



The Belfry CE VA Primary School, Overstrand
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Worstead CE VA Primary School
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Friday 5th September 2025

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent / Carer,

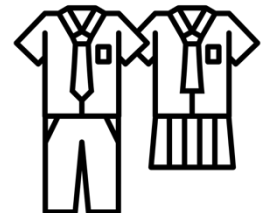
First of all, a warm welcome back to the new school year! I hope your child or children have returned to school rested and refreshed. It was wonderful to see everyone back again this week, and we look forward to the year to come with deep-rooted hope.

I'd like to take this opportunity to outline a few important points which will be either updates for existing parents or useful information for those who are newcomers to our school community.

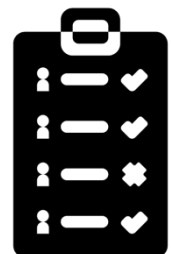
- **Academisation** – we expect to join St Benet's MAT in November. Nothing day-to-day will change in your child's experience of school and you will be informed when we have a firm date. Find out more at <https://stbenets.org/academies/>
- **Uniform** – correct school uniform is important for many reasons, including fostering a sense of belonging and identity at school. On PE and Forest School days, children should come to school in the specific gear needed. Some elements of uniform will be updated and clarified as we go through the year, but for now, please check the current uniform for each school here:
<https://www.overstrand.norfolk.sch.uk/uniform-information/>
<https://www.worstead.norfolk.sch.uk/school-uniform/>
- **Attendance** – the best education for your child is undeniably linked to turning up on time, and every day possible; 95-100%. Whilst we will support in positive ways with children who are finding school attendance challenging, we are also expected to report families taking term-time holidays, for which fines are issued. Just One Norfolk have a parent-friendly resource:
<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/school-life/resources-for-families/school-attendance/>



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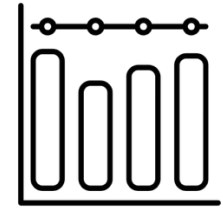


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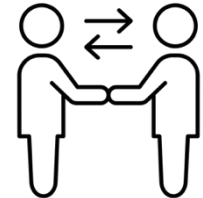


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- **Stability** – nationally and locally, birth rates are declining rapidly, which continues to challenge small rural schools like ours. I would like to reassure you that in such a difficult time, both North Star schools maintain stable numbers and full classes.
- **Communication** – each day, whether at The Belfry or Worstead, a school leader will be on the gate to greet pupils and talk with parents and carers who wish to. At home-time, class teachers are available for a quick chat or to make an appointment for a more in-depth meeting. Parents’ evenings will be publicised later this half term. Weekly email newsletters save paper and contain the most up to date information available about school events and reminders; please ensure we have accurate contact details. These are also published on our websites.
- **Confidence Project** – I firmly believe that the purpose of education is to prepare children not just to find their place in society as an adult, but also to shape the best society possible. To do this takes confidence as a self-assured, level-headed and energetic communicator. This will include learning to speak well and actively listen, understand, memorise, discuss, empathise, negotiate, sing, act and perform. Our key Christian values of compassion and perseverance fully support developing these skills and the Confidence Project is intended to put the things we think are important, firmly into the spotlight.



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I hope this roundup has been useful in explaining more about the values and processes of North Star Federation and I look forward to a successful year ahead in partnership with you and the wider school community.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Read'.

Nick Read, Executive Headteacher

North Star Federation