

Rocklands Primary News

October 2019



Dates for your diary

OCT	
Thurs 10th	Open Morning, 9.15-11am Please tell your friends/family/neighbours!
Fri 11th	Year R/1/2 Multi Skills Festival
Tues 15th	Year 6 AAN Taster Day
Wed 16th	Year 4/5/6 Cross Country at Hockwold Hall
Thurs 17th-Fri 18th	Federation day at Great Ellingham
Fri 18th	School closes for half term
Mon 28th	School reopens
Tues 29th	Bag2School collection
NOV	
Fri 1st	Year 3/4/5/6 Tag Rugby at AAN
Tues 5th	Year 3/4/5/6 Sportshall Athletics at Breckland Leisure
Fri 15th	Year 4/5/6 Badminton Taster at AAN
Tues 19th	Parent's Evening, 3.30-6pm
Thurs 21st	Parent's Evening, 3.30-6pm
DEC	
Mon 9th	Class 1 Nativity, 9-10am
Thurs 12th	Class 1 Nativity, 2.30-3.30pm Christmas Jumper Day! Christmas lunch
Tues 17th	Book at Bedtime, 5-6.30pm
Wed 18th	Carol Service at St Peters School closes for half term
JAN	
Mon 6th	School reopens

Head's Headlines

We have had a super start to the new school year, with three new teachers being welcomed into our federation teaching team. Our Reception children have settled in really well and are enjoying making new friends and developing new skills. It's a pleasure to watch the Forest School area being used twice a week, with children learning to explore the natural world around them and develop confidence in using simple tools. Drinking hot chocolate at the end of the session is also a highlight!

The children in Year 6 are settling into their new roles and responsibilities by taking on the leadership tasks of prefects, house captains and playground monitors. We really appreciate the mature way they are 'stepping-up' and are pleased to see how seriously they take their responsibilities.

The Secret Garden is in use now with groups of children enjoying the peace and quiet of the grassed area, as well as children enjoying digging for worms! FoRS have done an amazing job and we are all extremely grateful to all parents who have supported this project. Freya (an ex-pupil) really enjoyed painting the tree on the end wall (along with her mum!), helping to make the area feel rather magical. We are now working closely with FoRS to develop the gravel area outside Class 3 ... watch this space!

Some of you will know that, at Great Ellingham, we have two of our lovely mums battling with breast cancer. As a way of showing support for them and their children, I am completing a sponsored trek during the October half-term in aid of Cancer Research, UK. I will be trekking with a group of people from the Dead Sea to the city of Petra in Jordan, sleeping in Bedouin tents and hoping to avoid scorpions! Many parents have asked for details of my Just Giving page; please go to [TinyURL.com/2girlsTrek](https://www.tinyurl.com/2girlsTrek) to donate.

On my return, I will share my adventures with the children, giving them an insight into a different culture and, hopefully, inspiring them to take on their own personal challenges.

Kind regards, *Julie Dekker*

Don't forget to follow your child's class on Twitter.

The class Twitter accounts are:

@RocklandsClass1,

@rocklandsclass2, @rocklandsclass3

and the school is @RocklandsCP.

Stop Press News

If you haven't already done so, please return the Data Collection forms for your child(ren) to the school office as soon as possible to enable us to maintain up-to-date records.

Curriculum updates:

As you will have now all seen, we have replaced our termly newsletters with subject-specific Knowledge Organisers. The intention of using these is to show both the children and parents what will be taught over the coming weeks.

Key vocabulary: These are the key words we will be focusing on throughout the topic and encouraging the children to know and use. Could you ask your child about these words and see if they can explain what they mean?

Key knowledge: In here will be some of the key points that will be learnt within the topic. These are just the tip of the iceberg and will be delved into deeper within lessons.

Key facts: Linked to the topic being studied, the key facts are there to deepen understanding.

Key questions: Used to help identify what the children know prior to and after a unit.

It has been pleasing to see so many wonderful examples of work being completed, chosen from the additional home learning activities. Here is an example, which shows just how engaged and excited the children have been so far. Well done everyone and keep up the good work!



