



**'At the heart of learning in the community'**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As always we have had a busy and productive Spring term and we have lots of exciting news to tell you about.

*Welcome*

We have a few new faces in school this term in both Fox and Rabbit class and we are all really pleased with how well they have all settled in.

*School Website*

We had a photographer in school recently taking photographs for our new school website. The photographs look great and we tried to capture as many interesting learning experiences as we could. We will keep you posted and let you know when the website goes live.

*Nutritionist visit*

We had a visit from a nutritionist who did a workshop with each class. The children learnt about food from different parts of the world.

*Farm visit*

Rabbit and Otter class visited the Hull's farm in Occold to meet the new lambs. Thank you very much for welcoming us, it is always great for the children to learn about farming, especially so close to school.

*Artist in residence*

Just before half term we had a visit from an artist. Katy Bentall showed the children her drawings and taught them some different techniques. The children and staff all then drew a portrait of another person. If you would like to purchase a book of the portraits for £2 please pop and see Mrs Pickard in the school office.

*Eye Time Capsule*

We were involved a time capsule project before half term. We had a visitor in who explained about the time capsule that was buried in Eye. The children then learnt about changes to Occold and the surrounding area over the last 100 years.

This was followed by some visitors from a local bombardment group who brought their Jeep for the children to explore and taught us about aircraft during WW2.

### *Quicksticks tournament*

Fox class took part in a hockey tournament at Hartismere school. The staff were very impressed with how well the children worked as a team and played very well. Well done Fox class.

### *Pancakes*

A huge thank you to the Friends of the school for arranging and cooking pancakes for us all on Shrove Tuesday. Everybody enjoyed several pancakes and it was another lovely opportunity for the children.

### *World Book Day*

As always World Book Day was a fantastic day in school. There were so many brilliant costume from both children and staff. A huge thank you to all of you who helped children to get their costumes together. Thank you also for joining us in the afternoon to celebrate by sharing stories together, it was lovely to see so many parents enjoying reading with their children.

Don't forget to exchange your book tokens for a free book or money off another book in a book shop. You have until the end of March to do so.

### *Sudbury Festival of Performing Arts*

Many of our children entered a performing arts festival this term. We were very impressed by the standard of their performances and we are very proud of all of the children that entered. It can be very daunting performing on a stage in front of a large audience and our children were up against some very tough competition but they all did really well and even came back with a trophy.

You can find out more about the festival and our performers in our end of term assembly.

### *Library Books*

As you will be aware, over the past year we have invested in lots of lovely new books for our school library. We love the enthusiasm that the children currently have towards reading and lots of children are really enjoying borrowing school books to take home. Unfortunately we have noticed that we are missing a few books from our library. Can you please check at home and return any school library books that your children may have borrowed.

### *A note for any sewing enthusiasts*

We are looking for a few keen sewers to make some new pouches for our music stands. The old pouches have been in use for many many years and unfortunately some of them are falling apart and have holes in them. If you think that you could spare a little time to help sew some new ones please pop in to school and speak to Miss Rowe.

### *Uniform Orders*

We have experienced a few difficulties with our previous uniform supplier and have now changed to Brigade. Parents are now welcome to place their orders direct with the company online and the deliveries will be made school shortly after.

### *School Money*

Thank you to all our parents who are now paying for the vast majority of trips and dinner money online. We were very unfortunate to have burglars visit our premises twice within six months and gain access to our school safe. With the knowledge that

no money is kept on site and parents are quick to pay for any monetary items online within the month they fall due, we can reduce the risk of any further visits and debts building up.

#### *School Clubs*

We will be sending a separate letter concerning our potential after school club sessions but just to remind parents we will be making a small charge for all clubs from the Summer Term onwards. This decision has been made after researching the provision made by all local schools, particularly within the All Saints Schools Trust together with the ever budget funding restrictions.

Parents are welcome to use our breakfast club but due to very low numbers will need to pre-book any sessions through the school office.

#### *The school day*

Just a quick reminder of the times for the school day as we have noticed a few families arriving late. We understand that sometimes people get stuck in traffic etc and that can't be helped but generally children should be arriving at school between 8:40 and 8:50am. People arriving after 8:50 will have to ring then bell and then sign their children in giving their reason for being late.

#### *Free School Meals*

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to positively explore claiming for free school meals. This provides quite substantial funding for the school and we are able to support families with a uniform allowance. Please be assured that this information is kept confidential and if you are not sure if you are eligible, please speak to the school office or go online to [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk).

Enjoy the last few days of the spring term, fingers crossed for some more sunshine and please do not forget that the clocks go back on Sunday and we lose an hour!

Yours sincerely

Gemma Watts  
Head of School

## Dates for the diary

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Fox class trip to Norwich Puppet Theatre  Rabbit class- star gazing evening – cancelled due to weather
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Boccia sports evening- Thomas Mills school  No swimming- year R, 1, 4 and 5 will be doing sports on the field.  Film club
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Swimming gala- Fox class  Otter class trip to Ipswich museum
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Friends of the School meeting- 3:15 New faces are always welcome
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	End of Term assembly- 1:30 in the village hall. Parents/ carers welcome  Easter Holidays

Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	PD day – staff only
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	First day back at school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Swimming starts for Reception, year 1, year 3, year 5 After May half term: Reception, year 1, year 2, year 3.  Forest school for year 4.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	After-School Clubs start – please book via <a href="http://www.eduspot.co.uk">www.eduspot.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Spelling Bee final in the village hall- 1:30 Friends coffee afternoon
Week beginning Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs week for year 6.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Cross country final – 4:15 on Mellis Common
Week beginning Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM WEEK

Week beginning Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Occold Reading Festival!
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Book mastermind
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Van Cols- class and group photos
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer play
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Whole school sports trip to Whitlingham
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term!  Year 6 leavers assembly- 1:30 in the village hall