



# Newsletter ~ December 2025

## The Windmill Primary Federation



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Dear Families,

The past half-term at Walpole Highway Primary School has been busy and rewarding. As we approach the festive season, we hope everyone is enjoying the excitement it brings. Thank you to all who attended our Christingle service on Wednesday — the children sang beautifully and made us very proud. We are also looking forward to welcoming families to our Christmas crafts on Friday morning for what promises to be a warm and festive occasion.

This term has offered a range of enriching experiences, all of which our pupils have embraced with enthusiasm. They represented the school with pride at the Remembrance Event at Springwood High School, took part in the inspiring MITI Instrumental Workshop at Marshland High School and brought festive cheer to the community at the Christmas Concert at St Nicholas Chapel. These opportunities help to build confidence, support wellbeing and allow the children to develop talents beyond the classroom; we are extremely proud of the positive impact our pupils continue to make.

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your views through our school dinner questionnaire. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us to further improve our offer. From January, we're introducing a new, more flexible way to order school meals. Families will be able to place meal orders up until 9:00am on the day the meal is required, making it easier than ever to plan ahead. The new menu will be on our website by the end of this week, giving you plenty of time to review and sign-up.

To celebrate our exciting new menu, we're delighted to invite parents to a tasting session at West Walton Primary, at the end of the school day, on Tuesday 13th January. This will be a great opportunity to sample our delicious new dishes and see just how tasty and child-friendly our lunches are. We'd love you to join us - come along, have a taste and discover what's new on the menu!

We are delighted to share results from our recent parent survey, which show that all families feel pupils are happy and safe in school, that the school has high expectations and that a broad range of subjects are available. Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback — it is greatly appreciated.

In response to your suggestions, we will be introducing Class Dojo, a new platform to keep you informed about your child's learning. Teachers will share regular photos and updates from the classroom. Your child will soon bring home a login code and instructions. Please note that the

**Smile Believe Succeed**

messaging function will not be used; all communication should continue via the school office.

Finally, we wish Miss Russen every success as she leaves Walpole Highway on Friday to explore a new opportunity and thank her for her contribution to the school. We are pleased to welcome back Miss Manning in Hedgehogs in January – this will ensure continuity in provision for the children as we move into 2026.

Best wishes,

*Emma Hunt & Kelly Farthing*  
Exec Headteacher & Head of School

### Hedgehogs Class

It has been a super half term in Hedgehogs Class!

Our topic in Reception has been Light and Celebrations where we have learnt about Diwali, the children made some lovely Diva lamps. We have talked about different types of weather and why we have day and night. We will be finishing our term with Christmas celebrations and comparing our Christmases with Christmases from the past. They are building on making great relationships with their peers and have settled in very well.

Year 1 and 2 have continued on their Talk for Writing journey, they have learnt about recounts and have read Traction Man over this term. In Maths, we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes. They have learnt about features of our local area in Geography. In D.T., they especially enjoyed the taste testing in preparation for making a balanced meal in the form of a wrap. During our computing lessons they have learnt how to take good photographs and how to edit these.

It has been a super busy half term and I wish you all a lovely Christmas break and hope that you get time to make some memories and spend some well-deserved family time together.

Kind regards

Mrs Else



The Friends of the School would like to thank everyone for their continued support this year. We are looking forward to ending the term with the Christmas Disco this Friday. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to support a trip to Norwich Castle, and our Christmas Shop was a very enjoyable event for the children to buy gifts for special people. Christmas gifts from FOWHPS will be given out tomorrow after school. We wish all our families a lovely Christmas.

## Owls Class

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the fantastic learning experiences the children have enjoyed over the past few weeks. They have all worked incredibly hard and should feel very proud of their achievements.

In English, our main focus has been on writing biographies. The children were particularly inspired by our work on the Suffragettes, and they engaged with real enthusiasm as they learned about these remarkable women and their fight for equality.

In Geography, we have been exploring our local area. The children loved comparing Walpole Highway today with how it looked in the past, using a range of maps and OS maps to spot changes over time. We also broadened our horizons by comparing our village with New Delhi in India, discussing the similarities and differences between the two places.

Speaking of India, our Music lessons this half term have been filled with rhythm and colour as we explored traditional Indian music. The children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with instruments and creating sounds inspired by this vibrant musical tradition.

Our Science lessons have been very hands-on, with the children taking part in a variety of investigations linked to states of matter. We explored solids, melting, evaporation and even delved into the water cycle. Their curiosity and enthusiasm during these practical sessions have been wonderful to see.

A true highlight of the half term was our trip to the Norwich Museum, which linked with our earlier work on the Ancient Egyptians. The children behaved brilliantly and were captivated by the fascinating artefacts and stories from the past.

As the term draws to a close, we have also been busy getting into the festive spirit in school. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the excitement and joy that this time of year brings.

I would like to wish all children and their families a wonderful, restful break and a very happy Christmas.



## Diary Dates

**COMING SOON**

22<sup>nd</sup> January - Tea & Talk Event – West Walton School Hall – all parents/carers welcome

9<sup>th</sup> February – Oral Health Education Visit for all children

13<sup>th</sup> February – Valentines Lunch

24<sup>th</sup> February – Instrumental Play Day and Concert – MITI Students – details to follow

4<sup>th</sup> March – WNAT Primary Literary Event – details to follow

5<sup>th</sup> March -World Book Day



### Families in hardship and needing wider support.

There is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Client Hardship Service (CHS) and the Crisis Support Fund, which may be able to provide financial support including essential household items to families experiencing hardship.

Families may get in touch with CHS via their dedicated website at Client Hardship Service – Norfolk County Council, which includes an online application form (here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41970/How-to-get-help-from-the-Client-Hardship-Service> ) or if you cannot access the internet, you can call 0344 800 8020.

### After School Choir

Choir Club is running at Tilney St Lawrence School on Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, for all Windmill schools. There is no charge for this club. If your child would love to take part, please contact the school office.



**PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!**

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

19 days lost a year through being late means 90% attendance.

**missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!**

**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**

Attendance Team | Education, Quality Assurance and Intervention Service

The poster features a large analog clock showing approximately 10:10. The text is presented in a green and white color scheme with bold headings and bullet points. The Norfolk County Council logo is in the top right corner.