

# Three Rivers Federation Newsletter

\* Respect \* Resilience \* Resourcefulness \* Reach \*

October 2017

It seems almost unbelievable that September and half of October has passed by, although the nights and early mornings are certainly much darker now.

We have had a fantastic start to the year at both schools with so much activity within the classrooms and beyond.

In terms of strengthening the leadership, the term started with a very productive meeting of the newly established Local Governing Board with Mr Taylor and Mr Moorhouse joining us. Since then, staff have voted for a staff member to join the LGB. It has been so encouraging to see staff interest in this aspect of the school life.

We have also welcomed a number of the MAT team into school, to visit or work with us, including Mrs Stokes, Mrs Smith (HR) and Mr Taylor. The property management staff, notably Mr Peck, have been in to decide which areas need a refresh or re-paint over the half term break and we already know that the boys toilets at Surlingham will be changed from pink to a calming green (as chosen by the School Council!)

Following staff meeting discussions, external support for key areas of the curriculum (maths and English) and attendance at training sessions, we have established clear plans for improvement which have been written into the School Development Plan. A summary of this plan will be posted on the school website and on display in both schools on our return after the half term. Although this note is a brief summary of a great deal of work which has been going on during the past seven weeks, we hope that you feel encouraged by what has been visible to date and share our optimism for what comes next.



## Dates for the Diary:

### Surlingham

**6<sup>th</sup> November** Years Rec to 4 flu immunisation.

**7<sup>th</sup> November**. Seat belt safety – year 4

**13<sup>th</sup> December** School Christmas Lunch

### Rockland St Mary

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** Bonfire Lunch

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** Forms Cake Sale

**6<sup>th</sup> November** Flu immunisations Rec to year 4

**8<sup>th</sup> November** Year five road safety – playground based

**10<sup>th</sup> November** Bethany and Benjamin Bear Rec, and Step on it year 2. Safety training

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov** School photos siblings/families from 3.30pm

**16<sup>th</sup> November** FORMS AGM8pm Parish rooms

**13<sup>th</sup> December** School Christmas Lunch



Fresh food in the kitchen at Surlingham grown at school.

### TWITTER

The Schools now have a twitter feed which can be accessed from the website, the link can be found on the home page.

**Polite Reminder: Pantomime payments need to be in by 3<sup>rd</sup> November, after which we will let you know if we have received enough payments to cover the trip. Thank you**

## Comments please.....

Both schools now have a comments box in the reception area for you to tell us how we are doing.

Messages can be anonymous and we hope they will be positive. We are happy to receive constructive feedback too, so that we can enhance your child's experience at school and improve communication with Parents and Carers.

## Class Dojo

Due to the changes in teaching staff and new pupil intake, our Class Dojo account has been updated. Unfortunately, this has led to problems for some users. This week we will be issuing new parent logins to everyone. If you know that the system is working well for you then please continue to use it and disregard the re-issued passwords. However if you have been struggling, try logging on again using the new information. Hopefully this will solve problems that we have been experiencing lately. Please let either your child's class teacher or Mrs Bayliss know if Class Dojo still does not work after trying with your re-issued password

## \*Wanted\*

### Maple class need:

Our next topic is based around the Gunpowder Plot. Do you have any artefacts or items of interest which could be linked to the gunpowder plot for Maple's Investigation Station. (We currently have pictures to explore, charred wood and ash) Artefacts/ items such as clothing/ hat- photographs of London particularly the Houses of Parliament.

Unwanted carpet rolls for our large loose parts play outside would be great.

Large bits of cardboard too please

**Surlingham Tornados**

Under 7's (Year 2)



Football training/coaching has started again on Saturday mornings.

9.00 to 10.00 a.m. Surlingham School Playing Field

Please come along and try, or contact Martyn 07796 147125 for more information.

**Karate Excellence**

Alfie, Year 6 at Surlingham, achieved 2nd Kyu ranking in Shotokan Karate on 9th September to become a brown & white belt. Alfie did really well and passed this belt with an overall Merit grading.

Alfie trains with ESKA - Eastern Shotokan Karate Association - and is now aiming for 1st Kyu ranking in March 2018, which is just one belt away from black belt, which he hopes to achieve by the age of 12. Well done Alfie!



**Governors Corner**

This half term governors have begun to focus on monitoring teaching & learning activities. This has included talking to children in lessons, attending celebration assembly & harvest festival and meeting with Mrs Bayliss & Emma Adcock from Norfolk Better to Best to talk about the literacy improvement plan. On the whole we have found activities in school to be positive and purposeful.

