



Harvest Term Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back!

We'd like to welcome you all back for another school year in particular to our new parents for children starting with us for the first time. As always, we understand that the start of a new school year can be tricky, remembering the routines and knowing what has changed, so please don't worry about asking us if you have any questions.

Reminders

Firstly, if you haven't already looked on our website we have a large parent section where you may be able to find information you need. <https://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/> .

Please can you make sure that all clothing, including coats, is named so that we can return it to the right person if it gets lost. Please also ensure that your child has a school tie and a pair of black school shoes. Trainers, unless it is a PE day, are not permitted.

We show parents what their children have been learning on Tapestry. This is primarily for recording observations of children's learning and is not a communication tool. Staff do not check this for messages, so if you need to contact them directly please contact the main office at office@freeschoolnorwich.org.uk and it will be passed over to the class teacher.

As the weather gets colder, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school as we will continue to do outside activities even if it is cold or slightly wet.

At the end of the day, school staff will only release your child when they make eye contact with you. Children have been asked not to play with the playground toys at the end of the day as they can get lost or damaged at this time. Please could you support us to reinforce this rule.

Medications

We understand that, from time to time, children will require medicines to be administered in school. If your child needs medication during the school day please come and fill in a form in the main office so that we can ensure it is given correctly. Please note we are only allowed to administer prescribed medications.

Squirrels Holiday Club

Starting this year, we are very excited to be handing over our Squirrels Holiday Club to a new provider, Premier Education. This operates in a similar way to our after-school provision. All bookings and additional information can be made on their website:

[https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/18652/?location=nr1%203nx&distance=0.0&distance=0.0&type\[\]=Hol](https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/18652/?location=nr1%203nx&distance=0.0&distance=0.0&type[]=Hol)

Premier's flyer is attached to this email.

The dates and times for the holiday club have not changed. Our term dates and holidays can be found on our website at:

<https://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/parents/term-dates/>

Reading at Home

We ask that you read on a daily basis with your child, for a minimum of 10 minutes. All evidence shows that this will help your children make the

best progress with their reading. This should be recorded in your child's reading record for Years R-5. Class teachers will monitor these. We would also like all children to take part in their Year groups Reading Quest. See below for more details.

Reading Quest

We are encouraging all children to take part in our exciting reading venture, the FSN Reading Quest. Reading continues to be at the heart of our curriculum and we want to encourage all our children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Each child will be challenged to read 5 Fiction, 5 Non-Fiction and 10 Independent Choice books over the course of the academic year. The books can be sourced from your child's class reading corner, our fantastic library, or your local library. Following completion of each book your child will need to complete a short activity to demonstrate their engagement with the book. Your child will bring home a pack with more information and activity ideas.

Every child who completes the FSN Reading Quest will receive a personalised certificate presented in assembly, alongside the knowledge and reward that they are striving to be thriving readers!

Book Bags

We are asking for all parents to please ensure you provide a book bag for your child, school branded book bags can be purchased from Stevensons, although any book bag will be fine. These should help to protect our beautiful books as well as the environment.

Please can we ask that book bags are clearly labelled with your child's name and that they are only used for your child's reading books and hear me diaries, no water bottles please!

Spellings

You will receive a set of weekly spellings on Tapestry to practice with your child. Spelling

remains a key skill for successful writing and accurate vocabulary building.

Reading Ambassadors

We are seeking additional Reading Ambassadors to volunteer in classes across the school. By giving just a small amount of your time each week, you can make a meaningful difference in children's reading development and inspire a lifelong love of reading. If you would be willing to volunteer, please click the following below.

<https://www.thenorfolkreadingproject.co.uk/volunteers/>

Medal

Last term our school council were given the very important job of decorating a medal to go on display in Chantry Place during the Olympics. They did brilliant job and, last week, we received notification that our medal had won! We now have the enviable task of spending our £200 sports equipment voucher. Well done to our fantastic school council who did a great job last year!

Star Fundraiser

We are very proud to announce that Iona in Year 5 is raising money for The Little Princess Trust. This is a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer and will involve the very brave decision for Iona to have her head shaved.

So far she has raised an amazing £600. If you would like to support her by donating there is a box in the main office.

