

Newsletter – February 2021

Heacham Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of this term, the Government announced that children in England would not be returning to school until at least Monday 8th March, this means that we have another few weeks of remote learning as well as a much needed half term break.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work our pupils and families are doing at home during this time. Remote learning has been hugely successful with the vast majority of pupils engaging in our knowledge curriculum covering a broad range of subjects and activities – it really is heart-warming to look through the quality pieces of work being produced every day. The school has remained open to a small number of pupils and they too continue to follow our curriculum so that there is consistency. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything we can do to support you at home with remote learning.

Our Zoom community meetings on Thursday mornings have been well attended. So far, we have had a question and answer session to discuss how things are going, as well as a session covering reading and writing tips and ideas. Thank you to all the families who have supported these meetings, the discussions have provided some valuable feedback, support, advice and reassurance.

We launched our 'Extreme Reading Challenge' last week. Over the next week please continue to post pictures of the most extreme (but safe) places you have been reading. Remember that all entries will be put into a prize draw to win wonderful books to enjoy at home.

We have really missed all our families and children; we look forward to welcoming everyone back in school.

Louise Jackson and Emma Hunt

Term Dates

Please note that our term dates are not the same as those published by Norfolk County Council.

Please see our website for information
**The Last day of Term is Thursday 11th
February. Children return on Monday 22nd
February 2021.**

*(The school will **not** be open for Key Worker/Vulnerable children as this is a normal school holiday.)*

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings have been postponed and will commence on the week beginning 8th March.

It is likely these will take place via phone calls or Zoom meetings with your child's teacher.

We will update you via email soon.

If you have a matter you wish to discuss with our Headteacher Ms Jackson, or our Assistant Head Miss Bennett, please make an appointment at the school office and we will be very happy to chat to you. We want everyone to feel welcome in our school and also to ensure that the children's safety, learning and happiness are always our priority 😊

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Our Learning

THE NEST AND NURSERY have been thinking about fairy tales, especially Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Gingerbread Man. We have been hearing and retelling stories and, of course, making gingerbread men! We've also been considering size, the number 3 and pattern in Maths.

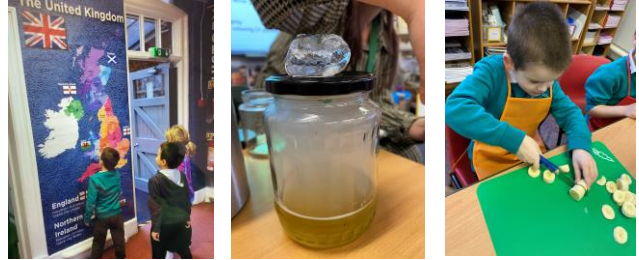
We have really embraced Class Dojo and simply love seeing what our friends have been up to at home!



GOLDFINCHES have been learning the story of Quacking this half term and are just about to tell their new versions of the story! Maths Monkey and the Numberblocks have been helping us to learn numbers to 10 - we have done lots of great work with our 10 frames and part-whole models. Our theme this half term has been 'Queen and Country' and we have learnt about the UK and important places in London. We took a virtual tour of London to learn about Big Ben, Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace - some of us even made tour buses in our front rooms! We learnt about our Queen and drew some portraits of her after looking at some pictures. We have sent them to her, so maybe we'll hear back!



ROBINS have been discussing healthy eating in DT and have made smoothies, sandwiches and fruit kebabs! Yummy! In science we have been learning about clouds and the four seasons. We did a science experiment to make clouds too! English has been focusing on the seasons too, and we have been writing information texts with lots of fun facts. In geography we have been learning about the United Kingdom. We had great fun practising our Irish dancing!



OWLS have been looking at portraits and self-portraits, using Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo Da Vinci as inspiration as well as appreciating their works. All the children have learnt how to look after a pet dragon in English and did cold reads using the model text. The class then created story paths to help them remember the set of instructions. They've also been enjoying their new reading books and have found lots of exciting, new stories. In Maths, they have added 1 and 2 digit numbers and learnt to tally. They designed their own surveys and recorded the results. Geography has seen the class travelling around the British Isles, visiting England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, learning about their traditions, food, flags and landscapes. Science has focused on the digestive system, resulting in a rather yucky experiment with bananas and mashed up tights! They've also looked at the heart too, how it works and the affect exercise has.



