



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to October! It has been so lovely to see the children settle into their new classes and get used to their new routines. So many really positive relationships are developing and so much learning is already underway – well done to everyone! Thank you also to George Fouche (Dare to Aspire) for delivering really inspiring assemblies and workshops for Years 1-6 to support the wellbeing, relationships and aspirations of our young people. Reception children will experience a similar event delivered by Helen Battelley (Music + Movement) today! Read on to find out more about what is coming up and some very important updates and guidance.

Ms Jordan

### **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**



You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in schools. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete that is weaker and less durable than regular concrete. Norfolk County Council have been working to identify any RAAC in school buildings since 2019. Site visits of both of our schools were undertaken in 2020. These visits confirmed there is no RAAC in our schools. I hope this is reassuring for you.



### **Walking Home Alone**

Children in Years 5 and 6 can walk home without an adult, if a parent/carer has completed and returned our permission slip for this.

If you do wish your child to walk home alone, please ensure you have:

- Supported your child to plan the safest route
- Agreed rules and boundaries for the journey
- Decided as a family what the child will do if something doesn't go to plan

There is a useful guide to support your thinking and conversations here: [Home alone or out alone guide | NSPCC Learning](#)



### **Mobile Phones**

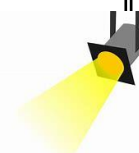
We understand that for some children, particularly those that walk home alone, need to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons on their journey home. Mobile phones cannot be accessed by children during school hours. They must not be on their person or kept within their bags. This keeps the child, other children and the phone itself safe. As the number of phones in schools has increased, we have decided that all phones will be collected within the child's own class at the beginning of the day and locked in the class filing cabinet until the end of the day. Time will then not be wasted taking and collecting phones to and from the office and the chance of children forgetting their phones will be reduced.



### **A Spotlight on World Mental Health Day**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October is World Mental Health Day. The day aims to raise awareness about mental health and drive positive change. It provides an opportunity to talk about mental health, taking care of our mental health and seeking help if needed. In our schools, we will share an age-appropriate assembly with the children. We are also taking part in ITV's and Young Mind's Britain Get Talking project. We are asking you to complete a homework activity with your child on this day to get them talking. You will receive a conversation starter that will encourage your child to talk about the hardest subject on their mind, helping to ease their stress and reduce anxiety. As what's on our minds can be the hardest subject, let's help children open up.

For more information and top tips on talking with your child go to: [Britain Get Talking | Home \(itv.com\)](#)



## Learn to Fix Workshop

We are pleased to offer a workshop for parents/carers and older (high school+) siblings to learn basic bike maintenance. This is being provided free of charge to our families. The workshop will take place at Woodland View Junior School on 17<sup>th</sup> October from 6.30 – 9.30pm. Places must be booked in advance. Please do make the most of this opportunity and keep your family cycling!



## Online Safety – Video for Parents



Below is a link to a very powerful video, designed for parents/carers. The video aims to help parents/carers understand some of the potential dangers of posting information on social media. You may find this useful.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=670008694460786>

For more information on online safety visit:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)  
[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Attendance

Norfolk County Council has produced a lot of advice and guidance for families on supporting attendance. A leaflet with links is attached to this newsletter. Please take a look.

### **School Matters!**



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## General Reminders



- Please park considerately to our neighbours and safely for our whole community. Do not park in Elizabeth Close.
- All children should have their own, named, water bottle in school everyday
- Please name all your child's items.
- Please let us know if your details or circumstances have changed over the holiday.
- Our schools are nut-free zones. Please do not include any items containing nuts in packed lunches. Special diets can be catered for by the kitchen.

## Safety Reminders



- Only certain members of staff are allowed to let visitors into the school
- If you come into school you will be asked to sign in and out at the office
- Unless otherwise informed, push chairs should normally be left outside school in the buggy park or in the entrance
- Children should not be on the play equipment or on the playground on their own bikes/scooters before or after school

Thank you

## Key Dates for this Half Term

**Please note a full list of key dates for the year was sent in July and is available on our website.**

### October

Reception wellbeing through movement workshop: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Reception Curriculum meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

Learn to Ride course (pre-booked) continues: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

World Mental Health Day: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Learn to Fix workshop (bikes): Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>

School photographs: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

Half term: 23<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

