

**Money Advice Trust** is a national charity, helping people across the UK to tackle their debts and manage their money with confidence. Call **020 74897796** or visit [www.moneyadvicetrust.org](http://www.moneyadvicetrust.org)

---

**Turn2Us** is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially, by helping people access benefits, charitable grants, and other support. Visit [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

## Support for families

**Cost of living vouchers** – if you are eligible for free school meals you will now receive a monthly ‘cost of living’ voucher. The vouchers will be £15 per month per child with an additional payment of £30 per child in December. This scheme is currently running until April 2023. The vouchers are provided by Edenred and can be used in all supermarkets for essentials including clothing. If you are not receiving these vouchers and believe that you should be, please contact your child’s school or visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/foodsupport](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/foodsupport)

---

**Anglian Water** provides an Extra Care Support Service for people who need help paying their water bills including advice, payment breaks, flexible payment plans and discounts. Call **0800 169 3630** or visit [www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk)

---

**Your Norfolk Advice Network** is a free, independent information and advice service, providing easy and quick access to the services you need. The service is open to all adults in Norfolk, including family members, carers, and professionals seeking information and advice. Call **0333 996 8333** or email [helpline@ncan.co.uk](mailto:helpline@ncan.co.uk)

---

## Keeping warm and well

All of our warm and well information can also be found online by visiting [www.winterwellnorfolkwaveney.co.uk](http://www.winterwellnorfolkwaveney.co.uk)

---

**Libraries** - There are lots of warm and welcoming places for you to go this winter. Hot drinks will be available during staffed hours and there will be some fun activities and creative things to do and learn or you can just sit back and relax and enjoy some company.

Our libraries are offering warm spaces along with free warm and well bags containing a scarf, hat, gloves, blanket, socks, and a hot water bottle and also toiletries and sanitary products to go – just pick them up from the library. To find your nearest library visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries)

---

**Community hot spots** – Local community groups are busy setting up community hot spots across Norfolk. Hot spots are available to give a warm welcome to the whole community and will be a place for you to connect with others in your local community. Similar to support in libraries, there will be lots of things going on for you to participate in or just a warm place for you to spend some time. To find a warm space in your community head to [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk)

---

To find out how to keep your home warm and save energy visit [www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk](http://www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk) or call **01603 430103** for help and advice. For information on finding ways to save energy in your home visit [www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency](http://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency)

---

**Better Together Norfolk** offers advice on reducing energy bills. Call **0300 303 3920** or visit [www.bettertogethernorfolk.org.uk](http://www.bettertogethernorfolk.org.uk)

---

**Scams** – scammers find ways to trick people out of their money when they are most vulnerable. The cost-of-living situation has seen more scams emerging, so it is important we are vigilant for ourselves and those close to us [www.norfolk.gov.uk/scams](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/scams)

---

**Improve Skills** – Multiply is a new programme to help adults improve their skills with free courses. You will be able to take part if:

- You are over 19
- You do not have a maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent)
- You live in Norfolk

Good maths skills can help you find more job opportunities and lead to higher wages, or they can help you in everyday life, such as following recipes and everyday budgeting. This programme will not be in a formal classroom as sessions can be run as 1-2-1 or in small community groups such as in the community hot spots. To find out more visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/multiply](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/multiply) or send an email to [multiply@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@norfolk.gov.uk)

---

**Skills for employment** – if you are looking for work, returning to work or thinking of a career change, our job and business skills courses are a great place to start. Learn how to recognise your strengths, skills, and qualities. To find out more call **0344 800 8020** (option 5), or email [adultlearning@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@norfolk.gov.uk)

---

### **Credit Unions**

Credit Unions offer ethical loans and saving schemes that are at affordable rates. In Norfolk there are two credit unions:

Eastern Savings and Loans is open to any individual who lives, works, studies or volunteers in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire [www.eslco.co.uk](http://www.eslco.co.uk)

---

**Norfolk First Credit Union** is available to anyone who lives or works in the Norfolk postcode areas. Visit [www.norfolkfirstcu.com](http://www.norfolkfirstcu.com)

---

Looking after yourself and others - when facing financial hardship, it can impact on our mental health, so it is important to reach out for support. We have lots of information on services and organisations that can help at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/wintersupport](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/wintersupport) and click on Support for mental health. There is also further information at [www.winterwellnorfolkwaveney.co.uk](http://www.winterwellnorfolkwaveney.co.uk)



If you need this document in large print, in audio, Braille, in an alternative format or in another language, please contact customer services on **0344 800 8020** or, for Text Relay, call **18001 0344 800 8020** (text phone) and we will do our best to help you.