Next Half-Term

NEST AND NURSERY will be thinking about travel and holidays.

GOLDFINCHES will be looking at the Enormous Turnip, transport, shapes and patterns

ROBINS will be investigating architecture in Art and learning about Parliament in History.

OWLS will be visiting the Roman Empire in History, researching materials and their properties in Science, learning about fractions in Maths and looking at Ancient Egyptian art and tomb art.

Gardening Space



Miss Thrower has been very busy making plans to turn our small inner courtyard into a usable green space, aiming to support well-being as well as education, and we hope to house a sensory garden patch, bee friendly flowers and bug hotels, wildflower patch, patio pond and a Japanese rock garden area.

We hope to be able to offer this area for use after Easter, where pupils will be able to learn more about nature and explore their own sense of self in a calm environment. Studies have proven that gardening for children has shown great promise as an effective way to combat behavioural issues and improve confidence and well-being.

Gardening is educational and develops new skills including:

- Responsibility – from caring for plants.
- Understanding – as they learn about cause and effect, for example, plants die without water, weeds compete with plants
- Self-confidence – from achieving their goals and enjoying the food they have grown.

We can't wait to use this new space and see our children enjoying planting, exploring and learning.

If you have any seeds, plants or garden materials you would like to donate, please contact Miss Thrower at the school office.

Twitter

Please follow us on twitter as we are using that social media platform more regularly than Facebook



Snettisham, Heacham Infant and Junior_WNAT
@heachamjunior

Half Term Activity

Create a **GLITTER JAR**

- ☆ Finding a jar or plastic bottle and allow your child to decorate it however they like.
- ☆ Fill the bottle up 3/4 of the way with water. Next, add clear glue, food coloring, and glitter then shake.
- ☆ Seal the lid and you are ready to go.



Big Life Journal - biglifejournal.com

Can you create your own Glitter Jar? Share your sparkles with us on Class Dojo!

Covid-19 Updates

The school continues to encourage thorough hand washing and follows the guidelines laid out by Public Health England for schools. The Government currently advises to self-isolate (stay at home) for 14 days and/or take a test if you or someone you live with has a 'new' persistent cough, a temperature or a loss of smell/taste. Remember to:

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other



Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

Please refer to the government website for updates

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Be kind. Keep your distance. Stay safe.

Have you enjoyed the Snow Days? Did you build a snowman or have a snowball fight?
Send some pictures to your Class Dojo portfolio of what you go up to!

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Cashless Payments

All payments can be made via the school's bank details or through the card machine held at the office. **We do not have ParentPay.** Payments include Drop in Club, Nursery Fees, Charity collections and other chargeable items.

Contactless Card Payments:

Payments via the card machine held at the school office.

Bank Transfer payments should be made to:

Heacham Infant and Nursery School

Sort code: 30-99-77

Account Number: 35469768

*Please add a reference to your bank payment e.g.

'Surname Nursery'.

Any parents that have not paid for Drop in Club since 24th Nov will receive an invoice in February 2021

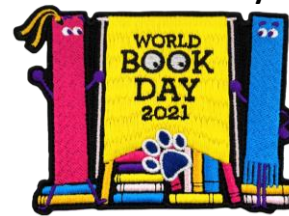


West Norfolk Academies Trust is now on easyfundraising. If you would like to help raise funds for the schools across the trust, every time you shop online, please take a look on [easyfundraising.com](https://www.easyfundraising.com)

Upcoming Events

Just a few important updates on some of the planned events for this term:

World Book Day



World Book Day takes place on Thursday 4th March. We will be receiving digital vouchers that will be emailed to all families. www.worldbookday.com has some great activities you can get involved with at home and do feel free to dress up and upload a photo to your child's Class Dojo!

get connected

Norfolk County Council

Get connected with our free digital equipment scheme

Does this sound like you?

- On a low wage, or recently been furloughed?
- Claiming universal credit or other benefits?
- Struggling to apply for jobs without access to a laptop?
- Is your child finding it difficult to do home learning without a computer?

Reconditioned laptops, access to wifi, broadband dongles are just some of the items being distributed to families like you unable to access the internet during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Getting online at home can help with home learning, job applications and helps you to connect with friends and family.

Find out what help is available from the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, give us a call on 0344 800 8020

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/>

Lots of helpful information about health advice and support for children, child development, childhood illnesses, emotional health, pregnancy and Covid FAQs



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