



# Newsletter

## Issue 5 Autumn 2024

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Just like that and the Autumn Term is over. It seems impossible to think that it was only a few weeks ago that we were welcoming everyone back to school after the long summer holiday and now here we are at Christmas.



It has been a really busy but positive start to the academic year. The children are flourishing in their new classes and have made so much progress already with their learning. We completed Read Write Inc. assessments last week and it is really pleasing to see the progress the children are making. Thank you for all your support with reading at home, it makes such a difference.

We hope that you all enjoyed the wonderful nativities we had this last week. The children (and staff) worked so hard to put these on and the children gain so much in terms of their confidence and speaking and listening. Thank you all so much for providing lovely costumes for the children and we hope that you will cherish the memories and the photos.

Within this newsletter are dates for the new term including sharing assemblies, cafés and family learning events. Please do add these dates to your diaries and calendars.

Thank you for all your support across the course of this term and for being such a great part of our school community.

May I wish you all a very Happy and restful Christmas with your families and send best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025.

See you back at school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.



CE Toplis

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96%. Our current figure is 94%

The best Class this week was Elephants

### Dates for your Diary

**School reopens for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th January at 8.50am.**

31.01.25 - Year 1 and 2 Sharing Assembly at 9.15am

06.02.25 - SEND Café at BVS

11.02.25 - Maths Learning Workshop For Year 1 and 2 families. 9am start. (details later in newsletter)

11.02.25 - Reading Learning Workshop for Reception families. 9am start (details later in newsletter)

13.02.25 - School Disco (more details to follow)

25.2.25 - John Bears Nursery Family Learning

06.03.25 - Main school Family Learning

w.b. 17.03.25 - Parents Evenings

04.04.2025 - Spring Assembly in BVS Hall at 9.15am

**School finished for Easter at 3.10pm on Friday 4th April**

**School reopens for Summer Term on Wednesday 23rd April at 8.50am**

## Children In Need

Thank you for your continued support with helping us to raise money for charity.

We raised £120.42 for Children in Need which is really wonderful.

## Kindness Pennies

Just a little reminder about our kindness pennies.

Kindness pennies (loose change) can be brought in every Friday in an named purse or envelope and they are then collected as part of our celebration assembly. We then collect all the kindness pennies together each term and send them off to charity.

The school council in conjunction with their classes have voted on their chosen charities for this year.

Autumn Term: Guide Dogs

Spring Term: Food Bank

Summer Term: Shelter

## 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 non dog sites (please do not tie dogs at the gates either)**
- **Only nursery parents can park in the nursery car park (this is very important as our nursery children are so young)**
- **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.**

## Learning Workshops

The Spring term sees the return of our lovely café's with a new name 'Learning workshops'.

These Learning Workshops represent an opportunity for you to come in and work with your child around either Writing, Maths or Reading.

Our Learning workshops are a lovely event and see a time for learning but also a time for drink and biscuits! Everything is based around a story to start,

Reception Reading workshop - Tuesday 11th February 9am - 10am (classrooms)

Year 1 and 2 Maths Workshop - Tuesday 11th February 9am - 10am (hall)

## Good News Story

I was recently asked to go along to Aylsham Fire Station to be part of an award ceremony for our wonderful crossing patrol Richard. Richard is crossing patrol on the Norwich road.

A while ago Richard saved a John of Gaunt pupil from rolling into the path of oncoming traffic on their balance bike. It is due to Richard that that child is still with us today.

Richard received the chief Fire officers award for his efforts. Well done Richard we are extremely proud of you and eternally grateful for your efforts on that day and on everyday that you support our children and their families to cross such a busy road.



The children visited BVS today for Christmas lunch. It was absolutely delicious. Thank you to the kitchen team for such a brilliant effort. A huge thank you too, to the FoBVS and FoJoG for helping make Christmas dinner so special for all of the children at the two schools.



# Coffee & Counting



TACT(Families) invites parents/carers from John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School to our FREE maths workshop.

Please join us for one of the dates below.

**Thursday 9th January 1.30pm - 3pm**

or

**Thursday 16th January 9.30am - 11am**

**at John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School**

Counting is one of the first numeracy skills children learn. It lays the foundation that makes all mathematical learning possible.

Join us at this FREE workshop to increase your understanding of maths and discover a variety of fun and easy activities to enjoy with your child at home.

**Plus, you will receive a free carry case Lego set to take home!**

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE USING THE LINK PROVIDED OR SCANNING THE QR CODE**



To find out more please contact Family Learning Co-ordinator Monica Harding on 07780 887348 or [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk)



**FREE**



# FRIENDS OF JOHN OF GAUNT WE NEED YOU!

OUR AIM IS TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION BY FUNDRAISING FOR  
**SPECIAL TRIPS, EVENTS AND EQUIPMENT...**  
ENRICHING ACTIVITIES THAT COULD NOT HAPPEN  
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

WHETHER YOU HAVE **A LITTLE OR A LOT**  
OF TIME TO GIVE, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU  
JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP.

EMAIL THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE.