



Newsletter ~ October 2025

The Windmill Primary Federation



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half-term, it's a pleasure to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. Our pupils have settled into their new routines with enthusiasm and positivity, and we couldn't be prouder of how they've embraced new learning and shown pride in their work. They have adjusted well to our behaviour systems, which have restorative practices at the core – we call this 'The Windmill Way'. We celebrate the behaviours we want to see with 'Thank-you' cards and promote consistent expectations with phrases including: 'magnet eyes' and '1, 2, 3, eyes on me'.

This half-term has flown by, packed with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences. A huge well done to the Hedgehogs Class team who represented our school at the West Norfolk Academies Trust Dodgeball Competition. Competing against 10 other schools, our team came away as winners—a brilliant display of teamwork and school spirit!

We marked *Hello Yellow Day* to support World Mental Health Day. Pupils and staff dressed in yellow and came together to raise awareness of mental health and the importance of wellbeing. It was a joyful and meaningful event that brought the whole school community together. Our pupils have started rehearsing for the upcoming Remembrance Evening at Springwood High School; we're excited to see their efforts come to life on stage.

We were proud to see so many pupils stepping up to take on leadership responsibilities. Our Junior Leadership Team has hit the ground running, already making a positive impact across the school—an inspiring example of pupil voice in action.

We know that much of this success is only possible because of the strong partnership between school and home. Thank you for everything you do—from supporting with reading and homework to encouraging regular routines, using platforms like Times Tables Rock Stars and SATs Companion and promoting good attendance. These everyday efforts play a big part in helping your child thrive.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome I've received this term. I'm very much looking forward to meeting more of you during our upcoming Parents' Evenings.

I will be on site on the following dates:

- **Monday 10th November** – Tilney St Lawrence
- **Wednesday 12th November** – Walpole Highway
- **Thursday 13th November** – Terrington St John

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,

Emma Hunt & Kelly Farthing
Exec Headteacher & Head of School

Hedgehogs Class:

It has been a busy half term in Hedgehogs Class, the reception children have settled in extremely well and have made a wonderful start to their Reception Year. Our topic has been 'All About Me' where we have learnt about our bodies, keeping healthy and our feelings. They have all started on their reading journey and have enjoyed their daily phonics lessons. They have all made good friendships and are a lovely group.

Year 1 and 2 have all taken the change of routines, classroom layout, as well as the change of Teacher in their stride! The children have enjoyed retelling The Papaya That Spoke in English and are now about to start writing their own journey tale. In Maths, we have been looking at place value and addition and subtraction. They have enjoyed comparing holidays in History, learning about senses in Science and primary and secondary colours in Art. The children have worked so hard over this half term and I'm sure they are ready for a rest. I know I am!

It has been a super first half term getting to know the children and becoming part of the Walpole Highway Team. Thank you for your continued support and welcoming me into your school so warmly.

Mrs Else



Owls Class:

What a fantastic half term in Owls class! The children have worked incredibly hard and embraced lots of positive changes. In English, we've started a new scheme using Talk for Writing. We learnt 'Little Vixen Street' through story maps and actions and explored the beautiful wordless book The Arrival, using our inference skills to uncover its meaning.

In Maths, we've finished our place value unit and moved on to addition and subtraction. Year 4 have begun preparing for the MTC, while Years 5 and 6 have been using SATs Companion to strengthen their skills.

Our History topic on Ancient Egypt has been a hit—ask us about mummifying a tomato! In Science, we've explored forces and magnets through hands-on investigations, working brilliantly in teams.

We've also started learning Latin, discovering how it connects to modern English, and swimming lessons have gone 'swimmingly'—many children have achieved 25m and moved up groups.

Well done, Owls! Have a well-deserved rest, and we can't wait to see what Autumn 2 brings!

Mrs Clark





FOWHPS work hard to raise funds that directly benefit our children and the school community. Our most recent purchase was a Boombox and items for the Zones Of Regulation Corner, aka The Cosy Corner, costing over £300, giving pupils a nurturing, relaxing and welcoming space to enjoy.

If you have any fundraising ideas or suggestions for items that would benefit the school and children, please feel free to share them — we'd love to hear from you! Upcoming Events include:

- 🍩 Doughnut Wednesday – 50p each
- 🍫 Hot Chocolate Fridays – from 50p
- 🎵 Halloween Disco – Friday 24th October, 5pm
- 🎁 Christmas Shop – children can purchase gifts for loved ones (including wrapping!)

The Importance of Good Attendance

The Government strives for every pupil to achieve 97% attendance. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued attendance guidance and targets to all schools. You may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hopes that this personal approach will keep you informed and make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up.



Diary Dates

COMING SOON

Parent's Evenings
Wednesday 12th November
&
Thursday 13th November

21st October, 9am to 10am - Individual and Sibling School Photos

22nd October, 9am to 10am - EYFS Open Day

11th November, 6pm - Year 4 Remembrance Event at Springwood High School

13th November - MITI Event at Marshland High School for Brass Players

14th November - Children In Need - Wear Spots!

18th November, 1pm – 2pm – EYFS Open Day

20th November - NCMP Vision & Hearing Screening

25th November – Flu Vaccinations

2nd December – Panto in School

3rd December – WNAT Carol Service – info to follow

11th December – Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

17th December 2pm to 3pm – Christingle Service at Walpole St Peters Church

19th December – Christmas Party Day

22nd January 2026 – Market Place Event at West Walton, 8:30am to 11:30am – details to follow