



# 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)*

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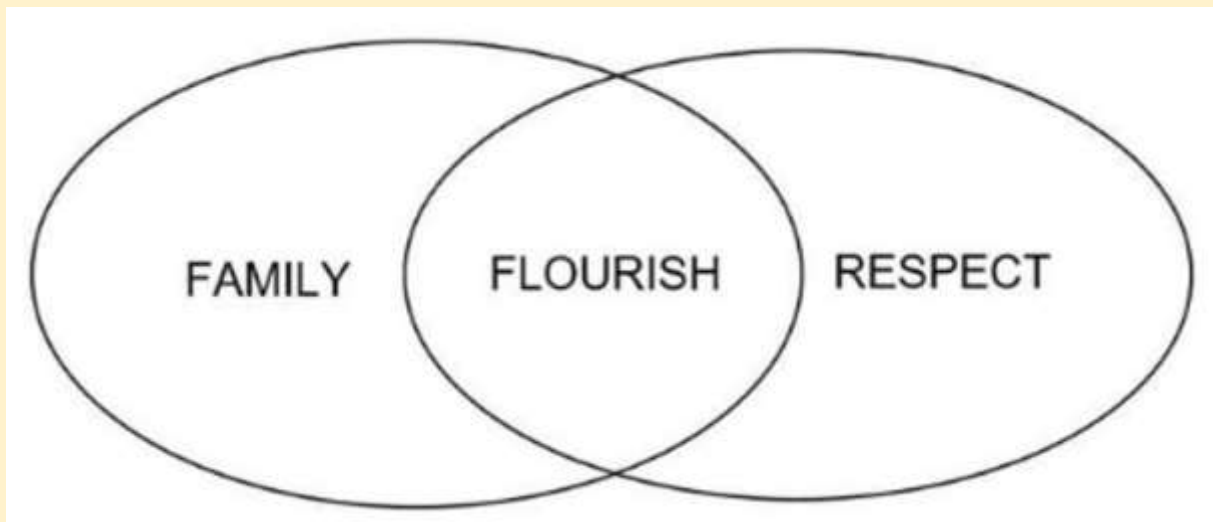
## School Newsletter - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

### Five half-terms completed, one to go!

Where does the time go? It is hard to believe that we only have one half-term left and then another academic year will be completed. This half-term has been action-packed. As always, it has been fantastic watching the children flourishing as they have accessed so many learning opportunities across the curriculum – documented on Class Dojo.

My Collective worship theme this half-term has been friendship and I have been exploring lots of ways to make the children think about how they can encourage one another and build each other up. We reflected on how much damage can be inflicted on a person with just one unwanted, hurtful comment and how that could destroy so much positivity that had gone on beforehand.

Our school family is dependent on helping the children to learn to collaborate to achieve a purpose, show compassion and empathy for others and to take responsibility. This is integral to our core school values of family, flourish, respect.



## A Place to Flourish – New Opportunities

This week we have been gearing up for our Y6 residential to Hilltop. It will be a fantastic experience for the children as they get to try out a range of adventurous and fun activities. It is also a wonderful opportunity for them to gain a level of independence, staying away from home, which for some may be their first time away from mum or dad.

I love residential as you really get to see a different side to the children's character, especially when they are tasked to take care of themselves: washing, dressing, keeping their dormitories tidy etc. Trust me, I fully expect there to be at least one child that doesn't set foot in the shower or who only wears one pair of pants for the duration of the trip! Regardless, all twenty-nine of our Y6s will be attending and creating their own memories, just like when we think back to our own childhood school memories, where residential trips are always the ones that are fondly remembered.

With this in mind, I want the children of Blundeston to experience more. We already have a range of excellent trips to a variety of places but at present only one residential. That is going to change. From next year onwards, we will be adding a second residential trip to our curriculum offer. In early March 2025, Y4 and Y5 will be going to How Hill. Set in the heart of the Broads, this residential will offer a unique opportunity for the children to complete an environmental study over three days and staying for two nights.



The children will get to experience first-hand a range of habitats, learning about the wildlife that lives there. There will be opportunities to dissect owl pellets, create artwork, model clay, go on a boat trip to Barton Broad, learn traditional country methods like thatching, weaving and discover an historical understanding of how the marshmen looked after the environment with a visit to Toad Hole Cottage.

Next year, this trip will be available to Y5 as well as Y4. This is so the Y5s do not miss out on the chance to go to How Hill but in future years it will just be Y4 and Y6 that always go on a residential. That way, with time between trips, parents will be better placed to afford to send their children on the trip. To help parents to pay for the trip, we will set up a regular payment reminder, so the full cost is not expected in just one go.



Watch this space as we will be sharing more information about the trip after half-term.

## Places To Eat to Save Money During Half-Term

I know a great many people are still feeling the full pinch of the cost of living crisis so when I came across this from the Library, I thought I would share it with our school families. With costs spiralling so much in recent times, I hope this helps families to save a few pennies.



