



Blundeston CEVC Primary School

A Place to Flourish

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)



Church Road, Blundeston, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 5AX

Telephone: 01502 730488

Email: admin@blundeston.suffolk.sch.uk

Website: www.blundestoncevc.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr. Chris Edwards BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Laura Ward BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH



School Newsletter – Wednesday 27th March 2024

Happy Easter

I always enjoy the Spring term. There tends to be less disruptions to learning, the improving weather and lighter days brings forth a brighter outlook. The children know the rules and expectations of them as learners and citizens contributing to a healthy school environment. As we approach the holiday, it is fitting that the children have been learning about the Easter story in our Collective Worship. We reflect on how Jesus gave his life so that we can live to help those who need our love too. As Jesus' resurrection signalled new life, so we see those signs all around us right now at this special time of year – the flowers starting to bloom, the blossom on the trees and the new lambs in the fields. I hope you get to share a wonderful, peaceful holiday with your family and friends.

A Place to Flourish – New Opportunities

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Mrs Pryke will be leaving her post as our Nurture & Pastoral Support Lead at the end of this term – her last day in school will be tomorrow, Thursday 28th March 2024. Mrs Pryke has been at the school since July 2022, first as a teaching assistant then as our Nurture & Pastoral Support Lead.

Since I joined at the start of the year, I have seen first-hand just how impactful the work Mrs Pryke carried out has been. She has worked with, and supported, many of our children and families and I know you will share my sadness that she is leaving.

However, as our vision implies, we encourage everybody in our school community to flourish. From time to time, this means accepting that members of staff grow and wish to experience new opportunities. This is fantastic for the staff member and reflects the efforts we go to take care of and support everybody who works at the school.

Mrs Pryke is off to pastures new and will continue to work with children for Suffolk County Council, supporting those in extremely challenging circumstances. It is a role that requires a dedicated commitment to improving the life chances of very vulnerable and challenged children and I have every confidence the Mrs Pryke will do an outstanding job in very difficult conditions. We wish her every success in her new role!

The children who Mrs Pryke supports and works with have already been told that she is leaving. She has had the chance to speak with individual children to share this news. We will continue to support the children moving forward.

Staffing Changes – New Beginnings

Obviously, with Mrs Pryke's departure coming so soon after Mrs Jeal leaving to take up an advanced pastoral role in a high school, we have had to think about the deployment of remaining staff. Where possible, we have tried to replace the staff to ensure consistency until the end of the academic year.

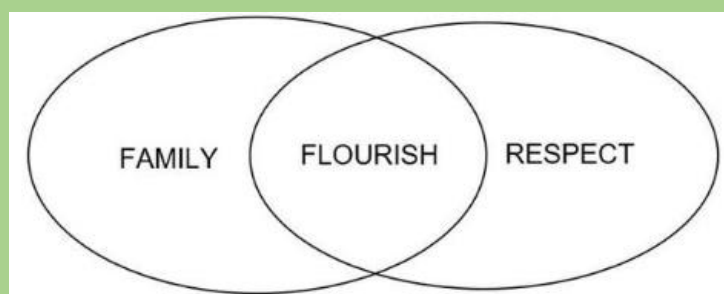
I am delighted to share with you that we now have Miss Powley and Miss Monk as part of our support staff team. Miss Powley has been working with us for some time through an agency but we wanted to make her connection with us more permanent. She is now an integral part of our team, who has the chance to flourish in a consistent role in school. Her role is completely funded by The Virtual School, so will not have any immediate impact on our school budget.

Miss Monk has been employed as a direct replacement for Mrs Jeal. Miss Monk is already known to our school family as she has been completing her studies on Fridays by supporting Mrs Barber in Year 3. Her friendly and compassionate persona lends itself perfectly to supporting and nurturing the young minds in Mrs Allen's Reception class.

Our nurture and pastoral provision is a much-valued part of our school and we want to ensure it continues to be so. However, the current economic climate, political choices, a fall in the national birth rate which is partly contributing to our falling number on roll is forcing us to make some very difficult budgetary decisions going forward.

