



# Newsletter

## Issue 8 Summer 2024

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Headteacher

Another half term has been completed at John of Gaunt and just like all the others it has gone passed in the blink of an eye.



As usual the children have all worked really hard and we have seen lots of lovely progress in all areas of their learning. Having just completed our Read, Write, Inc. assessment week I am delighted with the progress the children have made with both their phonic sounds and their reading. Thank you for all your support at home with this. Year 1 parents please continue to practise the sound cards that are coming home and all their sounds especially their special friends. Year 1 Phonics Screening week is the week beginning 10th June.

Our School Council (with Mrs Toplis) have been working hard to organise some new play equipment for the field to replace some of our older retired equipment. They canvassed the whole school on their choice between option 1 and option 2, and option 2

was the runaway winner. We are really hoping that we can get this installed as soon as possible. We promise Year 2s can come back for a play if we don't manage to have it built in time!



There are a few changes coming for John of Gaunt for September, so watch out for a letter after the half term explaining everything.

Wishing you all a very restful Half Term holiday. See you all at 8.50am on Monday 3rd June.

*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

7.6.24 - Reception Sharing Assembly at 9.15am

11.6.24 - Main School Family Learning Day

13.6.24 - Open Evening for new Reception Parents for September 2024

22.6.24 - Annual Family Learning Event at AHS

26/27/28.6.24 - Transition Days

4.7.24 - John Bears Nursery Family Learning Event

5.7.24 - Sports Day

8.7.24 - Main School Open Evening

12.7.24 - Main School Annual Reports sent home

17.7.24 - 9.15am: Year 2 Leavers Assembly

**School finishes for summer on Friday  
19th July at 3.10pm**

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%. Our current figure is 93.8%

The best Class this week was Giraffes with 98%

## Sharing Assemblies

We are delighted to be continuing our Sharing Assemblies this year with just a little change. Instead of Class Assemblies there will now be Year Group Assemblies so both classes together rather than individually.

Reception Sharing Assembly is on Friday 7th June at 9.15am.

Year 2 do not have a Sharing Assembly in the Summer Term as they have their Leavers Assembly at the end of the term.

## Nursery

Just in case you have not already heard we are delighted to say that from September 2024 we will be opening the doors to 2 year olds at John Bears Nursery.

One of our nursery rooms will be dedicated to our younger children and one room dedicated to our older children.

If you are a working parent or fall into the category of receiving certain benefits you may be entitled to the new 2 year old funding that started in April. Please look on childcare choices to look at whether you are eligible or speak to Mrs Nutt at the nursery.

If you would like to have a 2 year old space then please pop in to see Mrs Nutt who will ask for a registration of interest form and will then send you the application form to complete. Our 2 year old spaces will be offered as flexibly as our 3 and 4 year old spaces and they will be able to attend from 7.30am until 6pm either term time only or all year round but with a maximum of 10 hours in any one day.

Please feel free to pass this information on if you know of anyone who would be interested and ask them to contact the nursery on 01263 734028

## Reminders

**Just a couple of reminders:**

- **John of Gaunt is a non smoking site and this includes vaping.**
- **John of Gaunt and Bure Valley are dog free sites (please do not tie dogs at the gates either)**
- **Please do not park in the entrance to the nursery car park (before the barriers) it stops vehicles being able to access the car park including the bin lorry and emergency vehicles.**
- **There is no parking on site at the main school (off Hungate Street). All parking here is for staff only.**
- **Please avoid driving onto the site (from Hungate Street) unless by prior arrangement with the office.**

## FoJoG

A big thank you to our newly formed FoJoG committee.

The children really enjoyed "Frozen Friday" so we will look at this becoming a more regular fixture over the coming half term.

The Disco was a great success and whilst loud and very hot and sweaty the children loved it! We had 140 of our 200 children attend which was fantastic so again these will become a more regular fixture now for the children to enjoy.

FoJoG are always looking for more people to join the committee. It is still very small! Miss Bliss is our staff member liaising with FoJoG, so if you are interesting in joining please either speak to her or chat to Mrs Cannon in the playground.

## Studybugs

Hopefully you have all received communication about our new system called Studybugs which is primarily used for attendance. By downloading the app on your mobile phone you will be able to message us to report your child absent rather than phoning in and leaving a message. Studybugs will also give you some helpful NHS guidance too.

The image shows the Studybugs app icon, which consists of the word "Studybugs" in white text on a blue rectangular background, followed by a small green cross icon.

Thanks to all those parents who have already downloaded the app and registered with Studybugs but we really do need everyone to do this. The app icon is like the one above but without the words.

Studybugs is not just for reporting attendance and we are also able to communicate with you through it via texts and emails which will be more user friendly than our current system. In time we will stop using Teachers2Parents and everything will come through Studybugs.

We will also be more able to keep you updated with your child's current attendance more regularly as we know that attendance at school is vitally important and missing time at school has a negative impact on a child's education.

Bure Valley and Aylsham High school are also using Studybugs so this a system that will carry on through your child's schooling.

## Summer Term Uniform

Just a reminder that as the weather gets warmer (hopefully) across the course of the term, children are welcome to wear blue gingham dresses or grey shorts. On PE days they can wear their sports shorts instead of leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

During the Summer term we do use outside more for PE so they will need plimsolls or trainers (velcro only please) so that they are not doing PE in their school shoes.

On warm days please think about hats, suncream and water bottles.

## Smart Watches

We have noticed a few children bringing smart watches to school recently. Smart watches have a function on them which allows them to take photos. This is clearly not appropriate within the school setting and is a safeguarding concern.

Please therefore can we ask that children do not wear their smart watches to school but save them for home. If your child does wear their smart watch to school it will be taken by the class teacher and kept safe until the end of the day when it will be given back to you with the reminder about not wearing them.

