



September Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you like our new style newsletter, which will now come out to you once a month. Here we hope to round up lots of news items which may be on Dojo, but here in one place. We are also going to showcase more of the work our wonderful children do and their achievements.

Last week during Assembly, I shared with the children that we are going to be having more opportunities for pupils to show and develop leadership skills. This is following on from the very successful librarian scheme we started last year, our Helping Hands in the dining room. Our first new role is that of Behaviour Ambassador—this will be a group of willing pupils who will be trained to observe and make suggestions about behaviours seen both in the classroom and on the playground. Later in the year, we will be also adding Curriculum Ambassadors who will help the leaders of the school to monitor our curriculum and ensure that it is engaging all pupils. Pupil voice is a really important element of our development. Having now discussed the non-uniform issue with staff, I will be speaking with pupil groups to explain our decision to change how birthdays are celebrated. I am sure there are more ideas we can take on board. We will be passing on the certificates and badges, kindly donated by FOSA, in school. On a Friday, during assembly, we will announce all birthdays that week, since the last assembly and sing Happy Birthday. On the issue of non-uniform, we will continue to have whole school events where non-uniform is asked for to either promote and excite the curriculum (as in the Wolf day in Swans this week, and the Children in Need day soon) but will also have an additional opportunity for pupils to wear non-uniform. For any class that has 100% attendance for the week, they will have the privilege of a whole class non-uniform day, the following week. We feel in this way, we are working together in class groups and still allowing whole school celebrations and individual birthdays. We aim to make our curriculum fun and engaging, especially if it is our birthday.

In addition, we are planning to start a parent council, in addition to the great work that FOSA do, to look at specific projects being developed and take parent ideas and expertise. As a starter for this idea, I will be sharing some of our development topics at the Parent Drop-in coffee session next week, on 5th October at 2.15 in the hall—parents are welcome to come along and have a cuppa and chat. You will be able to share your hopes and dreams for your children, see what we are working on and give us your thoughts. There is no particular agenda for Thursday, just come along and take some time out from the busy daily lives we all lead. :)

Kind regards,
Mrs Huntington

Upcoming dates

Monday 2 nd Oct	Parent drop in – Kingfishers class 9am – 9:30am
Tuesday 3 rd Oct	Parent drop in – Swans class 9am – 9:30am
Wednesday 4 th Oct	Parent drop in – Lapwings class 9am – 9:30am
Thursday 5 th Oct	Parent Coffee Drop In—2:15pm in the school hall
Monday 9 th Oct	Parent drop in – Wrens class 9am – 9:30am
Tuesday 10 th Oct	World Mental Health day – Dress in yellow
Tuesday 10 th Oct	Cross country – selected children
Friday 13 th Oct	Harvest Festival 10am at church
W/C Monday 16 th Oct	Parent consultations – date/times tbc
Monday 16 th Oct	FOSA Remembrance Day crafts in school
Friday 20 th Oct	Downham Cluster Football tournament – selected children
Friday 20 th Oct	FOSA Pocket money Pop up shop after school

Reminders:

Please remember to name uniform (especially school jumpers, blazers and ties). It's much easier to reunite lost items if they have a name inside!

Earrings—Earrings should not be worn during PE lessons. If a child cannot remove their earrings, they will need to do a lanyard challenge during PE.

Did you know—children entitled to Free School Meals can also receive £15 vouchers per month, per child to help towards the cost of living. If you're not sure if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you can apply online here:

[Free school meals - Norfolk County Council](#)

Also all children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school lunch—ask in the school office if you need any help using the online lunch ordering system Aspens Select.

Each month, we will be asking each class to show off the fantastic learning they have been doing. This month, it's Swans Class!

In Swan Class, we've been having so much fun! We've been acting in our new unit in History, Law and Power. In RE, we've been using clay and other medium to aid our understanding of the religion of Hinduism. In Geography, we've been drawing on oranges to understand latitude and longitude lines and in Science, we've been listening to One Direction because light only travels in 1 direction!



Swans class continued...

In English, we've had a wolf party! We've been reading the 'Wolves in the Walls' which we are loving! We've learnt lots of new vocabulary and love the story!

We've been working really hard on our handwriting... Lots and lots of children are very close to receiving their pen licences!

We've been practicing our timetables daily and been using chalk to help our understanding of place value!

We have had such a great first half term! We are really enjoying Year 3/4.

