

Happy New Year 2020

9th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have enjoyed your Christmas adventures with family and friends. We are really looking forward to seeing you all in 2020 and to our term ahead! We wanted to share some news and update information with you through this school letter. Now, don't forget to read this and **pin onto fridge** as it has lots of important info and dates on it!

Thank you

Thank you all so much for coming to all our Christmas events, the tree decoration event is always special. The Nativity events for Nursery, Reception and KS1 were excellent, the hall was packed for Year 1 and 2 and the performances were lovely. We always feel very proud of all the children when they perform in school, at the old peoples' home or in Church as they are such memorable experiences for children and families.

Open Lessons – Come and see the knowledge curriculum!

We introduced our knowledge curriculum in September and feel very proud of how far we have come so quickly. Ofsted loved what we were doing with our subject specific teaching in History, Science, Geography and Art and the children love it too! The children say they like finding out about the world around them and look forward to learning about different and diverse subjects. We will be opening up lessons to families over two days on 3rd and 4th February from 1-3pm. This will be an opportunity to experience some of these lessons with your children and see how we develop good learning behaviours in class. As parents, you will have wondered where we were going with our new curriculum – now it's time to come and see! Sign up to come in with your teachers the week before the open afternoons take place. If they are really popular we will have some more.

Weekly Reading and Mathematics Café

We know that some families have missed coming into school for the learning hub – the hub is being re-developed and will host many pop up opportunities throughout the year. Watch this space! So.....in the meantime we are opening each class up from YR- Y2 before the bell **goes every Friday** to children and families for reading and maths sessions. Staff will have simple activities out for you to share with your children in class. Use it to read for pleasure, learn some tackling tables, practise spellings or a variety of other activities.

This starts on Friday 10th January 2020 until half term initially. All welcome!

Staffing

We have had several staff changes over the last few years, particularly in Key Stage One. Recruitment in our area can be tricky but we are really lucky to have appointed great, experienced and enthusiastic staff. Our new teacher Rachel Parton has strong and valuable experience working across Key Stages, Sally Clifton organised our fab Big Draw art day and Miss Kristie Welch demonstrated amazing performance skills during the Xmas period (just to name a few of our talented team).

In EYFS, Jane Kendle worked with us for the last year to set up and develop our Two-Year-Old provision in The Nest. She has left us to support her family business but we hope to see her around for some sessions and thank her for developing the teaching and learning in our Nest. Emily Newton is taking her place- thank you Emily!

We will also welcome a new Teaching Assistant, Miss Laura Goodwin, into Owls from 17th January to support teaching and learning in KS1.

Finally, Vickie Rose has been supporting our school admin magnificently after Mrs Ruddock's retirement but she will return to be my PA after welcoming our new secretary in January.

Ms Lauren Thrower starts as our new office staff and Vickie will help her settle in. Lauren was a pupil at our school and has a daughter at the Junior School.

Welcome aboard Lauren and Laura!

Supporting Our Schools (SOS!)

We really value and appreciate your support as parents within our school and community.

We like to work in effective partnerships with families so our children can experience the best we can provide. We are passionate about our roles as educators and make our very best endeavours to provide a good educational environment, good care and learning for all of the children in our school. Overtime, advisors, OFSTED and visitors comment on how lovely our school community is and we are so grateful for your continued support in this.

Our Assistant Headteacher, Catherine Bennett and myself, will be hosting monthly meetings with families in the learning hub to meet with you, talk about school life and answer questions you may have. Our first meeting at the end of the month will be on Parental and Community Engagement and we look forward to hearing your ideas for developing more pride and co-operation in our village of Heacham. **Please come along on Thursday 30th January at 9 am to find out more.**

Partnership Across Schools

It is 18 months since we developed a partnership across Heacham and Snettisham Schools within our West Norfolk Academies Trust. We are proud of how this has been managed so far and excited for the future. As you have probably seen in the news, schools have had a tricky time with government funding. Added to this, we live in an ageing community and this means that the number of pupils coming into the schools in our area (Hunstanton included) has reduced rapidly too. We are grateful therefore, for the ability to sustain and develop our teaching and learning provision because of the support we receive from our Trust and from shared staffing, particularly leadership. Sharing these resources across schools is not without its difficulties, but it does enable us to continue with smaller classes, teaching assistants and new equipment for the pupils. Some village schools have not received this support. Another benefit has been the opportunity to provide local training for staff through our Trust network.

Executive Headteacher
Ms L. Jackson

Deputy Headteacher
Mrs E. Hunt

Assistant Headteacher
Ms C. Bennett

 West Norfolk Academies Trust

Reminders/Uniform

Please remember to provide the correct shoes and uniform for your children – we would like black sturdy, safe school shoes to be worn at school and green hair accessories only. In KS1 pupils really benefit from coming into school by themselves and organising their own equipment so we thank you for waving goodbye to them at the door!

Pupil Premium Funding

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme; however, you can apply for the school to get extra funding from the government, if you receive one of the benefits listed below. This extra funding is called Pupil Premium:

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

Please can you visit [www. https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk) or pop into the school office and ask for a Free School Meal Application form if you think you qualify for this benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Jackson and Catherine Bennett