Year 3/4 and 5/6 Girls Football

Well done to the two girls' football teams who took part in a competition at Breckland Leisure Centre on 25th September. They all had a fantastic time and the Year 5/6s qualified for the Football Finals in the summer. Congratulations!



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Dekker B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

NOTICES

- We would like to remind parents that they should not be entering the school building before school, unless invited to by either Mrs Dekker or Mr Richards. There are children on site early in the morning and we need to adhere to the same safeguarding measures that are in place during the school day.
- Cold weather PE kits are expected to be in school throughout the week, and please ensure that **ALL** items of school uniform are properly named. Lost property is already beginning to mount up!
- Would all parents/carers/grandparents please ensure that vehicles are parked considerately to leave clear access for coaches/buses at school pick-up times. Our Class 1 come back from Forest Schools at Gt Ellingham on a Wednesday afternoon each week, and need to approach the school from Magpie Lane into The Street to allow our children to get off the bus safely onto the pavement side outside school. Many thanks.

Medicines in school

Following a Health and Safety inspection at both schools this week, we need to remind parents that staff, although first-aid trained, are not under any legal obligation to give children medicine in school.

We do administer medicines to meet the on-going long-term medical needs of children (those who suffer from asthma, migraines or those who have Care Plans), as this is part of maintaining their care in school. Please contact the school office to arrange to complete the necessary forms, which will be reviewed periodically.

However, **we should not administer any non-prescription medicines in school**. This includes any kind of pain relief, ointments or cough/throat lozenges (which can also present a choking hazard).

We therefore ask that, wherever possible, parents should administer medicines outside of school time or come in to school to administer the dose to their child.

It is important that children do not come to school carrying any medicine, throat lozenges, nasal inhalers, etc. in their bags or coats, as these items could be harmful to other children.

Where it is absolutely necessary, we can administer prescribed medicines. We cannot guarantee exact timings, but a lunchtime medicine will usually be given around 12:00pm. The correct forms must be completed at the school office and signed by Mrs Dekker or Mr Richards.

We thank you for your understanding.



Achievement corner



Congratulations to Kyra Travers for collecting an impressive six dance exam awards over the summer from her dance school, the Young Stars School of Dance (YSSOD).

She was also awarded the YSSOD star for Latin for her hard work in classes.

Well done Kyra!

Please let us know if your child has an achievement for the next newsletter.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Dekker B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Once a week, take a peek!



This is just a friendly reminder to check your children regularly for head lice.

Please monitor your child at home for signs of head lice throughout the year. Signs to look for include:

- Itchy scalp
- Red and irritated skin at the nape of the neck
- Tiny, pearlised eggs stuck to the hair, very close to the scalp
- Small, brown wingless bugs (they are very fast and hide well)

Lice cannot jump, do not come from pets, and must be treated with a lice-killing shampoo.



Free School Meals Online

On 16th September 2019, Norfolk County Council launched an online Free School Meals application service. Parents can create an account at the following web address and, using their details, carry out a check on their entitlement. This information will be submitted directly for processing.

www.norfolk.gov.uk/neo

Parents can also access this via the Council's website: www.norfolk.gov.uk



Would parents please help us by periodically visiting the Ofsted website to leave your views on our school?

There is a link on our school website.

Reminder for parents - Thursday 17th and Friday 18th October 2019

We'd just like to remind parents of the arrangements for the last two days of term.

All children will be working together in Federation healthy living activities at Great Ellingham Primary School. This is a wonderful chance for them to all work together, with the potential for new friendships to spark across the two schools.

We ask that all children come to school in their PE kits on both days, **appropriate for the weather**. It is likely that cold weather kits will be required but you never know, we may have another hot spell! Please be mindful of the weather on the day and make sure children have the correct clothing and footwear.

Children should be brought to and picked up from Rocklands School as usual, we have arranged transport to and from Great Ellingham during the day.

For those children that have school dinners, orders will be made as usual and served to them directly from the kitchen at Great Ellingham.

Immunisations are taking place on Thursday 17th October and will be conducted at Great Ellingham.

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