



Heacham Junior School Newsletter

October 2025

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Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a great start to this academic year with all the children settling well into their new classes.

We take regular learning walks around the classes and the atmosphere is calm, focused and collaborative. Great effort is also going into key events such as Remembrance, the Y4 Multiplication Check and Y6 SATS booster sessions. Our outcomes in MTC and SATS 2024-2025 were above national averages again which certainly helps every child as they make the journey to High School. Thank you for supporting these events and working at home with your child so everyone does their best.

Our attendance at Heacham Junior School is just above national average this year which is a trend at the school. Increased attendance above 95% is proven to support your child's learning and development. We follow a 'support first' approach so please contact us if you have any difficulties getting into school every day.

We have enjoyed sporting events already this term with children competing across schools in the cross country, quick sticks and football. We were proud of their efforts and enthusiasm. The recent football at Glebe was nail biting but every team member played with passion and skills - you made us very proud!

Enjoy your half term break and thank you for all your help and support.

Louise Jackson

Our Learning

Year 3/4 Oystercatcher

What an exciting start to the year, Oystercatchers! We have had a teddy bear tea party, been to Holkham Hall and created some beautiful mosaic artwork. We have enjoyed comparing London and San Francisco in Geography and can explain what is similar and different about the two places. We have been learning about the Tudors in History. We have really enjoyed playing cricket in PE with Andy. Thank you for working so hard! Let's continue this positive attitude in Autumn 2. Have a great break!



Year 4 – Avocet

Avocets have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled in wonderfully! In Geography, we've been exploring our local area and developing our map skills, including finding the scale and calculating the distance between places. In Art, we've been learning about the Byzantine Empire, studying its beautiful mosaics and even creating our own! In PE, we've been lucky to have weekly sessions with Coach Andy, who has been helping us improve our cricket skills. Meanwhile, in History, we've been diving into the Tudor period, learning about the reign of King Henry VIII, his six wives, and how his children ruled after him. Oh and of course our incredible trip to Holkham Hall! Well done for such a great start to the year, Avocets—keep it up! We're looking forward to next term, when we'll be learning about Crime and Punishment in History and Mediterranean Europe in Geography!



Our Learning (continued)

Year 5 – Albatross

Year 5 – Albatross We have had a lovely start to year 5. The children have shown great teamwork, kindness and perseverance. Everyone has showcased their amazing knowledge across the curriculum and have already made fantastic progress. They have written fantastic explanation texts about the Mesolithic Era, created Islamic tiles as well as learning all about how to use maps. In science, the children have loved learning about the human body. We tried blood smoothies and acted out the double circulatory system. We have enjoyed learning the history of ancient Baghdad and drew on our previous knowledge about ancient Egypt to understand why people settled in Baghdad. They have had lots of fun in PE developing their orienteering skills, applying their maps reading skills and developing excellent teamwork. Everyone has made an excellent start to the year and I look forward to what the next half term will bring!



Year 6 – Royal Tern

What a great start we have had to Year 6 here in Royal Terns class. It has been a busy one, with our new topics starting in each subject alongside a recital of our story in English for parents and applications for junior leadership roles. In Art, we have been studying the work of William Morris and his decorative arts, creating our own repeating pattern using reduction printing. Our Science learning has focused on chemistry and understanding atoms and what they are made of, as well as reversible and irreversible changes. History has been a popular subject as we have been fascinated with World War I and the conditions for soldiers on the Western Front, as well as for those back home. In Geography, we have been learning about time zones and map projections. On top of all this, of course, we have our core subjects of Maths and English for which the pupils are working hard towards their SATs tests in May this academic year. I am proud of all the efforts they are putting in and progress that is already being made!



Parents' Evenings

Our autumn term parents' evenings will take place on Monday 10th and Wednesday 12th November between 3:30PM and 5.30PM. These will be face to face by appointment in the hall.

Please message the staff listed below on Class Dojo to request an appointment stating your preferred day plus any other requirements. We will do our very best to accommodate your preferences.

Please message:

Year 34 Oystercatcher Miss Cornwell

Year 4 Avocet Mr Agate

Year 5 Albatross Ms Wells

Year 6 Royal Tern Mr Kirwan

Teachers will allocate time slots and send you this information in a Class Dojo message once all appointments have been set.

Meetings will take place in the hall, please come to the main entrance and make your way through to a seating area in the hall.



HAVING A SORT OUT OVER HALF-TERM?

The Friends of HJS are organising a Bags2Schools collection on 4th November. If you have anything suitable to put aside, these are the items that Bags2School will accept:



Clothes



Paired shoes



Handbags



Hats



Bags



Scarves and ties



Bras



Jewellery



Socks



Belts

Email: friendsofheachamjunior@gmail.com



The Friends held their AGM on 17th September. Positions were assigned as follows:

Chairperson: Kelly Hall
Treasurer: Denise Bridge
Secretary: Cristiana Germeno

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th November 10.30am-12pm

We have a full year of events scheduled, some old favourites and some new activities! We have already held our first non-uniform day, hosted a Y3 Welcome event, subsidised both Y6 leavers' hoodies and a Y34 trip and enjoyed some lovely cakes at our Spooky Bake-Off competition and cake sale!

Here's what's coming up in the next half-term:

- Bag2Schools Textile Recycling 4/11/25
- World Kindness Day 13/11/25
- Non-Uniform day 21/11/25
- Pupil designed Christmas Gifts online shop
- Christmas Event TBC
- Christmas Hamper Raffle to be drawn 19/12/25
- Panto Performance 'Rapunzel' 19/12/25
- Christmas gifts for all pupils 19/12/25
- Healthy Tuck Trolley every Wednesday 40p per item



Love of learning, bright futures, happy memories!

