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*"Where Every Child Matters"*



**Executive Head Teacher:** Mrs Sarah A F Bocking



## BRANCASTER NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

### **School Dinners**

As you probably know, our dinners are provided by NORSE. The NORSE catering website is [www.norsecatering.co.uk](http://www.norsecatering.co.uk) and contains general information, menus etc. There is a link to this website on our own website.

NORSE also hold an open telephone clinic, hosted by a fully trained NHS dietician, Nicole, on Tuesday evenings 4.30 - 6pm. This is an advice line specifically for parents who have questions or concerns regarding their child's dietary requirements.

If your child has an allergy, NORSE can cater for their individual needs. Please ask in the school office for details.

### **Celebrating Difference Week**

As some of you will know, we always like to take part in anti-bullying week. This year, it will be held from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The theme will be "All different, all equal", which fits well with our ongoing LELE Project (Learn Equality, Live Equal).

The aims of this week are to:

- empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique
- help children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying
- enable us to celebrate what makes us 'all different, all equal' and celebrate difference and equality, encouraging all to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves

## **Federation Day**

This will be held at Docking on Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, with a theme of Remembrance.

## **Future of the Schools**

There have been rumours circulating that some or even all of our Federation Schools will be closing shortly, due to falling numbers and budget difficulties. I am happy to announce that, in the light of these concerns, we have consulted with County and that they certainly do not see closure as an option in the foreseeable future; they are keen to support us to continue to provide the best possible education for the children in our communities. We have drawn up a business plan which ensures our budget remains viable and are full of exciting plans. The Diocese, in particular (as we are a Church school) are investing heavily into our buildings and site and, in fact, are interested in exploring a total restructure to bring us completely up to date.

## **Uniform**

Can we please remind all parents, that school uniform should be worn at all times:-

Girls: Black, Grey or Navy blue trousers or skirts (no jeans/casual trousers)

Boys: Black or grey trousers or shorts (no jeans/casual trousers)

Red school sweatshirt or cardigan/fleece.

Suitable black shoes (no trainers, platforms or sling back shoes).

White shirt/blouse/polo shirt.

Please make sure that ALL uniform is clearly named.

P.E. Uniform:

Navy blue PE shorts.

Red PE T-shirt with school logo.

Navy blue track suit bottoms

Blue PE tracksuit jacket/top

Black plimsolls for inside and Trainers for when we go on the field

Girls wearing tights as part of uniform will need a pair of socks for PE

Please make sure ALL PE kit is clearly named and brought to school in a named bag. This can be brought into on Mondays and should be kept in school all week

## **Author Visit**

Local author, Rachel Greaves, who writes books about Ruffle the dog, will be visiting school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. She will join us for assembly, where she will explain to the children about being an author and will introduce her characters, telling one of her stories. She has already visited Sedgeford and held all the children enthralled from a visiting toddler to Year 6- no mean feat! After the assembly, Rachael will be selling her books at a cost of £3 each. Parents are welcome to join us for assembly and look at the books afterwards, or you may like to send your child with some money.

## Reports

We are currently reviewing our report format. If you would like to make any comments about what you would like to see included in your child's report, please let us know.

## Recent Teaching/Learning Audit

As many of you know, we had a County Teaching and Learning audit recently. (Similar to, and, in fact, harder, than an Ofsted Inspection). There were many good points listed as strengths including:

- In Thrift Class:
  - Phonics is taught skilfully. Tasks are planned to meet differing needs and the teacher focuses well on children's accurate use of sounds and on speedy word building.
  - Pupils are well motivated and behave well. They cooperate well and show good levels of independence for their age.
  - Marking is thorough and helps to set short term targets for pupils.
  - The teacher makes good use of praise and questioning to reinforce pupils' learning.
  - In the early years, work is engaging and fun, enabling children to learn new skills quickly
- In Samphire:
  - Pupils in Samphire say that they enjoy school, especially hands-on activities such as the beach visit that took place on the day of the audit.
  - Teacher-led work is fun and engaging and learning is well-resourced. For example, during the audit, the teacher in Samphire supported a group of children to make good progress in improving their reading/sequencing skills by providing interesting resources and making good use of questioning to test pupils' understanding.

We have a range of key issues to address and are currently drawing up an action plan to tackle these.

We are expecting Ofsted at any time. If you have any issues or difficulties with something in school, please do come and discuss it with your child's class teacher and/or Mrs Bocking. They will always make themselves available and you can organise this through the office. If you have positive thoughts you would like to express, please go to the Ofsted Parent View website:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## Christmas Events:

**Deepdale Christmas Market** - Brancaster have their usual tombola stall on Saturday 2nd December. All the school are invited to sing at 11 o'clock on the Saturday (for about half an hour) and we are hoping as many children as possible can join us. We usually make a lot of money rattling our collecting buckets as we sing, but we do need to make enough noise to attract attention!!

Our **Christmas Post Boxes** will be out on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December for children to post their cards. Please label cards clearly, although we don't have any children with the same name this year we do have *Grace* and *Gracie*, so we need to know which one the card is for! Lists of names can be obtained from the office.



## Poppy Appeal

Items to buy for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal are in the office. Individual prices are listed on a separate sheet. The poppies themselves are open donation.

## Congratulations!

To Harry Davidson who won the Sunflower Competition. Lawrence will be popping in with the prize.

## Dates for the Diary

6<sup>th</sup> November: Yr 1 and Yr 2 to Hunstanton Playchurch

7<sup>th</sup> November: 'Flu vaccination letters going out to Rec, Yr1, YR2 ,YR3 and YR4

8<sup>th</sup> November: Baby Basics Assembly

8<sup>th</sup> November: 1.30pm - Tempest Photography (Individual Portraits)

9<sup>th</sup> November: Cluster Anxiety and Mindfulness Workshop, parents and teachers welcome - 1.30pm Dersingham Primary School

13<sup>th</sup> November: Dental Health Programme, School nurse to talk the children.

15<sup>th</sup> November: PFA meeting -71 Club- 7.30pm

15<sup>th</sup> November: Federation day at Docking School

17<sup>th</sup> November: Children In Need day

21<sup>st</sup> November: 'Flu Vaccinations

21<sup>st</sup> November: Sky Rocket Science Club at Smithdon

22<sup>nd</sup> November: Mobile Library van for Thrift children, please remember to return books.

24<sup>th</sup> November: PFA Non-Uniform day, please donate a bingo or tombola prize.

24<sup>th</sup> November: PFA Disco. 3.15pm-6.00pm

27<sup>th</sup> November: Children's University Graduation Ceremony - Norwich City Football Club

29<sup>th</sup> November: Cluster Swim Gala

1<sup>st</sup> December: PFA Bingo

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December: PFA Deepdale Christmas Market Tombola

4<sup>th</sup> December: "Experience Christmas" - Brancaster Church

7<sup>th</sup> December: Brancaster to Sedgford for festive activities including Garlic Theatre  
Performing "Little Red Robin Hood" and GenR8.

8<sup>th</sup> December: Ruffles Author Assembly

11<sup>th</sup> December: "Experience Christmas" - Brancaster Church

12<sup>th</sup> December: School Christmas Lunch

12<sup>th</sup> December: 1.15pm, Choir to sing at Thornham Village Hall

13<sup>th</sup> December: Carol Service - Brancaster Church

14<sup>th</sup> December: PFA whole school trip to Holkham

15<sup>th</sup> December: Father Christmas!

18<sup>th</sup> December: "Experience Christmas" - Brancaster Church

**Term finishes on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and school starts again on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**