



# Newsletter

## Issue 9 Summer 2024

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Headteacher

Half way through the term already! And now Summer seems to have finally arrived.



We have had a really good start to the half term. All the children have settled back really quickly and are cracking on with their new topics. You should all have received by now the new curriculum maps for this half term detailing what your child will be learning about. If in doubt they are all available on our website.

Year 2 have already been on their trip and there is a little section further in the newsletter about their day at Norwich Cathedral. Year 1 and Reception have their trips planned for later in July. Please make sure you have signed the consent form and sent back payment as soon as possible. Whilst payment has to be voluntary if we do not receive enough funds then trips will have to be cancelled which would be a real shame for the children. If you have any concerns about this please come and talk to someone about how we can help.

This week we have completed our three days of transition to new classes. We know that change can be a real worry for some children which is why we have transition time so that children can feel more settled before the summer break. We agonised long and hard over new classes so would ask that you support and trust us with the decisions that have been made. We hope that the children all feel happy with their new classes but where anxieties continue we will support them through this.

We are all looking forward to Sports day next week (fingers crossed the weather stays fine!) and there is some further information about this on the next page of this newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*CE Toplis*

### Dates for your Diary

**Summer Term starts Monday 15th  
April 2024**

4.7.24 - John Bears Nursery Family Learning event

5.7.24 - Sports Day

8.7.24 - Main school Open Evening

12.7.24 - Reception trip to BeWILDerwood

12.7.24 - Main school annual reports sent home

15.7.24 - Year 1 trip to Sheringham Park

17.7.24 - 9.15am: Year 2 Leavers Assembly

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

**Schools reopens on Wednesday 4th  
September for Nursery, Year 1 and  
Year 2 children**

**Reception children start according  
to timetable on Monday 9th  
September**

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%. Our current figure is 93.9%

The best Classes this week were the Turtles and Otters both at 98.9%

## Sports Day

Next week (Friday 5th) is our annual sports day. As in previous years we are having the whole day for sports again with 3 stations of activities for the children to move around. They will complete 2 of those stations in the morning collecting house points along the way and then the final station in the afternoon. The children need to come to school already dressed in their PE kits. As usual if they would like to wear their own house colour t shirt for the day then this would be great but not essential.

We would like to invite you to come and join us from **1.30pm**. You can then watch your child in their final station before we move to the running track for competitive races.

The only gate that will be accessible for this is the one from Hungate Street. The Norwich road gate (near the nursery) will **not** be opened in order to ensure the safety of all our children.

When you come onto site please head round to the back playground and field, and locate your child's class. Once we have completed station 3 the children will move to the school side of the running track which is back up towards the nursery and we ask that you spectate from the opposite side (road side).

The children are all going to do 2 races and then of course we would like you to join in the fun with parent races and the lovely toddler race. So come prepared with your running shoes!

Our sports day will end with a cooling rocket lolly for the children and then the medal ceremony.

We will then need to take the children back into school to collect all their belongings and then they will be back out to you ready for going home.

We hope everyone will be able to join us for our sports day and that you will enjoy watching and joining in.



## Pond

A few weeks ago we had some wonderful grandparents and parents work to replace our pond area. The pond was sadly in bad repair, we managed to secured some funds through Tesco to replace it, and although there was a delay this has now been completed and it is looking wonderful. We are just waiting for it to regenerate itself and then we will once more be able to use it for our outdoor learning.

Unfortunately, someone has been throwing sticks and twigs over the fence into the pond. Whilst we know this will make a lovely 'plop' noise, it is not going to be good in such a small body of water for our pond life.

Could I ask that everyone be vigilant before and after school and make sure that their child/ren are not using the pond as target practice.

