



# Newsletter

Dear Parents,

All the children have begun the term in a very positive manner, working hard, behaving well and aspiring to be MAGIC learners. At the beginning of the year we welcomed not only new Year 3 pupils but Fallon and Saraya Bissett who have joined Y5 and Lucy McGuire who has joined Y6.

Curriculum newsletters have been sent home for all year groups to give you information on what your child will be learning this term. These will also be available on the website for future reference.

Talking of websites, we have launched our new updated school website which we hope you will find useful and more accessible.

An important date approaching fast is the parent consultation evenings. Your child should have brought home a letter inviting you to make an appointment to meet their teacher to discuss the start they have made to the year and to share their next steps for learning with you.

Thank you to all those who completed and returned parent questionnaires at the end of last year. We have compiled the results and you will find the outcomes in this newsletter. This process is crucial in informing us of how you think we are doing and how we can improve things further.

Finally, it is important that you keep us up to date with emergency contact details. If you change any of your contact details please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Boyce



## Team Captains 2016-17

At the beginning of each year we choose captains to lead the four teams here at Falcon. The captains were chosen by the children from their team following a hustings where the nominees spoke to their teams.

The elected captains are:

Merlin: Katie Godfrey and Zak Pitts

Harrier: Daniel Bluett and Olivia Dicks

Peregrine: Sophia Fossey and Kieran Baxter

Kestrel: Cemil Derer and Evie Gregory

Congratulations to all our team captains who play an important part in our school but also to all those who were nominated but unsuccessful on this occasion.



**Parent Questionnaires July 2016 (% agree and strongly agree)**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
My child likes being at school	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>
My child finds lessons interesting	<b>98%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>
My child feels safe	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>
If my child has a problem he/she feels they can talk to someone	<b>95%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>97%</b>
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Section 1 overall</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
The school lunches are healthy and well prepared	<b>92%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>
The school provides good opportunities for physical exercise	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Section 2 overall</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
The school gives me a clear understanding of what is being taught	<b>98%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>98%</b>
My child is achieving and making progress	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>99%</b>
My child is aware of the next steps in they need to take in their learning	<b>99%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>
I am satisfied with the work my child is expected to do at home	<b>86%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Section 3 overall</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
I find the school keeps me well informed about my child's progress	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>
I find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with my child	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>99%</b>
I feel the reception is welcoming and treats me courteously and with respect	<b>93%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Section 4 overall</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>93%</b>

We received 114 questionnaires, which represents 35% of our school community. This is a down on last year (41%).

Firstly I am delighted that the overwhelming majority of respondents say their child likes school and continue to say their child finds lessons interesting. This is essential to being a successful school.

Clearly there is still work to be done on homework. The number of respondents that were not satisfied were equally split between those who thought there was too much and those who thought there was too little. We will be looking again at the work we ask children to do at home and improving our communication with you so that you are clear what is expected.

I am also speaking to NORSE about the drop in number of parents who felt that school lunches were not healthy and well prepared.

However we will be continuing to work hard on all areas to improve the school further.



## **Attendance**

Although our attendance last year remained above 95% which is the benchmark deemed good by the Department for Education it fell slightly from the previous year where attendance was above 96%.

Our target this year is to get our attendance back to above 96%



You will have recently received a letter sent to all parents who attend schools in the Sprowston and Spixworth area reminding you of the rules on holiday in term time.

To make communication easier we have reintroduced the leave of absence form which must be completed and handed in to the office for all leave of absence. A decision can then be communicated with you as soon as possible.

Forms are available from the office and on the website.

Could I also remind you that if you know your child is going to be absent, please call the 24 hour absence line **01603 441477**. This service enables parents to let us know at a time convenient to them without having to wait for office opening hours.

## **Building Improvements**

*Work will begin again on the front of house shortly, after a break to allow the year to begin smoothly. This will involve the office relocating to the side of the building temporarily and no access being permitted through the front of the building. Safety barriers will be in place and signs will be displayed clearly. We hope that the disruption is as short as possible, but are looking forward to the new facilities which will provide everybody with a more accessible, and spacious reception.*



## **Charitable Donations**

At the end of last year children and staff organised two special events to raise money for local charities. I am delighted to report that we raised £561.02 for Nelson's Journey by holding Purple Picnics and £375.75 was donated to Cancer Research UK following Y6 pupils enterprise event

## **PARKING**

We are all very aware of the issues around parking at the beginning and end of the day.

I have received an email from Andrew Mason, who is the new Community Engagement Officer for Broadland, inviting parents to take part in a safer schools parking survey

The survey takes no more than 5 minutes and can be found at:

<http://suffolkpolice.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=bp665dzUkcb&HideToolbar=1>



Furthermore he is enquiring whether parents would be willing to pass registration numbers to him of cars that are causing issues. Police would then be able to obtain owner details and send advisory letters.

## **Extra Curricular Opportunities**

*As a school we endeavour to offer pupils a rich and broad range of lunchtime and after school clubs. We have recently sent home a booklet with information about our extra curricular clubs. The clubs include opportunities that are free and some that incur a small charge.*

*We do however ask for pupils to make a commitment to the activities they choose to do. It is really important we know where children are for their safety and therefore, we expect to be informed if a child cannot attend an activity. Registers are taken for all after school clubs and children who are not present with no explanation will be followed up immediately.*

*If you have not received your booklet please see the office.*



## **School Trips**

We feel it is really important to give children opportunities to take their learning outside the classroom. Wherever possible we do so at no cost to parents but there are times when we do need to ask for a contribution. We are very conscious of the increasing cost of living and therefore to help planning please find below a list of trips that each year group undertook last year with an approximate cost.



Year	Month	Description	Approx Cost
4	Sept	Blakeney	£9.50
3	Oct	Gressenhall	£8.40
6	Oct	Holt Hall Residential	£237
6	Oct	Holt Hall Day Visit (for non residential pupils)	£21
6	Oct	Ranworth (Non Holt Hall Residential Children)	£8
5	Oct	Viking Visit	£5
4	Feb	Castle Museum—Roman Day	£8
3	Mar	Kew Gardens	£15.50
6	Mar	Thorpe Park	£30
4	May	How Hill Residential	£116
4	May	How Hill day Visit (Non residential visit)	£6.50
3	May	Waveney Study Centre	£5.70
5	May	London Zoo	£21

We review each trip carefully beforehand for value for money. Trips sometimes are planned as a result of the children's learning in class and unforeseen opportunities that arise along the way, however, we do endeavour to keep costs to a minimum and I hope the list above is helpful as a starting point.

## **Upcoming Dates**

### **OCTOBER**

Thursday 6th	Parent Consultation Evening	3.30pm—4.30pm
Friday 7th	European Day of Languages	In school day
Tuesday 11th	Parent Consultation Evening	3.30pm-6.30pm
Mon 17th— Friday 21st	Y6 Residential Trip to Holt Hall	
Tuesday 18th	Y6 Ranworth day trip	In school day
Thursday 20th	Y6 Holt Hall day trip	In school day
Friday 21st	PTA non-school uniform day	In school day
Friday 21st	Half term begins	3.10pm
Monday 31st	Return to school after half term	8.50am

## **Falcon Junior School**

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