



Newsletter October 2019

I have said it before and I am sure that I will say it again, but working in an academy is the best job in the world! The children have come back looking smart, raring to go with their smiles and fabulous manners!

The children have settled in well, especially Acorn class, who have already started learning their phonic sounds. We have already had an inter school rugby competition to practice the skills we have been learning and a cross country cluster event.

As you know the push on increasing attendance continues, with the Government asking for an overall attendance by the end of the year at 97%. As this is cumulative over the year, we ask that children are only absent if they have the sickness and diarrhoea bug or are just too poorly to attend. Under safeguarding legislation, any child who is absent for more than 72 hours will receive a 'welfare visit' by a member of staff, unless we have received a Doctor's certificate or details of a hospital stay. Holidays remain unauthorised and all parents who take their child on holiday in term time will receive a fine.

We started the beginning of the year with a Full Academy Review. This is an inspection based on the Ofsted framework carried out by our Trust. Nine people visited, which seemed a lot in our tiny school! Although we have not had the final report, we are pleased that we have been graded as 'Good'. Your children did us proud!

ERIC is a really important and focused part of the day. It settles children in well and gives them an opportunity to read each morning. We urge all parents to bring their child to school for 8.30am and read with them. We understand that it can get quite busy in the class, so please speak to the teacher about using the library. We must keep the corridors clear in case we need to evacuate quickly, so please do not congregate in the corridors at all.

We would like a parent to join our Local Governing Body. If you are interested, please let me know and I will put your name forward to our clerk, who will provide you with more details.

The children have asked about playing football during lunchtimes. We do make daily decisions based on the weather, but all children who wish to play must change their shoes and wear shinpads (This is because we are not instructing the game, as we would in a lesson, and want to protect the children as much as possible). However, with the ground being much wetter, we know that the children will get much dirtier. Unfortunately, we do not have time for them to change clothes, as well as trainers, so we would like a letter from you, stating that you are happy for your child to play, and do not mind about the state they will come home in. As a Mum of a boy who lived for lunchtime football, I want to continue to offer this for likeminded children, but appreciate that this could increase your washing considerably! Please hand letters to Ms Burdett.

Miss Reidie leaves us to go on maternity leave today, we wish her well. While she is away, her colleague, Miss Smith has stepped in to continue to support PE. Welcome Miss Smith!

I hope you all have a splendid week off, see you back in the academy on Monday 28th October.

Mrs. Emma Owner
Principal
Iceni Academy-Hockwold



Acorn

Acorn class have had a very busy first half term!

Our Topic has been houses and homes, and we have been learning about different types of homes both in this country and around the world. We have been thinking about our own homes and families and talking about what makes us special. We also went on a village walk to see which types of homes we could see.

We have also been learning lots of new letter sounds as well as 2D shapes and repeating patterns.

Enjoy half term

Mrs Harris



Willow

I cannot believe that we have made it through to the end of our first half term together! We have had an amazing time together and our topic of 'All about me' has fitted in perfectly as we all get to know each other. We have shared some brilliant stories in English, Funnybones and Beegu were our favourites. Our number skills are improving all the time and we have started challenging ourselves to solve more complicated sums including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

We are loving Wonder Wednesdays this has given us a chance to show off our practical skills which have included painting self-portraits, painting our families and making scary skeletons out of art straws.

I am so looking forward to our new topic after half term which is entitled Famous Artists. Have a great half term.

Mrs Cooper



Beech

Beech class have had a very busy first half of the Autumn term. We have traveled back a million years to investigate how people lived in Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age Britain.

We have looked at how archaeologists work out what happened so long ago by looking at earthworks and artifacts. In English we have read the book Stig of the Dump by Clive King, and planned and written a new story adventure for Stig and Barney.

We have also created poetry using our skills with rhyme, alliteration, similes and description. Maths remains a favourite lesson in Beech. We have looked at what a million looks like (very important if you are researching a million years ago); and revised our skills in place value, addition, subtraction and fractions.

In Science, (Mrs Slade's favourite lesson) the children have conducted experiments using rocks to test permeability and erosion. We have also classified rocks into man-made and natural and looked at how different types of rocks are used for different purposes.

Our half-term has finished with the Harvest Festival at the Church, and we hope you were all able to attend and watch Beech Class's Harvest version of the song 'We Like It'.

Have a fantastic half term break.

Mrs Slade



Oak

In Oak Class we have been learning a wide variety of subjects/topics so far. We've had so much fun during these activities and we'd love to tell you. Our current topic is Early Islamic Civilisation and we've so far learnt about The 5 Pillars of Islam, fasting, Muslim beliefs, Allah (the Muslims' God) and an inspiring, life-changing Muslim girl called Malala.

Our classmates have really enjoyed one particular activity, which has been dam building - the early Muslims needed to collect and move water as Baghdad is situated in a dry desert. What we had to do was get into groups and explain how our dam would work and what ingredients and equipment we would need. We then brought in the equipment needed to build the dam. After that, we moved on to the building which we all enjoyed the most.

Art is very exciting in Oak Class. So far we have created Islamic geometric patterns on the computer and also by using a compass to draw circles! You might be wondering what we have been doing in our P.E lessons: we have been training for Cross Country, tag rugby and football.

Our classmates (and us) are really looking forward to the lessons that will come after half term. We hope you liked reading this letter and that you now feel happy and confident about your child's learning. Thank you.

By Olivia Baxter and Hermione Hall-Year 6



Well done to all our children who competed in the cross country event held on Wednesday 16th October at Hockwold hall. All children that participated completed the course; 1000m for year 3 and 4 and 1500m for year 5 and 6. The children had a fantastic day even in the rain. Thank you to Breckland SSP and a special thank you to our parents for your continued support.

Mrs Z Hovell

Friends Of Hockwold Site Association update

Following our AGM held on 9th October we thought a quick update would be in order to inform you lovely parents of the positive actions taken by FOHSA; as many of you will be aware the FOHSA is only made possible due to a small number of teachers and parents taking time out of their busy lives to volunteer to support fund raising events; some of the fantastic work they have done in the last year included:

- Summer Fair raising £1,192.29
- Hockwold County Fair raising £749.40
- Christmas Fair raising £621.06
- Casino night £341.63

These are a selection of the many different events organised last year and collectively this provided Trips for the children, Christmas presents, new books for the library, leaver's gifts and the end of year trips which was a massive success and a wonderful way to end the school year.



I'm sure you will all agree that FOHSA's work is a brilliant addition to building a positive environment for our children to grow up in and provides support to a community and child focused school.

We NEED your support however, we need more volunteers, if you would be able to help out at events even just once then this would be greatly appreciated and help us to build on the great work already achieved.

Should you be interested in volunteering with a happy and friendly group of likeminded volunteers then please contact Ms Burdett at reception.

Whilst writing we would like to thank everyone that donated and participated in last year's events and hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts.

One final massive thank you to Mr & Mrs Fish for their extremely generous donation, Mr & Mrs Fish have grand children attending Hockwold School and kindly donated a sizable amount which they were keen it goes towards helping to get the children active – plans are afoot to implement this in the coming months.... watch this space.

