



Newsletter | 6th October 2023

We are so pleased to see how well all the children have settled into the school year.

It has been wonderful to see all the fun activities that the children have been learning through and hear some of the brilliant facts and ideas that the children share.

We have lots to celebrate as we start the new school year, including;

The birth of Mrs McNorton's baby boy!

Squirrels class (22/23) being nominated for a Flourish award and becoming a finalist for the great work in helping children to develop their full potential and developing skills which prepare them for life.

Being awarded with the Primary Science Quality Mark for Science having further enhanced our practices in the areas of leadership, teaching and learning and additional opportunities in this area – read our news story here.

[PSQM Award! - Wensum Trust](#)

Our Eco award achieved at the end of the Summer term

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 School* or follow us on twitter *@HeatherAvenue*.

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Contact Details - Reminder

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!

Timings for the school day - Reminder

Soft Start: The double gates will be locked at **8.30am** and children/parents are welcome 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.

The playground equipment is not for use prior to the start of 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.

Attendance

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.

Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of the school day – if this is unavoidable please ensure that we are provided with evidence of appointment confirmation for our attendance records.

Please ensure you inform us each day if your child is unwell. The Office opens at 7.30am each morning.

As we approach the end of this half term we will be analysing attendance data and sending letters to inform you of your child's current attendance percentage – this is a data driven exercise and if attendance is lower, there will be the offer of support via a conversation with you.

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

Maternity Leave

We wish Mrs Paterson the very best as she leaves us for the remainder of this school year whilst she takes her maternity leave. We know she has really enjoyed teaching her Year 1 class and leaves them in the very capable hands of Miss Barley and the rest of the Woodpeckers staff team.

Harvest

Next week is our Week of Giving in preparation for our Harvest celebration on Tuesday 17th October. Following this we will be making donations into parcels for our families who need a little extra – A letter has been sent with more details.

Want to know more about your child's learning?

You will have received a topic web via email, showing a variety of the different activities your child is learning through this term

Tapestry posts show your child learning in school – this can be an ideal starting point for discussing what the children have been learning about

Our school website details an outline of your child's learning

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/heatheravenue/learning/our-curriculum>

Want to know more about your child's progress?

Feel free to check in with the class teacher at the end of the school day

Parent/Carer consultation meetings will be taking place just before Autumn half term, Spring half term and at the end of the Summer term. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to talk about your child's learning and well-being in school.

An end of year report in the Summer term along with any final assessment data.

School Council

Our year 1 and 2 classes have elected their school councillors for this academic year. We have Floriana, Matei, Zoe, Phoebe, Jacob, Alice and Melody with children from Reception joining us later in the school year.

School Council meet with me regularly to discuss our school, what we think works well, things that could be improved along with ways of doing this. We plan whole school events and take part in decision making for the whole school.

Today they met with Norse to discuss the food served at lunchtime and have shared their views on what they like as well as what they would like to see more of.

Our school council have been elected by their classes and always listen to the views of the rest of their classes so that they can be taken into account when making decisions for the school.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 9th October: A Week of Giving

Tuesday 17th October: Harvest Celebration – shared via Tapestry

Friday 20th October: last day of Autumn 1

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

Monday 30th October: First day of Autumn 2

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Charity Day

Friday 1st December: FOHA Christmas Fair

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th December: Reception Christmas Nativity

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December: Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show

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