



# Newsletter

## Issue 2 Autumn 2024

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Headteacher

Although a long half term, we seem to be jogging along at a very fast pace and we are almost at the end of our first half term already.



It is lovely to see all the children settled in their classes and cracking on with the business of learning. We have our first Read Write Inc. assessments of the year next week and after that we will sort new phonics groups for the following half term. Some children will have made lots of progress and others will need a little more time to consolidate their phonic and reading skills so may not change to a new colour group. Our reception children have done fantastically well at learning their individual letter sounds and are working hard at learning to blend. Hopefully, our reception parents now know how to help at home with phonics after Mrs Gotterson's introduction workshop.

Thank you to all those reception parents who came along to both the phonics and maths workshops in the last couple of weeks. It was lovely to see so many of you and we are grateful for the support with your child's learning journey. As I said right back at induction evenings this is a two way journey together.

The weather is now very autumnal and as we use our outside areas so much, please can you make sure that your child has a pair of wellingtons in school or brings them each day if this is what you prefer. Children cannot access the grass area at playtimes and lunchtimes without wellingtons as it is so muddy and they then need to change back into their shoes when they go in, to prevent too much mud transference around the school!

*CE Toplis*

### Attendance Watch

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

The best Class this week was

### Dates for your Diary

15.10.24 - Individual school photos

17.10.24 - Flu Vaccinations

23.10.24 - Harvest Assembly (BVS Hall) 9.15am start

**School finishes for Half Term on Thursday 24th October**

**25th October to 1st November is HALF TERM**

**School reopens on Monday 4th November at 8.50am**

7.11.24 - Reception 2025 Open Evening

11.11.24 - 22.1.24: Parents evening fortnight

15.11.24 - Children in Need

26.11.24 - Main school Family Learning Day

5.12.24 - John Bears Nursery Family Learning Day

12.12.24 - Christmas Jumper Day

20.12.24 - Christmas Party Day

**See separate post in newsletter about Christmas Play Dates**

**School finishes for Christmas at 3.10pm on 20th December**

## Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Assembly is on Wednesday 23rd October at 9.15am in BVS school Hall. We would love you to join us to listen to our singing and the children will also perform some poems and songs in their year groups.

Please could I ask that you wait until 9am on the school playground before heading over to BVS Hall. This enables all the BVS children and families to have uninterrupted access as normal before we move in!

Whilst BVS hall is much larger than our own, space will still be limited, so buggies and prams will need to remain outside please.

Once the Assembly has finished you will need to leave via BVS main door and will only have access to Hungate Street and not back onto the school site for safeguarding reasons.

As is traditional we will be having a collection for our Harvest Assembly to give back to others less fortunate than ourselves. We shall be once again collecting for the foodbank. Please bring your donations in anytime in the final 4 days of this half term from Monday 21st October and each class will make their collection.

### Items we urgently need:

Tinned Tomatoes  
Tinned Meat  
Cupa Soups  
Confectionery  
Fruit Juice

## 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)**
- **Only nursery parents can park in the nursery car park (this is very important as our nursery children are so young)**
- **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.**

## Christmas Cards - Fundraising

I know it is very early but as in previous years the children have been busy designing and creating their Christmas Cards.

We will soon be sending these to the print team and a proof of your child's card will be created, this will then come home together with an order form so that you can order packs of cards with your child's design on ready to send to friends and family.

This raises vital funds for the school so that we are able to purchase things that we would otherwise not be able to, so please buy a pack if you are able.

## Parents Evening

This year we will once again be using school cloud parents evening. Although times have changed we actually felt that school cloud was a successful way to run parents evenings and meant that we could update you on your child's progress without the added complication of attending school. It also means that we run exactly to time!

For those new to this we will send out details nearer the time but in short you are invited via email to book a time with your child's class teacher, you then receive an email confirming your time and at the bottom of that email there is a link to click on at your allotted time where you will then link virtually to your child's class teacher. Appointments are set at 10 minutes and the system ends them after this time hence why teachers always run to time!

Our Autumn Term Parents evenings will be on **Monday 11th November until Friday 22nd November** for your diaries but an email inviting you to book an appointment will be sent out in due course.



schoolcloud  
Parents Evening

## Christmas play dates

It seems very early to mention the C word but I know that it helps if you have dates for your diaries. Our Christmas Performances will be as follows:

### Tuesday 17th December

9.15am - Year 1 and 2 performance

2pm - Reception performance

### Wednesday 18th December

9.15am - Reception performance

2pm - Year 1 and 2 performance

### Thursday 19th December

9.15am - Year 1 and 2 performance



You are welcome to attend either of your child's year group performances but we do ask that due to space you do not attend more than one. This year we will have 3 and half classes in the Year 1 and 2 performance so ask that only 2 people attend per performance please in order to be able to comply with fire regulations.



Aylsham Heritage Centre Presents  
a very special **MAD SCIENCE** Event

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

£8 per child

10.30 - 11.30



Mini Mad Scientists ages 5 -11 are invited to

Dr Fun-kenstein's Eerie Event. An electrifying, hair-raising  
hour. Make potent potions and have a spooky slime time!

(Booking essential as places are limited. Not suitable for children under 5.)

To book a place

[www.aylshamheritage.com](http://www.aylshamheritage.com) or call into the centre.