DIARY DATES 2025-2026

Every Monday – Y4 Ukelele 9.10-9.40am, Y56 String Tuition with Miss Johnson 1-3PM

Every Tuesday/Friday – SATS Booster 8.15am

Every Wednesday – Friends' Healthy Snack Trolley 40p/item, Swimming 11AM, Y4 Recorders 2PM

Please check PE days with your class teachers

27/10/25 – Half-term

03/11/25 – Children return to school

03/11/25 – New Lunchtime Menu

03/11/25 – Coding Club begins 4.15pm pick up (Now Monday)

04/11/25 – Singing Club begins 4.15pm pick up

04/11/25 – Friends Bag2School Collection 8:45am

05/11/25 – Y5 Swimming commences

05/11/25 – Dodgeball Club begins 4.30pm pick up

05/11/25 – Y6 National Childrens' Measurement Programme

06/11/25 – Art Club begins for 4 weeks 4pm pick up – THIS CLUB IS FULL

07/11/25 – Flu Vaccination Catch Up

10/11/25 – Parents' Evening

11/11/25 – Trust Remembrance Rehearsal and Performance Y4

12/11/25 – Parents' Evening

12/11/25 – Y34 Trip to Cinema

12/11/25 – PE Kit needed – Trust Intra-Sports Day

18/11/25 – Y5 Sports Leader Training

19/11/25 – MITI Music Workshop @ Smithdon

20/11/25 – Y6 Chemistry Kitchen @Springwood

21/11/25 – TBC Trust Christmas Carol Service Rehearsal @ Springwood

21/11/25 – Friends Non-Uniform £1 cash or item for Xmas Hamper

25/11/25 – Y6 Trip to Sainsbury Centre

03/12/25 – Trust Christmas Carol Service – Venue TBC

11/12/25 – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumpers

11/12/25 – Christmas Event TBC

11/12/25 – Y5 trip to Smitdon – Sister Act performance

12/12/25 – Christmas Crafts with Parents 2.15-3pm

19/12/25 – Panto Performance @HJS funded by Friends

19/12/25 – TBC Friends Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw

22/12/25 – Christmas Holiday

06/01/26 – Children return to school

09/01/26 – Friends Non-Uniform £1 cash or Soft Toy/Teddy

Copies of any menus, trip letters, Parent Forms, previous newsletters can be found on our website



Mr Self, Lunchtime Chef, left in July. In September we welcomed Chef Liz Watkins and her staff from the Infants, Caroline Back & Shirley Tucker. They cook lunches for all 3 schools from our site. Their lunches are delicious!



We say farewell to Ms Westcott in Albatross and Ms Richardson in the Kitchen at the end of October.

Love of learning, bright futures, happy memories!

Swimming Rota 2025-2026 - May be subject to further changes

SWIMMING 2025-2026						
Wk No.	Date	Class/Year		Wk No.	Date	Class/Year
1	10/09/2025	Year 6		x	18/02/2026	Half-Term
2	17/09/2025	Year 6		18	25/02/2026	Year 4
3	24/09/2025	Year 6		19	04/03/2026	Year 4
4	01/10/2025	Year 6		20	11/03/2026	Year 4
5	08/10/2025	Year 6		21	18/03/2026	Year 4
6	15/10/2025	Year 6		22	25/03/2026	Year 4
7	22/10/2025	Year 6		X	01/04/2026	Easter
X	29/10/2025	Half-Term		X	08/04/2026	Easter
8	05/11/2025	Year 5		23	15/04/2026	Year 4
9	12/11/2025	CANCELLED		24	22/04/2026	Year 3
10	19/11/2025	Year 5		25	29/04/2026	Year 3
11	26/11/2025	Year 5		26	06/05/2026	Year 3
x	03/12/2025	Pool Closed		x	13/05/2026	SATS - NO SWIM
x	10/12/2025	Pool Closed		27	20/05/2026	Year 3
x	17/12/2025	Pool Closed		x	27/05/2026	Half-Term
x	24/12/2025	Xmas		28	03/06/2026	Year 3
x	31/12/2025	Xmas		29	10/06/2026	Year 3
12	07/01/2026	Year 5		30	17/06/2026	Year 3
13	14/01/2026	Year 5		31	24/06/2026	Year 3
14	21/01/2026	Year 5		32	01/07/2026	Year 6
15	28/01/2026	Year 5		33	08/07/2026	Year 6
16	04/02/2026	Year 4		34	15/07/2026	Year 6
17	11/02/2026	Year 4				

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), spare underwear/socks. 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.**

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
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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		

November 2025						
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

December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	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					

April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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			

May 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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4	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

June 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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		

August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	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						

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.

Term Dates 2026-2027 – Primary and Secondary Schools

September 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	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				

October 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
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	

November 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	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						

December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	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			

January 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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4	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 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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May 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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31						

June 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	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					

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Staff training days are – Tuesday 1 September, Wednesday 2 September, Monday 4 January and Monday 12 April as whole training days.
 Monday 23 October 2026 is disaggregated.



Please remember to pre-book

You are now able to book and pay in advance for the following through the MCAS website or App:

- Breakfast Club
- School Lunches
- After-School Clubs
- Trips and Events
- Music Tuition (Min 6 week notice period)

Families in hardship and needing wider support in addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, 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, which includes an online application form at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Client-Hardship-Service-is>, or they can call **0344 800 8020**.

Vouchers for Free School Meal Eligible Pupils – EXTENDED

Norfolk County Council is extending the scheme to **March 2026**. 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 FSM will receive Edenred vouchers for this period. 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>