



Newsletter July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

What a Year!

When I think back to last September, I was filled with such excitement; our academy has never looked so good with our music room standing tall and our classrooms looking vibrant, ready for learning. We welcomed the children back; knowing that this was going to be a good year, our predictions for each year group looked impressive and more importantly the children were as equally pleased to be back as we were! Our Christmas productions were amazing, demonstrating how talented the children are.

Then in March, Ofsted came calling. I am sure you are as disappointed as we are about the overall result, being Requires Improvement, but I spent two days with the inspectors and at one point, the lead inspector wanted to make it clear how special our little academy site is – she said she would like to work here! Particular reference was made to the Bear project, the courteous yet confident children, the musical ability steel pan playing, the progress made in all year groups, the work already completed on the curriculum to ensure it is progressive and the general love every single stakeholder has meaning we always want to do the best we can! This hard work was recognised by the fact we only have one Area for Improvement, which is to work more closely with the secondary site to improve standards overall – something we are looking forward to working together on, with the new Principal, Lesley Hogg.

The most challenging aspect of the year has been the Covid pandemic and it is not an area that I want to dwell on, apart from thanking you all for your continued support. Our job is made that much easier, working with you. I am sure that you are pleased that all of the children are able to return in September. Do not forget to look at the updated risk assessments on our website. We have made the decision not to run extra - curricular clubs for the first term. The main reason is that the children would move between their class bubbles, contravening the Government

guidelines. We will use this time to help the children have bespoke 'catch up' sessions instead. We will provide biscuits!

We have continued to work on improvements to our school site. We are currently having an up to date phone system installed, new whiteboards are being fitted over the summer and we will also have 32 new laptops to use next year! We have put a request in for a new timber building to become our library, as we hope to continue to expand. September will be the first time we have five classes! The stone wall at the front of school is being replaced, as is our boiler, with a standby boiler also being installed. The FOHSA have also agreed to fund a screening project allowing us to check every child's social, emotional and mental health in case there is any extra support that we need to provide, especially after the pandemic. Thank you FOHSA! We will continue to fundraise for the daily mile path, but this still seems a long way off.

I must apologise that the diary dates are not on the website calendar, I am trying to rectify this with the website provider, but we have included them in this newsletter too. These might change due to Covid restrictions.

As we end this very different year, I do want to pass my thanks onto all of you for your support in my personal challenge. I have realised and I am sure that my colleagues will agree that I am not a very good patient, and I CAN'T WAIT to get back to Hockwold! Working with children is the best job in the world and sitting in front of a laptop all day, is not much fun! However, I could not have taken this time away from the academy without the sterling work of every member of staff and I cannot thank them enough. Team Hockwold all the way!

Have an enjoyable, relaxing and health summer everyone!

Mrs. Emma Owner

Diary dates – these may change due to Covid restrictions:

7/9/20	Academy open to children
9/9/20	Meet the teacher sessions (as not done in July) Willow @ 3.05pm Elm @ 3.20pm Beech @ 3.35pm Oak @ 3.50pm This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, hear about the rules and routines in your child's class and ask any questions.
24/9/20	Macmillan coffee Afternoon 2-3pm
12/10/20	School photos
29.9.20	Phonics Info for parents - Acorn and Willow class
21.10.20	Harvest Service 1.30pm
23.10.20	Last day before half term
6.11.20	Flu immunisations (whole school)
10/11.11.20	Parents' consultation evening inc looking through work 3-6pm
9.12.20	Christmas Event 1.15pm
10.12.20	Christmas Event 9.30am
16.12.20	Christmas lunch
17.12.20	Christmas Parties Acorn, Willow & Elm AM. Beech & Oak PM
18.12.20	Christmas Crafts at 1.30pm. Parents invited
19.1.21	Acorn Reading cafe
20.1.21	Open Evening for parents to look at work. 3-6pm.
9.2.21	Willow class Reading cafe
11.2.21	Mental Health Awareness Day
12.2.21	PD day - no children in the academy
4.3.21	World Book Day
10/11/3/21	Parents consultation evening
18.3.21	Elm class reading cafe
26.3.21	Orienteering Easter Hunt
24.3.21	Easter Service and dance show at 1.30pm
10-13.5.21	KS2 SATs
13.5.21	Yr 6 BBQ at Highlodge
14.5.21	Bouncy castle celebration day-Yr 2, 6 during the day. Rest of the school & parents from 2.30pm. Open day for public.
20.5.21	Beech class Reading cafe
TBC	Summer Show
5.6.21	Parent PE session
7.6.21	Multiplication check for yr 4
7-11.6.21	Phonics screening
7-11.6.21	Oak class Careers week
8-29.6.21	Acorn Outdoor Sessions
9.6.21	Open Evening for parents in to look at work. 3-6pm
17/6/21	Oak class reading cafe
22.6.21	Sports Day
23.6.21-25.6.21	Residential
5.7.21	PD Day - No children in the academy
8.7.21	PE Stars bowling treat
9.7.21	Reports out
14.7.21	Iceni Maths Day
19.7.21 - TBC	End of Year Disco
12.7.21	P O Parents evening
21.7.21	Last day of school
22.7.21	PD Day - no children in the academy.



Acorn

I can't quite believe that I am writing about the final days for our Acorns, it seems only last week that they started their first days with us!

What a fantastic time we have had together! My favourite memories were the Christmas play, learning to dance in PE with Emily, a visit from PC Rayner and Plop the Owl visiting us just to name a few.

