

Newsletter 3 – 20/09/19

Headteacher's Welcome

What a wonderful week it has been in school. It has been so lovely to see all of the children enjoying their learning and working so hard. Space is proving to be a very exciting topic with all sorts of things to investigate! One of the things we have started with the children is a 15 minute *Questions for thinking* session each day. This has seen some fantastic and sometimes very amusing discussions! A favourite from Oak class this week was 'Would you rather be an adult or a child?' Let us know your thoughts!

In addition please read the letter from our Chair of Governors, Sam Lee.

This week in our classes.....

In Acorn:



In Acorn class have started writing a story about a character becoming stuck on a planet. In the picture the class was writing about what they have learnt about the phases of the moon and why it looks as if it changes shape. We have studied 'The Starry Night' painting by Van Gogh and have begun making a copy of it. Work has not yet begun on the moon buggies so please send in any junk modelling that may be used to make them (no bigger than a shoe box please!)

In Oak class: Last week, some children have been researching the moon and moon landings. Others created a scale drawing of our solar system on the playground. This week we are creating our own creatures that live on another planet in another solar system. We can't wait to see what we end up with as the children engage their imagination!

In Pre School: Since our return to school after the long summer break, we have been busy sharing stories from our holidays and getting know our four new pre-schoolers and their families. We have also moved our weekly outdoor session from a Wednesday morning to a Friday morning, meaning that several fresh children can now enjoy the experience. We will take time during the rest of the half term to look closely at the changes that autumn brings to the local environment.





PHONICS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Do you have a child in Pre-School or Reception at Northrepps School?

We will be holding a workshop to show you how we will be teaching your children Phonics over the next academic year. It is designed to take you through the basics so that you can then support your child's learning at home as they develop their reading and writing skills. We would love to see you!

*When: Tuesday 24 September
8:50am to 9:20am*

*Where: Northrepps Primary School
(Please come to the school office to sign in on the day)*

Celebration Assemblies and End of term Church Services

Please note that this year our Church services will all be in the morning and not in the afternoon as in previous years. We have published all the proposed dates so that you can plan your diary in advance.

What's on in the Village?

Some of our parents are involved in a Macmillan Coffee morning being held at the Village hall on Thursday 26 September 10am to 2pm with stalls a raffle and of course cake! If you would like to help raise some funds for this cause please pop along to the Village Hall.

Parent App

Thank you to everyone who has signed up. Remember you don't have to pre book your meals. Children can still choose on the day if they want to order a meal. This means that in the event of an absence you are not paying for a meal! Don't forget to check your balance and top up if needed.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Please see the forms at the end of the newsletter regarding checking your eligibility. If you think your child may be eligible please complete the form and return it. Every child matters and it could make a real difference.

Regular Timetabled events each week

Mon	PE for Oak and Acorn
Tue	PE for Acorn
Wed	
Thu	Swimming for Oak Class, Baking Club (Full- with waiting list)
Fri	

Dates for the Diary

Date	Who	Event
Thu 17 Oct	Acorn	Full Day of Forest School
Fri 18 Oct	All	Harvest Festival 9am to 10am
Thu 12 Dec	Oak	Full Day of Forest School
Wed 11 Dec	Acorn & Oak	Panto @ Sheringham Little Theatre
Wed 18 Dec	All	Christmas Service & Celebration Assembly 9am to 10am
Thu 13 Feb	Acorn	Full Day of Forest School
Thu 26 Mar	Oak	Full Day of Forest School
Wed 1 April	All	Easter Service & Celebration Assembly 9am to 10am
Thu 21 May	Acorn	Full Day of Forest School
Thu 16 July	Oak	Full Day of Forest School
Tue 21 July	All	End of Year Celebration Assembly 9am to 10am



Norfolk County Council

2019-2020

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 2019							October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30														30	31						30	31					

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020							April 2020						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												

May 2020							June 2020							July 2020							August 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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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 2 & 3 September, 19 December, 2 April and 22 July. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these days.

Please ensure holidays are not taken during school term time. Even short absences interrupt children's learning, development and progress.



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Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Watts

20 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Leadership News and Update

As Chair of Governors and a parent of three children at Erpingham School, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some important updates about leadership at the Blue Sky Federation.

As you will know, Angie Hamilton has been seconded to other schools over the last two terms and has been working away from the Blue Sky Federation for part of each week. As Governors we felt it important that we support this as it provided an excellent opportunity for us to strengthen the leadership of the federation and to provide opportunities for our staff to develop invaluable leadership experience. It has also enabled Angie to further develop her role and experience within the wider world of education.

