Newsletter: Friday 24th October



Dear Parents and Families of the Pathfinders Federation,

As we reach the end of the first half-term of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for the exceptionally warm welcome I have received since beginning my role across the federation. It has been a genuine pleasure getting to know the staff and children in all three settings.

The autumn term is a vital time for establishing and implementing our school improvement strategies. Our focus remains on ensuring that your children receive high-quality teaching and learning through an ambitious curriculum—one that enables them to achieve excellent outcomes and reach their full potential as learners. This term, we have placed particular emphasis on enhancing our phonics and reading provision, alongside the continued development of our CUSP programmes in writing, reading, and science. These priorities will remain central throughout the year.

We greatly value your partnership in supporting your child's learning at home. Whether it's through regular reading and book discussions, practising times tables with Times Tables Rock Stars, or engaging in conversations about their learning and discoveries, your involvement makes a significant difference.

This half-term has also seen a renewed focus on raising expectations around pupil behaviour and attitudes to learning. Our aim is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where all children can thrive. Staff across the federation have engaged in professional development and training to ensure we are creating the most effective conditions for learning.

Thank you to all who attended our recent parent consultation evenings. We hope you found them informative and helpful in understanding your child's progress and experience at school. If you have any further questions following your appointment, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange a follow-up meeting with your child's class teacher.

We ended the half-term with beautiful Harvest services in our parish churches. The children shared songs, poetry, artwork, and stories that celebrated the themes of thankfulness and generosity. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents and families who attended, supported the children, and contributed so generously to our foodbank appeals.

As we move into the colder months, please ensure your child comes to school each day with a warm, waterproof coat. It is also important that they bring a bottle of fresh water and a healthy snack—such as fruit, breadsticks, crackers, or cheese. Please note that chocolate, overly sugary cereal bars, and crisps are not suitable playtime snacks.

I hope you find the upcoming dates, guidance, and advice included in this newsletter helpful as we begin the October half-term. I've also attached the JustOneNorfolk contact number, which offers professional guidance for a wide range of questions or concerns for parents of primary-aged children.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November for an exciting and action-packed second half of the term.

Health Advice & Support for Children & Families

Kindest regards,

Emma Bourner

Executive Headteacher

Attendance: A reminder to parents as we start a new term that if your child is absent you must **call the school office** by the end of registers at 9 o' clock. Please do not email to report your child absent.

Squirrels

What a busy half term we've had in Pre-School! The children are now fully familiar with their new environment. They are self-selecting all the resources that they need and are really beginning to use their imaginations in their role play and creative arts activities. Special friendships are being formed and we are observing lots of lovely collaborative play as the children learn to share and take turns. The autumn term is such a colourful one and the children have enjoyed observing the changes in our environment and using natural resources such as leaves, conkers, acorns and pumpkins in their play and in their artistic creations. We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break and look forward to seeing you all again soon!







Acorn

The new Reception children in Acorn have all settled so well into existing routines. They have all begun reading and spelling simple words which is amazing progress in just a few weeks. In science this term we have been finding out about the seven characteristics of living things: nutrition, respiration, movement, excretion, growth, reproduction, and sensitivity. We have searched the school grounds for examples of living things and explored what we might find in a micro-habitat, such as under a log. The children have found out about food chains and how a change in one part of the chain has an impact on the rest of plants and animals in it. Finally, we investigated the effect on a food chain if a river gets polluted. In English, the Y1 and Y2 children have written some invitations using formal language and created a character description using adjectives and adverbs. Our art project for the half term has been to create a weather collage using printed weather symbols. The children have had fun experimenting printing with different textures.





