Heacham Junior School Newsletter

December 2024

email:office@heachamjunior.co.uk Tel:01485 571013
website: https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy time! It has been wonderful to see the progress of pupils during this long term, particularly for those joining us from the Infant School. Katie Cornwell has made a welcome return following her maternity leave and is enjoying working with Y3. We have said a temporary goodbye to Yazmin Tilbrook who will be expecting her baby any day now. We wish them all the best.

Clare Enters, Assistant Headteacher, has made the decision to leave our schools at the end of this year. She will be focusing on health and family. I am sure you join me in wishing her all the very best. She will be sorely missed. Catherine Clemente will continue to work with Jess Morgan in Y6 from January 2025.

We are really pleased with the outcome of our recent Ofsted Inspection. We are proud of the recognition we received in October 2024 in maintaining good standards since the last full inspection in 2019. The report contained really positive comments reflecting the quality of teaching, learning, attendance, attainment, opportunity and behaviour at Heacham Junior School. It is so rewarding for our pupils and staff to have their hard work praised. Well done to all our staff and pupils.

Thank you for coming to support the Carol Concert this week at St Mary's Church and for families that also brought children to the Candle Lit service on Sunday. We hope you enjoyed both events, we thought the singing from everyone was lovely. Happy Christmas to you and your families – see you on 7th January 2025.

Louise Jackson
Executive Headteacher

Our Learning

Year 3 – Miss Pateman Oystercatcher & Miss Cornwell Lapwing

Year 3 have absolutely loved learning about the water cycle this half term! This ties in with our future project River of Hope too. We have been creating purses in Textiles class and learning about the Ancient Greeks and their democracy systems. We have been improving our gymnastics in PE and discussing Western Europe in Geography but one of our favourite things has been inventing our wishing tales in English. As we now approach Christmas, Miss Cornwell and I would like to wish you lots of joy and happiness and we can't wait to see you all in 2025!

Our Learning *(cont'd)*

Year 4 – Avocet

Avocets have shown great efforts in all subjects this term leading up to Christmas. In history this term, we have learnt about Henry VIII and the Tudors. Avocets have been super at acting out scenes from his life and being able to share facts in the class on Henry's wives and we learnt how he created his own religion. We have also learnt about Mediterranean Europe in geography experiencing their cultured foods too. The children tried various Mediterranean food like olives, feta cheese, sun-dried tomatoes and soft apricots. It is great to see them trying different food to what they are used to! In Art this half term, we have been learning about foreground, middle ground and background. Additionally, we have took our learning beyond the classroom walls this term as we have travelled to the Anglo-Saxon village in West Stow and visited a planetarium!

Year 5 – Albatross

This half term we have been learning all about the birth of the British Empire in History, exploring its origins in global trade and how control spread through India after 1750. The pupils have enjoyed exploring the periodic table in Science, learning some of the elements and discovering the structure of atoms – we even used sweets to recreate one of our own! In Maths, the focus this half term has been mainly on fractions. This has included: unit fractions, mixed and improper fractions and equivalent fractions. In the lead up to Christmas, Albatross have been exploring the Christmas story looking at different accounts and considering their similarities and differences. In Geography, the class have enjoyed learning about mountains and the various ranges across the world, including the Andes and The Himalayas and identifying the key features of each. We have also been delving into African art, finding out about the Benin Plaques, the antelope headdress carved by the Bamana peoples in Mali and the Benin Ivory Salt Cellar from Nigeria. We visited the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich, taking our learning outside of the classroom!

Year 6 – Royal Tern

We've had a great half term of learning in Royal Terns. We have been learning about: the Suffragettes in History and English; classification of living things in Science; North America in Geography; Renaissance Art and Architecture in Art, where we made our own fresco sundisks; masculine and feminine word endings in Latin, as well as developing our debate skills in English looking at arguments for and against. We had a great trip to Springwood for the Chemistry Kitchen Workshop and Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts trip to Norwich. It was great to welcome so many of you in for our Christmas Craft afternoon which got us all in the festive spirit!

Friends of HJS

What's happened this half-term?

November saw us encourage *kindness* for *world kindness day* with a **donated book stall**. The money raised was given to the school to buy new reading books. We also helped the environment with our Bag2School collection (we have arranged another for 11/6/25).

There has been quite a bit of festive activities for the PTA this December. We have arranged **Christmas Cards and Gifts** through an online shop, we hope you have been pleased with the results? We have been saving items all year for our **annual Christmas Raffle** and we also received a couple of donations from QD and Tesco Express, the **Cinderella Panto** was brilliant with lots of cheering and booing! This year we got 'creative' with our **gifts to the children**, but we'll not spoil the surprise!! The **Tinsel-Tastic Snack Sleigh** with festive treats was very popular too!

