



# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

All the children have begun the term in a very positive manner, working hard, and demonstrating lots of the Falcon Values.

Curriculum newsletters have been sent home for all year groups to give you information on what your child will be learning this term.

We also sent out some information regarding supporting children to make the right choices with regards to behaviour in school. As stated in the letter sent out, pupil behaviour at Falcon is generally very good, but there are occasions when children need support and reminding of our expectations. As parents and carers, we appreciate your support in reinforcing the expectations at school, which will help to maintain a calm and nurturing environment for all children.



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,

Rob Clarke  
Acting Head

## Parent Questionnaires July 2017

We received 96 questionnaires, which represents 26% of our school community. This is down on last year.

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. It was also pleasing to see that the responses to the amount of work my child is expected to do at home has increased from last year. Often homework is an area that divides opinion, with some parents and children feeling too much is given, with others feeling not enough.

We continue to work alongside NORSE catering to ensure we offer a healthy and well balanced lunch and hope to increase this percentage even further.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
My child likes being at school	<b>97%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
My child finds lessons interesting	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>
My child feels safe in school	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88%</b>
If my child has a problem he/she feels they can talk to someone	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	<b>98%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97%</b>
Section 1 overall	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
The school lunches are healthy and well-balanced	<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>
The school provides good opportunities for physical exercise (PE, playtime, clubs)	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97%</b>
Section 2 overall	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
The school gives me a clear understanding of what is being taught	<b>91%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>91%</b>
My child is achieving and making progress	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>97%</b>
My child is well supported in their learning	<b>95%</b>				
My child is aware of the next steps that they need to take in their learning	<b>96%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>95%</b>
I am satisfied with the work my child is expected to do at home	<b>92%</b>	<b>86%*</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>76%</b>
Section 3 overall	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
I find the school keeps me well informed about my child's progress	<b>94%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>91%</b>
I find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with my child	<b>95%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>
I feel the reception is welcoming, treats me courteously and with respect	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>84%</b>
Section 4 overall	<b>94%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>

## Attendance

Attendance last year remained above 95% which is the benchmark deemed good by the Department for Education. 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 continues on the upper playground for the new classroom block. Completion date is Easter 2018. Extra cloakroom facilities for Year 4 are underway with October half-term being given as the expected finish date. Safety barriers and signs are in place.



## **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 £207.81 for Nelson's Journey and £64.20 for London Fire Relief.



## **PARKING**

We are all aware of the issues around parking at the beginning and end of the day. At the beginning of term, PCSO Kane Casburn and the Sprowston Safer Neighbourhood team drafted a letter to send to schools in the local area about some of the issues reported to them. As with all letters, please see the school office if you require another copy.



## **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.

## **Team Captains 2017-18**

At the beginning of each year, we choose captains to lead the four teams here at Falcon.

The elected captains are:

**Merlin:** Harmony Wright and Oliver Squires

**Harrier:** Poppy Randall and Scott Timperley

**Peregrine:** Lily Halstead and Joshua Wilsea

**Kestrel:** Eva Williamson and James Hoye

Congratulations to all our team captains.



The PTA requires more members to enable it to operate as effectively as possible this year. A letter will be going out this week with further details about the role of the PTA. If you have the time, come along to the PTA coffee afternoon on Monday 9th October at 1:45pm to find out more.

Rock & Pop Foundation are now offering guitar and drum lessons at Falcon. Check out their website for more information. [www.rockandpopfoundation.com/enrol](http://www.rockandpopfoundation.com/enrol)

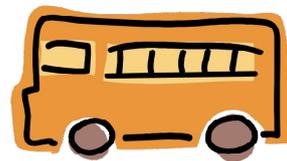


A few parents have asked about bringing dogs on site before and after school when dropping off and collecting children. Unfortunately on health and safety grounds the decision is that dogs are not allowed on the school site.

And finally, calling all GARDENERS! Any parents and grandparents who are interested in volunteering to help maintain the school gardens, please contact Mrs Johns in Y3.

## 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	£10
3	Oct	Gressenhall	£9
6	Oct	Holt Hall Residential	£210
6	Oct	Holt Hall Day Visit (for non residential pupils)	£34
6	Oct	Hickling (Non Holt Hall Residential Children)	£5
4	Feb	Castle Museum-Roman Day	£9
3	Mar	Kew Gardens	£19
4	May	How Hill Residential	£132
4	May	How Hill Day Visit (Non residential visit)	£7
5	May	London Zoo	£27

We review each trip carefully beforehand for value for money and endeavour to keep costs to a minimum.

## Upcoming Dates

### October

Thursday 5th October	Parent Consultation Evening	3:30-7pm
Monday 9th October	PTA Coffee Afternoon (staff room)	1:45pm
Tuesday 10th October	Parent Consultation Evening	3:30-7pm
Week beginning Monday 16th October	Holt Hall Residential (Y6)	Monday-Thursday
Monday 16th October	One Y5 Maths Class to Yarmouth Racecourse	See letter for details
Tuesday 17th October	Hickling Broad Trip (Y6)	In school day
Wednesday 18th October	Holt Hall Day Trip (Y6)	See letter for details
Thursday 19th October	Children break for half-term	3:10pm
Friday 20th October	Staff INSET	
Monday 30th October	Children return at 8:40am	

### November

Tuesday 7th November	Y3 to Gressenhall	See letter for details
Friday 10th November	Falcon to host Cross Country	Afternoon
Tuesday 14th November	Open Evening for Y2	3:30-5:30pm
Saturday 2nd December	PTA Christmas Fayre	Afternoon

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