



# Snettisham Primary School Newsletter

## February 2023

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website: <https://www.snettishamprimary.co.uk>



Dear Families

We hope you are looking forward to a good half term break, which is nearly here!  
We will soon receive a banner for the outside of our school to celebrate our Good Ofsted outcome so we can share our success with our community. This is a credit to our children and teaching staff.

We have been proud of the learning undertaken across the school since January. Our knowledge rich curriculum allows pupils to learn and remember so much! Please ask them about Geography or Science and see if they can talk to you about these units. We are always impressed by how much our pupils can remember and explain.

We were proud to welcome you into school for our Maths Café on 3<sup>rd</sup> February to share in our learning.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to our Friends committee for organising the disco and maintaining an exciting schedule of events throughout the year for the benefit of the children.

Best wishes

*Louise Jackson*  
*Executive Headteacher*



### Lunch Menu

The Autumn/Winter menu is available to view on our website <https://www.snettishamprimary.co.uk>  
Vegan, Gluten/Dairy/Egg-free versions available on request.



### Term Dates:

Please note that our term dates are not the same as those published by Norfolk County Council.  
Please see our website for further information.

**Last day of Term is Fri 10/02/23.**  
**Children return on Mon 20/02/23.**

## Our Learning

### WILLOW CLASS

It has been another busy half term in Willow Class with our focus on King, Queen and Country. We have learnt lots about where we live in the world, looked at famous landmarks in London, about what an architect does, our new King Charles and his home at Sandringham. We went on our own imaginary tour bus around London, took part in a team challenge to build a bridge and went on a lovely morning trip to visit Sandringham! Our Talk for Writing story has been 'Quackling' and the class have loved innovating the story to include new characters.



## Our Learning (cont'd)

### OAK CLASS

Oak have been learning how to write a recount letter, using the story Superworm in English. They have had great fun thinking about their own superpowers!

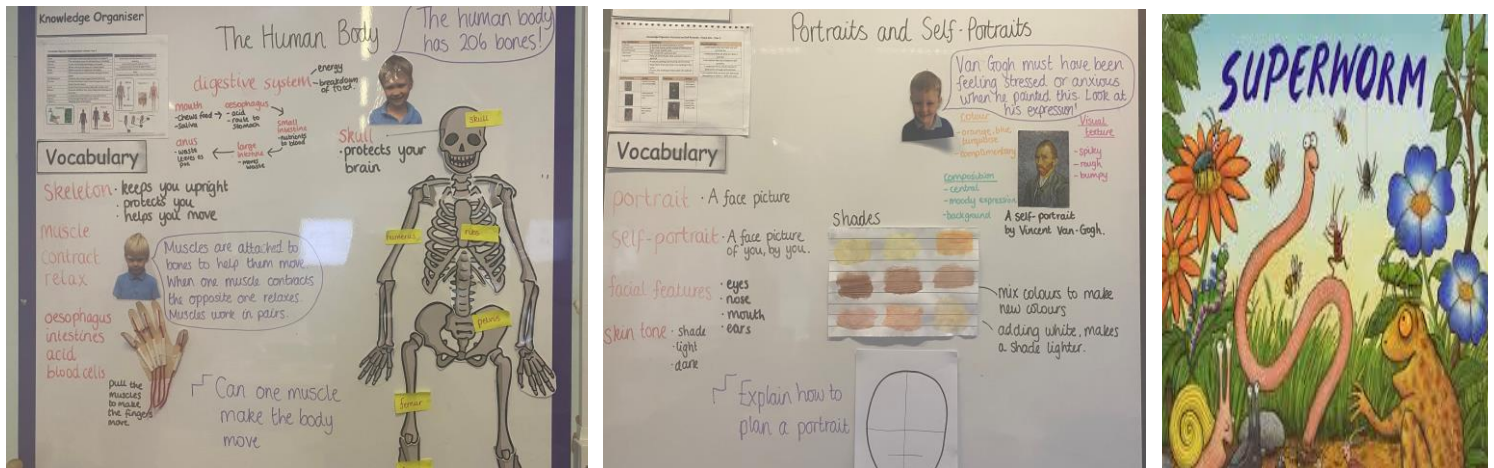
The class have been learning all about multiplication and division and measuring too in Maths.

