



Newsletter | September 2026

We are really excited to welcome you and all the children back for the new school year 2026/27!

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 Learning through play, oracy, updates for the year ahead as well as 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 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 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 or our Facebook page Heather Avenue Infant School

We are part of...



FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Timings for the school day

Morning Arrival & Soft Start

- 8:30 AM – Playground Opens: The double gates close at 8:30 AM to secure the area, after which families are welcome onto the playground. Children can head straight into their classrooms, where morning refreshments and settling-in activities will be waiting for them. For safety, please wait until the gates are fully closed before entering the playground.
- 8:45 AM – School Day Begins: Please ensure your child arrives by 8:45 AM so we can start our learning on time.

End of the Day

- 3:00 PM – Home Time: The school day finishes at 3:00 PM. Please be punctual when picking up your child.

PE Days & Uniform

Children can come to school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days (please check our website's uniform policy for kit details). This year, PE sessions will be longer and complemented by daily movement activities.

- Butterflies: Tuesday
- Hedgehogs: Wednesday
- Woodpeckers: Thursday

(Note for Reception parents: Official PE lessons for Reception children will begin after the Christmas break.)

Early morning toast and fruit

Each morning there will be toast and fruit on offer in your child's classroom for them to have as they come into school. We know this supports so many of our children in having a great start to the day!

Fruit snack at breaktime

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 - please encourage your child to try this each day. If they do not like the various fruits/vegetables supplied, 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'.

If you choose to send in grapes, please ensure they are sliced in half (through the length of the grape) to avoid the choking hazard that they are well documented to cause in young children.

Important Health & Safety Reminders

Nut-Free School

We have children at Heather Avenue Infant School with severe, life-threatening nut and peanut allergies. To keep all of our pupils and staff safe, please ensure **no products containing nuts or peanuts** are brought into school. This applies to all daily snacks, packed lunches, and special treats.

Grape Safety Tip

If you are sending grapes in your child's snack box or packed lunch, please remember to **slice them in half lengthwise** (top to bottom rather than across). Whole grapes pose a significant choking hazard for young children, and cutting them lengthways helps keep everyone safe while eating.

Thank you so much for your continued care and support in keeping our school community safe!

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!

Absence from school

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

Please see their following top tips to support attendance at school

Top Tips to Support Attendance

- Get into good routines: start the year right and make attendance a priority.
- Show an interest in school and education by going to parents meetings and other school events.
- Talk about school at home: ask your child what they're learning, how their friends are and how they're getting on. Encourage them to tell you about the good and the bad!
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor illnesses: particularly those that would not stop you from going to work.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only.
- If you think or know that your child is having any difficulties, give the school a call to talk about how they can help you and your child.

How Occasional Days Off Add Up

It is incredibly easy to lose track of how quickly occasional days off build up. Just **10 days of absence** drops overall attendance to 95%. A total of **19 days of absence** drops it to 90%, placing your child in the Persistent Absence category.

Once a child misses 10 days early in the year, it is extremely difficult to pull their attendance back above our 95% target. To help keep your family on track, try to stay within these half-term limits:

Term Period	Stay-on-Track Target	Critical Risk Threshold
Autumn Term (Sept–Dec)	Under 4 days of absence by October half-term	More than 7.5 days of absence by Christmas
Spring Term (Jan–Easter)	Under 10 days of absence by February half-term	More than 12.5 days of absence by Easter
Summer Term (Apr–July)	Under 16 days of absence by May half-term	More than 19.5 days in total by July

Please see some general information below regarding school structures

Class Structure

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

Mrs Waters is our School Senco working Wednesday and Friday each week
Miss Scupham our Education and Pastoral lead working in Bumblebees daily and delivering bespoke and additional learning support alongside Mrs Molloy and Mr John 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
- P.E. T-shirts and art aprons may be purchased from our school office

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 low income you may be eligible for help in purchasing your child's school uniform from the Thomas Anguish Educational Foundation/Necessitous 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.

Our Behaviour Rules - Safe, Brave, Kind

At Heather Avenue Infant School, our school rules focus on three core principles: Be Safe, Be Brave, and Be Kind. Over the coming weeks, children will learn what these look like in action through engaging stories, positive praise, clear explanations, and daily modelling. By focusing on being safe, brave, and kind, we help ensure every child enjoys a positive, supportive, and happy school experience. Children will learn consistent routines across school which support all our children in maintaining a safe, brave and kind learning environment for all.



ELLI Learning Dispositions To help children understand how to be successful learners, we use the ELLI (Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory) framework. These learning dispositions are introduced through child-friendly stories, each represented by a friendly animal character:

- **Teamwork (Bee):** Sharing with a partner and supporting others in their learning.
- **Curiosity (Cat):** Asking questions, exploring, and talking about what we'd like to learn.
- **Adaptability (Chameleon):** Using skills we already have to try new things.
- **Creativity (Unicorn):** Looking for patterns and coming up with fresh ideas.
- **Resilience (Tortoise):** Practising new skills, keeping at it, and trying "the challenge."
- **Making Connections (Spider):** Using past knowledge to solve new problems.
- **Strategy (Owl):** Following a plan and applying group learning to independent work.

Celebrations & Hot Chocolate Each week, we host a celebration assembly to recognise the children's achievements. Certificates are awarded to pupils who show extra effort in demonstrating being safe, brave and kind. We also celebrate children demonstrating our ELLI learning dispositions. Each week a child from each class is chosen to share a fantastic piece of work that they are proud of in our celebration assembly and receive whole school praise for their efforts! Children are also able to share certificates that they have achieved outside of school - please do ask your child to bring these in and we will include them in our assembly along with some whole school praise.

Parking around school

Please be incredibly mindful of our local 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.

Dates for the Diary

2026-2027 term dates are on the calendar below - additional dates will be sent in weekly reminders from the school office

September 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Key :
 White dates - schools open to pupils
 Yellow dates - pupil holiday
 Red dates - Bank Holidays / Blue Staff inset days