The new Governor from the staff has been selected from three who were happy to stand. Kirsty lane at Rockland St Mary will be the new staff Governor.

**TAKE A PEEK ONCE A WEEK**

Please check your child for nits on a regular basis so we can stop the little critters from spreading.

Thank you.

**Message from the English Co-ordinator**

In an effort to raise standards in handwriting and presentation, we are continuing to teach handwriting sessions using the Nelson handwriting scheme. Children are also being guided to improve their written presentation with simple techniques such as using a ruler when underlining and drawing lines, planning word space and crossing out mistakes with one neat, straight line. To help us continue to raise standards in handwriting and presentation, when working with your child at home, we would ask that you also encourage use of the appropriate script. If you have any questions or would like further guidance please do not hesitate to contact me. Mrs Bayliss.

**October Half-Term Activities**

Norfolk Record Office  
2-3.30pm



**NORWICH SKYLINE**  
Monday 23 October 2017

Create an image inspired by the Norwich skyline. Construct your own Zoetrope.

**PERFECT PAINTED PANES**  
Tuesday 24 October 2017

Create your own stained glass to go on your bedroom window. Make it come alive by turning it into a Thaumatrope.



Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Book your place on 01603 222599 or [www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events](http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events)

The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DQ



Please make sure all letters are returned to the Offices promptly.

Thank you

## Current News from the classes at Surlingham

### Chestnut

In Chestnut class we have been exploring our topic of 'Australia' further looking into the Great Barrier Reef. The children learnt about some fascinating facts and used all their design and technology skills to cut, stick and mold their very own Great Barrier Reef. We have also been enjoying a story called 'Kangaroos CanCan Cafe'. This week the children have been creating their own spooky characters to replace the animals that auditioned for the CanCan dance. Reception have also been telling some spooky stories, as well as exploring subtraction with green spaghetti and bugs from the witches lair.

### Hawthorn

In Hawthorns recently we have been investigating Henry VIII and his court. We've had lots of fun finding out about the people close to him, his six wives, and Chief Minister, Thomas Cromwell. We immersed ourselves by using hot-seating, a drama technique where children are given the opportunity to become a character and answer probing questions as if they were that person. We then wrote diary entries as our chosen characters, some real and some imagined. Below we have extracts from the diary of Thomas Cromwell and one of Henry VIII's executioners.

"Dear Diary, I knew I shouldn't have made Henry marry Anne of Cleves. She was nice and Henry is an idiot. I can't believe I trusted him." Thomas Cromwell, written by Jack, Year 4.

"Dear Diary, ... Queen Catherine has not been nice to me since I got here, and that was four years ago. I think she only cares about herself. She doesn't seem to like Henry anymore because he really wanted a son." Catherine of Aragon's maid, written by Uma, Year 3.

### Willow

Willow class are continuing to explore World War 1. Currently, we are writing a newspaper article reporting on the sinking of the ocean liner, The Lusitania, which was sunk by the Germans. We are continuing to extend our watercolour skills by painting a scene based in the battlefields.

In science we have been investigating 'Evolution and Inheritance', with some deep thinking about Darwin's theory in how adaptations occur and the 'survival of the fittest'. This culminated in the children modelling a future homo sapien, based on their judgements of how we will evolve.

We have spent some time this week conducting Year 5 and Year 6 Reading, Writing, SpaG and Maths papers to exactly establish how to proceed with the children's learning. This will become a part of the well-rounded curriculum already in place.

## Current News from the classes at Rockland St Mary

### Maple

Maple class have been excited to launch a new way of learning in our class. For the past two weeks, children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been exploring chilli challenges. This comprises of a set of differentiated levels of tasks based in and around the provision, for example, the writing station, the art table, the finger gym table, and the phonics table. Each task has different levels of challenge for children of all ages and stages to have the time, space and opportunity to embed their understanding of a concept, or challenge themselves further. The children have been very excited to engage in this, learning for all involved. Please ask your child what this is all about!

### Birnam Oaks

Birnam Oaks have had a fantastic term. In English we have written a set of instructions and a diary entry for Henry VIII. We have also started to write non-chronological reports. In Maths we have worked on place value addition, subtraction and multiplication. We have had great fun using different resources in maths like numicon and base 10. In science we have been learning about our skeletons and how they work. PE has been tag rugby, multi skills and swimming. Swimming is brilliant and the children love it. We have also done many other fun activities which we will look forward to continuing with next term.

