

Sad news

One of our former Midday Supervisory Assistants, Elaine Lay, has sadly died after a short battle with illness. She will be fondly remembered by the team for her colourful personality and deep care for children. If you happened to walk past the school in recent years over lunchtime, you may well have seen Elaine leading skipping games.

You might be aware that the school and PTA are currently collaborating to improve the playground and Butterfly Garden areas. Prior to Elaine's passing, we had agreed with her that the Butterfly Garden would be dedicated in her honour and this will take place after its transformation into a calm and reflective play space. We hope this will serve as a fitting tribute to a lovely lady and a valued colleague.

Unique Week

The children have been involved in our school's Unique Week, where we celebrate difference and diversity and ensure that the children know what to do if they come across bullying or discrimination. In assemblies for Year 1 and Year 2, we've worked with the children to improve their understanding of what bullying is, using our STOP acronym (Several Times on Purpose) to help them understand the concept. We have also discussed what to do if they think they or someone else might be being bullied or mistreated by others.

We will be continuing our journey to becoming an even more welcoming and inclusive school in the new year, as we seek to become a School of Sanctuary. See <https://www.norwichschoolsofsanctuary.org/> for more information.



Individual school photos – this coming Monday

Individual photos are now scheduled for this Monday (18th November). Our apologies that they didn't take place as scheduled on 4th November – the photography firm was affected by staff illness.



Could you help us to improve? Part 1

Shortly, we'll be recruiting governors to join our Governing Board. Like many infant schools, it can be difficult for us to recruit, as parents and carers tend to volunteer in different ways (like the PTA for example).

For us to keep improving, it's essential that we have good governance and so I'd ask that you consider joining our governor team. As a governor, you can have a really positive impact on our children's provision and outcomes, and a lot of the skills that you'll gain through the role are transferrable. You'll also have a chance to shape the direction of our school and contribute meaningfully to its future success.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a governor or know someone who may be interested, please get in contact with me. I'd be happy to provide more information about what's involved.



Could you help us to improve? Part 2

I get lots of helpful feedback from parents and carers, but I'd like to hear more from those of you who don't often get the chance to come into school. If you'd be interested in meeting up with me and other parents as part of an informal consultative group on a termly basis, please contact me directly by email (head@recreationroad.norfolk.sch.uk). I'd really like to work with you to improve our support and communication channels.



Sweets for birthdays?

It's becoming more common for parents and carers to provide children with sweets to give out to their classmates at birthdays. Some families who have children with dietary needs or allergies have contacted me to say that this can be problematic for them and lead to their children being inadvertently excluded during what's supposed to be a joyous time.

As a school, we don't want to stand in the way of birthday celebrations – birthdays are so special to young children. However, I'm wondering whether there might be other creative and inclusive ways that children's can share their birthday joy with classmates. If you have any ideas, please get in touch; I'm happy to share them in future newsletters to give parents and carers some extra inspiration.



Children with a fever

If your child has a fever, it's absolutely appropriate for them not to be in school until they've recovered. I wanted to clarify this, as the Public Health England guidance that I shared earlier this term did not mention children with fevers.

Key School Dates On a Page - 2019/20 (updated 14.11.19)

11–15 Nov	Unique Week - our celebration of uniqueness and diversity
15 Nov	Children in Need
18-22 Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings (individual class sign-up lists)
22 Nov	3:00 PTA Cake Sale (Playground)
3 Dec	2:00 Festive Decorations Workshop – Swans
4 Dec	2:00 Festive Decorations Workshops – Magpies, Swifts and Wrens
5 Dec	9:00 Festive Decorations Workshops – All Reception, Crows, Chaffinches and Owls
6 Dec	9:00 Festive Decorations Workshop - Robins
10 Dec	9:30 Year R Show: Blackbirds / Jays parents 2:00 Year R Show: Doves / Swallows parents
11 Dec	9:30 Year 1 Show: Robins / Owls parents 2:00 Year 1 Show: Chaffinch / Crows parents
12 Dec	9:30 Year 2 Show: Swans / Swifts parents 2:00 Year 2 Show: Wrens / Magpies parents
17 Dec	School Festive Lunch / Santa Visit
18 Dec	Pupils' last day of term
6 Jan	Pupils back to school
7 Jan	'Flu Immunisations (rescheduled)
3-7 Feb	Charities and Enterprise Week
14 Feb	Pupils' last day of half term
24 Feb	Pupils back to school
2-6 Mar	Reading for Pleasure Week Reading Cafés Show and Share Week - Reception (individual class dates to follow)
5 Mar	World Book Day
9-13 Mar	Reception Parent-Teacher Meetings (Individual class dates to follow)
16 Mar	Whole class photographs
16-20 Mar	Show and Share Week – Years 1 and 2 (individual class dates to follow)
23-27 Mar	Year 1 and 2 school reports sent out
1 Apr	Pupils' last day of term
20 Apr	Pupils back to school
8 May	May Day Bank Holiday (Friday, not Monday!)
22 May	Pupils' last day of term
1 Jun	Pupils back to school
15-19 Jun	Refugee Week
29-3 Jul	Show and Share Week – Years 1 and 2 (individual class dates to follow)
1 Jul	Sports Day (school field - weather permitting): 9:15-10:45 Years 1 and 2 11:00-12:15 Reception (including family picnic afterwards)
3 Jul	School Fete (Evening)
6-10 Jul	Parent-Teacher Meetings (Years 1 and 2)
13-17 Jul	Show and Share Week – Reception Classes (Individual class dates to follow) Reception school reports sent out
14 Jul	9:30-10:15 Year 2 Leavers' Show – Swans' and Swifts' parents
15 Jul	9:30-10:15 Year 2 Leavers' Show – Wrens' and Magpies' parents
21 Jul	Last day of school year
7 Sep	Pupils back to school