



The Belfry CE VA Primary School
23 Cromer Road
Overstrand
Norfolk, NR27 0NT
office@overstrand.norfolk.sch.uk
01263 576040



Monday 2nd February 2026

Dear parent/carer

A colleague sent around a photo of Worstead's teaching staff from 1908, nearly 120 years ago. After the jokes about how Mr Read and I looked different back then, it did make me think about what has changed in the education system over time, and how similar or different the experiences our children have today will be from those attending the school 100 or more years ago. It also made me look up the old Belfry School photos from the website, the oldest of which dates back even further, to 1888!



Technology will be the biggest change, of course, but we also have a whole body of research around effective teaching practices on which to base our teaching now. When designing our curriculum, we focus on introducing new learning in small steps, clearly modelling approaches to work, revisiting content periodically to 'break the forgetting curve'; encouraging collaboration and talk about learning to help to deepen understanding of topics and processes, rather than rote learning and focussing on correct answers. For our children with additional needs, we

adapt teaching in class and provide additional support in and out of the classroom so that *all* our children progress and reach their full potential.

Thinking about similarities – we're not even in the same building. Then it came to me, and I've mentioned this before – it's the people. Not the individuals, despite the jokes, but their shared purpose and ethos. The people who place the children and their wellbeing and learning at the forefront of everything they do and make our school such a warm, welcoming place to work and to learn.

I wonder how the staff of The Belfry will look back on us in the 2140s...

Have a fantastic week.

With kind regards

Steven Boast

Executive Deputy Headteacher
North Star Federation



Vacancies

We are recruiting! We're looking for new staff to work in our after-school club and in the hall and outside during lunch breaks. This could be the same or different people. If you're interested, or know someone else who might be interested in working with our wonderful children, pass it on and/or contact the office. More details can be found by following this link: [The Belfry CE VA Primary School - Vacancies](#)

Parents Evening

Our school website was upgraded to a new platform recently – a development we've been waiting on for a little while. It is found at the same address and looks like the old one, but is more user-friendly for school staff and in a format that will continue to be supported and updated by our website provider, Juniper.

Unfortunately, a consequence of this is that we need to set up details on here that will allow us to run the online parents evening booking system. We only need to do that once, but we were unable to do it before it went live, and it will take a little time. Consequently, and to save parents and school rushing around, we are postponing parents evening until after half term. We will publish new dates and times as soon as possible.

Friends' Valentine's Disco

This is on **Friday 6th Feb** (this Friday). Tickets cost £1.50 and can be purchased from the school office

Pizza Competition

The Friends of Belfry School have entered a competition with the Grove in Cromer. More details can be found in the graphic to the right and also in the attached flyer but:

- Design a yummy pizza
- Hand it in to school
- We'll send our three favourites to the Grove
- If we're in the six best, our pizza is added to the Grove's menu
- If our pizza sells the most over the summer, The Friends win £500!

Poppy Appeal Organiser

2025 was the final year of service for our local Poppy Appeal organiser, Janet. Thank you, Janet, for your service for this good cause. Zoe Harris, Norfolk's Poppy Appeal manager is in the process of recruiting a new managing and I attach a flyer for your information if you, or someone you know, is interested.

Out of school success

Congratulations to the following on their fantastic success outside of school:

- Paisley who has successfully auditioned to be a part of a production of The Little Mermaid to be performed at Sheringham Little Theatre over Easter. Well done, Paisley!

Celebration Assembly Winners

Class certificates

Holly: Louis - for your determination to improve your cutting skills.

Larch: Tobi - for his continuing positive attitude towards learning and always trying his hardest.

**CREATE A PIZZA:
WIN £500**

...FOR YOUR CLUB, GROUP OR CHARITY

**CALLING ALL LOCAL CLUBS, GROUPS AND CHARITIES.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SIX NEW PIZZAS FOR THE SUNDOWN MENU.
—AND THE MOST POPULAR THROUGH THE SEASON WINS BIG!**

- SUNDOWN -

Win £500 for your club, group or charity – just by creating your dream #pizza!

We're looking for six new pizzas for our @thegrovesundown menu this season, to go alongside our permanent Hall of Fame residents.