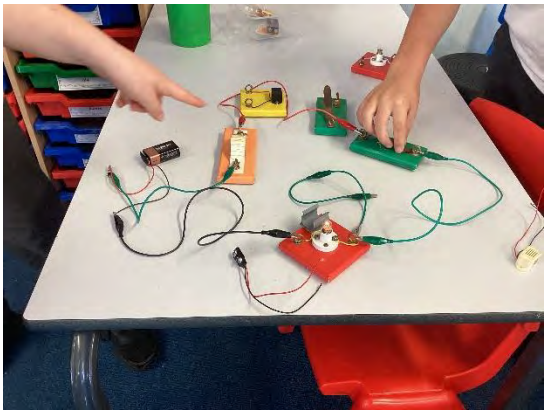


Oak

What a busy first half term Oak class has had. They have worked incredibly hard and jumped straight back into the routine. The children have impressed me massively with the amount of effort they have been putting in with their handwriting. In English, the children have been writing a persuasive piece of text highlighting the importance of online stranger danger. The last couple of weeks the children have been focusing on writing

a first person diary extract. The children produced some great writing recalling their exciting trip to Erpingham for a Mayan experience.

Science has been exciting this half term with lots of learning about rocks in Year 3 and 4 and electricity in year 5 and 6. We took part in various experiments finding out about different types of rocks and their properties, creating series circuits and thinking about the variables that could change to make bulbs brighter or dimmer. The year 3 and 4s enjoyed learning about fossils this week and have been keen to bring in some of their fossil collections from home. Please see the photos to see some of our exciting science activities.









<u>Forest School & Outdoor Learning</u>

In forest school this term the children have been working on a variety of challenges in the woods, some set by us which they overcame with team work and problem solving, some more social like friendships and confidence. We have done a lot of crafting too which some of them love to create and take home. Next term we are looking forward to more fires, tools and of course Christmas crafting!

Acorn class have been working on team work, listening skills and finding out What's in the box by asking investigative questions. We have had great fun with hunts, challenges and also crafting and drawing in our journals. We have

also been having a bit of fun practicing using flint and steel with the idea that we will be able to enjoy our own fire in the run up to Christmas. We are planning a trip to the woods where we can explore forest school a little more and the children are very excited!

Harvest Festival

A great big thank you to all that were able to brave the terrible weather and come along and support us at the church on Thursday for our Harvest festival service. The children did themselves and the whole school proud with their readings of their harvest festival poems they wrote and singing songs they have been practising for weeks in assembly.

We are hoping to return to the church in the coming weeks to do some bulb planting as we had originally planned, and hopefully have some slightly better weather for it.

A very big thank you must also be said for everyone that was able to donate towards our collection for Cromer foodbank. The children were able to use the donated cereal to create a fabulous display of dominos in the hall, a brilliant visual of our school communities' generosity.

All food donated to the school will be taken to the foodbank in the coming days where I'm sure it will be very gratefully received.





Celebrations

We have celebrated lots of fabulous achievements of things inside and outside of school so far this term.













<u>Key Dates for your diary</u>



As you may expect there are likely to be more dates added in the coming weeks but we will try to keep parents up to date with any changes to these and any new dates to be aware of.

Monday 3rd November-First Day Back.

Tuesday 4th November- Federation Cross Country Event at Stalham High.3 Children from Northrepps join Erpingham and St Michaels on the minibus.

Tuesday 11th November-Remembrance Day (poppies/wristbands and accessories will be available to purchase from the school office on behalf of the RBL).

Thursday 20th November-Whole school flu vaccinations. Maths tournament at Cringleford with a group of Northrepps children joining St Michaels and Erpingham for interschool competition.

Friday 21st November- Children in Need (wear spots mufti)

Thursday 27th November- Tempest School Photos (individual and sibling).

Tuesday 9th December- 2 o' clock Christingle service at the church with parents invited to attend.

Monday 15th December- Y6 & Reception height, weight, hearing and sight checks with school nurse.

Wednesday 17th December- Nativity at Northrepps Village Hall at 2' o clock.

Thursday 18th December- Whole school trip to Sheringham little Theatre for Christmas pantomime.

Friday 19th December- Last day of Term