



Newsletter | 8th September 2023

We are really excited to welcome you and all the children back for the new school year 2023/24!

It has been wonderful to see the children back in school and to hear lots of lovely stories about their Summer events.

Staff were in school for the first part of this week completing training in the areas of Restorative Approach, Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding and also completing preparation for the new term.

The team have all been working hard to ensure lots of exciting learning activities are planned for your child/ren to enjoy and which will support their learning and development. Further information on our curriculum can be found on our website so please do take a look if you would like to find out

more <https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/heatheravenue/learning/our-curriculum>. A topic web detailing some of the activities will also be sent out so you can see some of the planned activities. Lots of the children's learning is recorded on Tapestry so you are able to see what the children have been doing during their time at school – a letter with more information will have come your way this week with information about setting up Tapestry accounts.

Please take time to read our regular newsletter as we use this to try to keep you abreast of all the different items taking place in school. Information is also available on our school website; please visit www.heatheravenue.co.uk, our Facebook page *Heather Avenue Infant*

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Fruit in school

All children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 receive a free piece of fruit/vegetable at break time as part of a Government initiative. We do encourage the children to try this each day. If your child does not like the various fruits/vegetables supplied as part of this scheme, please feel free to send in a piece of fruit/vegetable from home, however please do not send in alternative types of food as this initiative is aimed at encouraging children to eat 1 of their '5 a day'. Please also note that if you choose to send in grapes they should be sliced in half (through the length of the grape) to avoid the choking hazard that they are well documented to cause in young children.

National Schools Breakfast Programme

In the past we have been part of the National School Breakfast programme and as part of this are able to supply your child with a slice of toast. We decided to continue this so that it is available for each child as they come into school in the mornings.

Absence from school

Please ensure that you read the letter attached to this email linked to absence from school.

Any absences should be clearly communicated via telephone
(01603 426438)

Contact Details

Please ensure that you keep us up to date with all your contact details.

Phone numbers are important so that we are able to contact you in the event of an emergency. We should always have at least two emergency contact details for each child. Email addresses also support us in sending various information items to you. Please ensure that all contact details are kept up to date with the school office staff – Ms Cooke and Mrs Muff. Thank you!

Exciting News

We are so pleased to share some exciting news from over the Summer holiday

Mrs McNorton has given birth to her baby boy – Bobby! We are so pleased for her and her family.

We were awarded the Eco green Flag for the work we have been doing towards being Eco friendly at Heather Avenue. Squirrels Class were nominated for a Flourish Award.

Timings for the school day

Soft Start: The double gates will be locked at **8.30am** and children/parents welcomed onto the playground, children can come into school from this time, please ensure that you only come onto the playground once the double gates are closed. The children will be greeted in their classroom with early morning refreshments and activities ready to start the day. All children should be in school by **8.45am** as this is when we officially start the school day.

End of Day: The end of the school day is **3pm** please ensure that children are picked up on time.

PE days: Children are asked to come into school dressed in their PE kits on days when they have PE. Please ensure that children are equipped with the correct kit in line with our uniform policy which can be found on our website. Reception children will start their official PE lessons after Christmas. Woodpeckers Class have PE on Monday & Friday, Butterflies have PE on Tuesday & Wednesday and Hedgehogs have PE on Wednesday & Thursday.

Food Safety

Can we please remind you we are a **nut free school** and therefore we cannot have any nuts (particularly peanuts) in school.

We have children attending Heather Avenue Infant School who have allergies to peanuts and nuts. It is important that there is a strict avoidance of these foods in order to prevent any potentially life-threatening allergic reactions. We are asking for your help to provide our students and staff with a safe school environment.

To avoid any potential life-threatening allergic reactions please do not send your child to school with any products containing peanuts or nuts. This includes any snacks and packed lunches.

In addition, we ask that if children bring **grapes** into school, that they are sliced in half along the length of the grape to ensure that they do not become a potential choking hazard, this is a well-documented hazard with grapes and one we endeavour to avoid with your help.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping all of our children safe.

Attendance

As you will be aware, attendance and great routines are important for all our children to make the best progress in school along with supporting children in their social skills and routines. Unless children really are too unwell to come to school we do ask that they are always present. The school attendance team have provided the following advice and along with some key messages for all schools in Norfolk.

Start the year right with new routines and make school attendance a priority. For advice and support visit: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Dates for the Diary

Monday 4th September: INSET day 1 (Staff in school only)

Tuesday 5th September: INSET day 2 (Staff in school only)

Wednesday 6th September: First day back at school

Friday 20th October: last day of Autumn 1

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October: Half Term

Monday 30th October: First day of Autumn 2

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of Autumn 2

Thursday 21st December – Tuesday 2nd January: Christmas holidays

Wednesday 3rd January: INSET day 3 (Staff in school only)

Thursday 4th January: First day of Spring 1

Friday 16th February: Last day of Spring 1

Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February: Spring half term

Monday 26th February: First day of Spring 2

Wednesday 27th March: Last day of Spring 2

Thursday 28th March: INSET day (Staff in school only)

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April: Easter holidays

Monday 15th April: First day of Summer 1

Friday 24th May: Last day of Summer 1

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May: Half term

Monday 3rd June: First day of Summer 2

Friday 19th July: Last day of Summer 2

Monday 22nd July: Summer holidays 2024