**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING MAY HALF TERM 2024**  
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

**LAS IGUANAS**  
Join 'My Las Iguanas' via the App & Niños eat free with every adult main

**ASDA**  
Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

**SAINSBURYS CAFES**  
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

**PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**  
Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

**THE REAL GREEK**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

**TGI FRIDAYS**  
Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal (App needed)

**PUREZZA**  
Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

**TRAVELodge & PREMIER INN**  
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

**SIZZLING PUBS**  
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

**BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**  
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

**PRETO**  
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

**MORRISONS**  
Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

**GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**  
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

**YO! SUSHI**  
From Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024, kids eat free all day at YO! Sushi (minimum adult spend £10).

**WHITBREAD INNS**  
Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

**BELLA ITALIA**  
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

**BILLS**  
Two kids can eat free ALL DAY (Weekdays) from Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024, with one adult main dish.

**DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES**  
At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

**TABLE TABLE**  
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

**IKEA**  
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

**HUNGRY HORSE**  
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

**FUTURE INNS**  
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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## PARKING & CLUB DROP OFF/PICK UP

The parking outside of school has continued to be problematic. Can we ask all parents/carers to NOT park in the areas with yellow lines. These areas are for cars to pull in as a passing place and not to be parked on. It is very dangerous to park there and is causing a lot of distribution. If you see someone parking there it is best to report this to East Suffolk Council which you can do via this link:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/parking-services/parking-management-and-civil-parking-enforcement/>

Can we also ask you not to park in the bus stop – this is to be used as a drop off zone – parents pull in and children jump out. It is for KS2 children where a parent/carer is not needed to accompany them into school.

For club drop off and pick please do not drive into the staff car park. We want as few moving cars in the car park during these times for the children's safety. Please also use the pedestrian gate for access – do not use the car park gate to enter or exit the site as again there maybe staff in moving vehicles.

## **Congratulations, Lessons Learned and Parental Engagement**

Well done to all the children who have been working hard this half-term. An especially big well done to all of our Y6 children. They came in and tackled their SATs so well, with everyone trying their best. Miss Sweeney, Mrs Boyle and myself went to great lengths to get across to them that all we ask of them is to try their best. It is all we ask of any of the children in our school. If you can look back at the end of a lesson or the end of the day and think to yourself, I worked really hard and tried my best then you will never hear an adult criticising your efforts.

For their brilliant attitude and supportive approach of each other to tackling their SATs, I wanted to personally say thank you to the current Y6 class. They have been a lovely Y6 to manage and we really hope they get the results their hard work deserves on results day.

However, the danger for all is that we somehow expect our Y6 staff to work their magic year in year out, when, in actual fact, a whole school approach to learning is required. This year's papers highlighted this perfectly, with questions popping up that covered the whole spectrum of the Key Stage 2 curriculum. For the children to reach their potential we must ensure every effort is made throughout the children's learning journey and that they are in prime position to tackle the tests well before they reach Y6.

To do that, we need to work as a team, with both school and home working together to support the children. Each week, during Flourishers Assembly, it has been quite disheartening to hear of such low take up by the children in our online maths support programmes, TTRS and Numbots. Just two to five minutes practise a day can yield incredible results over a few weeks.

This did get me thinking though that much has happened to schools since the onset of Covid and with reflection, do we need to do more to encourage the partnership we have with parents? To support parents going forwards, we are going to be holding more reading and maths cafes and opportunities to find out more about your child's learning and how you can best support them.

This way, by working together, we can sing from the same hymn sheet in how we approach and support the learning, ensuring the children go on to reach their full potential.

## **Attendance**

New national legislation to support school attendance is being rolled out for the next academic year. I have noticed many Norfolk schools, who have had direction from the LA, putting out this new guidance to parents to alert them of the changes. These include increased fines for children being taken out for term time holidays, which if repeated the following year will lead to even harsher fines and sanctions.

Once guidance has come from Suffolk, LA I will share how this could affect you as parents. Obviously, we want to see the children in school as often as possible and more often than not, the policy in place dictates what we are expected to do. That is why, almost without exception, all term time holiday requests are refused and the children are marked as having unauthorised absence.

## Term Dates and Events

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y6 Residential to Hilltop
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Half-term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Summer Half-term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Group Photos for School
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Open The Book – The Storm on the Lake
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	YR visit to Time and Tide Museum
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Cricket at North Denes Oval
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Workshop for Y6 Sex Education Lessons
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Incarnation 2:30pm start
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 RE Showcase to parents in Blundeston Church – Pentecost 2:30pm start
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Carlton Marshes Trip
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Dance Rehearsals pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Dance Show at marina Theatre 6:30pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Y5 Bikeability Group
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y1 + Y2 Africa Alive Trip
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5 Bikeability Group
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Transition Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Transition to Benjamin Britten High School
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Music showcase to parents in the school hall 1:00pm start
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Transition to John Lemon High School
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	School Fete TBC
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Teacher Training Days
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Children return to school – Autumn Term starts
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Autumn Half-Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December - Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Children return to school – Spring Term starts
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of half-term