Science has seen Oak class learning all about the human body. Did you know we have over 200 bones in our body? They had great fun investigating the digestive system!

In art everyone has been learning about portraits and self-portraits. The children have learnt how to plan a portrait, add detail and expression.

And in Geography the class have been learning all about the British Isles and finding out all about the four countries that make up the UK.

We are all very excited to start swimming lessons, when we return from the half-term break.



### ASH CLASS

Another super term in Ash class!

The children have undertaken Science experiments, seeing what happens to chocolate when it is heated. We discovered that chocolate is a reversible substance as it can change between states. After melting chocolate, we poured some onto a plate and it hardened back into a solid very quickly. The children became fully immersed in their learning of different states of matter when acting out the particles in solids, liquids and gases.

We have studied Pompeii, looking at how Mount Vesuvius froze the city in time. Ash became historians when looking at the items excavated from Pompeii to understand how people lived their lives during Roman times.

Lots of amazing writing has been happening. The children had to put themselves into the shoes of journalists to write a report about how a refugee boy and his friends came to have tea with the Queen. Well done! On to our next book where a cat must learn to fight!

Ash should all be super proud of their achievements this term. Well done everyone.



## Our Learning (cont'd)

### BIRCH CLASS

Birch class have worked their woolly socks of this half term. We are very proud of them!

In History, we have moved further into the twentieth century, learning about the Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, in Geography we have travelled into South America, DT has seen us open a Dyson box and design our own prototypes, we have plunged into the oasis waters each week (some of them even in our pyjamas).

In English we have learnt lots about the treacherous trail to Dawson City as prospectors headed north in their hundreds to hunt for gold – through the eyes of one of the trail dogs!

In Maths we have become so much more fluent in our arithmetic and TTRS has seen great improvement in multiplication – keep up the good work!



After School Lego Club



After School Collage Club



Chemistry Kitchen Workshop at Springwood High School





Hello!

As we are new to the role of Co-Chair of Governors this year, we wanted to introduce ourselves and tell you a little bit more about the role of Governors. Heacham Infants, Heacham Junior and Snettisham have a joint Governing body, reflecting the way our schools are managed.

We meet every half term, rotating our meetings around the three schools. We regularly visit each school to observe learning in action, talk to pupils, attend school events, review books, and meet with staff.

Our Governing body is made up of parents, carers and local people appointed by the Trust who are committed to supporting the schools to provide the best education and environment they can. Our role is to review school targets, policies, plans and school data. We challenge and support the Senior Leadership Team. As “critical friends” we ask questions to check the best course of action is being taken. The operational management of all three schools remains the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher.

Kirsty Kerr

I have two children, one of which is currently at Heacham Junior School in year 4, and the other who is now at high school, having transitioned from Heacham Junior. I am fortunate enough to have worked in all 3 of our wonderful schools but have held my role as a Governor since spring 2021. In addition to being Co-Chair, I have responsibility for SEN. I am passionate about ensuring all children have the opportunity to achieve and experience success and I am very proud to be able to play a part in this with West Norfolk Academies Trust.

Barbara Herring

I have two children at Snettisham, Aidan in year 3 and Eloise in year 6, and I have been a Governor since spring 2021. I have been a Governor before at another primary school, and in addition to being co-Chair I have responsibility for safeguarding. I got involved as I am passionate about ensuring all children have access to a high quality of education. I have enjoyed getting more involved with the schools and the Trust and working alongside the other Governors.

If you'd be interested in finding out more about how the Governing body works then do feel free to get in touch with us, we'd love to tell you more.

If you have a matter you wish to discuss with our Headteacher Ms Jackson, or our Deputy Head, Mrs Hunt, please make an appointment with the staff in the school office and we will be very happy to chat to you. We want everyone to feel welcome in our school and also to ensure that the children's safety, learning and happiness are always our priority. 😊

Don't forget to let us know if any of your contact numbers or addresses change. Please inform the office staff ([office@snettishamprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@snettishamprimary.co.uk)) if your emergency contact information changes or if either parent moves house or changes phone numbers. It is very important that we are able to contact someone in case of an emergency.