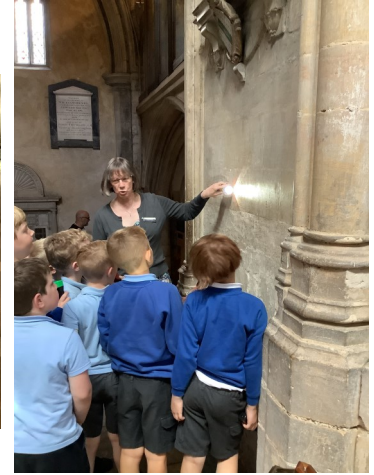
Many thanks



## Year 2 Trip to Norwich Cathedral

Our year 2 children had a brilliant trip to Norwich Cathedral which they all thoroughly enjoyed. The teachers reported that the children excelled themselves in terms of their behaviour and they were praised by the Cathedral staff too so well done Year 2.

Just a few pictures of some of their day for you to see.



## 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 Hunagte Street) unless by prior arrangement with the office.



## Year 1 Prehistoric Workshop

Year 1 were really lucky to be able to take part in a prehistoric workshop last week and listened to a reading of *Extraordinary Extinct Prehistoric Minibeasts* by the authors. They also handled some fossils too. Thanks to AtoBetter who organised this for us.

EXTRAORDINARY EXTINCT™  
**ACTIVITY WORKSHOP**

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

WINNER 2024  
The Selfies CHILDREN'S BOOKS

FREE school visits with award-winning children's authors and illustrator, Jill Michelle Smith and Jennifer Watson, in partnership with Norfolk County Council and AtoBetter.

**Sessions include:**

- A reading of *Extraordinary Extinct™ Prehistoric Minibeasts: A First Guide to Fossils* with the authors.
- Fossil handling - learn how to identify common fossils and discover incredible creatures that have been found in Norfolk.
- Tips for safe and sustainable journeys on foot or by bike, to connect with your local area and notice nature in your neighbourhood.
- An Explorer Guide for each child, packed with fun facts, puzzles and a colouring competition.
- A set of Dodo and Dinosaur® books and a card game for the school to keep!

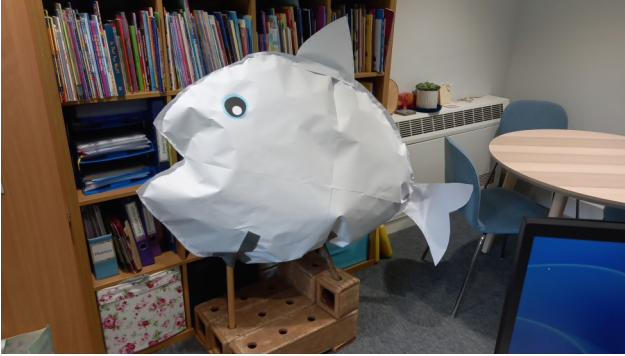
Dodo & Dinosaur  
AtoBetter YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR WAY.  
Norfolk County Council

Contact [atobetter@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:atobetter@norfolk.gov.uk) to book



## Family Learning Day

Thank you to everyone who came to our recent Family Learning Day at school. We had a fantastic turn out and the children really do love you coming in. We learnt about the Marine Biologist, Sylvia Earle, ready for creating our giant sculpture for the Eco Angels project. I have now heard that our sculpture will be in Aylsham Parish Church from July 14th until 30th September. Our Marine sculpture went from this to this. We think its amazing!



## Staff Changes

I am sure by now you have all read the recent letter I sent home about staff changes for September. We are really sad to be losing our valued colleagues but wish them all well in their new adventures.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Mackie at the end of this academic year as she has decided now is the time to retire. Mrs Mackie has been at John of Gaunt for a number of years so will be sorely missed. We wish Mrs Mackie our best wishes for her retirement.

If anyone would like to contribute to a gift for any of our leaving staff members please do so via an envelope clearly marked with the staff members name and leave with the office.

A message from Mrs Hawker

As September 2024 brings significant changes to John of Gaunt, it is with sadness that I will not be part of them. Over the past three years as Cover Teacher, it has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to work with every child in the school. I am incredibly proud of the progress and achievements we have made together. I will cherish the memories I have gained here, and I thank you for your support and trust.

Warmest Regards, Jo Hawker

GOODBYE





# Uniform Swap



## SWAP SHOP AND SECOND HAND SALE

Donate uniform you no longer need  
or pay what you can for new-to-you

Available in the school reception

FRIENDS OF JOHN OF GAUNT