### Redwood

As part of Redwood's inquiry lessons, the children have been focusing on the Trenches, Zeppelin air raids and, more recently, the sinking of the Lusitania. The children have used their research and understanding for the basis of many different pieces of writing. The children have produced beautiful, informative non-chronological reports which are on display in our classroom (please do feel free to come and have a look). To end the half term, the children will be writing newspaper articles in which they are reporting the morning after the sinking of the Lusitania.



Surlingham are very grateful to Mrs Youngs and Mrs Ryding for organizing gardening Club. We are getting some fantastic results



Rockland St Mary would like to thank Mrs Gardiner and Mr and Mrs Wyatt for donating a selection of home grown produce, including a variety of pumpkins. The children have really enjoyed exploring them and learning about where food comes from.



Above: Birnam Oaks at work.

Left: Works from Chestnut Class "we used paper mache, paint and everyday materials to create our Great Barrier Reefs"

Harvest Festival Rockland St Mary

Our Harvest Festival was a huge success, and possibly one of our best ever! The children gave fantastic performances with Birnam Oaks exploring different words and meanings within the word 'Harvest.' They used the space in the church very well. Maple class retold the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and showcased some beautiful homemade costumes and Redwood confidently read a poem about Harvest Around the World. The singing, once again, was beautiful with the songs 'Autumn Days', 'Cauliflowers Fluffy', 'Now We Sing a Harvest Song,' and 'Thank you Lord.'

Thank you for all the parents who were able to come and support the children and staff at the church, and the kind donations of food. It has been decided to donate to the Norwich Food Bank. Well done to all involved!



**After School Activity Clubs**

**Surlingham Primary School:**

**AEM HAI Martial Arts** – Every Tuesday between 3:30pm-4:30pm

**Pro Coach** – Monday KS2 and Friday KS1 3:30pm-4:30pm

**Choir** – Wednesday 3.45 for 4.35pm

**Spanish Club** – Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm

**Rockland St Mary Primary School:**

**Pro Coach** – Monday 3:30pm-4:30pm starting after half term

**Spanish Club** – Monday 3.30-4.30pm

**AEM HAI Martial Arts** – Every Tuesday between 3:30pm-4:30pm

**Choir** - Wednesdays at Surlingham 3.45 – 4.35pm

**Federation Dates for the Diary:**

**Inset day on the 20<sup>th</sup> October** before half term  
**Swimming every Wednesday 1.30-2.30pm** starting with Year 3 and 4.

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** am and 27<sup>th</sup> pm **EYFS Open Sessions**

**13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November** 9-9.15am parents welcome to look at children’s work before parents consultation evening.

**16<sup>th</sup> November.** 3.30-6pm **Parent Consultations** years 1 to 6

**12<sup>th</sup> December** Sunbeams **Christmas Activities**

**15<sup>th</sup> December.** Theatre Royal Pantomime ‘**Sleeping Beauty**’

**13<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> June 2018** – Year 5/6 residential Holt Hall

**Please book dentist and other appointments out of school hours, wherever possible.**

**OUR SCHOOLS** are safe, happy and secure places for children to come and learn, and also for family members to feel equally supported, safe and involved in their child’s education. Each staff member has undertaken safeguarding training to promote and protect the safety and wellbeing of all children across the two schools. Please do support us to continue this by ensuring your conduct and language choices, as members of our local communities, are appropriate on and around school grounds.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do speak to the Safeguarding

Designated Professionals and these are:

Mrs Humphrey, Executive Headteacher.

Mrs Marsden, Senior Teacher, Rockland St Mary Primary based.

Mrs Bayliss, Senior Teacher, Surlingham Primary based.

Thank you for working together with us towards this, and striving to ensure a safe environment for all members of our school communities.



**Attendance for both schools for (29/9/17 to 19/10/17)**

**Surlingham**

**Chestnut:** 96.59%  
**Hawthorn:** 97.87%  
**Willow:** 95.15%  
**School Total** 96.53%

**Rockland**

**Maple:** 98.03%  
**Birnam Oak:** 92.39%  
**Redwood:** 93.88%  
**School Total** 94.89%

From Surlingham School Log: October 5<sup>th</sup> 1944. As a result of close enemy activity, 5 window panes were blown out and a small piece of ceiling fell. No children were hurt. Head Teacher Mrs Harper