



Newsletter

03 November 2023

Dear parent and carers

A big welcome back to you all!

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half-term break last week. The children have returned to school keen and ready to learn.

There is also a big welcome to our new look school newsletter. Our school newsletter will continue to be published each week and will contain news about learning, important events and information which we feel will be useful for our families.

I would like to thank you all for the incredible amount of support I have received since arriving at Hemsby from you all. You will have read from Mr Rice's communication that went out earlier in the week informing you that I have been appointed Head of School here at Hemsby. I am absolutely delighted to take up this position and am equally delighted to be able to write my first letter as the new Head of School at Hemsby Primary School with Nursery.

I started teaching in September 2002 after having a career in mental-health nursing. After qualifying as a teacher, I joined the then Caister First School as an NQT, teaching Reception. I went on to teach in Nursery then made the move to Key stage 1 – Year 2. During my time in Year 2, I also became Assistant Headteacher at Caister Infant School with Nursery.

Being a mother, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standards of teaching and learning alongside good well-being are achieved. We have a hugely committed team and wonderful children, which of course, is a great place from which to build.

The needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within a school. I strongly believe in providing the children with a range of exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and foster their love of learning.

It is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships.

I understand how vital the home school partnership is for children to be able to find school a positive and rewarding experience. As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school, we are approachable and allocate quality time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school.

You can be assured that as Head of School, I will strive to create the best education and opportunities for your child/children whilst they are members of our school family.

As always, come rain or shine, I will attempt to be at the gate before and after school each day– do look out for me and say hello!

Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you all a super weekend.

Donna Walker



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Attendance – Every Day Counts

It is important that all children attend school as much as possible. Children who attend more, do better socially and academically. It is important that all children are helped to succeed and by being at school as much as possible this can happen. That also means that children arrive at school before the school day starts so that they can have a smooth start to the day. School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3.20pm, gates open at 8.40am.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please call the school office on 01493 730364. If your child has a medical appointment during school time, please let the school office know in advance.


Request for Leave during the School Term

Request for leave for holidays/travel abroad cannot be authorised by the school. As you are aware, leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Please note that, Under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996, a Penalty Notice/s for absence during the school term may be issued.

Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/#:~:text=It's%20fine%20to%20send%20your,to%20wash%20their%20hands%20regularly.>

This week's school attendance overall was: 93.41 %

Class	%	Congratulations to the Woodpeckers Class who are our Attendance winners this week! 
Nursery	96.23	
Robins	90	
Jays	91	
Kingfishers	92.63	
Woodpeckers	96.43	
Swallows	95.71	
Hérons	91.38	

Mrs Walker presented the Woodpeckers class with the trophy and a certificate in assembly this afternoon.



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'Let's Talk About...'

This academic year, as a part of our work both in implementing the DFE's revised Reading Framework and our own curriculum development, the development of oracy skills will be a focus across our school. We will seek to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity and support to become fluent, confident and skilled communicators.

Each week on our newsletter, there will be a 'Let's Talk About...' a topic/theme to promote conversation and discussion at home.

Let's Talk About... Firework Safety

Firework Safety

- Fireworks should not be touched
- You must always be with an adult when watching fireworks
- Stand far back from both fireworks and bonfires
- Once a firework is lit, never go near it
- If an adult allows, always wear gloves when holding a sparkler
- Pets should stay indoors

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<https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety>

Do talk to your child about how to stay safe around bonfires, fireworks and sparklers.



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Our Safeguarding Team

At **Hemsby Primary School and Nursery** we all have a responsibility to keep children safe. We take all necessary measures to ensure that this happens.

If you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are:

- Mrs Walker
- Mr Purnell
- Mrs Olley
- Jonathan Rice (Executive Headteacher)
- Helen Wheatley (Safeguarding Governor)

However, all staff are trained in safeguarding and will listen to any concerns you have.

Concerned About a Child's Safety?

Children's Advice and Duty Service

If you are a member of the public you can do this through Norfolk County Council's Customer Services on 0344 800 8020.

Class Stories

Nursery: This week we have been learning about Bonfire Night in the Nursery. While we have been doing lots of fun activities and eating chocolate covered breadstick sparklers we have been talking about the importance of being safe; the children have been eager to feed back to staff that they need to wear gloves and hold sparklers away from their face, stay close to their families and stand away from the hot bonfires. We have all learnt a new song '5 little rockets standing in a row' and talked about the loud bangs and noises we might hear if we go to a fire work display. It was also lovely to see the children in their Halloween fancy dress this week.



Singing '5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Zoom'



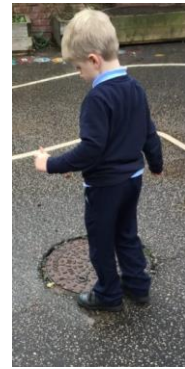
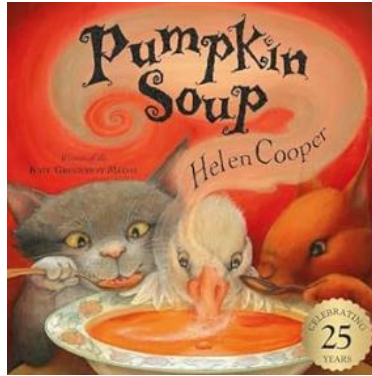
Making edible sparklers



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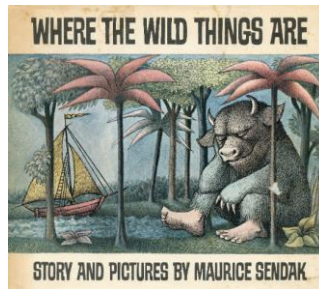
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Robins: This week the Robins been thinking about Halloween which linked to our CUSP book, Pumpkin Soup. We carved a pumpkin then cut pumpkin to make our own pumpkin soup. In maths we have been investigating 2D shapes. We looked for shapes in the classroom and outside.