I have been told by Suffolk County Council that, because of our projected budget, we cannot replace Mrs Pryke's role in a like for like way. This is extremely disappointing but did not come as that much of a shock, given the lack of investment in education over the past few years.

However, it does leave us needing to rethink how we provide this key space for our children and families so that the right support is in place. It is worth remembering that nurture was not just Mrs Pryke's responsibility – everybody in school is equally responsible for ensuring that every member of our school family is nurtured.



If we bring together our school family, rooted in respect for each other, we produce a flourishing environment. To ensure that nurture continues in the best way possible, we have identified and shared parts of the role Mrs Pryke provided to those that have capacity within school. For example, the toughest safeguarding elements of the role will come to me, some aspects of family support will fall to Mrs Allerton, parental contact will be undertaken by the office staff and most importantly, the class teachers and support staff will be supporting the children with their needs. We will also be working creatively in how we free up staff, to ensure that those that need the help get it.

A Place to Flourish – Fantastic Experiences

In recent weeks, the children have been able to access a huge variety of wonderful experiences. This really brings our curriculum to life and gives the children the tools to advance their learning and to think about themselves as citizens. It has been an incredibly busy time but thoroughly rewarding when we see how inspired the children have been, accessing the opportunities they have been given.

Sewing club



Supertato Story Writing



Red Nose Day



World Book Day



Maths Roadshow



RSPCA visit



Theatre Visit



Author visit - Sue Hendra



Dates for your diary

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| Thursday 28 th March | Y2 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – The Easter Story 2:30pm start |
| Thursday 28 th March | Last Day of the spring term |
| Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April | Easter Holidays |
| Monday 15 th April | Children return to school – Summer Term starts |
| Monday 15 th April | Last Y5 Session on Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity |
| Friday 3 rd May | Y6 Girls at Futsol County Championships |
| Monday 6 th May | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Wednesday 8 th May | Y5 Rounders at North Denes Oval |
| Thursday 9 th May | Y4 Visit to Lowestoft Maritime Museum |
| Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May | Y6 SATs week |
| Friday 17 th May | YR RE Showcase to parents in their classroom – ‘Salvation’ 2:30pm start |
| Thursday 23 rd May | Y6 Residential to Hilltop |
| Friday 24 th May | Last day of Half-term |
| Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May | Summer Half-term |
| Monday 3 rd June | Group Photos for School |
| Wednesday 5 th June | Open The Book – The Storm on the Lake |
| Wednesday 5 th June | YR visit to Time and Tide Museum |
| Wednesday 5 th June | Y6 Cricket at North Denes Oval |
| Wednesday 5 th June | Parent Workshop for Y6 Sex Education Lessons |
| Thursday 6 th June | Y6 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Incarnation 2:30pm start |
| Wednesday 12 th June | Y6 Netball at EPA |
| Tuesday 25 th June | Y1 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Pentecost 2:30pm start |
| Wednesday 26 th June | Y3 Carlton Marshes Trip |
| Thursday 27 th June | Sports Day |
| 1 st – 4 th July | Y5 Bikeability Groups |
| Wednesday 3 rd July | Y1 + Y2 Africa Alive Trip |
| Friday 12 th July | Y4 Music showcase to parents in the school hall 1:00pm start |
| Friday 19 th July | Last Day of Term |
| Monday 2 nd & Tuesday 3 rd September | Teacher Training Days |
| Wednesday 4 th Sept. | Children return to school – Autumn Term starts |
| Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November | Autumn Half-Term |
| Monday 4 th November | Teacher Training Day |
| Tuesday 5 th November | Children return to school |
| Friday 20 th December | Last day of Autumn Term |
| Monday 23 rd December - Monday 6 th January 2025 | Christmas Holiday |
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | Teacher Training Day |
| Tuesday 7 th January 2025 | Children return to school – Spring Term starts |
| Friday 14 th February | Last day of half-term |