Friends of the Free School Norwich

Welcome to the new school year! The Friends are really excited for what 2024/25 has to bring!

This year, we're excited to transition our informal Friends group into an official PTA! To do this, we'll be appointing parents and grandparents into formal roles with defined

responsibilities, guided by a constitution. This will help us solidify the group and continue building on the great work we've been doing.

If you're interested in getting involved, join us for an informal information gathering meeting on **Monday, 30th September**, where we'll discuss the roles, responsibilities, and how you can participate.

Followed by our first AGM on **Tuesday, 8th October**, where we'll be appointing roles and finalising the constitution. Both meetings will take place at The Forum Cafe, Norwich. Whether you're able to help a lot or a little it would be great to have you involved.

Playground fundraising

Raising money for playground equipment

Target £40,000



Over the last two years we have been fundraising for new playground equipment in the main play space. We have set an ambitious goal of £40,000 and so far have raised over £22,455! We plan to have the equipment installed in August 2025.

As you can see, we still have a long way to go to reach our target in the next eight months, that's where you come in!

How you can help!

- Do you have contacts with a local or nation business that would be willing to sponsor the playground project? We would love to work with them!
- Do you or do you know of someone that works for Tesco's that would nominate our Stronger Starts grant application titled 'Inspiring playground for all'. Ask them to get in touch and we will guide them the next steps.
- Are you good at writing Grant applications? If you would be able to write one or two a month would be a huge help. We have a lot of the ground work done so you wouldn't be starting from scratch.
- Join our PTA!

Useful Dates:

Monday 30th September: Introduction to a PTA, the roles and our goals held at The Forum Cafe 7:00pm

Tuesday 1st October: Hannah Gold author trip Years 4-6

Wednesday 2nd October: 2025 EYFS intake afternoon 2:00pm- 3:00pm

Thursday 4th October: Friends of the Free School Norwich Bake Sale

Tuesday 8th October: Friends AGM, appointing committee members and agreeing the constitution at The Forum Café 7:00pm

Wednesday 9th October: Year 1 History trip

Monday 14th October: Individual Photos (all year groups)

Tuesday 15th October: Flu Vaccinations (all year groups)

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October: Parents' Evenings

Friday 18th October: Last day of Harvest Term

Monday 4th November: First day of Christmas Term

High School Open evenings

Monday 23rd September: Hethersett Academy Open Evening from 6pm to 8:30pm

Thursday 3rd October: Framlingham Earl High School Open Evening from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Thursday 3rd October: Hellesdon High School Open Evening from 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Thursday 3rd October: City of Norwich School from 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Kind regards,
Darren

Stars of the Week

Reception

This week Star of the Week goes to Frida for having so much enthusiasm and lots of creative ideas during our 'Make It Up' story sessions.

Year 1

This week it goes to Esme for using her design skills to create a model of the Eiffel Tower.

Year 2

Last week's Star of the Week went to Millie for showing a respectful and hard working attitude in her first week in year 2. This week it is Leo for showing excellent hard work and independence in Maths this week.

Year 3

Star of the week last week went to Ruby who dazzled with her impressive timeline skills in History. This week it is Meredith her consistent kindness and support for her classmates, along with her commitment to giving 100% in every lesson.

Year 4

Star of the Week for last week was Akku for her hard work and exemplary focus, behaviour and engagement all week. This week it goes to Harrison for his polite manner and helpfulness all week as well as his patience towards others.

Year 5

Last week, Star of the Week went to Sam for being an enthusiastic historian, eagerly sharing his vast knowledge on all things Roman and Anglo-Saxon. This week it goes to Lee for being an inquisitive learner, consistently asking questions, and working hard to achieve his best work.

Year 6

Last week, Star of the week went to Toby for making a brilliant start to Year 6. This week it goes to Adam for tremendous work in his reading assessment.

Communication and Information Easy Access

Newsletters: <http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/parents/newsletters/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Free-School-Norwich-102238845787805>)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/freeschnorwich>

OFSTED Parentview: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Calendar: <http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/school-calendar/>

Amazon Wishlist:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1H53OWPFNIFOO?ref=wl_dp_view_your_list