Each pizza will be assigned a Grove chef and together we'll put your creations on our menus. We'll keep a weekly count and the most popular pizza at the end of the year will walk away with £500 (of course pizzas can't walk, but you get the idea).

You'll need to come up with inspired, magnificent, daring toppings to wrestle our guests' attention and taste buds away from the competition and bag the big prize.

Willow: Gus – despite feeling a little worried about completing tests at school, you have been very resilient, tried your hardest and shown just how much you are capable of.
 Archie – you performed brilliantly in your reading test showing just how when you put your mind to it you can produce some brilliant results!

Ash: Uma because you have become really focussed and you are working really hard and listening carefully. You have worked really hard on your tests and have improved in at least some.
 Martha because you are working really hard. You have made a massive effort to focus on your work and it really shows. Well done and keep it up!

Oak: Daisy – for showing maturity, kindness and recognition of her place within the school.

Generosity Geniuses

Holly: Neve – for sharing the resources you were using in the mud kitchen.

Larch: Isaac - for always being willing to help others both in class and around the school.

Willow Erik – for giving someone a book in after school club when they were bored.

Ash: Lulu for being kind and generous and giving friends bracelets – giving your time and effort.

Oak: Harper, Maisie and Rosa – for giving up their time to tidy the library and make it lovely for everyone.
 Thank you, girls.

Tackling Tables

100% - Kelly, Livvy, Beau, Zebby, Lucy, Ted B, Harriet, Ben, Erik, Harry, Bertie, Albie, Archie, Alanna, Noah, Audrey, Holly, Summer, Lenny, Dougie, Jennifer, Raffety, Rupert, Lulu, Ada, Alesandra, Barnaby, Bianca, Finley, Herb, Peter, Braylee, Carrie, Charlotte, Casper, Nora, Ted M, Thea, Nathalie

Blue star – Bertie, Harry F, Harriet, Zebby, Albie, Alanna, Noah, Nora, Herb, Ada, Bianca, Carrie, Casey

Red star – Braylee

Forest School:

Bella Bee goes to Elsie for her enthusiasm climbing trees and walking over the rope bridge. Very courageous.

Bertie Bee goes to Maisie and Raff. Maisie for her adventurous attitude to climbing and crossing the rope bridge.

Raff for his tool skills; sawing, whittling, and crafting things out of wood. A special mention as well to Vinnie for his excellent use of tools to cut the Willow.

Diary Dates

February 2026		Parents evening after half term. Dates to be advised.
Thursday 5 th February	Y3/4/5	The Olly Day Road Safety Magic Show, in school, pm
Friday 6 th February	Whole school	Friends' Valentines Disco 6 – 7.30 pm
Monday 9 th February		Planetarium in school - Day 1 – Class sessions
Tuesday 10 th February		Safer Internet Day Planetarium in school – Day 2 – Class sessions
Friday 13 th February	Half Term	Last day of half term
Monday 23 rd February		Children return to school

Wednesday 25 th February		Oak Class family café 2-3 pm
Thursday 26 th February		Special Chinese New Year school lunch
Friday 27 th February		Friends' costume sale for World Book Day, and used uniform sale
March 2026		
Thursday 5 th March		World Book Day Special Book Day meal!
w/c Monday 9 th March		Friends' Special Persons gift day tbc
Wednesday 11 th March		Larch class family café 2-3 pm
Thursday 12 th March		Ash Class family café 2-3 pm
Friday 13 th March		Friends' non-school uniform day! Donate a small chocolate egg or chocolate bar for Easter Bingo raffle hampers.
w/c Monday 16 th March		British Science Week
Tuesday 17 th March		Willow Class family café 2-3 pm
Wednesday 18 th March		In school "Easter Experience"
Thursday 19 th March		Larch Class trip to Strangers Hall
Friday 20 th March		Friends' Family Easter Bingo. 6 for 6.30 pm start!
Tuesday 24 th March		Holly Class family café 2-3pm
Wednesday 25 th March		Easter Service
Friday 27th March	Easter	Last day of term
Monday 13th April		First day of summer term