



## Newsletter | 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**We are really excited to welcome you and all the children back for the new school year 2025/26!**

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and hear lots of lovely stories about Summer adventures and events!

Staff were in school for the first part of this week completing training in the areas of our Relational Approach, Safeguarding, RWI and 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 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 here.

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

Further information on our class topics can be found here.

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

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 can 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 up to date with all the different items taking place in school. Information is also available on our school website; please visit [www.heatheravenue.co.uk](http://www.heatheravenue.co.uk) or our Facebook page Heather Avenue Infant School*

We are part of...

**WENSUMTRUST**

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 warm toast or fruit as they come into school. We have decided to continue this again this year so that it is available for each child as they come into school in the mornings.

### 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. We were awarded the Eco Award and Geography Mark in light of our work in these areas.

### Absence from school

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

## Timings for the school day

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

**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 Thursday, Butterflies have PE on Tuesday and Hedgehogs have PE on Wednesday.

PE sessions will be longer this year and run alongside planned daily movement opportunities.

## Food Safety

Can we please remind you we are a **nut free school** and therefore we cannot have 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](http://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance)***

A letter regarding attendance has also been sent for your information earlier in the week.

### Dates for the Diary

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: INSET (Teacher training, school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025: Children return to school, for Autumn 1

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025: Last day of Autumn 1

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025: Autumn Half Term holiday

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025: Children return to school for Start of Autumn 2

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025: Last day of Autumn 2

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026: Christmas holiday

Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026: INSET (Teacher training, school closed to pupils).

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026: Children return to school, for Spring 1

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026: Last day of Spring 1

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026: Spring half term

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026: Children return to school, for Spring 2

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026: Last day of Spring 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: Easter holiday

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026: INSET (Teacher training, school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026: Children return to school, for Summer 1

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026: May Day Bank Holiday (school Closed)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026: Last day of Summer 1

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Summer Half term

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026: Children return to school, for Summer 2

## Class Structure

Class		Year Group	Teacher	Cover Supervisors	Education and Pastoral Assistants
Squirrels		Reception	Mrs Houston / Mrs Paterson	Mrs Keeney Mrs Bennett	Miss Ladbrooke
Woodpeckers		Year 1	Miss Barley	Mrs Bennett	Mrs Lowe
Butterflies		Year 1 / 2	Miss Lilley / Mrs Barnard	Mrs Hughes Mrs Bennett	Mrs Farmer / Mrs Gowing
Hedgehogs		Year 2	Mrs Howes / Mrs McNorton	Mrs Jones Mrs Bennett	Mrs Farmer / Mrs Gowing

Mrs Waters is our School Senco working Thursday and Friday each week.

Miss Scupham is our Education and Pastoral lead working in Bumblebees daily and delivering bespoke and additional learning support alongside Mr Olaifa.

## Uniform

The school supports the idea that the wearing of school dress or uniform is a simple and practical way of maintaining high standards of personal appearance and of encouraging a good working attitude.

Our School Uniform:

- Grey trousers/shorts or grey skirt/culottes of a reasonable and appropriate length
- White shirt or white polo shirt
- School green sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo on
- Green and white school dresses can be worn in Summer

## Our PE Kit:

PE kit for school consists of plain black sports shorts and black tracksuit bottoms/leggings and school T-shirt or PLAIN white T-shirt. Children will also need soft, black plimsolls or trainers.

## Support to purchase school uniform:

For those families on a low income you may be eligible for help in purchasing your child's school uniform from the Thomas Anguish Educational Foundation School Clothing Grant. Details of these are available from the school office.

We also have a small stock of second hand uniform available for a very small donation.

## **Golden Rules and Elli values across school**

At Heather Avenue Infant School, you will be aware that we follow our Golden Rules, which are as follows:

- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do listen to people
- Do look after property
- Do be honest

Over the coming weeks children will learn about the importance of these rules through story, positive praise for good choices, lots of modelling and reminders / explanation linked to these rules. In following these rules, we enable all children to have a positive school experience.

Our Golden Rules also help us think about our values which are closely linked and spoken about often, we also base our assemblies on these. Kindness, resilience, respect, honesty, compassion, confidence and hard work.

As the year progresses the children also learn about the behaviours we need to be good learners, we call these our learning dispositions (the ones we have chosen are based on a programme known as ELLI - The Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory). Our learning dispositions are represented by animals and learnt about via a child friendly story and are as follows; Team work (bee) e.g. sharing with a partner, supporting others with their learning, Curious (cat), e.g. talking about what we see and what we would like to learn more about, Adaptable (chameleon), e.g. using the skills we have learnt to support new learning, Creative (unicorn), e.g. looking for patterns, coming up with new ideas, Resilience (tortoise), e.g. practising new skills and getting better at them, trying 'the challenge', Making connections (spider) e.g. using what we know to answer new questions, looking for number patterns, Strategic (owl), e.g. following a plan, using our whole class learning to support our book work. The children are very good at demonstrating our school values and learning dispositions and we hope they are able to tell you more about these.

## **Celebrations and hot chocolate**

Each week we hold a celebration assembly to celebrate the children and their achievements for the week, certificates are given to celebrate the children showing extra effort in modelling our Golden Rules, values or learning dispositions! Each week a child from each class also shares a great piece of work where they have demonstrated the above.

## **Parking around school**

Please be incredibly mindful of our residents and the safety of our children when parking around school. Please ensure driveways are left clear for access and junctions clear of cars to maintain visibility.

Thank you for your support in this matter.