# SNETTISHAM PARK

Snettisham Park are working with Mrs Rogers, to offer some of our children some outside pastoral sessions each week. There will be exciting opportunities for more children to enjoy the Farm in the coming months too!

A great big thank you to Trevor, Colleen and the Snettisham Park Team.



The staff would like to say a massive thank you to Andy Paton at Howdens in King's Lynn. They have very kindly donated a replacement kitchen for the staffroom. It really will make a huge difference to the staff who work so hard every day. A much nicer environment for their lunchtime sandwich and cuppa!!



## **FEBRUARY**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February – School Disco**

Willow and Oak 4:00pm – 5:00 pm      Ash and Birch 5:15pm - 6:30pm

Tickets available from Miss Chilvers in the playground or send the money in a named envelope to the school office.

### **Half Term Event at Hunstanton Library suitable for children aged 4-6**

**Coding Critters** Wednesday, 15 February 2023 4.30pm - 5:30pm

Join them for stories about Ranger and Zip, the coding critter puppies. Go on adventures with this adorable duo and learn early coding skills. Email [lib.events@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:lib.events@norfolk.gov.uk) or call 01603 774777 if you would like more information about this event.

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February Dance Workshop @ Dersingham Social Club 10am-2.30pm (bring a packed lunch)**

£22.00 per day per child AGE: 5-11years LIMITED AVAILABILITY – BOOKING ESSENTIAL Call Helen: 07929324965

[www.musicandmovement.org.uk](http://www.musicandmovement.org.uk) admin@musicandmovement.org.uk

### **Tues 21<sup>st</sup> and Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Parents' Evening – we have returned to face to face meetings**

Booking sheets are in the Halls Room (Canteen) please pop in at drop off/pick up to sign up.

## **MARCH**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March– World Book Day Reading Café 9-10am – in classrooms.**

**Non-uniform day**, children can come dressed as their favourite book character and bring their copy of that book to school.

**World Book Day lunch menu** will be Ratburger served with Gansta Granny Salad and Mr Stink Wedges, followed by Billionaire Boy Shortbread



The Friends of Snettisham Primary School wish you all a very Happy New Year! This year we will be holding many more events for all to enjoy.

We now have a fundraising goal for the year. The Committee have decided we would love to send the whole school to watch the Christmas pantomime at Kings Lynn Corn Exchange this year. Our aim is to make this trip completely free of charge for all children as we will use the money raised by the fundraising events to pay for the trip.

Our next event is the School Disco on Friday 10th February. Tickets are £3, you can either buy these from Rebecca Chilvers or place the money in a named envelope and drop it in to the school office. **TICKET SALES CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> February.**

In March, we will be holding a Mothering Day Raffle. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of March. The prize will be special pamper hamper. Tickets are just 50p each, you can buy as many as you want! The winning ticket will be drawn on Friday 17th March.

If anyone would like to help by joining our Committee everyone is welcome and if you have any ideas for future fundraising events please come and let us know, we'd love to hear from you!

As Chairperson I only have 2 more school years left and would love to have a committee full of different members to carry on the great work we do for our lovely school.

Our next Friends meeting will be on Monday 27th February at 2.30pm in the Halls Room and I look forward to seeing what ideas you may have.



## Attendance Matters



98-100%	• Excellent - Children are accessing all learning opportunities
96-97%	• Good - Very few learning opportunities are missed
94-95%	• Risk of underachievement • Up to 10 school days absent in an academic year
92-93%	• High risk of underachievement • Up to 15 school days absent in an academic year
90-92%	• Severe risk of underachievement • Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year
< 90%	• Extreme risk of underachievement • Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year

### The importance of good attendance

The Government strives for every pupil to achieve 97% attendance. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued new attendance guidance and targets to all schools, you may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hope that this personal approach will make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up and help keep you informed.