Considering the unique challenges that this last term has presented, all children been absolutely amazing and have adapted well to their situations. I would like to thank all parents for their help and support during that time.

I will miss them all, but I know that they will enjoy everything that Willow class will offer them.

Have a fantastic summer and enjoy being in year 1!

Mrs Harris



Willow

Prior to lockdown Willow class were right in the middle of finding out about being In the Forest. We had started to grow seeds: sunflowers, beans, peas and I know from some of your lockdown photos that some of you have successfully continued to grow the seeds into plants – well done! We also conducted scientific experiments to see whether we could grow plants without soil – cotton wool worked quite well. If they would grow in something other than a pot – yes a trainer works and to see if they would grow without light! Yes, but the plants aren't green they were white!

Then lockdown happened and your parents, carers and grandparents took over as your teachers and what a fantastic job they have all done! I have absolutely loved seeing not only the work that you have completed but all the extra things that you have been doing like: becoming a Star Baker, learning to ride your bike, riding your pony and growing taller!

I cannot wait until we are all together again in Elm Class. In the meantime, stay safe, keep healthy, be kind and see you in September.

Mrs Cooper



Beech

I am very proud of all of Beech Class.

I am astounded by just how much you have all done and have had the pleasure to see just how much creativity and commitment you all have.

Our home learning started off in March with our BFG project. You all drew around your parents or brothers and sisters to create your very own giant; you created dream jars, dream catchers and wrote some amazing stories. You completed your maths packs with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; you made rainbows to thank the NHS, Union Flags for VE day, and wrote about Captain Tom. You sent in amazing pictures and enjoyed the lovely spring weather.

After Easter our topic was "Where Our Food Comes From", and I have had the pleasure to see just how wonderful your Geography skills have got and seen pictures of some wonderful recipes and food. Your maths work was about measures, shapes, area and perimeter. You worked hard on all of these. We had some fabulous hot weather, followed by torrential rain. I really enjoyed receiving photographs of you in the garden in paddling pools, as well as splashing in muddy puddles.

Not forgetting those in Beech who were able to join our KS2 bubble. It has been a real pleasure to teach you again these past few weeks. In our bubble, we have all progressed on with 99 Club, used the school laptops to create Scratch games, recapped our Geography and Science skills as well as sketching with Mrs Hawes, drawing 3D pictures with Mrs Stubbings and lots of English with Miss Rickards.

I hope you are all looking forward to a lovely Summer break and I shall look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Mrs Slade



Oak

Well, Oak Class! What a strange way to end the year - unprecedented times and so sad we didn't get to enjoy the whole year together or the residential. 😞 However, you've done really well to keep going at home as well as you have and there is really nothing to worry about - after all, it's only 62 days out of the whole of your 12 compulsory years of education.

We've got this!

When Year 6s start at their new high schools, they will find that their new teachers will be on a fact finding mission to make sure they know all they need to know to be able to start Key Stage 3.

Year 5, I can't wait to have you back and all of us in the Library together (which will of course be called Oak Classroom).

We'll make sure we're all ready to begin the Year 6 journey towards SATS together!

Well done for all the work you've produced, Oak Class, throughout lockdown - some of it has been absolutely outstanding and some of your parents should become teachers for real!

Have a great summer! 'Over and out' from Miss Rickards 😊

Meet our new members of staff at Icen Hockwold...



My name is Mrs Hawes. I used to be a TA at Icen Hockwold but now I am a member of Vertas and work as a cleaner. I love being part of Team Hockwold. I have four children and my hobbies are: running, cooking and going out with my family.



My name is Miss Wright and I will be the class teacher in Willow this year. I love sport and my favourite football team is Norwich. I have a pet dog called Lottie and a rabbit called Bertie; my favourite food is pizza! I am delighted to be joining the Hockwold family.



Hi - I'm Mr Myhill and I have joined the wonderful team here at Hockwold as the Site Supervisor. A lot of my job is repairs and trying to keep the site safe for everyone. I deal with a lot of health and safety; I work with outside contractors to make sure everything is how it should be. I also do this role for other schools in the ATT family locally. Outside of work I enjoy Carp fishing - my best catch so far is a 28lb Mirrow. I also love spending time with my family, Rosie my dog and taking the caravan out for weekends.



My name is Miss Budd.

I am the cleaner at Icen Primary. I have just returned after three and a half years away – before then I was here for nine years. My hobbies are reading, walking, gardening and riding my bike. My favourite sports are football and athletics. I used to play football for Spurs Ladies and then Thetford Ladies.

Current Year 5 parents... Please remember that Year 6 do not wear polo shirts and will need short sleeved shirts and ties for September.

The tie (available from Birds of Dereham) will either be red (Emmanuel), green (Churchill), yellow (Trinity) or blue (Queens) depending on which house your child is in. If you are not sure of your child's house please give the school a ring and we will be happy to help.



We know that it can be tricky keeping our offspring entertained during the summer holidays. Made even more tricky this year by the fact that so many things we would normally be doing are still closed!

As of July 2020 we have found some activities that you might like to try over the holidays.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> <https://www.forestryengland.uk/high-lodge/activities> <https://www.leisurecentre.com/breckland-leisure-centre-waterworld> according to their website they are opening soon.

Brandon Country Park is open.

Thetford library is open.

Brandon library is open.

Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds is open.