Jays: For English we are exploring 'Where the wild things are.' The children have begun to unpick the vocabulary, is there another word that is similar in meaning? Instead of saying fast, 'we could use quick!' In Maths we have finished off our part-whole model unit, exploring number bonds, what two numbers added together equal 10? $5 + _ = 10$ $3 + _ = 10$ $9 + _ = 10$. In science we have been investigating and questioning, how many hours are in a day? How does the Earth turn? And when it is daytime for us, it is night time for the other side of Earth!

The children have wowed Miss Hartle with their work this week! 😊



Kingfishers: We've had a brilliant first week back. In Reading this week we have been reading Paddington. We've been using our inferring skills to find out how characters could be feeling using evidence from the book. We've also been using our summarising and retrieving skills too. In Maths we are continuing to add and subtract two-digit numbers. In Science, we have started looking at comparing animals and humans using our previous learning of MRS GREN.





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Woodpeckers: It's been a great first week back with lots of learning taking place. We had fun learning about our skeletons in Science and naming the different bones in our bodies. In English we have been planning our own reports about eating a balanced diet, using our science knowledge about food groups. In French we are practising our numbers and using them to play a game.



Swallows: This week the Swallows have started a non-fiction unit in English on how to write persuasive letters and formal letters of application. In Maths, we are looking at multiplication and division, factors and multiples in year five and at area in year 5. We have been looking at the Greek myth of 'The Cyclops' in history and practised our basketball skills in PE. The children have returned to school full of energy this week and have really tried hard at everything.



Hérons: In class this week, we have been looking at and practicing Remembrance poetry and had a go at planning and writing our own poems. In Maths we have been learning a method of long division. In History we have started our new topic which is about the Second World War and impact that American army bases had on our local area.





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Parent Notices

Dogs

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs, so please ensure dogs (except for service dogs) are not brought into school grounds.

Also, if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate. This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

Parking

Please be reminded that there should be no parking on the zig zag lines outside of the school gate. Please park considerately and safely.

Poppies

Our Year 6 students will begin to go round to all classes from Monday with this year's poppy items. There are slap bands, bracelets, poppy keyrings and paper poppies available. If you would like to send your child to school with some change please do so next week. Recommended donations are:

Reflector keychain – £1

Bracelet – £1

Paper poppies - £1

Slap Bands - £1.50

Children are invited to donate for one item.

School Library

Norfolk Children's Book Centre have been busy in school this week looking at all of our books in school and re-categorising them ready for our revamped library launch, as well as introducing some new titles to our library stock. We strive for weekly visits to school library to become part of our school offer and for each child to be able to visit the library each week to enjoy books and to really develop their love of reading. Thank you again to Mrs Ritchie for facilitating this, and to the team at Norfolk Children's Book Centre for their sterling effort in school this week. Here a few pictures of the progress so far. This extensive job took a little longer than expected therefore books will start to be sent home from next week. Look out for further school updates coming soon!





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Remembrance

We will be walking, as a whole school, to the war memorial in the village, to pay our respects at this time of Remembrance during the morning of Tuesday 7th November.

Staff and our school House Captains will also represent our school at the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 12th November.

Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy in our cleaning team. If you are interested and would like to join our wonderful team, please contact the office who will be able to give you further information.

Academic Year Term Dates

Norfolk County Council 2023-2024 Norfolk Model Calendar

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
M T W T F S S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	M T W T F S S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
M T W T F S S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Key: White dates - schools open to pupils
Yellow dates - pupil holiday
Red dates - bank holiday

Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 4th & 5th September, 3 January, 28th March and 22 July. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.



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Dates for the diary

Tues 7 th November	School Visit to War Memorial Parents' Evening (3:30 - 5:30pm) – more details on Class Dojo & Tapestry
Wed 8 th November	Yr Reception – Year 6 Flu Sprays – Letter to follow
Thurs 9 th November	Parents Evening (4:00 - 6.30pm) – more details on Class Dojo & Tapestry
Mon 13 th November	Travelling Book Fair (3.30pm – 4pm) – KS1 & EYFS
Thurs 16 th November	Travelling Book Fair (3.30pm – 4pm) – KS2
Fri 17 th November	Children In Need
Fri 1 st December	Non Uniform Day – Rainbow Raffle – more details to follow
Mon 4 th December	Christingle at St Mary's Church – more details to follow
Wed 6 th December	PTA Christmas Film Night – more details to follow
Wed 13 th December	Nativity at St Mary's Church – more details to follow
Tues 19 th December	Christmas Lunch day – children can wear Christmas jumpers
Wed 20 th December	Last day of term