### **Vouchers for Free School Meal Eligible Pupils – October 2022 to March 2023**

**Support has been extended for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023** for pupils eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive Edenred vouchers to the value of £15 per month per child with an additional £30 voucher in December. The Vouchers can be spent at many major retailers including supermarkets.

**Families in hardship and needing wider support** In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Families may get in touch with NAS via their website which includes an online application form, or they can call **0344 800 8020**.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme>

### **Have your circumstances changed recently? You may be eligible for Free School Meals.**

The school receives funding for each child who comes under Pupil Premium (including free school meals), so it is worth applying even if you don't have school meals!! You can apply online

<https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk?fbclid=IwAR181hWbnsrWnVeC-KZ31i->

LET'S  
CONNECT



## TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

**6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week.** The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

**Let's Connect** is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

#### 1. Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk, or to re-connect by playing music you both like. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk. You may have to be there 'on their terms' and be ready to listen.

#### 2. Talk to your child about important connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one). Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others.

#### 3. Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

# LET'S CONNECT



6-12  
FEBRUARY  
2023

Ask them about their life in real life and online. You may not think online friends are 'real friends', but your child may feel differently. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

- 4. Connect by taking an interest in your child's world**  
As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, e.g. their music, fashion, what they watch etc. If you do take an interest in these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.
- 5. Find time to connect as a family**  
Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.
- 6. Try to resolve conflict and re-connect after arguments**  
Arguments and moments of disconnection are bound to happen in families - between your children, between yourself and your children and between yourself and your partner, if you have one. It is important that children learn how to disagree in appropriate ways, how to say sorry and how to make amends when they have done something wrong. They will learn a lot about how to do these things from you - so try to model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Talk to them about how to re-connect with friends after arguments including what they can do to help repair relationships.

## Video activities from Place2Be

**Puzzle Pieces** – aimed at 4-7 year olds, this activity is presented by CBBC's Art Ninja, Ricky Martin, and will show children how we are all connected. Why not take part as a family? [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces)

**Connecting Paperchains** – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 7-11 year olds, this activity helps children think about the people, things and activities they feel connected to. [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains)

**Exchanging Postcards** – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 11-14 year olds, this activity encourages young people to explore what connection means to them. [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards)

## Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. [parentingsmart.org.uk](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

**Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.**

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: [place2be.org.uk/help](https://place2be.org.uk/help)

[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



## **BLUE PETER WRITING COMPETITION**

Calling all budding authors...

Blue Peter has launched its latest competition – ‘Amazing Authors’ – and the winning story will be brought to life and read by mega popstar and author Tom Fletcher as a CBeebies Bedtime Story!

All you need to do is come up with a short story or poem with an amazing adventure for an equally as brilliant main character. With a blank page in front of you, you could write absolutely anything! Your main character could be a human, animal or even something you’ve made up. Think about what your character is going to get up to and then you can put that pen to paper... you could end up winning a once in a lifetime prize!

The winner will have their work turned into an actual book and an animation as well as having their story read by Tom Fletcher himself both on Blue Peter, CBeebies Bedtime Stories and a podcast on BBC Sounds. If that wasn’t enough, they also get to meet Tom and go behind the scenes at HarperCollins and Aardman to see the book and their characters brought to life.

The winner will also receive a printed version of their story to keep, a framed picture from the animation and a Blue Peter competition winner’s Orange Badge.

Tom said: “I’m still enthralled by children’s books even as an adult, so it will be a real privilege to see what ingenious ideas and characters the kids themselves come up with.”

All the information for the competition can be found on the Blue Peter website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/bp-competition>.

**The competition is open for entries from 27th January and closes at 5pm on 8th March 2023**



\* Subject to changes \*

## Term Dates 2022-2023

September 2022						
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August 2023						
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Key: White dates – school open to pupils  
Orange dates – pupil holiday  
Purple dates – staff training day  
Red dates – bank holiday

Staff training days are:  
Thursday 1st September, Friday 2nd September, Friday 21st October, 3rd January and Monday 17th April

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS - Term Dates 2023-2024

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March 2024						
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