Angie has shown a clear desire over recent months to take on new challenges within her career and to find her next step. As such she recently handed in her resignation as Executive Headteacher of the federation, with effect from the end of the autumn term. Although Angie's decision was sad to accept, we welcome the exciting opportunity which this now presents in recruiting a new Executive Headteacher.

Since Angie indicated to us her desire to move on, our main priority has been to ensure a smooth transition between Angie leaving and the appointment of a new Executive Headteacher. Part of this has involved the appointment of Laura Watts as Acting Executive Headteacher. She has done a great job over the summer term and the start of this academic year, ensuring that our schools have continued to drive forwards and to be happy and exciting places to learn. Our decision to allow Angie the opportunity to help other schools was well thought out, enabling us to ensure a strong transition of leadership. Angie has remained involved in our schools over the past few months in a reduced capacity which has allowed others to step up to new roles whilst still benefitting from her wealth of experience as a Headteacher.

So, having accepted Angie's resignation from her role, we now need to undertake a recruitment process for the position of Executive Headteacher. We will endeavour to carry this out as soon as possible so that we can then ensure long-term stability throughout the federation as a whole.

In the meantime, Laura Watts will continue in her role as Acting Executive Headteacher until Christmas. Emily Sacre will support her as Assistant Headteacher across both schools. Both Laura and Emily are passionate to see the schools moving forward in a strong position and they have the full support of the governing body. I am sure that you have been excited to see the changes that have taken place in the classrooms so far as staff continue to develop exciting learning opportunities for your children.

Depending on who is recruited as Executive Headteacher there may be the need for further recruitment across the federation. Please be assured that we will do everything in our power to ensure stability and continuity for all of the children in our schools and especially those in Blackbirds class. We are dedicated to building long-term stability and security for our schools.

I can assure you all that as a governing body we are wholly dedicated to building a strong leadership team, developing current teachers and nurturing an environment where every child has the opportunity to excel and we do this building on the strong leadership which Angie has provided.

Both Northrepps and Erpingham primary schools are thriving and have so many amazing selling points. We will ensure that all decisions made will serve to strengthen Blue Sky Federation so that many more children can experience the many ways in which we encourage a curiosity for learning.

Finally, I know I speak on behalf of both the governors and leadership team, when I give a heartfelt thank you to you all for the support and encouragement you provide as parents and for your continued patience whilst these leadership changes take place.

Please feel free to contact me through the school offices should I be able to clarify anything further.

Yours Sincerely

Sam Lee
Chair of Governors

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September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Free School Meals

Did you know... just registering your child for free school meals means that our School will receive extra funding to enhance your child's education? You may already have heard about the introduction of the Government initiative, the "Pupil Premium". This is a grant available for schools, determined by the number of Pupils eligible. If your child has been in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) within the last 6 years this grant is then offered to the school to support your child's learning.

We are sending this letter to all parents to ask if you would read the criteria below and see if you think your child may be eligible. If your child/children have qualified for Free School Meals over this period - even if you opted out or now no longer qualify – please do let us know so we can apply for the additional funding for all our pupils and our school. The Pupil Premium is targeted funding; we have to demonstrate to the Government how we use the funding to benefit your child. These include a wide variety of Teaching and Learning initiatives and intervention strategies that the Pupil Premium funding has enabled. In addition it can include extra-curricular activities, literacy and numeracy assistance plans; all designed to enhance your child's education.

If you are successful in registering for FSM, your child immediately receives the benefit of school dinners, with a nutritionally balanced 2 course meal provided. You may have made the decision to provide your child with a packed lunch out of preference. Consider that if you choose your own packed lunch option then you should still register with the school so that school are in receipt of this grant. Please read the qualifying criteria below to help you determine your child's eligibility.

If you have any questions, contact the School Office. Register now to make sure both the School and your child don't miss out!

Thank you

Free School Meals Eligibility

From 1 April 2018, the criteria for Free School Meals has been updated to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit and the phasing out of other income based benefits.

Local Authorities, Academies and Free Schools have a duty to provide free school meals to pupils of all ages. Free School Meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided the family has an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of the most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (providing the family is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for four weeks after a claimant stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out:

- From 1 April 2018, all existing free school meal pupils will continue to receive free school meals
- Any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out (expected to be complete in March 2022) any existing claimant that no longer meets the eligibility criteria will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Since September 2014, schools have been required to provide free lunches to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and there are no changes to this arrangement. The Free School Meals team will continue to assess Pupil Premium for these pupils.

