



# Newsletter

## Issue 3 Autumn 2023

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

We are already half way through our second half term of the Autumn and of course everyone is now busily preparing for all our Christmas events. You will find the dates and times of our Christmas performances later on in this newsletter. Soon enough you will receive slips home asking for contributions towards costumes in readiness and we thank you in advance for your support with this.



Our reception children have been thoroughly enjoying their traditional tales topic this half term and have loved building their high level vocabulary as part of this. They have also started their new 'Drawing club' focusing on high quality stories and vocabulary.

Our Year 1 children are enjoying their Helping Heroes topic learning all about Edith Cavell and Florence Nightingale. Our Year 2 children's topic is called London and they are enjoying learning about our capital city. Both Year 1 and 2 are also using high quality rich stories to support their writing and also focusing on developing their vocabulary.

Please make sure that you continue to read little and often with your child at home as this makes such a difference to their long term reading ability. It is lovely to see some of your comments in the reading record books and please keep filling these in every time you read at home.

This week Year 2 have had a visit from Year 3 and their teachers with a Science focus. The Year 3 children taught the Year 2's all about magnets. Not only did Year 3 enjoy coming back but our Year 2 children loved being taught by their peers.

*CE Toplis*

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%. Our current figure is 95.1%

The best Class this week was Otters with 95.5%

### Dates for your Diary

28.11.23 - Main School Family Learning Day

5.12.23 - Flu Immunisations

7.12.23 - Christmas Jumper Day

7.12.23 - JBN Family Learning Session

8.12.23 - Christingle for reception at Aylsham Parish Church

11.12.23 - Christingle for Year 1 and 2 at Aylsham Parish Church

18.12.23 - Panto at BVS

20.12.23 - Christmas Lunch

20.12.23 - Christmas Parties

Christmas dates in a separate box later in the newsletter

**School finishes for Christmas at 3.10pm on 20th December**

## Building Works

Phase 1 of the building works are now completed. Thank you all so much for your patience whilst we have had this disruption.

We are delighted with the outcome and now have a really great space for us to be able to use. There are of course the inevitable finishing touches to complete!

The new entrance is now in use and the office has relocated so please come to this along the path if you need to speak to any one in the office team.

Phase 2 of the build is due sometime next year and the sandy sections at the front will remain like this in readiness for Phase 2. Phase 2 is the new reception classrooms and some additional group rooms as well. We are hopeful that this will all be completed ready for next September but as with all things this might not be possible.

## Poppy Appeal

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

**We raised £141.14 — Well done everyone!**



## Christmas play dates

Our Christmas Performances will be as follows: Reception - Baarmy Bethlehem, Year 1 - Twinkly Nativity and Year 2 - Lights Camel Action

### Monday 11th December

2pm - Reception Performance

### Tuesday 12th December

9.15am - Reception Performance

2pm - Year 2 Performance

### Wednesday 13th December

9.15am - Year 2 Performance

2pm - Year 1 Performance

### Thursday 14th December

9.15am - Year 1 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!

## Sharing Assemblies

We are delighted to be continuing our sharing assemblies this year with just a little change. Instead of class assemblies these will now be Year Group assemblies so both classes together rather than individually.

Year 2 sharing assembly - 9.15am on 10th November

Reception children will do their first sharing assembly in the Spring Term.

## Reminders

**Just a couple of reminders:**

- **John of Gaunt is a non smoking site and this includes vaping**
- **John of Gaunt and Bure Valley are dog free sites (please do not tie dogs at the gates either)**
- **Please do not park in the entrance to the nursery car park (before the barriers) it stops vehicles being able to access the car park including the bin lorry and emergency vehicles.**

## Emails

Please could I politely request that all communication to school is sent via the office email. The office will then re direct emails as necessary to class teachers. The office email address is [office@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk). Thank you for your cooperation.

## Own Lunches

We are really fortunate that all of our children are entitled to a free school meal and we encourage all children to have this whether it is the hot or cold option. In exceptional circumstances and by prior discussion we do allow children to bring in their own lunch if there is literally nothing they will eat. However, own packed lunches still need to meet school food standards. Own packed lunches must therefore **not contain crisps, chocolate bars, sweets or fizzy drinks**. Instead children should have a sandwich or equivalent, some fruit, a yogurt maybe and a small cake or biscuit. Thank you for your support with this.

## Tesco Tokens

Just in case you have not seen John Bear's Nursery is currently in the Tesco token scheme so that we can buy lots of lovely new outdoor equipment for them. Please if you can collect a token (especially if you use the self checkout!) and op it in the Nursery sot we would be really grateful. If we win Nursery gets £1500 and we have already identified how we want to spend the money.

We are in for October, November and December.





John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School

# Christmas Family Learning

Come and enjoy our Christmas craft family learning activities and create lasting memories with your child.

## Tuesday 28th November

9am - 9.30am	Zebra
9.40am - 10.10am	Giraffes
10.20am - 10.50am	Elephants
11am - 11.30am	Otters
1.30pm - 2pm	Turtles
2.15pm - 2.40pm	Leopards

Grandparents, aunts, uncles and younger siblings welcome







# Rehoming Winter Coats

Has your child outgrown last year's winter coat?

TACT (Families) are starting a winter 2023 project to help families sustainably recycle their old warm and waterproof coats.

- REDUCE - landfill waste
- REUSE - rehoming good condition coats
- RECYCLE - coats which have plenty of life left in them

Thank You for  
Your Donation...



## Please Donate

Clean, warm and waterproof coats of any size or colour will be accepted from toddler to adult.

Coats will be rehomed in TACT (Families) schools from nursery to high school.

Please take any of your coats for donation to your child's school office, where they will be taken to a central distribution point.

For further information, please contact  
Monica Harding  
TACT (Families) Development Officer  
& Family Learning Co-Ordinator  
07780 887 348