



The Belfry CE VA Primary School

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Monday 13th October 2025

Dear parent/carer

Some children love them, some children loathe them, few children will be neutral. Whatever our view on assessments, they are a part of school life. Statutory assessments in primary schools (those we are required by the government to do) include:

- Reception Baseline Assessment: children in reception answering English and maths questions 1:1 with their teachers
- Phonics Screening Check: children in year 1 reading 40 words with their teaching – 20 real and 20 'alien'
- Multiplication Tables Check: children in year 4 answer 25 times tables questions
- Yr 6 SATs: our oldest children sitting papers in reading, maths and grammar/punctuation/spelling

In addition to these and to the judgements teachers are making every lesson in every week about how well children have grasped taught content, we have our own internal assessments which children are doing either side of half term. I have written about these in newsletters before, but it bears repeating - these internal assessments are used to help teachers understand which learning has 'stuck' and which needs revisiting, either for a group of pupils or the whole class. While they may look more formal, they are no different to the questions asked of children and tasks set for children every lesson.

For our children in year 2 upwards, such assessments are termly and provide us with comprehensive information to use to help us plan and teach as effectively as possible. We understand that children react differently to such assessments and class teams will be working hard to ensure that the processes are as supportive as possible. If you have any questions at all, do speak to me on the gate, or to your child(ren)'s class teacher.

Have a fantastic week!

With kind regards

Steven Boast

Executive Deputy Headteacher
North Star Federation

Restart a Heart Day

Restart-a-heart day is a national campaign run by the Resuscitation Council of the UK and the British Heart Foundation to better prepare the public to recognise and treat cardiac arrest. This **Thursday 16th October**, Jayne Biggs from Heart2Heart Norfolk and Dom Lewis will be coming into school to spend time with Oak class, raising awareness of the campaign and provide age-appropriate information and training. Oak class parents will receive a separate email with more information.

Parking

A polite reminder for all parents and carers to please be aware of where you are parking in the village, especially around school drop off and pick up when the roads are very busy. Our neighbours are understanding the need to park outside their houses but blocking their driveways should not be necessary. Thank you for your understanding and support.

From the Friends

A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st October 7.30pm at The White Horse Overstrand for Christmas Fair planning – All families welcome to come along to offer any ideas or volunteer.

School disco this Friday 17th October. Tickets now on sale from the school office. £1.50

Half Term Cricket

Norfolk Cricket Foundation will be running FREE cricket courses at half term in the Sports Hall at North Walsham High School. The courses are designed for primary school age children, boys and girls. The courses are over three days, and are run by their ECB qualified coaches:

All Stars Cricket (Ages 5-8, Years 2-3)

Tuesday 28th – Thursday 30th October

9:30-11:30am

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Dynamos Cricket (Ages 8-11, Years 4-6)

Tuesday 28th – Thursday 30th October

11:45- 13:45

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscriccket>

Places are limited so it will be on a first come first served basis. Please email andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk if you are interested in your child attending, he will then send you details of how to book on.

Out of school success

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

- Thea who earned her level 1 Acro award and is already nearly there with levels 2 and 3!

Celebration Assembly Winners

Class certificates

Holly: Arlo – for working hard to keep our classroom tidy by picking up after yourself and your friends.

Larch: Maisie - for her hardworking attitude in both maths and phonics this week.

Willow: Harry P- the way you have settled back into school life is admirable. Continue showing passion for subjects you love.

Erik – You produced some early morning work this week that was some of your best writing to date! Fantastic!

Ash: Jennifer because you have made a brilliant start back. You are really taking control of your learning and working really hard – especially on your story. This hard work and focus has paid off with a brilliant maths test score.

Natalie because you always listen carefully, you work hard all the time. You set a brilliant example, and you are supportive to others. Well done.

Oak: Luke – this week you have grown in confidence and demonstrated a strong and determined attitude to your work.

Compassion Cultivators

Holly: Ophelia – for playing with friends when she noticed they were on their own.

Larch: Florence - nominated by Henry for helping him with a lesson he found tricky.

Willow Emily – you tidied up the welly boots without asking. Thank you.

Ash: Thea for comforting someone when they fell.

Oak: Hugo M – for always being positive and kind to others – ready to share a smile with everyone.

Forest School

Bertie Bee is shared between Lucy and Archie for their helpfulness planting bulbs, harvesting Lavender, helping lay and light the fire and for also making water filters, a very busy morning.

Bella Bee is awarded to Isla for keenly helping to take the petals off the Lavender ready for drying. Super effort, thank you.

Diary Dates

October 25		
Wednesday 15th October		Parents evening 3.30 to 5.30 pm
Thursday 16th October		Parents evening 3.30 to 7 pm
Friday 17th October	Yr R & Parents	Peep Talk (Speech & Language) last session. 1.45 - 2.45 pm
Friday 17 th October	KS1 & KS2	Autumn Disco. KS1: 5.45 to 6.30 pm. KS2: 7-8 pm
Tuesday 21 st October		Last day for Christmas card and merchandise ordering. Online shop closes at 12 noon.
Tuesday 21 st October		Friends Christmas Fair planning meeting. 7.30 pm White Horse, Overstrand. All welcome!
Wednesday 22nd October	Y6	Crucial Crew event: Gresham's, Holt. 9.30 – 11.30 am
Wednesday 22 nd October	All families welcome	Harvest Festival, St. Martin's Church, 2-3 pm Families welcome.
November 25		
Monday 3rd November	Oak Class	Family café: pm
Wednesday 5 th November	Whole School	Coastwise Coastal Erosion Project in school. 11.30 am – 3 pm
Monday 10th November		MM Theatre Productions: Beauty & the Beast performance in school (for pupils only).
Tuesday 11 th December	Ash Class	Ash Class family café: pm
Thursday 13th November	New Yr R	Open day for prospective new parents and their children. 11 am or 1.30 pm
Monday 17 th November	Willow Class	Family café: pm
Thursday 20 th November	Whole school	Flu immunisations, 1 st visit
Monday 24 th November	Larch Class	Family café: pm
Thursday 27 th November	Whole School	Flu immunisations, 2 nd & final visit
December 25		
Monday 1 st December	Holly Class	Family café: pm
Monday 8 th December	KS2	Christmas performance dress rehearsal: pm

Tuesday 9 th December	KS1	Christmas performance dress rehearsal: 9 am
Wednesday 10 th December	KS2	Performances at 9 am & 6.30 pm
Thursday 11 th December	KS1	Performance at 9 am
Friday 12 th December	KS1	Performance at 9 am
Friday 12 th December	Y4 parents	Friendship workshop for parents 1-2 pm
Tuesday 16 th December		Christmas Service, St. Martin's Church, 2-3 pm
Wednesday 17 th December		Christmas Lunch!
Friday 19th December		Last day of term
Tuesday 6th January 2026		First day of Spring term 2026