Normal analogue watches which support with children learning to tell the time are fine.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.



## Staff Goodbye

Today we said goodbye to our wonderful Mrs Miles. Mrs Miles has worked as cook in the John of Gaunt kitchen for over 20 years and more recently from the BVS kitchen. Mrs Miles has decided that it is time to hang up her apron and retire.

I can't imagine just how many fish fingers Mrs Miles has cooked over the years but she has always done it with great care and passion.

She will be greatly missed and we said a big goodbye to her in assembly today and the children all drew her a picture to make her a special book as a keepsake of her time in our school.

We wish you a very happy retirement Mrs Miles.





# Friends of John of Gaunt News Update

**Thanks to everyone who has joined in with events this term,** including our March Miles, mufti days, the first sunny Frozen Friday and our School Disco. Every penny we raise through these fundraising events goes back into providing fun activities for the children.

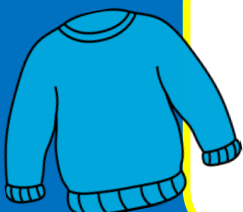
## School Disco Success! 🎵

Thanks to everyone who made the recent School Disco possible. It was great to be able to bring events like these back thanks to recent fundraising events, and the big smiles on the children's faces were priceless! Watch out for future events.



## Coming soon!

As we edge closer to the end of the academic year, we are planning a **second hand uniform sale**. We will be asking for donations, so please do dig out any items you may have. More details to follow.







John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School



# Family Learning

As part of Norwich Diocese Eco Angels project  
please join your child for an environmental  
Family Learning activity on

## Tuesday 11th June

9am - 9.30am Zebras

9.40am - 10.10am Otters

10.20am - 10.50am Giraffes

11am - 11.30am Elephants

1.30pm - 2pm Turtles

2.15pm - 2.40pm Leopards

Grandparents, aunts, uncles and  
younger siblings welcome

We will be learning about environmentalist Dr Sylvia Earle  
an inspirational biologist, explorer and author.

Together we will be creating a giant fish sculpture which  
will be displayed in churches across Norfolk.





# Family Learning Day

**Saturday 22nd June**

**10am - 2pm**

**Aylsham High School**

**Suitable for the whole family**

**Drop in for an hour or stay for the day**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

**FREE ADMISSION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Join us for a variety of FREE activities, including scaling a Bouldering Wall and encountering Mini Monsters exotic reptiles.**

**Experience the magic of Hogwarts with activities at the Aylsham Reading Festival.**

**Our schools and local community groups will be offering a variety of science, sports, crafts and fun activities.**



**Kindly sponsored by The Rotary Club of Aylsham, Ovamill Ltd and Slow Food Aylsham**





Slow Food Aylsham



**Aylsham High School**  
**Thursday 13th June**  
**6.30 pm - 8.30 pm**  
**Lunch Box Ideas**



This FREE workshop with Lesley from Slow Food Aylsham offers a great opportunity to learn how to create easy to prepare lunch box items.



Working with Lesley you will develop skills and knowledge to create delicious lunch box treats or picnic snacks to take home with you.

All ingredients included, please indicate when booking if you require vegetarian or gluten free ingredients.

Limited places available, please book your place by completing the booking form.

For further information please contact:

Monica Harding— [mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mharding@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) or text 07780887348.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Norfolk County Council to deliver a range of learning opportunities for our families through a government funded programme called Multiply which aims to support adults to build confidence with numeracy skills.

**SKILLS  
FOR LIFE  
MULTIPLY**



**SKILLS  
FOR LIFE  
MULTIPLY**



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# ACTIVITY WORKSHOP

Monday 17th June, 4pm to 6pm

Aylsham Library

Unearth the weird and wonderful prehistoric creatures that once roamed Norfolk and take part in a fun family quest this summer with AtoBetter



Free family workshop

- Discover fossil hunting with award-winning children's authors, Jill Michelle Smith and Jennifer Watson, in partnership with Norfolk County Council and AtoBetter.
- Chat with the AtoBetter team about sustainable travel options and the benefits of exploring on foot and by bike.
- Collect a free Explorer Guide, packed with fun facts, puzzles, activities and a colouring competition to inspire your family to get outside in your local community!



AtoBetter  
YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR WAY

Norfolk  
County Council

[dodoanddinosaur.com/prehistoric-quest](https://dodoanddinosaur.com/prehistoric-quest)

Book Reading . Fossil Handling . Craft Activities

# HALF TERM ACTIVITIES AT AYLSHAM SPORTS HUB

## CHILDREN'S INTENSIVE SWIMMING COURSE

Are you looking for a fun half term holiday activity, or a chance to improve your child's swimming technique?

An intensive swimming course, in small groups with friendly teachers, is a great way to introduce your child to swimming, or for them to gain confidence in the water.

Aylsham Swim Academy are running 4-day courses with 30 minute lessons at the same time each morning from Tuesday 28 May to Friday 31 May.

09:30 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 11:00
Beginners (Aged 3-5)	Beginners (Aged 6+)	Improvers (Aged 6+)



A 4 day intensive swimming course from Tuesday to Friday - only £20 per child

## ALL STARS

All Stars is back for half term with the usual fun mixture of mini sports and activities designed for younger children which may include dodgeball, football, hockey, and parachute activities as well as musical and playground games.

Children aged 4-10

Only £20 per child per session

Tuesday 28 May - Swimming and multi-sports

Wednesday 29 May - Glow disco with Jemma



Please see our website to book and for more details

[aylshamhigh.com/aylshamsportshub](http://aylshamhigh.com/aylshamsportshub)

Email: [info@aylshamsportshub.co.uk](mailto:info@aylshamsportshub.co.uk) Telephone: 01263 738 966

