



## Newsletter | October 2026

*It has been absolutely lovely to see all the children settling in so well as we move further into the new school year.*

*The classrooms are full of energy and excitement, and it's been a joy to watch the children engaging in fun, hands-on learning activities. We have also been so impressed by the brilliant ideas and fascinating facts they have been sharing – Well done to all!*

**Harvest Celebration:** *This term, we are looking forward to celebrating Harvest together. As part of this, the children will learn Harvest songs and think about food sustainability. We will hold our Harvest celebration on Monday 5th October. If you are able to contribute to our Harvest collection, we would be very grateful for any donations you can send in during that week. After our Harvest Celebration, we will be putting together parcels to support families in need, and any remaining items will be donated to our local food bank to help those in our wider community.*

 **Week of Giving 2026**

**Parent/Carer Consultations:** *We are also excited to invite you to our Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings during the week beginning **19<sup>th</sup> October**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements and share how they have been growing and thriving in school.*

*Thank you for your continued support*

*Please take some 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](http://www.heatheravenue.co.uk) or our Facebook page Heather Avenue Infant School*

We are part of...



FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

## Parking around school

Please be incredibly mindful of the safety of our children and our residents when parking around school.

Please do not park or stop in the white box outside of the school gate.



Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

## School Council

Our year 1 and 2 classes have been electing their school councillors for this academic year and our first meeting has taken place!

Our School Councillors for 26/27 are;  
Memphis-Reign, Freddie, Aspyn, Ben, Mila and Joseph

School Council meets with Miss Lilley regularly to discuss our school, what they think works well in school and things that could be improved along with ways of doing this. They contribute to the planning of whole school events and take part in decision making for the whole school.

### Friends of Heather Avenue (FOHA)

We have an active Parent Teacher association known as Friends of Heather Avenue or FOHA for short.

We work together to put on charity events for school which raise additional funds for the children who attend Heather Avenue Infant School. Events include our Christmas Fair, Mother's/Father's Day shops, film nights and our Summer Fair.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am, where we will be appointing our committee for this year. If you are interested /want to find out more - Please come along!

### Open Events at Heather Avenue Infant School

Please see the attached flyer regarding our school Open Days for anybody interested in a school space for September 2026!

### Timings for the school day – reminder

**Soft Start:** The double gates will be locked at 8.30am and children/parents/carers welcomed onto the playground, children can come into school from this time, please make sure 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 Friday, Butterflies have PE on Tuesday and Hedgehogs have PE on Thursday.

### General reminders

Please make sure your child is on time for school – we start lessons promptly and we really need all the children in on time and ready for their learning

Please remember no bikes or scooters should be ridden when on the school site – Please use the scooter and bike rack to store these

There can often be cases of head lice in school, so please check hair daily and treat with lots of conditioner and a very fine comb

At the end of the school day please note that children are not allowed to play on or with school equipment. Children should exit the school site as soon as they are with their parent/carer, unless accessing after school club provisions

Thank you for your support in these matters

### Absence from school - Reminder

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)*

## 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 your child's education by attending parents' meetings and taking part in school events whenever possible.
- Take a moment to ask your child about their school day. Talk about what they are learning, their friendships and what they have enjoyed. Encourage them to share their experiences with you.
- Please try to keep your child in school unless they are genuinely unwell and unable to attend. Regular attendance helps children make the most of their learning and school experience.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only.
- If you have any concerns about your child, please get in touch with the school. We are here to listen, offer support and work with you to help your child.

### Mental Health Support Team (MHST) – Supporting Children and Young People

#### Upcoming Webinar Dates and Times

Friday 2nd October 10:00am-11:00am- Managing Behaviour

Wednesday 7th October 6:30pm-7:30pm- Managing Anxiety

Friday 16th October 10:00am-11:00am- Better Sleep

Wednesday 21st October 6:30pm-7:30pm- Better Sleep

Webinar link: <https://nhs.vc/norfolk-waveney-mhst-webinars>

## Wraparound Care Provision Club Price Increase

From 1 November, the cost will increase to £5.00 per hour. We understand that changes to childcare costs are important to families, and this is not a decision the Wensum Trust has taken lightly. The increase reflects the rising costs of providing our Wraparound Care, while allowing us to continue offering a safe, caring and enjoyable environment for your children before and after the school day.

We would also like to remind families that Tax-Free Childcare may be available to help with the cost of Wraparound Care, depending on individual circumstances.

For eligible families, the government contributes £2 for every £8 paid into a Tax-Free Childcare account, up to the applicable annual limit. The money in the account can then be used to pay registered childcare providers, such as Wraparound Care at Heather Avenue Infant School.

If you think you may be eligible, you can find out more and check your eligibility through the government's Tax-Free Childcare service. Please note that eligibility depends on individual circumstances, and families should check the current criteria directly with the government.

## Universal Infant Free School Meals

All children attending Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

If you think you might be eligible for benefit related FSM, you should still apply as you may be able to help your child's school get extra funds (called Pupil Premium). This Government funding can help with extra tuition, teaching and after school activities.

'Free School Meals' and pupil premium entitlement

You may qualify for free school meals (FSM) and other help if you receive certain benefits or support. You must apply for free school meals.

From September 2026, there are two types of entitlement:

- Targeted: you receive Universal Credit and earn under £7,400 a year or another qualifying benefit: your children are entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- Expanded: you receive Universal Credit and earn above £7,400: your children are entitled to FSM only

The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) may also be eligible.

You can apply via the link below or contact the school office for a paper copy that can be returned to us.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

If you already receive free school meals

If you are a Norfolk resident already in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals you do not need to reapply, as we will recheck eligibility before the start of each school year. If your child moves or your situation changes, contact us or the school.

### Family Hubs

Family hubs support parents/carers of children and young people from conception until they are 19-years-old. Support is available:

- Online
- In your community, in places you might already visit
- By visiting a local family hub site and speaking in person to someone who can help
- From another experienced parent or carer

We share an ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish. Please see the following links for more support;

#### [Hellesdon Family Hub](#)

Hellesdon Family Hub at Hellesdon Community Centre - between the Library and Community Centre, Middletons Lane, Norwich NR6 5SR Phone: 01603 303360  
[Hellesdon family hubs - Facebook](#)

## 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       | October 2026         | November 2026        | December 2026        |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        |
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| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 | 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 |
| 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 | 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 |
| 28 29 30             | 26 27 28 29 30 31    | 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | 28 29 30 31          |
|                      |                      | 30                   |                      |
| January 2027         | February 2027        | March 2027           | April 2027           |
| M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        |
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| 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 | 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 |
| 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |                      | 29 30 31             | 26 27 28 29 30 31    |
| May 2027             | June 2027            | July 2027            | August 2027          |
| M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        | M T W T F S S        |
| 1 2                  | 1 2 3 4 5 6          | 1 2 3 4              | 1                    |
| 3 4 5 6 7 8 9        | 7 8 9 10 11 12 13    | 5 6 7 8 9 10 11      | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8        |
| 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 | 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  |
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| 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | 28 29 30             | 26 27 28 29 30 31    | 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 |
| 31                   |                      |                      | 30 31                |

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

WENSUM TRUST

## Night Shine Walk 2026

Staff from our English Hub and school are stepping up to take on the **2026 Night Shine Walk** in support of Cancer Research UK on **Saturday, 3rd October 2026**.

We would love your support for this incredible cause! If you're able to make a donation, please click the link below to show your support:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/wensum-english-hub-superstars>