What's coming up next half-term?

Unwanted Gift Amnesty, In January (or anytime really), we will be very glad to receive any unwanted gifts that can be repurposed as prizes at upcoming events.

Environmental Competition the children had an assembly with a representative from the Sea Life Centre, she talked about issues around the world but also local wildlife concerns. With the help of the ECO Leaders we have created a competition which the ECO Leaders will launch in assembly in the New Year. Further details will appear on Class Dojo in January.

Spring Disco 13th Feb 4.30pm to 6pm.

Our **Healthy Tuck Shop** will continue in the New Year, every Wed and Fri 40p per item.

We would like to thank the following local businesses for donating items to our Christmas Raffle:

QD Hunstanton £10 voucher
Tesco Express Heacham

friends
Parent Teacher Association

MCAS will replace ParentPay on 1st January 2025.

It is therefore important that you have activated your child's account. Please **use the link below** and select **'reset password'**. You must use the same email address as the one that we email you on. **https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSForgottenLogin**.

If you already use MCAS at another school, your child will auto-link providing that you we have the same email address on our records.

Please **email office@heachamjunior.co.uk** with any queries. Please put **MCAS in the subject**. We will try our best to answer any of your queries when we return from the Christmas Break on 6th January.

Please bear with us as we try our best to set this up as quickly and as smoothly as we can.

Families in hardship and needing wider support There is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide financial support including essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Wider support from a range of partners can then also be made available with NAS working alongside the Children's Services Community and Partnerships service.

Families may **get in touch with NAS via their dedicated website at Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council**, which includes an online application form, or if they cannot access the internet, they can call **0344 800 8020**.

Vouchers for Free School Meal Eligible Pupils – EXTENDED

Norfolk County Council is extending the scheme to March 2025. This is reflective of the recent government announcement. This is for pupils eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive Edenred vouchers for this period soon. The Vouchers can be spent at many major retailers including supermarkets. They cannot be re-issued if they expire.

Have your circumstances changed recently? **You may be eligible for Free School Meals.**
The school receives funding for each child who comes under Pupil Premium (including free school meals), so it is worth applying even if you don't have school meals!! You can apply online
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

DIARY DATES

Every Monday – String Tuition with Miss Johnson 1-3PM
Every Wednesday – Swimming 11AM, Y4 Recorders 2-3PM
Please check PE days with your class teachers

20/12/24 – Panto Performance @HJS funded by Friends
23/12/24 – Christmas Holiday
01/01/25 – MCAS goes live (replaces ParentPay)
07/01/25 – Children return to school
10/01/25 – STEM Workshop Y45
17/01/24 – Y45 Sustainability Workshop
20/01/25 – Bikeability Day 1
21/01/25 – Bikeability Day 2
23/01/25 – TBC Y5 Cambridge Museums & Workshops
30/01/25 – Steve Clifford, Author visiting
11/02/25 – Y4 Mini Medics
13/02/25 – TBC Friends Spring Disco 4.30pm-6pm £3
17/02/25 – Half-Term
24/02/25 – Children return to school
27/02/25 – Girls' Football @ Lynnsport
03/03/25 – Y56 Quicksticks @ Lynnsport
06/03/25 – TBC Y56 Trip to Bletchley Park
10/03/25 – Y34 Bee Netball
18/03/25 – Y34 Football @ Glebe
20/03/25 – Girls' Football @ Smithdon
27/03/25 – Y56 BEE Netball @ Smithdon
23/04/25 – Y6 Leavers' Photo PM
29/04/25 – Tri-Golf @ HJS
30/04/25 – Y6 Crucial Crew Event
01/05/25 – Y45 need PE Kits
08/05/25 – Y45 need PE Kits
15/05/25 – Y45 need PE Kits
20/05/25 – Dynamos Cricket @ Snettisham Field
10/06/25 – Bag2Schools drop off at 3.30pm
11/06/25 – Bag2Schools Collection 8.45am
03/07/25 – Primary Maths Challenge @ Springwood

May be subject to changes/cancellations

Copies of any menus, trip letters, Parent Forms, previous newsletters can be found on our website https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk

The importance of good attendance

The Government strives for **every pupil to achieve 97% attendance**. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued new attendance guidance and targets to all schools, you may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hope that this personal approach will make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up and help keep you informed.

