

Dear all,

I thought I had sent this out on Wednesday, but clearly it didn't move from my drafts into my sent items!

Only a week to go until half term, and, as well as there being so much to celebrate, we also have so many things still to look forward to during the next few days. Please remember it is NSPCC Number Day on Friday – children can come dressed up in numbers and have a day of fun mathematical activities. (For those children attending the Hartismere Sports tournament, please just bring a change of clothes if you are not already wearing sports gear.) We often have lots of children wearing numbered sports shirts, so if you were thinking of this, I am keen to see how many different team shirts we can see in one place (not just Norwich or Ipswich!)

I have a couple of overdue reports from recent activities and special days:

Be Bright Be Seen Day thank you from the JRSOs.....

Thank you to all of our families for your fantastic enthusiasm in support of our "be bright be seen day" this week. Dressing up helped to reinforce our road safety message! We worked throughout the day with Holly from Suffolk Roadsafte to deliver fun and interactive education and training on all things road safety. Themes covered included recognising hazards and dangers on the roads, the importance of observation, safe fitting of a seatbelt, the green cross code, the importance of wearing a helmet when on a bike or scooter, and the dangers of using mobile phones while walking as a pedestrian and when driving (which is of course ILLEGAL.) We hope that the children took something from the day which will stay with them in helping us all to keep safe and making us more responsible.

It was SO difficult to judge the be bright competition and we had a lot of fun doing it! There was such an incredible amount of effort put in. We will not forget Hallie's earrings (year 4), Ellie's amazing trousers (year 6), Sofia G's incredible rainbow jumper (class 4), Sophia W's attention to detail (class 4) and Matilda B's incredible dress which she designed and made herself!!!!!! (class 4). It was such a hard choice BUT there had to be some winners.....

Reception Lilly
Class 1 Naomi
Class 2 Bailey
Class 3 Milo
Class 4 Bella
Class 5 Theo
Class 6 Tom

Massive congratulations go to the overall school winner Henry (class 2). Money raised from the voluntary donation will go towards road safety equipment and good causes, we will keep you posted....

Many thanks
Ruby, George, Alice and Jacob
JRSOS- Team Gislingham

'Pioneering Paths' Footpath at Thornham Walks

On Wednesday this week, a group of our students represented the school at the opening of the 'Pioneering Paths' Footpath at Thornham Walks. After the ribbon was cut by Lady Henniker, they ran a lap of the pathway. and were rewarded with hot chocolate and cake for their efforts! They then asked questions on environmental issues to a panel of experts and council representatives. They all represented the school incredibly well.

We continue to use Thornham Walks for trips, experience days and outdoor learning and it is an incredibly valuable local resource to us. We are proud to have such strong links and to champion environmental issues through our Eco Council. Look out for an article in the Diss Express this week!

Children's Mental Health Week

On Tuesday morning, we joined thousands of children from all over the country in the LIVE assembly hosted by the Sanctuary Foundation, helping raise awareness of children's mental health. It was great to be a part of this assembly and we echo the messages that came through about how we all have a variety of emotions and we all have times when these emotions become difficult to control/manage/understand. When this happens, do not build it up inside because it will not go away, but talk to someone instead to help relieve the symptoms. As a school we will always do anything we can to support children with their mental health and well-being, so please encourage your children to speak to adults in school if they have any concerns.

Open the Book

We have been so lucky to be hosting Rev. Debbie Nicholls and Mrs Katherine Totton, who work with the worship council to provide Open the Book Collective Worship assemblies to all children in the school. Thank you to Debbie and Katherine for volunteering to make our CW times more exciting and thought provoking as well as helping us to develop our relationship with St. Mary's Church even further.

I have attached some pictures from some of the events mentioned above.

Parking and Driving Around School

Please remember that the double yellow lines and the Zig-Zag lines near school are there for a reason. We still have cars pulling up in unsafe areas and even turning around at high speed which is causing a risk to our pupils and families. Please show some courtesy when driving around school and stop flaunting the rules before a serious accident happens. I have been advised that I am allowed to take photos of number plates of offenders and inform the local police if this behaviour persists.

Attendance in School

Please remember that school attendance is compulsory. Any absence that is not medically related will be unauthorised except in exceptional circumstances. When the new legislation came to schools in August 2024 regarding Fixed Penalty Notices, as a school we now have no alternative other than to refer 10 unauthorised absences [5 full days] (within a 10 week period) to the local authority for a consideration of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please see the [Suffolk leaflet](#) for more details. Request forms that were submitted prior to the new legislation would have not been referred for a fine as per the previous school policy even if the holiday requested was taken after the new legislation. I have no doubt some of you will not be happy with this, but school staff are just carrying out their statutory duties. Please be respectful towards school staff as we have a zero tolerance to verbal or written abuse. If you do receive a FPN, you will also be given details for appeals. Please note, the individual schools do not receive any money accrued through fines and schools are not involved in this process directly. The attendance statistics are used to issue FPNs. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Finally, we are still looking for governors to join our team. If anyone is interested please contact me at the school where I can provide more information.

Enjoy the rest of the week and have a great weekend when it finally appears.

Richard Benstock
Head Teacher