Applying for Free School Meals

Parents are required to complete a Free School Meals Application Form available from the school office or direct from Children's Services. Parents are not required to provide evidence of the benefit they receive as checks will be made using data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and the Home Office. Once agreed, children have a continuous entitlement to free school meals unless the family stops receiving a qualifying benefit. Parents are required to inform the school or Norfolk County Council of any changes but the team will also carry out regular checks and inform schools and parents of any cancelled claims. The Free School Meals Team can be contacted on 01603 222518 or by email at admissions@norfolk.gov.uk for further advice and guidance.

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FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND PUPIL PREMIUM APPLICATION

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra (**£1,320** for your child's primary school)/(**£900** for your child's secondary school), to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

To check if your child is eligible, we need information about you and your child. Please complete this form and return to your child's school

ABOUT YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN

Child's Last Name	Child's First Name	Child's Date of Birth			Name of School

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PARENT/GUARDIAN DETAILS

	Parent/Guardian 1	Parent/Guardian 2
Last name		
First Name		
Date of Birth		
National Insurance Number*		
National Asylum Support Service (NASS) Number*	/ /	/ /
Daytime Telephone Number		
Mobile Number		
Address		
	Postcode:	Postcode:

* Complete as appropriate

FAMILY INCOME AND BENEFIT DETAILS

If you receive any of the benefits listed below, please place an X in this box:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on after work ends
- Universal Credit. – see below

Universal Credit

If you are in receipt of **Universal Credit**, is your net earned family income over £7,400 per year? (Please place an X in the appropriate box). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions. It does **not** include income through Universal Credit or other benefits that you may receive.

Yes

No

Unsure

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Child Tax Credit

If you are in receipt of **Child Tax Credit**, is your joint gross annual income over £16,190 per year? (Please place an X in the appropriate box). Your joint gross income is your household income before taxes are taken into account.

Yes No Unsure

DECLARATION

The information I have given on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that my personal information is held securely and will be used only for Local Authority purposes. I agree to the Local Authority using this information to process my application for free school meals. I also agree to notify the Local Authority in writing of any change in my family's financial circumstances as set out in this form.

Signature of parent/guardian: Date:.....

Thank you for completing this form and helping to make sure your child's school is as well funded as possible.

How the information in this form will be used

The information you provide in this form will be used by the council to confirm receipt of one of the listed welfare benefits. Once this is confirmed, this helps to decide how much money your child's school will receive each year.

The information will also be used in relation to pupils in year 3 or above to decide whether they are eligible for free school meals.

You only need to complete this form once and it will last for the duration of your child's time at their current school. You should contact the school or local authority if you have a change in financial circumstances.

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information. We will use the information you provide to assess entitlement to free school meals. The information may also be shared with other Council departments to offer benefits and services.

Your completed form should be returned to the Headteacher or can be sent to Free School Meals, Norfolk County Council, Floor 8, County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2DL

Make 1 change

Don't forget to send us your pics of you and your child/ren making these recipes! This weeks recipe – Spaghetti & Meatballs with hidden veg sauce

Ingredients for the meatballs

- 300g good quality pork sausage (about 4 large or 8 chipolatas)
- 500g lean beef mince
- 1 small onion coarsely grated
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 50g parmesan, finely grated, plus extra to serve
- 1 medium egg
- 1 tbsp olive oil

For the tomato sauce

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 courgette coarsely grated
- 3 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- pinch caster sugar
- splash red wine vinegar
- 2x 400g tins chopped tomato

To serve

- cooked spaghetti

Method

1. **Children:** Squeeze all the sausage meat out of the sausage skins into a large bowl and add the mince. Tip all the rest of the meatball ingredients, except the olive oil, into the bowl and season with black pepper then squish everything together through your hands until completely mixed. Keep an eye on younger children to make sure they don't taste any of the raw mix.
2. **Children:** Roll the meatball mix into walnut-sized balls and place them on a plate – this is a job children as young as 2 can help with and a great job to help teach older children basic division.
3. **Grown ups:** While the children are rolling the meatballs make the sauce. Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the courgette and garlic and cook for 5 mins until soft and mushy. Stir in the tomato puree, sugar and vinegar leave for 1 min then tip in the tomatoes and simmer for 5 mins. If your children like courgettes then you can leave the sauce chunky. But if, like mine, they hate courgettes then blitz the sauce with a hand blender – either way continue to simmer sauce gently while you cook the meatballs. If your child is confident with heat, from 7+ they can cook the sauce with supervision.
4. **Grown ups:** Heat the oil in a large frying pan and, working in batches, brown the meatballs on all sides then pop them into the sauce – continue to simmer the sauce for 15 mins, stirring very gently until the meatballs are cooked through. Serve with cooked spaghetti, extra grated Parmesan and a few torn basil leaves your child has picked and torn.

Recipe from bbcgoodfood.com, [July 2012](#)

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