98-100%	• Excellent - Children are accessing all learning opportunities
96-97%	• Good - Very few learning opportunities are missed
94-95%	• Risk of underachievement • Up to 10 school days absent in an academic year
92-93%	• High risk of underachievement • Up to 15 school days absent in an academic year
90-92%	• Severe risk of underachievement • Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year
< 90%	• Extreme risk of underachievement • Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Term Dates 2024-2025 – Primary Schools

September 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30						

October 2024						
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28	29	30	31			

November 2024						
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December 2024						
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30	31					

January 2025						
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27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2025						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Key: White dates – school open to pupils Orange dates – pupil holidays Purple dates – staff training days Red dates – bank holidays	Staff training days are – Monday 2 September, Tuesday 3 September, Monday 6 January and Tuesday 22 April as whole training days. Friday 25 October 2024 is disaggregated.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Term Dates 2025-2026 – Primary Schools

September 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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January 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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July 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Key: White dates – school open to pupils Orange dates – pupil holidays Purple dates – staff training days Red dates – bank holidays	Staff training days are – Monday 1 September, Tuesday 2 September, Monday 5 January, Monday 13 April as whole training days. Monday 20 July 2026 is disaggregated.

Swimming Rota 2024-2025 - May be subject to further changes

Wk No.	Date	Class/Year	Wk No.	Date	Class/Year
1	11/09/24	Royal Terns Y6	x	19/02/25	Half-Term
2	18/09/24	Royal Terns Y6	18	26/02/25	Avocet Y4
3	25/09/24	Royal Terns Y6	19	05/03/25	Avocet Y4
4	02/10/24	Royal Terns Y6	20	12/03/25	Avocet Y4
5	09/10/24	Royal Terns Y6	21	19/03/25	Avocet Y4
6	16/10/24	Royal Terns Y6	22	26/03/25	Avocet Y4
7	23/10/24	Royal Terns Y6	23	02/04/25	Avocet Y4
X	30/10/24	Half-Term	X	09/04/25	Easter
8	06/11/24	Albatross Y5	X	16/04/25	Easter
9	13/11/24	Albatross Y5	24	23/04/25	Oystercatcher Y3
10	20/11/24	Albatross Y5	25	30/04/25	Oystercatcher Y3
11	27/11/24	Albatross Y5	26	07/05/25	Oystercatcher Y3
x	04/12/24	Pool Closed	x	14/05/25	SATS - NO SWIM
x	11/12/24	Pool Closed	27	21/05/25	Oystercatcher Y3
x	18/12/24	Xmas	x	28/05/25	Half-Term
x	25/12/24	Xmas	28	04/06/25	Oystercatcher Y3
x	01/01/25	Xmas	29	11/06/25	Oystercatcher Y3
12	08/01/25	Albatross Y5	30	18/06/25	Oystercatcher Y3
13	15/01/25	Albatross Y5	31	25/06/25	Oystercatcher Y3
14	22/01/25	Albatross Y5	32	02/07/25	Royal Terns Y6
15	29/01/25	Albatross Y5	33	09/07/25	Royal Terns Y6
16	05/02/25	Avocet Y4	34	16/07/25	Royal Terns Y6
17	12/02/25	Avocet Y4			

Swimmers leave at 11am and return for lunch at 1pm. They need a one-piece swimsuit/trunks, towel, waterproof bag (hat and goggles are optional). Earrings must be removed.

The children would benefit from a good breakfast and a morning snack on the days that they swim.
PLEASE WEAR A COAT.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS 2025

Next half-term we will be offering the following after-school clubs (see times below).

Spaces are limited. Clubs run by school staff are free; Clubs run by visitors may be chargeable.

ALL CLUBS START W/C 13th JAN AND FINISH ON WED 12th FEB

COMMUNITY SPORTS FOUNDATION

TUESDAY 3.30-4.30pm **

Norwich City Community Sports Foundation and Mr Agate – Football Club – open to all 18 max
Please use this link to book
https://bookonline.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/event/after_school_club_-_heacham_primary-_football_ks2_13012025

**** Please book directly with Norwich City CSF via the link above**

THE FOLLOWING CLUBS ARE TO BE BOOKED ON MCAS

WEDNESDAY 3.30-4.15pm

STEM with Miss Greenhalgh – open to Y56 x 10 spaces
Board Games & Colouring with Miss Cornwell – open to Y34 x 12 spaces

Clubs end at the times stated above. Pickup is from the back playground. If your child is unable to attend any sessions, you must inform the office by email or telephone beforehand. We are not able to accept messages via the children.

Please note that children in Y34 must be collected by an adult

After 23 years as a Teaching Assistant at Heacham Junior, we said goodbye this term to Miss Roper. She will be very missed by staff, children and parents, some of whom will remember her from when they were pupils here themselves!

#NoToDomesticAbuse
I finally realised
I was being
controlled.
Help a friend or family
member access support
to walk away safely
from domestic abuse.
NCCSP
Norfolk county community
safety partnership
Anyone can call the confidential 24-hour
national helpline on 0808 2000 247 or visit
www.norfolk.gov.uk/domesticabuse
In an emergency call 999